



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 36

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 20, 2013

ERVING TOWN MEETING, 6/24 □ US SENATE & MONTAGUE SELECT RACES, 6/25

Zoning Board Delays Decision on Gravel Pit

By DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT – Following a site visit and hours of deliberation on Thursday, June 13, the Leverett zoning board of appeals delayed a decision on settling a lawsuit brought against the ZBA by Richie Roberts and landowner Roberta Bryant over the board's 2010 decision to block the expansion of Roberts' gravel pit operation off Route 63. Following court ordered mediation, the zoning board appeared to move closer to signing off on Roberts' plan to expand the gravel pit onto five adjoining acres owned by Bryant, currently used as a horse farm and riding ring.

Last week, under the watchful eyes of more than a dozen abutters and their lawyer, the ZBA continued to refine a long list of conditions that would serve as a template to both settle the lawsuit and define the operation of the gravel pit. But newly appointed board member attorney Danielle Barshak, backed by Cynthia Baldwin, who opposed Roberts' original request to expand his gravel mining operation in 2010, asked for more time to return to the site to actually listen to the noise of trucks being loaded with gravel, and gearing up to enter traffic on Route 63, in order to determine the valid-

ity of abutters' complaints about the impact of truck noise on their ability to enjoy the peace and quiet of their homes.

Barshak said that when Roberts demonstrated the routine of driving one of his trucks out of the gravel pit for board members visiting the site last week, "I didn't hear it as any different from trucks going by on Route 63." But she said additional time to ascertain whether the beeping of trucks backing up, or gearing up under load may help her to determine whether to accept abutters' complaints about truck noise from the gravel pit "at face value." She added, "If it's a nuisance, that's reason to deny a special permit."

Town attorney Donna MacNicol took issue with Barshak on this point. MacNicol told the ZBA, "If the use is allowed by special permit, you can't deny it by part of the use that is required to run the business." In other words, if the town's by-laws allow a gravel pit to operate by special permit in one of the town's three, small commercial zones, such as the one on Route 63, then the ZBA cannot deny the permit simply because truck noise is a part of the routine operation of that business, any more than the town could

see **ZONING** page 4

RIVER STATION: The Creation of Rich Becker

By PATRICIA PRUITT

Rich Becker is the proud new owner of the former Chick's Garage. Located where Third Street meets Unity Park and, until recently the home of Tim DeChristopher's sculpture studio, the building will now be a multi-purpose space for artists' works, entrepreneurs, and community members of all ages.

Becker, who grew up in a small town in upstate New York... "not unlike Turners Falls..." arrived in Turners early in the advent of River Culture, owns a home here, and is a staunch advocate for the positive development that has occurred in the town over the past decade.

In 2006, Becker founded *Culture Links*, an organization that provides international exchanges for American youth wanting the experience of cross cultural interaction and travel to other countries/cultures.

While traveling in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Haiti and other Latin American countries, he was impressed with the liveliness of the local market places where all ages meet, recreate and listen to music, eat, as well as sell produce, create handmade goods and art work.

He envisions his new building, which he has named RIVER STATION, as a local marketplace where artists, craftsmen, creative people



PATRICIA PRUITT PHOTO

Rich Becker, owner of RIVER STATION, surveys his new kingdom.

of all persuasions and community members will gather and interact in the beautiful setting overlooking the park and river.

A finance professional, Becker admits he has long envied those

who are creative and realized. While attending various innovation and Creative Economy Summits over the years, he was inspired to create an outlet for community, art-

see **BECKER** page 6

Diary of the New Sewer Installation at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard

By JOE PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS – Baltazar Contractors, Inc. of Ludlow, MA, are installing a new sewer on Millers Falls Road to Industrial Drive. There are 36 construction companies in Ludlow, and at last count, 35 of the owners were of Portuguese descent. These companies have a reputation of being hard workers who get the job done right. Apparently, Baltazar's reputation helped the company to be awarded the job on a no-bid negotiated contract. The engineering firm is Camp Dresser McKee Smith (CDM Smith).

This job was fraught with problems from the start: a high volume of vehicle traffic; utility lines overhead; the old sewer on one side, ready to cave in; utility poles, heavily laden with wires, ready to topple over; and ground water threatening cave-ins and floating the pipe upward.

Baltazar Superintendent George Sajdera said the biggest obstacle was in setting a precast manhole structure in place and tying in the old sewer, because of heavy traffic. "We would dig for five minutes, and have to wait for 20 minutes for backed up traffic to clear."

To keep the roadway on one side and the old sewer on the other, from caving in to the 18- to 19-foot-deep



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

Baltazar Contractors, Inc. use a heavy weight digging box with steel plates, 20 feet long by 8 feet wide, driven down beside the digging box to protect employees who need to get into the trench. On the construction of the original sewer by the Montague Highway Department, there was no shoring of the trench walls.

trench, Sajdera's crew uses a steel digging box: 20-foot long steel plates, eight feet wide and an inch and a quarter thick, driven down out-

side of the box on either side, as well as on the side where they have installed the sewer main.

see **SEWER** page 6

Re-Living One's Youth

By JERRY COLLINS
Class of '52,
Turners Falls High School

It's not every seventy-four year old grandfather who has the opportunity to re-live the time when he was twelve years old, but I did and the experience was fabulous. In June, on a trip back to Turners to visit my brother, I decided to invite my twelve-year-old grandson, Austin, to come up from Virginia. My plan, quickly endorsed by both Austin and his dad, was to take him to as many places as possible where I had spent my time when I was his age. I don't know about Austin, but for me it was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

It began when I picked him up at Bradley International Airport. It was the first time that he had flown alone, so I procured a special pass to go through security and meet him at the gate. Not wanting to waste a minute of precious time together, after picking up his luggage, we departed the airport and immediately started our journey back into time.

The day was overcast, but this did not dull the excitement I was feeling. Rather than take the quick way to Turners via the interstate, my plan called for driving him past some of the few remaining tobacco farms left in the Pioneer Valley. I explained how I had started working, at age twelve, on a shade-

grown tobacco farm owned at that time by the American Sumatra Tobacco Company. Though the age requirement was fourteen (I was already five foot - eight inches tall), with my older brother Donnie backing me, I had convinced the field boss to hire me for the summer work.

When we got to South Deerfield, I drove towards the Sunderland Bridge that spans the Connecticut River but before crossing I veered onto the old River Road. I had hoped to find the net-covered tobacco fields still there but, to my disappointment, they no longer existed. All I could do was point out where they had been, and ask Austin to use a little of his imagination.

The next day found us walking around "The Hill" where I showed him "The Castle," as we called our small Cape Cod-style house on Coolidge Avenue, which his great-grandfather had built, and which we had lived in from when I was eight until I graduated from Turners Falls High.

From there we walked, as I had done every school day, down what is now Davis Street – *though in that era it was a two-rut dirt road through the thick underbrush* – to see my grammar school



The author, with grandson Andrew

on Crocker Avenue and where Turners Falls High stood before it burned down many years later.

On day three we walked the town where I showed him the Third Street Block (known as the Cutlery Apartments today), where I was born and lived for the first eight years of my life. Passing by the Shea Theater, we paused and I told him many stories of my times going there, and he really got a kick out of the tale about the Monday evening "Nickel Serials," where all we young urchins would scream and yell (particularly when the hero went over the cliff and we wouldn't find out until the following week that he caught a tree branch and was saved from "sure death").

see **YOUTH** page 8

Pet of the Week
Hadley



Hi! I'm a four year old boy kitty named Hadley. I have a lot of love to give and I'm very good with children. In fact, in my last home, I lived with younger children, cats and dogs and we were all friends and loved to play together. I love to play with toys of all kinds and unlike many other kitties, I actually love to play in and around water! Do I sound like I may just be the perfect addition to your family? Come and visit me!

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

Montague Libraries
Annual Story Time Picnic and
Regular Weekly Programs

The annual *Story Time Picnic* will be held on Wednesday, July 3 at 10:15 a.m. with Ruth O'Mara. There will be an exciting program on *Diggers and Dumpers* at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, July 9 at 10 a.m. The annual No Strings Marionette Company puppet show is *The Treasure Hunt* on Wednesday, July 17, at 10 a.m. in Peskeompskut Park, or if rainy, at the Carnegie Library. On Tuesday, July 23rd, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Carnegie Library is *Dinosaur Day*.

Regular weekly programs will continue. On Monday evenings there is *Evening Crafts* at the Montague Center Library starting at 6:30 p.m. Children can make simple projects at the library, or take the materials home.

The *Millers Falls Library Club*, featuring arts and crafts, stories and snacks for children of all ages, meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. The weekly *Story Time* with Ruth O'Mara is held at the Carnegie Library on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. *Music and Movement* for

young children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is held at the Montague Center Library through June on Thursdays at 10 a.m. and will be offered at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Thursdays at 10 a.m. during July and August.

The Razzle Dazzle Reading Camp will be visiting the Carnegie Library weekly on Tuesday afternoons during July. The annual Summer Reading Program Parties at all three libraries will be held on August 12 through 14.

The Carnegie Library Party will feature live reptiles brought by Rainforest Reptile Shows. These parties are for summer reading program participants and their families.

For more information and for registration for the summer reading program, visit the Carnegie, Millers Falls, or Montague Center Libraries.

