



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 37

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 27, 2013

Erving Special Town Meeting Articles: 2 Up, 1 Down

By DAVID BRULE

Close to forty Erving voters turned out to vote on three articles on Monday night, and made short work of it.

Moderator Rich Peabody delayed the beginning of the meeting by almost ten minutes as townspeople checked in with Town Clerk Dick Newton, to receive their red wrist bands in case of a hand count on the votes.

Two of three members of the Selectboard were present, Margaret Sullivan and Eugene Klepadlo, while Andrew Goodwin was out of town on business.

Article 1 was proposed to see if the town would vote a transfer of \$67,236 from the Usher Plant Demolition appropriation to cover mothballing and planning expenses for future use of the Boiler Room building.

Lively discussion ensued concerning the viability of the remaining structure, and whether or not to pour more money into the site. Jean Schermesser of the Usher Plant Re-use Committee responded to any and all questions, solidly demonstrating the wisdom of continuing the clean-up, preservation and planning of potential future uses for the site.

The committee has vested con-

Schermesser made the most compelling argument in evoking a vision of the plant site as an Erving town center where people could shop, patronize restaurants and farmers' markets, rent apartments, and more.

siderable resources in researching and visiting old mill sites around the state that have been restored and are now occupied by various public and private entities. She explained that part of the requested transfer sum will fund an Environmental Impact Survey which will ascertain future use and renovation of the grounds around the plant. There are multiple environmental overlays and zones on the site, including Natural Heritage Species of Special Concern, the 200 foot Riverfront Protection Zone, Bordering Vegetative Wetlands, among others. The area inside the footprint of the old mill will be grandfathered, however.

Committee member Jeff Dubay also weighed in on the stability of the remaining building, saying it was in overall fair to good shape,

but reiterated the need to provide a substantial, temporary cover for the roof to prevent further rain and snow damage to the interior.

Schermesser made the most compelling argument in evoking a vision of the plant site as an Erving town center where people could shop, patronize restaurants and farmers' markets, rent apartments, and more. Klepadlo stated that the building needed to be restored and made attractive to future investors who would be interested in purchasing and developing the site.

The only contentious moment came when the former Selectman Leo Parent questioned the impact of the survey put out by the Selectboard concerning the townspeople's desires to continue or abandon the project. Parent contended that the survey results showed that a majority of the respondents (18) were against further action, while a smaller number (11) were favorable.

The Selectboard backed away from their survey in saying that they had realized that it had not been worded correctly and that it was not effective in gauging town sentiment about the plant.

The vote was called, and the ayes had it over the nays: 31 to 8.

Article 2 was proposed to see if

see ERVING page 2

Nelson Wins Montague Selectboard Seat



Michael Nelson

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

Michael Nelson will be Montague's newest selectman. He easily won the special election on June 25, defeating Jeanne Golrick. Nelson received 1623 votes; Golrick got 278 votes. The turnout was much higher than in the May town election when only 8.82 percent of eligible voters cast ballots. This time 33.8 percent of Montague's voters went to the polls.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau said she was pleased with the participation this time round but noted that the special selectboard election also coincided with the U.S. Senate race.

In that race, Montague gave Democrat Ed Markey 1330 votes while Republican Gabriel Gomez picked up 621. Twelve Visions Party candidate Richard Heos got 16 votes.

Nelson commented, "I am graciously humbled not only by the results of the election, but also the incredible voter turnout. I hope this trend of increasing number of voters will continue into future elections."

"I would like to thank Mrs. Golrick for being so professional, friendly, and courteous throughout the campaign. I am honored to be following in the footsteps of a Selectwoman as respected as Mrs. Allen and am very excited about the future of our town."

Montague Election Results

Precinct	Nelson	Golrick
1	444	69
2	257	52
3	247	45
4	285	56
5	226	26
TOTAL	1623	278

The Four Singing Hikers Play in Wendell Woods



PHOTO COURTESY MOUNT GRACE CONSERVATION TRUST

Musicians (from left) Amy Alvey, Mark Kilianski, Raeanne Richards and Mark Mandeville performing last week in a clearing in Hidden Valley, a Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust parcel adjacent to Wendell State Forest. Over two dozen people hiked in for the concert by the young musicians on the Massachusetts Walking Tour.

By JONATHAN
von RANSON

Came a-walking the Fourth Annual Massachusetts Walking Tour, four ambassadors from foreign parts (the Boston area) who are toting their instruments as well as their camping gear southward along the Massachusetts portion of the M&M Trail. Ordinarily, they come out to venues in town to play, they said. In Wendell the foursome gave

what may have been their first concert in the woods – in Hidden Valley, a dramatic, cliff-edged parcel owned by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and tucked into Wendell State Forest west of Jerusalem Road.