The Carnegie Library, 863-3214, in Turners Falls is open on Monday through Wednesday from 1 to 8 p.m., Thursday 1 to 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Saturdays for the summer.

The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m.

The Montague Center Library, 367-2852, is open Monday and Wednesday from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m.



JOSEPH PARZYCH PHOTO

From this week's Montague police blotter:
"Saturday, 6/15 at 12:27 p.m.: Two-car motor vehicle accident on Avenue A at Third Street. Three injured parties were transported to the hospital. Citation issued for failure to use care in turning and failure to yield right of way."
Best wishes for a quick recovery for all parties involved. Stay alert on the roads!

Free Weekly Playgroup
at Northfield Mountain

Come and enjoy time with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community at the Northfield Mountain Environmental and Recreation Center, 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield, on Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

This program is intended for children 0-8 years of age from any community. We are funded in part

by the Union #28 Community Network for Children Program, and the CFCE grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, with support from Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center: First Light and Old Deerfield History Workshop.

The playgroup runs from July 12 through August 23.

For more information please contact the CNC Coordinator, Gillian Budine, (978) 544-5157 or email budine@erving.com.

RECYCLE
BOTTLES & CANS!
Week of June 24th
in Montague


more info? call: 863-2054

**Great Falls Middle School
Students of the Week**

Grade 6
Katherine Moreno-Sibrian
Rebecca Harrell
Grade 7
Kyle Kucenski Tim Black

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION
By FRED CICETTI

Q. I'm having a devil of a time controlling my bladder. Any suggestions?

About 10 percent of men and women over the age of 65 have trouble with bladder control, also know officially as urinary incontinence. Women suffer from this more than men.

During urination, muscles in the bladder contract, forcing urine into the urethra, a tube that carries urine out of the body. At the same time, muscles surrounding the ure-

thra relax and let the urine pass. If the bladder muscles contract or the muscles surrounding the urethra relax without warning, the result is incontinence.

Short-term incontinence is caused by infections, constipation, and some medicines. If the problem persists, it might be caused by weak bladder muscles, overactive bladder muscles, blockage from an enlarged prostate, damage to nerves that control the bladder from diseases such as multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's.

In most cases urinary incontinence can be treated and controlled, if not cured. If you are having bladder control problems, go to your doctor. Doctors see this problem all the time, so there is no need to be embarrassed.

Your doctor may do a number of tests on your urine, blood and bladder. You may be asked to keep a daily chart about your urination.

There are several different types

THE HEALTHY GEEZER
Bad Bladder Control

of urinary incontinence.

* If urine leaks when you sneeze, cough, laugh or put pressure on the bladder in other ways, you have "stress incontinence."

* When you can't hold urine, you have "urge incontinence."

* When small amounts of urine leak from a bladder that is always full, you have "overflow incontinence."

* Many older people who have normal bladder control but have difficulty getting to the bathroom in time, have "functional incontinence."

There are many ways to treat urinary incontinence. The method depends upon the type of problem.

You can train your bladder with exercises and biofeedback. You can also chart your urination and then empty your bladder before you might leak.

Your doctor has other tools he can use. There are urethral plugs

and vaginal inserts for women with stress incontinence. There are medicines that relax muscles, helping the bladder to empty more fully during urination. Others tighten muscles in the bladder and urethra to cut down leakage.

Surgery can improve or cure incontinence if it is caused by a problem such as a change in the position of the bladder or blockage due to an enlarged prostate. Common surgery for stress incontinence involves pulling the bladder up and securing it. When stress incontinence is serious, the surgeon may use a wide sling. This holds up the bladder and narrows the urethra to prevent leakage.

Even if treatment is not fully successful, management of incontinence can help you feel more relaxed and comfortable about the problem.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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with any questions.

Senior Center Activities - June 24th to June 28th

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. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Call now to sign up for a six-week free introductory floor yoga class beginning soon on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

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 6/24

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 6/25

Senior Center Closed
State & Town Election

Wednesday 6/26

10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screen-

ing
12 noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 6/27
9 a.m. Tai Chi
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 6/28
10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

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 6/24

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12 noon Quilting
Tuesday 6/25
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday 6/26
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Bingo
Thursday 6/27
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Posture Perfect
Friday 6/28
9 a.m. Bowling

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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Compiled By **DON CLEGG**

Nancy Paglia, certified massage therapist and yoga instructor, will be launching a new monthly **Women’s Yoga Circle** at the Montague Retreat Center on Ripley Road, Montague. The first session is June 23rd.

The dates for all of the circles are as follows: June 23 (2 to 5 p.m.), July 21, August 11, September 29, October 27, November 24 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Please call Nancy at (413) 687-2125 to register or if you have any questions.

Come and be wowed by the fancy foot work of the **North County Line Dancers**. They make it look easy and the country music is guaranteed to get your feet a’tapping!. The show starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 22, at the Turners Falls office of Greenfield Savings Bank and is completely free and open to the public.

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a **Psychic Fair** on Saturday, June 29, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the **Lake Pleasant** post office. For more information, contact TNSA’s website, spiritualallianceusa.org.

The Great Falls Discovery Center Summer **evening hours** start on June 21. The center will be open every Friday and Saturday until 8 pm until September.

Also this evening the GFDC will present Watershed History. What was so grand about the **Grand Trunk Hotel in Turners Falls?**

Right next to where the center is today, the hotel was built in 1872 and taken down in 1968. Staff uses our imaginations, old photographs, and testimonials to piece together the story of the grand old days in Turners Falls.

Bring a picnic supper, blankets and lawn chairs to Peskeoumpskut Park on Monday, June 24, from 7 to 9 p.m., then sit back and enjoy the summer tradition of the **Montague Community Band** in Downtown Turners Falls.

Children of all ages and their families are invited to an **interactive concert** on Tuesday, June 25, starting at 10 a.m, featuring percussion instruments and some dinosaur songs. This is the kick-off event for the summer reading program, “Dig into Reading at your Library.” The concert will be held on the Carnegie Library lawn, or inside if the weather is unpleasant.

On June 26th, at 1 p.m, Andrea Donlon, River Steward from the Connecticut River Watershed Council, will host an **informative session on the Hydro Relicensing** for five Connecticut River facilities at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls.

The five licenses expire in 2018 and a new license will be issued that will be virtually inalterable for the next 30-50 years. Donlon believes it is important to speak up on questions, concerns, improvements and corrections that we as tax payers might like to see implemented to “our River.”

Andrea and the Council are key

valued input. You can make a difference.

GDB is partnering with the Watershed Council for this timely event. Light refreshments will be provided by GSB and the Council will have lots of literature available. Get involved now before it is too late.

Enjoy an **Ice Cream Social** with The Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Franklin County at Peskeoumpskut Park on Wednesday, June 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. Rain date is July 10.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County will also be holding its 2nd annual **Biking for Buddies** event on Sunday July 28th, 2013 from 8 am to 2 pm. Featuring

Community Trail Opening and Strawberry Soiree

MONTAGUE – This Saturday, June 22, at Red Fire Farm in Montague, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will give a grand opening walking tour of its new interpretive trail.

The trail, a collaborative project between the Trust’s MassLIFT AmeriCorps program and Red Fire Farm, celebrates the farm’s unique history and organic agriculture practices through two different one-mile loops. The tour runs from 2 to 3 p.m.

10, 25, and 50 mile cycling routes, the ride will begin and end on the campus of Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill. Additional festivities include prizes, raffles and lunch provided by Hillside Pizza.

Children and non-cyclists are welcome to join for a campus ride and/or lunch. Visit www.bikereg.com/19389 for more information and to register.

Celebrate the beginning of summer with a **Solstice Sunset–Moon-rise Kayak Paddle** At Barton Cove with Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center staff on Friday, June 21, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.. During this evening paddle, two nights before the full strawberry moon, we’ll share poems about the turning of the seasons and observe how plants and animals of our wonderful and unique cove may view the day.

This program is appropriate for both beginning and experienced paddlers, aged 16 and older, and tandem kayaks are available.

Pre-register by calling Northfield Mountain at 1-800-859-2960.

Send local briefs to: editor@montaguereporter.org.

CORRECTION

In our June 13 Montague selectboard article (“Livability Study of Downtown,” Vol.11#35), we erroneously referred to the town’s tenant in the Colle building as the New England Foundation for Children.

The company, which employs the spouse of this newspaper’s managing editor and sometime proofreader, is named the Northeast Foundation for Children. We apologize for the mistake.



www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

The Montague Congregational Church Strawberry Supper

June 22nd 5:30 p.m.

Bake Stuffed Chicken Breast, Rice, Gravy,

Salad & Hot Veggies,

Homemade Breads,

Strawberry Shortcake on

Homemade Biscuits

Adults: \$10.00

Children under 10: \$5.00

Reservations: (413) 863-2398

Walk-ins welcome! Call for takeout.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Disturbance and Suspicion

Monday, 6/10

9:10 a.m. Report of elderly man on side of Route 2 with a possibly disabled moped. Did not find him.

10:30 a.m. Report of fraudulent check received in the mail. Took information.

Tuesday, 6/11

9:30 p.m. Report of two suspicious males on French King Bridge. Found to be photographers.

Wednesday, 6/12

8:20 a.m. Crash on Route 2 at Prospect Street. Report taken.

8:30 a.m. Disturbance reported at Mountain Road residence. Found to be verbal.

1 p.m. Report that tree fell on West High Street, blocking road and taking down power lines.

2:30 p.m. Wallet found. Returned to owner.

Thursday, 6/13

4:40 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on French King Highway. Operator

shouting out window and driving erratically. Gone upon arrival.

Friday, 6/14

2:40 a.m. Domestic disturbance on West High Street. Arrested a 26-year-old woman for domestic assault and battery.

4:50 p.m. Report of a brush fire on French King Highway. All set: was a campfire on Pleasant Street.

Saturday, 6/15

1:30 p.m. Report taken

of vandalism to a vehicle on River Road.

4:05 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Wells Street.

11:22 p.m. Mutual aid request to West Main Street in Millers Falls for a possible domestic fight. Found to be verbal. Montague PD handled it.

Sunday, 6/16

5:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle in fire station parking lot. Will be removed tomorrow.

Public Workshop Notice

Greenfield Road Reconstruction Project # 601657

A Public Workshop will be held by the Town of Montague and MassDOT to discuss the proposed Reconstruction of a portion of Greenfield Road, specifically the stretch from the Canalside Bike Path in Montague City to Hatchery Road. The purpose of the workshop is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed reconstruction of Greenfield Road. All views and comments made at the workshop will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. Project plans are available at the Montague Planning Office.

WHERE: Montague Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room
One Avenue A Turners Falls, MA
WHEN: Thursday, June 27 at 6:00 PM

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August, 2002

Ed Markey for Senate

Over the last few months we've been evaluating the two candidates hoping to replace John Kerry as our next senator.

Gabriel Gomez, at first, seemed like a moderate Republican, in the style of former governor Bill Weld. But the more we listened to him, the more he seemed to be a clone of Mitt Romney.

Romney, as many of us remember, billed himself during his gubernatorial race as a moderate whose main interest was turning the economy around for the state. And voters approved, sending Shannon O'Brien packing.

Massachusetts learned its lesson; in the November presidential election, Romney got only 40 percent against Obama's 59 percent.

And Scott Brown, who ran a stealth campaign backed by millions in tea party dollars in 2010, also went down to defeat despite his record spending in 2012.

We feel this trend of sending to Washington those who better represent the values that most of us hold dearly here in Massachusetts should continue.

Gomez has his merits. He is very much an American success story. He is the son of struggling Colombian immigrants who went on to distinguish himself at the Naval Academy, then as a fighter pilot and SEAL.

He earned an MBA from Harvard and became a successful entrepreneur in the same field as Mitt Romney: private equity management.

Gomez has been reluctant to release much information at all about what he actually did at his company, Advent, and that, in and of itself, is a problem.

What we do know is that, like Romney, Gomez talks about creating good jobs for Americans. But his record shows otherwise.

One of the companies his firm, Advent, bought in 2005 from another investment company was the Peabody-based Synventive Corporation.

When Advent bought Synventive it had 550 employees; by 2009 Advent began shifting jobs to China, laying off American workers.

According to the company's financial statements, during the time Gomez serve on the Synventive board the company pursued large, multi-year tax breaks in China. These included two years free of corporate and lo-

cal income taxes, and 50 percent tax breaks for five years through 2012, according to the statements.

To us, this doesn't sound much like creating jobs for Americans.

There are other issues as well that we feel do not square with what most voters in Massachusetts believe.

Gomez has stated that he would seek to appoint a Supreme Court justice who would work to overturn Roe v. Wade. He opposes gun control. He is in favor of cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

He would vote to overturn Obamacare. He is in favor of "energy independence," and has acknowledged that he believes climate change is real, but has also stated that he would work to protect oil and gas and nuclear energy.

On the plus side, he is in favor of immigration reform.

It adds up pretty clearly: Gomez is a true Republican, adamantly supported by Senate Minority leader, Mitch McConnell, who offered to triple all contributions to his campaign.

A secretive Tea Party group, with ties to Karl Rove and Michele Bachmann, last week dumped \$700,000 into an ad buy for Gomez.

Ed Markey, on the other hand, who has served as a Congressman for 37 years, has been a champion of what most of us in Massachusetts feel are values worth preserving.

His record as a hard-working, persuasive and unabashed liberal is undoubtedly why voters in his district have returned him again and again to the U.S. House.

Markey has steadfastly supported gun control, President Obama's health care law, gay marriage and green energy.

Indeed, he has been an outspoken opponent of nuclear energy, and has gone on record as being in favor of closing Vermont Yankee.

He is pro-choice and pro-gay marriage. He is against cutting social security and Medicare.

He has opposed the draconian cuts to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) in the House Farm Bill.

The differences are clear. Ed Markey best represents what we in Massachusetts believe.

Next Tuesday we urge you to vote. And we urge you to vote for Ed Markey.



In Front of Your Very Eyes: Gabriel Gomez Morphs into Mitt Romney

C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

Montague Runs Dual Election Next Tuesday

The Town of Montague will be running a dual election on Tuesday, June 25. There will be two separate ballots: the State ballot to vote for "Senator in Congress" and the Town ballot to vote for "Selectman".

Voters will not automatically be given both ballots. Voters will need to check in twice to receive both ballots. There will be a separate "check-in table" for the State ballot and a separate "check-in table" for the Town ballot. Voters will need to "check-out" after voting the State and/or the Town ballot at the appropriate tables.

Separate voting lists must be maintained, as the Town is running an election in conjunction with a State Election.

The polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

For more information please contact the Town Clerk's office at 863-3200, Ext. 203.

Barbecue To Kick Off Summer Workshop Series

TURNERS FALLS—The Brick House Community Resource Center will be hosting a barbecue on Saturday, June 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to launch the third annual Summer Workshop Series (SWS).

Now in its third year, the SWS consists of two months of free workshops, community meals, and discussion groups for children, youth, and adults.

Workshops are facilitated by community members, including many youth, and many will be offered in both Spanish and English.

The catalog and registration materials will be made available on the Brick House website and around town. To learn more, please contact Erin Ibrahim at (413) 863-9576 or erin@brick-housecommunity.org.

ZONING from page 1

disallow a farmer from farming in an agricultural zone simply because of noise or odors that are an inevitable byproduct of farming, MacNicol argued.

But Barshak stood her ground, and insisted that issuance of a special permit was a process of balancing the needs of the business owner with the impact to the neighborhood, and the noise of truck traffic from the gravel pit could help tip that balance. "The bylaw reads, you have to consider adverse effects on the neighborhood and quality of life," Barshak said.

Board members will revisit the site on Friday, June 28 at 11 a.m. Richie Roberts agreed to have trucks loaded and exiting the site at that time. "Who is buying this gravel, that's what I want to know?" said Roberts, sounding aggrieved.

The board accepted some tightening of conditions on the proposed settlement, along lines proposed by the abutters.

For example, the hours of operation will be limited to 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays, instead of the 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. hours the board had originally proposed. And a small triangular shaped section of the Bryant property that would have brought the planned expansion of the pit closer to Route 63 than the generally accepted 300 foot limit was eliminated.

Gill Freshman Tapped for Leadership Conference

Brad Hastings of Gill, a freshman attending Pioneer Valley Regional School, has been selected to attend the 2013 New England Leadership Conference being held at Stonehill College in Easton MA.

The conference selects student athletes from all over New England to participate in a conference curriculum of Positive Values, Respect, Perspective, Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Healthy Lifestyles, and Community Services.

The conference is sponsored by the National Federation of High Schools and is a four-day residential event led by college facilitators chosen for their involvement with student athletics.

An ongoing concern about truck traffic from the Roberts' home on Hemenway Road to the gravel pit via the narrow, curving, dirt Jackson Hill Road remained unsettled on Thursday, with Roberts agreeing to return with a proposal for addressing the concern at the next ZBA meeting scheduled for Monday, July 29, at 7:15 p.m.

Roberts said trucks loaded with certain equipment cannot make it under the 13 foot high railroad overpass on North Leverett Road. And he said long rigs cannot make the right hand turn off Cave Hill Road onto Montague Road, because of the configuration of that intersection, a problem the select-board has occasionally discussed over the last few years.

The date for the case brought by Roberts and Bryant against the ZBA in Franklin Superior Court has been pushed forward, by mutual agreement, to September, MacNicol said.



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Montague Special Selectboard Race: The Candidates, In Their Own Words



By JEANNE GOLRICK

“... that the government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

— Abraham Lincoln,
Gettysburg Address 1863

I am offering my services to this town in the select board race for a vacant one year seat because I believe in a government of, by and for the people. This nation is a democratically elected republic founded on the rule of law. I am in favor of a limited open and transparent government. I am NOT for dismantling the government.

Presently, there are grand desires by the current administration to make Turners Falls the best thing next to sliced bread when in truth there are five villages each with their own story and integrity, each needing equal attention.. Well, as my opponent and I agree, there are issues, not just in Turners but nationally. The government in general has grown too big for its own good and soon enough, there will be fallout from that position.

If I were to be elected to function as a select person on this board for this one year term, I am first interested as I had stated in open and transparent government. I propose to re frame what is currently happening. By that I mean to fully utilize the present Montague website and the MCTV media channel for transparency and good communication between the townspeople and their governing members.