For those of us sitting on our blankets and logs, it felt magical to be gathered in that deep forest clearing as these young troubadours passed along their images and messages from the

mysterious East... Eastern Mass., that is. Their music was sometimes reflective, sometimes funny, sometimes rhythmic and danceable – and two listeners did dance. In their patter between numbers, it emerged that the musicians felt like they'd been in the outdoors enough already, and would have liked just as much to be in a bug-free room. "I'm not physically fit. This is

see HIKERS page 5

Tech School Program Lends A Hand After Burglary

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Saddened by the break-in at the Brick House Community Resource Center and the theft of staff laptops and music equipment from the Teen Center, I've been meaning to make a contribution to help offset the loss.

Fortunately, students and staff from the Pre-Employment Transition Program (PEP) at the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) did more than boast good intentions. Distressed by the news of the break-in, PEP wanted to help out in a tangible way and because music is an integral part of their program they felt the loss of the instru-

ments most acutely.

They proceeded to organize a raffle with prizes and set a goal to sell 100 tickets – prizes were a \$100 gift card from BJ's; a \$25 iTunes gift card; and a \$10 FCTS Culinary Arts gift card. They spent the semester selling tickets. Sales exceeded expectation and with the money raised, PEP went shopping to purchase some lightly used instruments – a Yamaha bass guitar, a Yamaha acoustic classical guitar, and a Fender Squire electric guitar, along with three guitar straps, an electric tuner and six sets of guitar strings.

They also picked up a Marshall guitar amp, and made 200 guitar picks out of

recycled credit cards. Their gift was worth more than \$800, one of the largest donations to the Brick House in 2012.

AmeriCorps member Ana Keck is nearing the end of her 10-month term serving with the Brick House covering drop-in hours at the Teen Center and organizing community events. Like most staff and patrons of the Brick House, she was shocked by the break-in and disappointed by the thefts. She was particularly touched by the hard work of the PEP students and thrilled with the addition of new guitars. The delivery was only made last Friday, June 21, but Keck said the

see DONATION page 3



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

PEP students present the donated items in the Brick House's performance space.

Pet of the Week A Free Spirit



Kiwi

I'm a sweet girl who absolutely loves to snuggle on a lap! Since I am a puppy my new parents should be prepared for all the puppy behaviors that come along with having a puppy in the home.

Since I'm still young and free-spirited, staff thinks it's best I live with older kids who can keep up with my puppy antics. Puppies are a lot of work. Please only consider me if you have time for crate and housetraining, and lots of manners training.

The good news is that my adoption includes a discount on Dakin dog training classes. If you'd like to meet me, ask any staff person to bring me on out.

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

Carnegie Library Story Hour Picnic July 3

There will be a Story Hour Picnic on Wednesday, July 3 at 10 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. Children and their families/caregivers are invited to come enjoy stories, bubbles and more with Ruth O'Mara. This special story time will be held outside, weather permitting, on the lawn of the

Carnegie Library. Bring your own picnic blanket and join us outside for this annual event. Story time is a great opportunity to meet new people, listen to stories, and spend a Wednesday morning.

For more information, please contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Ave A, Turners Falls 863-3214.

ERVING from page 1

the Town would raise and appropriate \$50,000 to incorporate security and safety improvements at the Erving Elementary School.

This article had its origins in the audit of the school conducted by a task force of State and local police, and who recommended the security improvements. Chief Chris Blair made a statement supporting the article, noting that he was not at liberty to disclose specifics, until the improvements were completed during the summer. School board Chair Gary Boissoneault added that some changes would be visible, such as safety barriers and gated fencing around the play areas, while others would be more discreet.

Very little discussion ensued and the article was voted unanimously.

Article 3 was proposed to see if the town would vote to adopt a

residency requirement by-law for key employees including the Police chief, Fire Chief, Highway Supervisor and Town Administrator.

Their was little support in the room for this by-law, especially after Selectman Klepadlo stated that this by-law would be more stringent than the Massachusetts General Law residency requirements that stipulate residency within a 15-mile radius of the town of employment. Klepadlo noted that this would drastically reduce the field of potential candidates when current town employees retire, and noted the low number of houses actually available for sale in Erving.

The article was defeated by unanimous vote.

The reporter serves on the Erving Conservation Commission.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION
By FRED CICETTI

Q. What exactly is Salmonella and how can I avoid it?

Salmonella are microscopic living creatures that spread from the feces of people or animals. Salmonella can be found in raw poultry, eggs, beef, and unwashed produce. But, any food can become contaminated. Salmonella is the most common cause of foodborne illness in the United States.