I would work steadily towards:

- * more electronic and media postings of minutes of all board meetings
- * more video of a wider selection of board/staff/officer meetings to be replayed on MCTV.
- * routine precinct ‘open forum’ meetings at selectboard meetings on a rotating basis
- * sharing of all documents shuffled on the selectboard table for public awareness each week
- * encouragement of a return to precinct meet-

ings to gather sentiment of folks and present issues

- * Reestablishment of pre-town meeting
- * opening communications between the board and individuals by being present at least ½ hour before the regularly scheduled meeting each week to get to know individuals from town and issues.

It is likely that by these specific actions the townspeople of Montague may know what is happening on their behalf by their elected officers. That may result in more participation of individuals rather than the apathy that we currently seem to have.

As it seemed to me there were basically two lines of questions at the debate (ones for generic selectboard considerations and others specifically pointed towards issues that many associate (negatively but erroneously) with me). I would also like to state that everyone is free to write me at select.jeanne@gmail.com, should anyone like to ask me in person about any concerns of my candidacy or bring issues to my attention from the community at large. I also have established a limited web presence which will be up through voting day: <https://sites.google.com/site/jeanneforselectboard/>

Communities with voices grow best from within whereby the people shape them organically, not from forces mandated from without which shape the community with no voice according to the desires of the elected officials. Thanks to the community members who attended this event and to Mr. Nelson for his positive attitude. During the two contests for selectmen this year we have had four candidates come forward which seems to indicate there are choices for the townspeople of Montague.

Win or lose in this election, I will remain as an active participant as a town meeting member from precinct two. I support open town meeting as a venue for all to participate democratically within the republic however, given that Montague is currently under representative town meeting, I encourage everyone to become involved in their precincts or, at the very least, to get out and vote at each and every opportunity.

Did you know that town meeting IS open to individuals from the community who are not town meeting members? The most basic way a community voice may be truly heard is in the election of its civil servants. Through active participation, we the people organically receive the kind of government we desire and perhaps it will not perish from the earth..



By MIKE NELSON

On June 25th the voters of Montague will choose who will be the next selectman in town. This new person will join a Board faced with many challenges and endless decisions as our Town continues its revitalization. Certainly the most critical qualification for the job is being a team player, someone willing to work with the staff and people in town. That person should also be organized, determined, and experienced.

My name is Michael Nelson and I am introducing myself to you as the best candidate for the position of Selectman.

I grew up attending the Montague schools and graduated from Turners Falls High School. I spent two years attending Greenfield Community College and continued my education at UMass Amherst where I obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in business. The following year I completed graduate school at Fitchburg State and was awarded a Master’s degree in Business Administration.

During my years in college, I began serving my community. In 2005 I joined the planning committee of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Franklin County. Over the past eight years since I began leading this event, our teams have raised over two million dollars.

In 2005 I also entered government service, and was elected to the Montague Town Meeting and to the Montague Board of Health. I’ve held both positions since then, and have been Chairman of the Board of Health for the past three years.

I have been working as the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in Hampshire County since 2007. In this position I am responsible for the deployment of over 500 Medical Reserve Corps volunteers who respond to emergency situations, including, most recently, the Springfield tornado, “Snowtober”, and Hurricane Irene.

In 2008 I received an award from the Assistant United States Surgeon General for ex-

cellence in emergency preparedness and then another one in 2011 following the tornado response.

I have been a member of the Board of the Franklin County Fair since 2007 and plan the annual Fair parade every September. In 2010 I was invited to join the Board of Directors at GCC, and also to lead the Annual Fund Campaign. I accepted the invitation, and with my fellow board members we raised more than \$800,000 for two years in a row.

Later that year I turned my enthusiasm to our beloved Turners Falls and created two events – the Franklin County Pumpkin Festival and the annual Spring Parade.

I intend to bring my enthusiasm, record of success, and determination to the position of Selectman in Montague. Montague will never again be a mill town, a logging town, or have a village considered a resort community. However I do believe it can be a town that we are all proud to live in.

We have a new high school, police station, and remodeled town hall. Our largest town park is undergoing a state of the art renovation. We are a town of eight thousand, and yet we have a softball team that has won more state championships than towns ten times our size.

Our town is on its way back to glory. We have seen several new businesses open in recent years who continue to succeed with our support. There will be challenges along the way, but our town has an incredible opportunity to continue to build our community into what we want it to be.

Over the years I have worked with fundraising, event organizing, grant management, local government, and emergency response – all with the highest ethical regard. I plan to bring all of my skills, my experiences, and most importantly my enthusiastic determination to the Board of Selectmen and hope to help bring the Town of Montague to the next level.

The Montague Reporter has not edited either candidate's statement.

The race will take place on Tuesday, 6/25, at the same time as the special election for US Senate.

At your polling place, you will need to check in twice to receive both ballots. There will be a separate “check-in table” Town ballot. See page 4 for more details.

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FUNK*SHUN Opens in Downtown Turners

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

There is a new shop in the little yellow building (formerly Great Lighting) at 38 Third Street, just off Avenue A. FUNK*SHUN, a boutique featuring artfully-crafted, functional fabric designs--purses,

dresses, shorts and other wearables -- is the new venture of Christa Snyder.

Snyder is known to many around town as a former co-owner of 2nd Street Baking Company. But for years she's also been creating in fabric. She says that from childhood she was always drawn to both baking and sewing. Or as she put it, "I'm a grandmother trapped inside of a younger person's body."

Baking first won out as her initial enterprise when she founded 2nd Street with Laura Puchalski. But last winter, when Laura and her husband Josh bought the building at the corner of Fourth and L Streets, Christa decided it was time to embrace her rival love and launch the boutique.



Christa Snyder stands in front of her fabric creations in her new shop on 3rd Street

She bought the Third Street building, and began work to transform the space into a brightly-colored, sprightly shop.

Aside from an array of goods in fabric, Snyder also does upholstery.

Snyder is currently in the process of readying FUNK*SHUN for a grand opening in the next few weeks. But the doors are open more often than not these days, and she welcomes visitors.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTOS

SEWER from page 1

Baltazar's excavator operator digs the trench a foot and a half deeper than the elevation of the pipe, so that they can bed the pipe in ¾-inch screened stone, a foot and a half under and a foot and a half over the pipe. The pipe itself is 10" SDR 35 PVC, and comes in 14-foot lengths with an extra 6" on the end where they fit together.

Baltazar's crew uses a laser beam set up in the downstream manhole. When the crew sets a pipe in place, a workman places a target over the end of the pipe in order to adjust the pipe so that the laser beam shows the pipe is dead set on line and grade.

The pipe is then covered with screened stone fed from a Celco Hopper with an underbelly conveyor belt, mounted on the Cat 345 D excavator.

The conveyor directs stone into the trench as needed. Stone bedding under the pipe keeps it in place and on grade, while stone over the

pipe weighs it down. A pump with suction hose, placed in the bedding under the pipe, removes ground water to further prevent the pipe from floating.

As soon as possible, the crew backfills the trench, and an excavator -- equipped with a hydraulic compactor in place of a bucket -- compacts fill dumped over the pipe to lock it in place.

"We put in clay dams at intervals to block water from following through the stone," Superintendent Sajdera said.

Baltazar has a Komatsu WA 389 side-dump loader that is able to dump material for backfill without having to disrupt traffic. Baltazar Contractors have two tri-axle Mack dump trucks to haul material to stock piles and back, since there is no room to cast material as they excavate.

A second Caterpillar loader, front dump, stands ready with a bucket full of screened stone to re-

fill the Celco hopper attached to the Cat 345 D excavator. The company has a skidsteer loader with a rotary broom to clean up the pavement as the job progresses.

Though the job was off to a slow start on June 11, because of high traffic volume while setting the first manhole structure and tying it into the existing sewer, Baltazar's crew has installed the new sewer to the 200-foot mark, as of Monday noon on June 17.

From all indications, the crew is installing the pipe in the best possible way in a workman-like manner. Tom Bergeron of the DPW reports being impressed at the job they're doing, and expects them to complete it before their 40-day deadline.

The town of Montague appears to have lucked out in having a conscientious and experienced company working for a permanent solution to a bad problem.



Real Pickles Converts to Cooperative Ownership

GREENFIELD -- Local organic food business Real Pickles announced today that it has successfully converted from a proprietorship to a worker-owned cooperative. The decision was aimed at ensuring the long-term preservation of the business's social mission, according to founder Dan Rosenberg.

"My wife, Addie Rose Holland, and I began to think about transitioning Real Pickles to a co-op a few years ago because we wanted to bring our excellent staff into the ownership of the business as well as make sure that Real Pickles would be supporting a regional food system far into the future," says Rosenberg.

The conversion comes at the conclusion of a successful community investment campaign, which raised \$500,000 from Massachusetts and Vermont residents in support of Real Pickles' shift to a cooperative structure. Nearly 80 individuals, businesses, and organizations chose to "invest locally" in Real Pickles Cooperative, including Franklin Community Cooperative in Greenfield, MA, and Common Capital in Holyoke, MA. "We are so pleased by the level of community support we saw during our investment campaign and throughout our entire transition process," says Rosenberg. "We are hopeful

that our path can serve as a model for other socially-minded businesses that want to preserve their mission."

As a worker-owned cooperative, employees who have been with Real Pickles for at least one year have the option of becoming members of the co-op. Membership requires the purchase of a voting share and entitles the employee to participate in the governance of the cooperative, as well as a share of business profits. "Real Pickles has a great working environment," says Annie Winkler, who is Production Manager and a member of the new cooperative, "and now, as part of the co-op, I have the opportunity to be part of its success in a deeper way and to help guide its future."

Real Pickles makes a line of organic, naturally fermented pickles using traditional methods that rely on beneficial cultures rather than vinegar to preserve the vegetables, buying all of its vegetables and fresh herbs from area farms, including Atlas Farm in Deerfield, Chamutka Farm in Whately and Harlow Farm in Westminster, VT. Real Pickles products are sold at over 350 retail outlets in the Northeast, including Berkshire Co-op Market in Great Barrington, MA, Brattleboro Food Co-op in Brattleboro, VT, Whole Foods Markets locations and area farmstands and restaurants.

BECKER from page 1

ists and an array of likeminded people to collectively engage, and enjoyably learn from each other. He has already begun preliminary discussions with well-known glassblowers: Damon Carter of Turners Falls, Gabe Colwell-LaFleur of Shelburne Falls and Dillon Stoltenberg from northern New Jersey. Discussions have started and plans for designing, permitting and getting prepared to set up the glass shop at River Station annex in the old car wash building are underway.

Rich notes that he has much to learn from local residents, town officials and the local business community and that many possibilities exist. Preliminary considerations include marketing a line of recycled and new clothing, architectural salvage items, antiques among other creative, fitness, social and artistic uses for the space. He envisions River Station as an ideal place for

an ever changing gallery as well as a continuation of last year's downtown Turners Pop-up Gallery. Transformation and multipurpose use will also augment existing community festivities such as the Summer Block Party, the Soap Box Derby, October Pumpkin Festival and the Third Thursday events.

River Station also offers a large outdoor space and Becker envisions a myriad of possible uses: winter ice skating rink, classic car shows, educational offerings, clinics, and hopefully a farm and flea market. Though the building transformation into a "festive marketplace" is in its infancy, Becker plans to open in time for the late summer/fall season Soap Box and Pumpkin Festival. Stay tuned for announcements of activities at RIVER STATION throughout the summer, as Rich Becker creates opportunities with others for his chosen community.



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BEHIND the SCENES at MUTTON and MEAD



MIKE JACKSON PHOTOS

Elizabeth Barnes, as Maid Marion, the Lady Fitzwalter, script in hand, practices lines with Christopher Rose, who stars as a familiar outlaw.

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – “I like to think of historical accuracy as a bull’s eye.” Jim Brule, writer, fight director, assistant director and Sheriff of Nottingham three years running, grins at me from behind a pair of decidedly un-medieval sunglasses on break from dress rehearsal for this weekend’s Mutton and Mead Festival. “We’re aiming for that bull’s eye... but as long as we hit the target, we’re good.”

The air at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club is abuzz with activity. Brule, a native of Montague City who now lives in West Hatfield, has just finished giving notes to actors concerning how best to interrupt each other.

A small flatbed truck pulls onto the field, and workers start unloading lumber. Most of the cast, decked out in full period regalia, heads for the shade to hydrate and snack on watermelon. A few take the chance to practice their swordsmanship, or their singing. It is the last weekend before the big show.

Mutton and Mead is a medieval festival, rather than a renaissance faire: the Renaissance reached England in the late 15th century, and the Sheriff of Nottingham and his nemesis Robin Hood, who may just also show up, were around some centuries before that.

Cruder times – though alongside the blacksmithing, jousting, knife-throwing and pounding of flagons of ale, there will be demonstrations of a Gutenberg-style printing press, and a chance to learn period board games. A little something for everyone.



Seamstress team (L-R) Amber Vieu, Karen Hinds, Christina Doe, and Lori-Lee Adams, stand with Davin Allen, who sports a Lincoln-green woodland cloak as orphan Thomas Longstride.

“No one wants to watch people die of the plague,” admits Brule, and while he may be exaggerating, his words underline the challenge historic period festivals face in attracting, and then engaging, the whole family. The family, after all, is the great escape from history. But if you can create something that is literally fun for an entire family – a bundle of ideas and feelings that can connect with the notoriously odd assortment of moods and interests kinship crams into any given station wagon on a summer weekend – you have a family that will come back the next year.

At the center of this engagement are the period actors. Kaitlin Creed, who splits her time between Montague Center and New York City, has been working with the cast of sixty volunteers since their January auditions to develop their chops.

As Creed explains it, Mutton and Mead attracts actors with a broad range of experience, including first-timers, and calls for skills in “environmental theater,” drawing on both traditional theater and improvisation.

Brule and artistic director David Agro, who had worked together at the Vermont Renaissance Festival, brought the improv to the table, which Creed, who has worked with companies of both sorts, says she “infuses” with traditional techniques: “We’re making actor stew.”

Memorizing scenes with lines, while also interacting in character with the day’s audience – for two eight-hour days – is no walk in the park. “Patrons become part of the story,” says Creed.

“This experience isn’t offered in traditional theater, but also, more than other renaissance festivals, we’re focused on coming up with ways to make people feel like they’re part of it... It’s like reality television you can step into.”

There are central, pre-written scripts performed by the festival’s “narrative cast,” converging on a morning, midday, and closing show, but beyond that, the actors are encouraged to research the period, flesh out their characters, and come up with bits of

their own, which artistic director Agro and others vet for authenticity and incorporate into the whole.

The live experience is designed to be as immersive as possible for the folks who buy a ticket at the gate, but also an enjoyable collaboration for the actors.

“I was a ‘Rennie’ back in California,” says David King, “twenty years ago.” Now a practicing attorney who lives with his family in Hadley, King volunteered a bit at last year’s Mutton and Mead, and found himself “impressed at the high level of production. It’s definitely not rinky-dink, but at the same time, it captures a community-based spirit that goes well with Western Mass.”

Encouraged by his wife, he decided to join this year’s cast, and found himself in the limelight as the villainous Sir Guy Gisborne, who cozies up to the shire’s corrupt power structure in a misguided effort to clear his family name.

King beams when he talks about his rediscovery of the theater, and about the experience Mutton and Mead provides at all levels of participation. With the Vermont festival now five years into a deepening hiatus, and the UMass Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies’ own annual gathering rather more academic in focus, the Montague event is growing into an empty niche.

“It’s nice to take a step back in time,” says King, who jokes that a slow season at his practice has blessed him with “time to devote to Shire life.”

Shire life, of course, calls for shire garb. Northampton costume director Karen Hinds was working with the Arena Civic Theater’s production of *Cabaret!* at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, when she was approached by organizers of the first Mutton and Mead festival. She began studying medieval fashion immediately, and has been an essential part of the operation ever since.

Environmental theater places special demands on the costumes. “They live in their costumes,” says Hinds. “They eat in them! They roll around in the grass!”

If you can’t stand to see stains on actors’ clothes, in other words, you’d better go Saturday rather than Sunday.

Hinds and her crew have been working for months – “we did the measurements back in January” – modifying donated costumes, making some new ones from whole

see **FEST PREP** pg 8

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FEST PREP from pg 7

cloth, and stitching up quite a few corsets, cloaks, and pairs of those funny baggy pants along the way, from the looks of it. I watch as carpenters build temporary changing stations.

David Agro shows me around sections of the Rod & Gun Club that are still being converted to the grounds of the Mutton and Mead Tavern: the Sapling Grotto, for kids’ games; the demonstration area for blacksmithing, horseshoeing, and hands-on tinsmithing; an archery range (kids can learn to shoot for free); areas for fighting, singing, eating, drinking, selling of wares... the breadth of the undertaking is evident. Agro says demonstrators and experts add another thirty to the cast of sixty, and then there are the vendors.

While the event’s planning committee of about a dozen has been meeting regularly for months, a hard core of half that many have been building a nonprofit called the Knighten Guild.

Named after a chivalrous organization of knights in medieval London, the Guild hopes to develop Mutton and Mead from a once-a-year event into an institution with year-round activities and roots in the local community.

This vision is still developing – “we’re open to people coming to the table, and helping determine which direction things are going to go in,” says Agro – and for now the focus is on this weekend’s festival. But if the partnerships with the Western Mass Food Bank, the Rod & Gun Club and the Montague Common Hall (formerly Grange) are any indication, the reenactors are more than willing to build alliances with modern organizations to achieve their goals.

Early signs of this branching out: the group sent along knights on horseback to ride with WRSI radio host Monte Belmonte in last fall’s Food Bank march from Northampton to Greenfield, and outfitted a comfortable, medieval-style camp for his Cancer Connection event this spring.

“It’s very easy to make fun of Renfaire [enthusiasts],” says Bel-

monte, who lives in Turners Falls. “But I went last year, and it was really fun.”

The support for Belmonte’s efforts grew from there. “These fundraisers work because they’re ridiculous publicity stunts, so the more ridiculous you can make ‘em, the more successful you are,” says Belmonte. “It’s been great to watch knights battle with swords on the courthouse lawn in Northampton, while a bowl of brown stews over an open flame in front of what looks like a velour, Renaissance-style tent. It’s attention-getting, and it helps the cause.”