Salmonellosis is an infection of the intestinal tract from the bacteria. Symptoms of the infection, which usually last four days to a week, include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever and headache.

Salmonellosis can be more serious in the elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems. Typhoid fever, a more serious disease caused by Salmonella, frequently occurs in developing countries.

Senior Center Activities – July 1 to July 5

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 7/1

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

Tuesday: 7/2

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday: 7/3

10 a.m. Aerobics

12 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday: 7/4

Senior Center Closed

Friday: 7/5

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

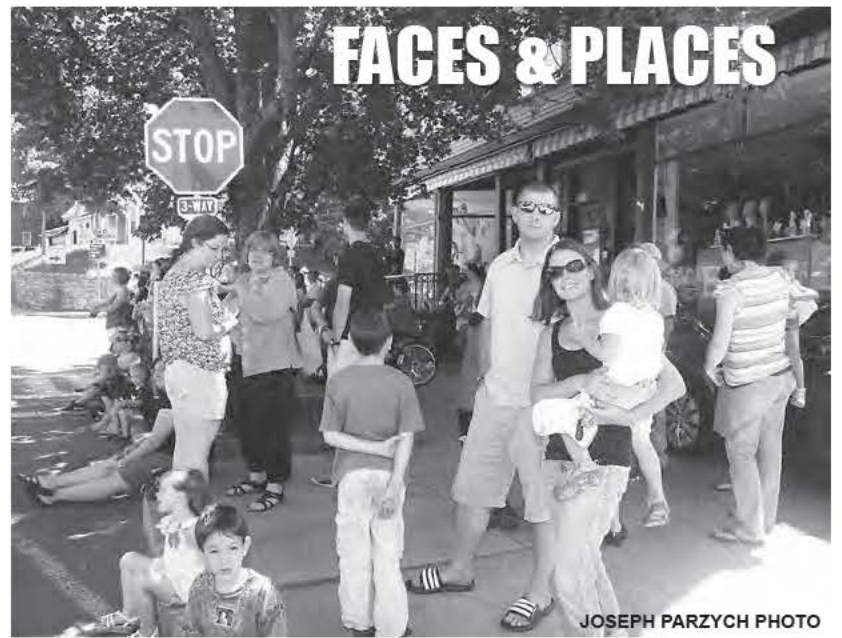
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

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

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

Monday 7/1

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:30 p.m. Movie



JOSEPH PARZYCH PHOTO

A crowd gathered on the corner of Bridge & Main streets, in front of Element Brewery in Millers Falls, awaiting Robert Downey Jr.'s emergence from the Millers Falls Pub. The building was draped in black cloth to simulate darkness from inside the café, for the filming of The Judge.

Gill – Slate Library

Dancing, Snakes & Stamps

Put on your boogie shoes (or your bare feet) and celebrate summer this Saturday, June 29! At 10:30 a.m. Anna Hendricks of Great Falls Creative Movement will lead a dance on the library green.

On Saturday July 6, at 10:30 a.m., Teacher Creatures presents "Diggin' Critters," an interactive show for all ages. Wildlife educators will visit the library with skunks, foxes...even burrowing snakes and lizards! Come learn about animals that burrow in our summertime ani-

mal show!

And on Saturday, July 13, also at 10:30 a.m., explore the art of hand carved stamps! We will use carving blocks and simple cutting tools to create our own stamps. Using colored ink pads we will print our designs to create cards and decorative papers. Come create your own personal stamp!

The stamp workshop is best for kids ages 10 and up. Younger kids should be accompanied by a parent.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Salmonella and its Effects

Most people who get infected don't need treatment. If Salmonella germs get into your bloodstream, they can be lethal. When this occurs, antibiotics are used to treat the condition.

Seek medical attention if you develop diarrhea that doesn't clear within several days. Other symptoms that require a healthcare provider are blood in your stool, severe vomiting, abdominal pain or dehydration.

In some persons, the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized for rehydration with intravenous fluids. In these patients, the Salmonella infection may spread from the intestines to the blood stream, and then to other body sites and can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics.

A small number of Salmonella victims develop joint pain, eye irritation and painful urination. This is called Reiter's syndrome. It can persist for years and lead to chronic arthritis.

Salmonella germs in feces remain highly contagious. These germs are usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with feces. A common cause for salmonellosis is a food handler who did

not wash with soap after using the bathroom.

You also can get a Salmonella infection after handling pets, particularly reptiles such as snakes, turtles and lizards. About 90 percent of reptiles carry salmonella. Many young birds carry Salmonella in their feces.