To pitch in to the Food Bank yourself, bring canned goods this weekend for \$1 off admission price.

But the idea is not just to bridge entertainment with charity; it’s for year-round, participatory educational events that build community, so that the annual festival can become a “celebration” of ongoing efforts rather than a big summer one-off.

“I’m a child of the ‘80s,” arch-villain Brule reflects. “So it started with Dungeons and Dragons, and I eventually got involved with the Vermont Renaissance Festival... Sometimes, I feel like I’m giving back to the community that raised me.” He leads me down a trail into Sherwood Forest, where I find an entire branch of the cast – Merry Men, acrobats, fairies, creatures more mystical – has been practicing at their own camp all along.

These woods are haunted, explains Brule. The Sheriff’s men are afraid to enter, which gives Robin Hood’s band of miscreant do-gooders some breathing room.

For many of us here in Franklin County, there is a familiar ring to this. And if under the cover of all this medieval fun and costume more noble plots are being hatched, so much the better for the people of the shire.

The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Attendees are invited to come in costume or as they are. Visit muttonandmead.com for more information.



YOUTH from pg 1

We went on to Unity Park, where the discussion turned to playing pick-up baseball, tennis, sledding on the hill in the winter, and the Sunday evening summer band concerts where, as a youngster his grandpa used to run back and forth from Drago’s (on the corner of Ave. “A” and Third Street) with trays of popcorn which he and his friend “Lits” would sell by walking between the rows of cars parked on the field.

We proceeded over to the beginning of the new walking/cycling trail by the river. Here came the stories of the old suspension bridge (that my brothers used to dive off), and the old ice house. Walking along the path towards the current bridge, I described the boat docks and old coal sheds that were there and showed him where there used to be a row of brick tenements, behind the current town hall, where some of my friends grew up.

After visiting the Discovery Center – built over part of the basement ruins of the old Cutlery, where we played as youngsters without our parents’ permission – we crossed the bridge to Riverside. Austin seemed to be very interested as I explained that the dam was ten feet lower in my youth, and as we watched the water rushing over it, I related that in the early Spring thaw I’d stand on the bridge and watch the ice floes break through the wooden flashboards.

Upon arriving in Riverside, we stopped at the Captain Turner monument where, as I told him a more detailed version of the battle, Austin asked me what had originally caused the Indians to hate the set-

tlers in the first place. I hesitated, then I told him that he’d probably find his answer if he studied the history of the French and Indian Wars. Day four was spent on the river. Without a doubt it was the highlight of all our days spent together.

Not only was the fishing in the rain great, it gave me the opportunity of showing Austin, up close and personal, where I spent the majority of my free time hunting and playing on its banks; learning to play hockey on a spot below where the old River View Roller Rink used to be – the river froze solid in those days – and learning to swim at the old “Stone Wall” brought forth a multitude of stories I told to him.

The last full day, before his leaving to go home, was spent in Old Deerfield – where I purchased a book on the French and Indian Wars for him – and then took him to the Magic Wings butterfly sanctuary.

After Austin left for Virginia, his question, raised at the Captain Turner

monument, kept creeping into my mind. I’ve still not been able to satisfactorily answer that question to myself. Perhaps that is what drove me to write the following poem.



THE FALLS

Sixteen-seventy-six was the year.
The roar of the river one could hear.
We know it as the Connecticut.
In Pocumtuc it’s “Peskeompskut”.
“River Divided by Rocks” would say
Those English translators of that day.
At the great falls where the river bent
The Indians made their encampment,
Unaware of the danger ahead
From a militia from Hadley led
By Captain Turner. Revenge they sought
For a raid some “Savages” had brought
On settlers down-river days before –
They hoped this raid would then prevent more.
The camp was caught completely off guard.
‘Twas a massacre, though they fought hard.
Over three hundred died on that day –
A victory for Turner but he would pay
With his own life as on their way back
Another band would “Him” attack.
In honor of him the falls became
Known, thereafter, by only his name.
Only one side history does show.
But was there more that we’ll never know?
What then led them to the tragic path
That ended in this awful blood bath?
What to them had the settlers done?
The Hadley men’s stories speak of none.
Now, just who was Cain? Who was Abel?
Who really brought food to whose table?
Oh Pocumtuc, if only your sounds
Could come from your “Happy Hunting Grounds”.
Then would we now really understand
What is true – or not – about this land?
Would they tell a story from your side,
So you’d no longer be vilified?
For the victor should the falls be named?
Or all the massacred who were blamed?
So, should then the falls be known as what?
“Turners”? “Great”? or “Peskeompskut”?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Hit & Run at Elementary School

Monday, 6/10

8:10 a.m. Assisted party with government background check.
4:28 p.m. 911 misdial from Mt. Hermon campus.
7:11 p.m. Medical assistance on Walnut Street.

Tuesday, 6/11

7:50 a.m. Keys found on Center Road turned in to department.
10:30 a.m. Assisted elementary school staff with upset

parent.

12 noon Assisted Riverview Drive resident with trespassing situation.
2 p.m. Assisted resident with background check for summer employment.
8:35 p.m. Welfare check on resident on Green Hill Road.
10:15 p.m. Arrested North Cross Road resident on warrants.
Wednesday, 6/12

7:50 a.m. Trespass order served on two subjects from all First Light-owned property in Gill.

10:40 a.m. Erratic motor vehicle operation reported on Route 2.

Thursday, 6/13

7:35 a.m. Restraining order served to Meadow Drive resident.
3:20 p.m. Suspicious activity reported at foreclosed home on Main Road. Company cleaning up.
Friday, 6/14

2:55 p.m. Hit and run accident reported at Gill Elementary School.

Sunday, 6/16

9 a.m. Dog owned by Gill resident found in Greenfield. Assisted.
1:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle located on Route 2. Assisted.
3:30 p.m. Complaint of speeding motor vehicle on West Gill Road. Failed to locate.
4:35 p.m. Tractor trailer unit stuck on Turners Falls-Gill bridge. Assisted.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on June 19, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Double Duty?

With the hope of saving \$20,000 apiece, Gill and Bernardston are entering discussions to share the services of Gill's Chief of Police, David Hastings. The Bernardston selectboard made initial inquiries to see if Gill would be receptive to the idea of having Hastings divide his time. Appearing before the Gill board on Monday, Hastings said, "If anyone can do it, I can."

Fountain Falls Silent

It's a hot dry season of budget cuts in Montague, and the fountain in Peskeompskut Park has not been turned on. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the decision to leave the fountain off this year was a "monetary issue." According to Lee

Brunelle of the highway department, the cost of maintaining the fountain is over \$1,000 a year, mostly because it gets clogged up regularly...

New Plan for Rendezvous

Linda Morrow, of Northfield, came before the Montague selectboard to request a transfer of an alcohol license for the property at 78 3rd St., currently housing the Rendezvous Café. She plans to purchase the property and rename it "Yesterdays," and renovate the bar area with a 1950s-style décor. "If all goes well," she said, "I would like to add a small café to serve lunch, in a year or two."

GCTV Hits Cash Flow Problems

Greenfield Community Television is experiencing a serious cash flow problem due to the \$50,000 investment the organization made to renovate and equip the 2nd Street Crocker Studios two winters ago. As executive

director Marty McGuane explained it, the outlay will be reimbursed by a grant from Comcast once the 10-year contract negotiated by former Montague selectman Sam Lovejoy is finalized. But ten outstanding issues are holding up the signing...

Editorial: Overriding Concerns

The Gill selectboard went on record Monday in support of a modest Proposition 2-1/2 override to help fund the school district assessment this year. The Montague selectboard has already placed an override article on the warrant for next Saturday's town meeting... An override will be necessary for our district schools this year. A longer term solution for the unfunded costs of state and federal mandates will have to wait. George Bush, who vowed to "leave no child behind," is too busy attending fundraising dinners with tax-cut happy millionaires to sweat the small stuff.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Community Solar for Gill?

By DAVID DETMOLD

Could private investors be found to build a 250-kilowatt 'community solar' photovoltaic array on the town-owned Mariamante land at the corner of West Gill and Main Road?

That was the question members of the town energy commission posed to the selectboard on Monday, after talking over the idea with the backers of a similar community solar project in Harvard, called the Harvard Solar Garden.

Energy commission member Claire Chang told the board that proponents of the Harvard solar project are in line to receive a grant from the federal government sufficient to fund up to 30% of a 500 kW solar array, but that group only plans to build an array half that size.

The possibility of transferring the other half of the federal grant to another community solar project in Massachusetts has been discussed with a number of groups, Chang said.

If a group of investors were to get together in Gill and come up with a solid business plan and form a cooperative or a limited liability corporation to pursue the project, Chang said it is possible that federal money – which could total about \$330,000 – might help to subsidize the construction cost.

The town could benefit by leasing the land to the solar coop, and also by accessing some of the solar electricity produced.

Chang said in Harvard, 40 individuals have subscribed so far to purchase the solar electricity from the proposed "Solar Garden," and 35 of those have invested money up front to reduce the construction cost.

Chang said, since solar power on the Mariamante parcel would feed into the WMECo grid, investors from any town served by WMECo could buy in, and receive credit on

their electric bills for the energy produced.

In addition, investors would be eligible for up to a \$4,250 rebate from the state of Massachusetts, along with a state tax credit, and a percentage of the federal grant in lieu of a 30% federal tax credit, Chang said.

Tupper Brown, an attorney who is also a member of the energy commission, said, "I'm interested in this project, and I'm willing to spend a great deal of time on it."

Since concerns regarding possible Native American burials on the Mariamante parcel may preclude development of the parcel, selectboard member Ann Banash said, "In order [for the town] to get anything back on our investment, this seems like one of the best things to do," with the land.

Recent discussion between the selectboard and the solar power advocate for the Hampshire Council of Governments pointed to the possibility of erecting solar arrays with a ballast system, similar to that used to build solar arrays on capped landfills, to avoid penetrating the soil at the Mariamante parcel, possibly alleviating concerns about disturbing ancient burials.

Chang estimated a 250 kW array could take up about one acre of the six-acre field that is the most visible area of the Mariamante parcel. Banash, and the rest of the selectboard, were enthusiastic about the possibility of a community solar project on the Mariamante parcel, but she cautioned that a number of members of the energy committee and the selectboard might find themselves in conflict of interest in developing the proposal.

Both town administrative assistant Ray Purington and Tupper Brown are members of the zoning board of appeals, which would have to rule on the permitting of a solar ar-

see GILL page 12

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG		
Noises, Fights, and an Ice Cream Bandit?		
Monday, 6/10 9:28 a.m. Complaint regarding a loose dog on Second Street. Advised of options. 11:49 a.m. Breaking and entering reported at Swift River Hydroelectric on Canal Street. Caller believed subject may still be inside building. Two kayaks and some porcelain dolls missing. Report taken. 11:31 a.m. Caller reported a male on a bicycle heading down Unity Street with an infant in a carrier tied to the back of the bike. Unable to locate. 11:33 a.m. Trespass complaint on Migratory Way. Services rendered. 2:25 p.m. Problematic scooter purchase transaction reported. Services rendered. 2:42 p.m. Larceny by unauthorized use of a debit card reported in person. Statement completed. 6:03 p.m. Cub Scout group at station for a tour. Services rendered. 6:41 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Randall Wood Dr. Investigated. 8:49 p.m. Two-car collision in Family Dollar parking lot. One vehicle determined to be at fault. Advised of options. 9:19 p.m. In-person report of threatening/harassing emails. Advised of options. 11:10 p.m. Caller advised that front door of the laundromat on Third Street was open and that it is usually locked at this time of night. Referred to an officer.	Wednesday, 6/12 3:55 a.m. Alarm reported coming from the Creemee in front of Hillside Plastics. No lights on at the creemee. Responding officer found open window. Keyholder notified and came to scene. Building found to be clear. 8:29 a.m. Report of a hit and run accident on Prospect Street. 11:36 a.m. Burglary/breaking and entering reported at Twisters ice cream stand on Turners Falls Road. Party stated that when she got to work, she observed the front window pushed in and that the ice cream containers had been opened. Services rendered. 1:22 p.m. Domestic disturbance on G Street: caller's son refused to leave residence, then interfered with caller's attempt to leave and created a disturbance. Son left, attempting to get a ride. Caller advised to call back if he returned. 2:46 p.m. Tools reported stolen from a Federal Street garage. Took report. 5:25 p.m. Caller inquiring about her lost dog, a white chihuahua with black over one eye, who broke loose of her leash on Monday morning near Avenue A and Fifth Street. Animal control notified; referred to an officer. 6:54 p.m. Caller reported a small grey SUV operating erratically on Montague City Road: car was swerving and appeared shaky. Caller could not see plate. Referred to an officer. 8:56 p.m. Report of an older	full-sized pickup truck operating erratically and running stop sign on Second St.. Referred to an officer. Thursday, 6/13 9:46 a.m. Party on Avenue A reported that his personal care attendant had stolen medication and money from him over the past several months. Report taken. 7:41 p.m. Caller attempting to move in to a residence on Second Street reported that another female was "squatting" there and moving a refrigerator into the residence. It was revealed that there is an ongoing issue among the caller, the landlord, and the female occupying the apartment. Referred to detective. 8:40 p.m. Loud, intoxicated male reported in building on Bridge Street looking for a place to sleep. When he didn't find it, he left on foot. Officer checked area; unable to locate. 11:10 p.m. Third St. caller reported a male unknown to her entered her apartment building and made threats toward her and her boyfriend. Officer responded to caller's apartment, advised caller of options. 11:53 p.m. Caller reported that a man rang her doorbell on Green Pond Road and asked if he could get a ride downtown. When the caller mentioned contacting the police, he asked her to call the police department and ask for a ride for him. When officers arrived, male complained of a left knee injury that resulted in

his having trouble walking. BHA contacted; male removed to hospital.
Friday, 6/14
2:30 a.m. Male caller reported that in a previous domestic assault, a female friend of his had sustained a head injury from her husband. During the call, the reporting party was following the husband in his car in the direction of the female's house. The likely destination of the cars was determined to be in Erving. Referred to Erving PD; advised that there was probable cause for arrest.
2:31 p.m. Report of horse loose on Turners Falls Road. No horses observed in road. Horses nearby were tied up.
5:19 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident with property damage reported at Southworth Paper Mill. Both parties insured; minimal damage.
Saturday, 6/15
8:40 p.m. 911 call reporting a woman screaming as if in distress on Winthrop Street. Responding officers discovered that a sleepover was taking place nearby and that the sound of a lawnmower being started up had frightened one of the girls at the sleepover.
11:44 p.m. A loud fight was reported in an apartment building on West Main Street. When checked, units were clear.
11:45 p.m. Unwanted person reported in an apartment on Avenue A. Services rendered.

5:36 p.m. Caller reported receiving a letter from the manager of Power Town Apartments stating that the manager is aware that the caller's cat is allowed outside; that the manager will be contacting the MSPCA to report abuse; and that the manager threatened to have someone steal the cat so that it would be taken care of. Advised of options.
6:34 p.m. Two separate complaints regarding loud music playing since early afternoon on Davis Street. Officers advised the owner of the house whence the music was coming of the complaints; music was turned down.
8:35 p.m. Suspicious auto reported parked in residential lot on Central Street. Owner identified; had been given permission to park there by another tenant; came to move vehicle.
9:01 p.m. Fireworks reported on Fourth Street. Unable to locate.
10:19 p.m. Walk-in report of a suspicious male digging with a shovel on the side of the road near L Street and Montague Street. Male was wearing no shirt, but had pants on and a flashlight on his head. Investigated. Male identified as local resident doing yard work and cleaning up bottles and trash thrown over the guard rail.

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2012 Water Quality Report

Turners Falls Water Department

226 Millers Falls Road

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376-1605

PWS ID#1192000

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report, covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2012. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Brown, Water Department Superintendent, or Nancy Holmes, Clerk/Collector, at (413) 863-4542.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls. Our Annual Meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April.

Our Department Board of Water Commissioners: Kenneth Morin, Stephen Call, Kevin McCarthy. Pump Station Operators: John Collins, Jeffrey Hildreth, Stephen Fitzpatrick.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center. These gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. At the plant, the water is sand filtered for the removal of iron and manganese; the treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity-fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage

capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies.

Call Mike or Nancy for additional information or to answer any questions: (413) 863-4542 or by Fax 413-863-3175, e-mail turnerswater@yahoo.com, or on the Web at www.turnersfallswater.com

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As

water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels, and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in

your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water.

Here are a few tips: Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Write down the meter reading before going to bed at night or leaving for a day. Include all numbers, write down the new reading in the morning and subtract the prior reading. If there has been a change it is probably due to a leak,

What's a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fair-

ly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals.

Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. For more information, review the Cross-connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's Web site at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/crossconnectioncontrol/index.cfm>. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Source Water Assessment

Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the groundwater supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high-ranking threat land-uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the TFWD, the Board of Health office, and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm>. For more information, call the TFWD at 863-4542.

Things You Can Do to Protect Our Water Supply:

Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the town's hazardous waste collection sites, Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and do not use the river beds to dispose of any waste.

Turners Falls Water Quality Data

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community. Our next round of lead and copper sampling will be in 2013.

Substance (Unit of measure)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90 th %tile)	# of sites above action level	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2010	1.3	1.3	0.037	0/20	No	Corrosion of household Plumbing Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2010	15	0	1.6	0/20	No	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservation

Contaminant	Date(s) Collected		Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	7/19/2011	0.19	N/A	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Inorganic Contaminants						
Sodium (ppm)	7/19/2011	12	11.5	----	20	Natural sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process

Definitions

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in

drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. **NA:** Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis. **ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope*, 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 Schultzy* from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Free.

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center: Paintings & Photography by Nicole Werth. Through June 30.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Ce-*

lestial Cafe featuring three-dimensional collage by artist *Emily Goodwin*. Now through June 22.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Downtown Turners Falls: *Third Thursday*. Happenings at the Discovery Center, Allen Fowler Studio (24 Second), LOOT, Jake's Tavern, the Shea Theater, Third Street Studios (36 Third), FUNK*SHUN, Madison on the Avenue, the Rendezvous, Gary's Coins, Nina's Nook, and the Black Cow. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Hidden Valley Memorial Forest, Wendell: *Massachusetts Walking Tour*. Folk troubadors Mark Mandeville, Raianne Richards, Amy Alvey and Mark Kilianski are walking from Royalston to Longmeadow playing gigs on the way. Meet at Wendell State Forest HQ, 6 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Ted's Trio Jazz with Ted Wirt. 7 p.m.