How can you prevent getting infected by Salmonella? Here are some tips:

- * Don't eat undercooked eggs, poultry, or meat.

- * Always wash your hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds after using the bathroom, holding pets (especially reptiles), handling uncooked foods or utensils used on these foods, and touching any feces.

- * Wash utensils, cutting boards, dishes, and countertops after preparing each food item.

- * Use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry, and seafood.

- * Use disposable paper towels to clean kitchen surfaces. If you use cloth towels, wash them often in the hot cycle of your washing machine.

- * Avoid foods that may contain raw eggs such as some salad dressings, homemade ice cream or mayonnaise, cookie dough, and frost-

ings.

- * Keep eggs refrigerated below 41 °F. Discard cracked or dirty eggs.

- * Cook eggs thoroughly and eat them promptly. Undercooked egg whites and yolks have been associated with Salmonella infections.

- * Cook your hamburgers so there is no pink in the middle.

- * Wash all produce thoroughly.

- * Isolate raw meat, poultry, and seafood from other foods.

- * Freeze or refrigerate food promptly. Freezers should register 0 °F or below and refrigerators 40 °F or below.

- * Thaw and marinate foods in the refrigerator. Foods should not be thawed at room temperature. Foods thawed in the microwave or in cold water must be cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature before refrigerating.

- * Don't pack the refrigerator so that air can't circulate in it.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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with any questions.



LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled By DON CLEGG

The Montague Parks and Rec has turned the water on at Unity Park in Turner Falls. The **whale spouts** between noon and 7 p.m. seven days a week.

The Gill-Montague school district's **summer meals program** runs from July 1 to August 9. **Breakfast** will be served from 8 to 9 a.m. at Montague Elementary, the Middle School & High School, and in Unity Park. **Lunch** is in the same locations from 11 a.m. to noon, extending to 12:30 p.m. at the middle school and high school. The meals are for ages 18 and under, and are **free**. Spread the word!

DONATION from pg 1

guitars were being used right away. The homemade picks were a great gift as well, because they're always running out of guitar picks.

PEP is a special education program providing academic coursework, pre-vocational skills and life skills to students, ages fourteen to twenty-two. This small but highly effective program is designed for students with physical or cognitive challenges.

The PEP group was taken on a tour of the facility, and was amazed to discover the many resources available for young people. Erin Ibrahim, Program Director at the Brick House, was thrilled to make the connection between the two organizations, and hopes they will return next school year and take advantage of some of the Brick House offerings.

Ibrahim said the burglary has forced some changes at the Brick House, including the addition of an alarm system and changes to the key policy. That has been difficult because the philosophy of the Brick House is one of mutual respect for space and belongings, so they never worried about theft in the past. On the other hand, she said, "the gift from PEP felt amazing," and she reaffirmed the notion that "the Brick House is the intersection of resources and resourceful people supporting the social and cultural health of our community."

One stolen item, a bass, has been returned anonymously.



Ja'Duke Productions presents **Les Miserables** on July 5 and 6 at 7 p.m., and July 7 at 2 p.m. The performances are at the JCPA Black Box Theater, 110 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls presents **Creature Teachers Present: Nature of My Back Yard**, on Saturday, July 6, from 1 to 2 p.m.. This popular live animal program explores the lives of the creatures living in our own backyards. Meet some of the common animals that we encounter every day. Native animals that may make an appearance include: a fisher, a gray fox, a skunk, a woodchuck, and a porcupine.

Starting July 8 and ending July 29, the Great Falls Discovery Center offers a four-part nature education workshop, **Junior Rangers**, for young naturalists ages eight to eleven. Friends and siblings welcome. Attendees will meet Mondays July 8, 15, 22, and 29. Children with a parent/guardian should meet at the Discovery Center lobby at 10:30 a.m. Programming will last about an hour. Junior Ranger programs are free and open to all. Space is limited, so please register at: (413) 863-3221. For a complete listing of summer events visit www.greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org.

The Independence Day celebration from **Beacon Field** in Greenfield starts at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, featuring music, food, children's activities, along with **fireworks** at 9:30 p.m. The rain date is July 7. Those wishing to avoid some traffic yet still see the fireworks display can have a good vantage point from locations in Turners Falls, which include along the power canal bike path in the area of the 11th Street Bridge, or on the lawn area of

the Carnegie Library and Soldiers Memorial on Avenue A.