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

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

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: After Party for Third Thursday: Shea Theater Movies in the Park. *The Princess Bride*. 1987, PG, 98 min. Rain location: Shea Theater. 8:30 p.m. free.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Family Solstice Night with *Stephen Katz, Jim Matus, Dan Kennedy*, and more. 5 p.m. to midnight, \$
Red Fire Farm, 172 Meadow Road, Montague: *Massachusetts Walking Tour*, see above. 7 p.m.
Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Arthurian farce. 1975, PG, 90 minutes. Music at 7 p.m.: *Chris Scanlon & the Other Guys*, pop. Screening at 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Host*, indie, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Carrie Ferguson Band*, melodic folk-pop, with Amherst sibling duo *June & the Bee*. 8 p.m., \$

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Northern Routes presents *Land-ing, Area C*, and *High Aura'd*.

Drones and jams from far-off lands. (ok: CT, RI, MA) 8 p.m., \$
Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and much more, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Haste!*, gypsy punx, with *Bright Lines*, rockers. 9:30 p.m., free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Red Fire Farm, 172 Meadow Road, Montague: Strawberry Soiree, with *Rusty Belle*, morris dancing, frivolity, et cetera. See page 3. 2 to 8:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: For the Sake of Song, multi-act music performance featuring *Patrick Coman, Jenée Halstead, and Susan Cattaneo*. 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Trail-er Park*, "barbeque music" with saxophones, with *Becca and the Big Wigs*. 7:30 p.m., \$



Northampton folk-pop singer-songwriter-guitarist-pianist etc. Carrie Ferguson comes to the Bookmill Friday night with local all-star backing band, the Cherry Street Band. June & the Bee open. 8 p.m., \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Arthurian farce. 1975, PG, 90 minutes. Music at 7 p.m.: *Rob McWilliams Project*, barbershop quartet. Screening at 7:30 p.m. \$

VFW Hall, Florence: *Hortonia*, folk rock, *Young Tricksters*, rock, *Taxidermists*, psychedelic post-punk, *Lousiana Sun Kings*, NYC-based rock with metal and funk influences, and *The Great Smokey*. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Doug Hewitt Group*, classic rock dance party, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *boomboom*, eclectic dance party. DJ duo *Anne Louise Burdett* and *Andrew Huckins* spin you to the dance dimension. 9:30 p.m., free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Haywire*, country music. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Flint Blade & Honeydew*, mostly instrumental, 2:30 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 24

Peskeompskut Park, Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Montague Com-*

munity Band, in the bandshell. Bring supper, blankets and lawn chairs. 7 to 9 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *All Small Caps*, a night of spoken word. 7 to 10 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock, with special guest *The Sun Parade*. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD, with Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. 6:30 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Joel Zoss & Guy DeVito*.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Ben Miner's Movie Night debuts with *Bladerunner*. 9 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rev Tor*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Honest Thieves*, rock, with special guest *Claire Orion*, pop rock. 7:30 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Liberty Bell Project*, four singer-songwriters from Philadelphia, with *Bulldog*. 8 p.m., \$

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

The Brick House, Turners Falls: H'Art & Soul presents *Christie Leigh*, singer/songwriter. 1 to 2 p.m., \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Katie Sachs*, Greenfield-based singer-songwriter, with *Wishbone Zoe*. 8 p.m., \$

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Randy Smith & his Band of Merry Men*, with special guest *Keeghan Nolan*. Singers/songwriters. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pamela Means*, jazz folk rock. 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Carolyn Walker, Lexi Weege*, and *Seth Newton*, folk. 9:30 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Now & Then*, '60s and '70s rock.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Roogaroos*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Noise Nomads, Belltonesuicide, Insect ark*, and *Circular Chaos*. Noise and heavy ambient whatever. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Ray Mason*, blues.

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FRI 6/21 9:30 FREE
Haste! (gypsy)
Bright Lines
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MISFIT PROM PARADE: THE PROM YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ATTEND



This elaborate elephant float was designed by Donna Horn and friends.

By KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL — A lovely peacock woman rode a lavishly decorated elephant along Wendell's Lockes Village Road on Saturday. Eight man-horses, in costumes made from recycled tires and inner tubes, pulled a bamboo cart filled with tender children. A tall white unicorn with lavender hair led the man-horses.

Wild men in rough furs, women in leopard prints, a butterfly, a foxy fox, young girls in princess costumes promenaded, delighting on-lookers. This was the 2013 Misfit Prom parade from town common to the Deja Brew pub.

Five years ago, during prom season, Donna Horn and friends were

reminiscing about not attending their high school proms, or attending their proms and finding them boring. They took action, and created the Misfit Prom, "the prom you always wanted to attend."

For the first four years, the prom was held at Wendell town hall. Last year, with a theme of "Promageddon", the organizers held their first pre-prom parade, featuring the man-horses pulling a chariot holding the angel of death and the whore of Babylon.

This year the theme was "Wild Things" and the prom was held at the Deja Brew. Dress was free-form, individual choice - people attended in elaborate costumes, in fancy dresses, in t-shirts and jeans, children and adults.

As every year, the prom and parade was organized by a group of volunteers, catalyzed by Horn. As every year, it was a benefit, this year for the Wen-

dell Council on Aging.

Three bands, Dedicated to Delilah, Moonstruck, and Angry Debutantes kept the happycrowd dancing late into the night.

Wendell's Creative Curvy Ginger, Genevieve Gagnard, dressed as a golden-sequined lion, and friends performed live lip-synch of jungle and animal-themed

songs ("The Lion Sleeps Tonight," "Wild Thing," "King of the Jungle").

Preliminary planning has already started for next year's prom. Somehow, I missed the first four years, but I'll never miss it again.



Heidi King and Jerry Eide



Linnea Winter in costume as a unicorn.



The elephant float in action, complete with human "legs" and rider Donna Horn.

GILL from page 9

ray on that parcel, and Claire Chang and her partner John Ward, selectboard chair, are also co-owners of the Greenfield Solar Store, which might want to bid on installing a solar array on the town land.

Banash encouraged all of those individuals to consult the State Ethics Commission before proceeding further — which they all seemed willing to do.

Beyond that, Brown said he would "gleefully" resign from the ZBA, if need be, in order to work on community solar in Gill.

Meanwhile, the selectboard re-

appointed members of various town committees, and added Marilyn Stowe Tomb to the town's cultural council. They noted openings on a wide number of committees: in particular the conservation commission has only three members, and needs two more to fill the empty seats.

Also, the zoning board needs two alternates, without mentioning Brown's threat to gleefully resign. The recreation commission has only one current member, and so is unable to even conduct business.

A Gill representative to the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority is also sought. The en-

ergy commission, the cultural council, the cable advisory commission, and the agricultural commission are all looking to fill open seats.

It's no wonder the state ethics commission gets calls from small towns like Gill, where the few citizens active in town affairs seem to wind up wearing multiple hats and working on more than one volunteer board or commission at a time. If you have time to help, call Ray Purington at town hall at 863-9347, and tell him which committee you'd like to serve on.

Despite a heavy downpour, thunder and lightning as the meeting

commenced on Monday afternoon, the selectboard was able to conduct business without fear of leaks. Whatever the NSA might be up to, the old asphalt shingles on the town hall roof have been completely replaced with a new standing seam metal roof, and it is keeping everyone at town hall nice and dry at work.

The board set a tentative date of September 10, a Tuesday, to hold a townwide debt exclusion vote to purchase a new \$155,000 plow, sanding and dump truck for the highway department. Annual town meeting authorized the debt exclusion ballot, and now the citizens have to weigh in.

Town meeting also approved the transfer of \$10,800 from the snow and ice removal fund to the regular highway department budget. On Monday, the selectboard approved spending \$1,500 of that to replace broom heads on the town's power sweeper attachment to the front end loader, and \$4,800 to replace a half dozen or more catch basins.

But the board wanted to talk with highway superintendent Mick LaClaire before allowing him to

spend \$1,200 on new traffic signs. In particular, the board wanted to know what LaClaire planned to do to make the intersection of West Gill and Main safer. Selectboard member Randy Crochier said he recently watched one driver coming down West Gill go straight through the intersection without stopping, winding up in the Kuzmeskus parking lot. Accidents at the busy intersection might be prevented by painting some warning signs on the road, Crochier suggested, in addition to adding bigger, more reflective signs, as the state now requires.

The Friends of Gill strawberry supper will take place at the Gill Congregational Church on Saturday, June 22, at 6 p.m. For reservations, call 863-2212.

The free Tuesday Common People concerts, featuring everything from barbershop harmony to Moldovan Baptist Church music on the town common, got underway this week. Zydeco Connection plays on Tuesday, June 25, starting at 7 p.m. For a complete schedule, go to the town website or contact damons_of_Gill@yahoo.com.



MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD:

Turners Falls subscribers Neil Young (left) and Fafnir Adamites (right) found themselves transported last month to Cottonwood, Arizona.



(Neil and Faf report that things are pretty much the same out in Arizona as here, and that they were glad to have brought something along to read.)



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