The **Wendell Free Library** monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies continues on Saturday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m. with **Spacehunter**. Three women make an emergency landing on a planet plagued with a fatal disease, but are captured by dictator Overdog. Adventurer Wolff goes there to rescue them and meets Niki, the only Earthling left from a medical expedition. Combining their talents, they try to rescue the women. There will be a short (1/2 hour) film before the movie: "Planet of Death", an episode of the Flash Gordon series from the 1950s. For movie info, visit www.wendellmass.us, or call (978) 544-3559.

Northfield Mountain will host the 30th Annual Connecticut River Valley **Astronomer's Conjunction**. Enjoy the camaraderie of amateur astronomers learning and observing together at Northfield Mountain. Held during the dark of the moon, the weekend of July 12 and 13 will be jam-packed full of

slide presentations, talks, and night sky viewing through telescopes of all shapes and sizes. Check out the conjunction website at: <http://www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction/>. Registration forms available from Richard Sanderson at RSanderson@springfieldmuseums.org, or by writing Jack Megas, Astronomy Conjunction, 311 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118. Recommended for ages 12 and older.

HYMN SING, Sunday, June 30, 10 to 11 a.m. Leverett Congregational Church. Join the Leverett Congregational Church for an hour of joyful community singing and sharing poems and passages that inspire. The hymn sing replaces the traditional service. Leverett Congregational Church, 4 Montague Road, Leverett (across from the Leverett Town Hall/Post Office). (For more info: Claudia Gere, 413-359-0003, claudia@ClaudiaGere.com.)

Send local briefs to:
editor@montaguereporter.org.

P/T IT SUPPORT

Town of Erving seeks an IT Support person. Part time, 2 to 3 hours per month. Minimum of three years of related experience. Send resume to Board of Selectmen, Town of Erving, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344. Deadline 7-10-13 by noon. AA/EOE.

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

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

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

The Town of Montague Request for expressions of interest to rehabilitate 25 Sixth Street, Turners Falls, MA

The Town of Montague Board of Selectmen seeks non-binding expressions of interest from private, public and non-profit organizations regarding the acquisition and rehabilitation of the former St. Anne's Church Rectory at 25 Sixth Street, Turners Falls, MA (Assessors Map 3 Lot 22). The municipally held property is a 5 bedroom colonial dating to early

1900s on 0.2 acres. The property is eligible for historic tax credits. The adjacent church is under separate private ownership, but is available from a private seller. The property is zoned for commercial mixed use. The format for an expression of interest shall be in the form of a letter on your organizations letterhead addressed to the Montague Board of Selectmen. The letter should

state the organization and include a narrative description of the intended use of the property. Access to the building interior can be arranged in advance through the Planning & Conservation Department or at an open house on Tuesday July 16 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Inquiries can be directed to Walter at 413-863-3200 x 207. The full request is available at www.montague.net.



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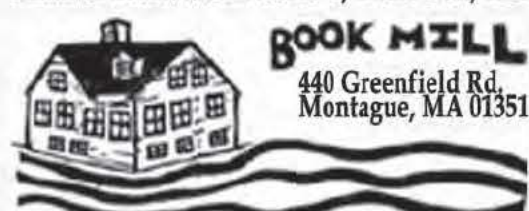
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August, 2002

A New Era in Montague Town Government

On Monday night an era in town government came to a close when Pat Allen presided over her last selectboard meeting.

For 14 years, Pat has served the town with extraordinary dedication. It seems over these years that she was everywhere, at every event, always interested to hear what folks in town thought about the issues.

But as the Spanish proverb goes, "where one door closes, another door opens." And a new door has opened for the town and for Michael Nelson with his victory on Tuesday in the special election for selectboard.

It will be impossible for Nelson (or anyone for that matter) to take the place of Allen, whose depth of knowledge and experience in town government is unequalled. But we are encouraged by what Nelson has to offer the town.

A native son, he brings youthful energy, a strong commitment to community events, and a level-headed but forward-looking perspective on how Montague can and will thrive. His sponsorship

of Pumpkin Fest and the Spring Parade speak well not only to his commitment to enlivening our town, but also to his skills as an organizer.

We feel his membership on the Board of the Franklin County Fair, his experience as a GCC Board Member and fundraiser, and his active service on the Montague Board of Health equips him well to deal with the challenges he will face.

We know he is a team player, but we are also impressed by his willingness to fight for issues in which he believes.

We would also like to commend Jeanne Golrick for her spirited campaign, and for her strong belief that citizens are at the core of a functioning democracy. We know we can count on Jeanne to continue to participate actively in Montague government.

Finally, we want to thank the voters of Montague, who came out in far greater numbers than in the past to cast their ballots. We would very much like to see this trend continue.

Are You Cool Enough for Summer?

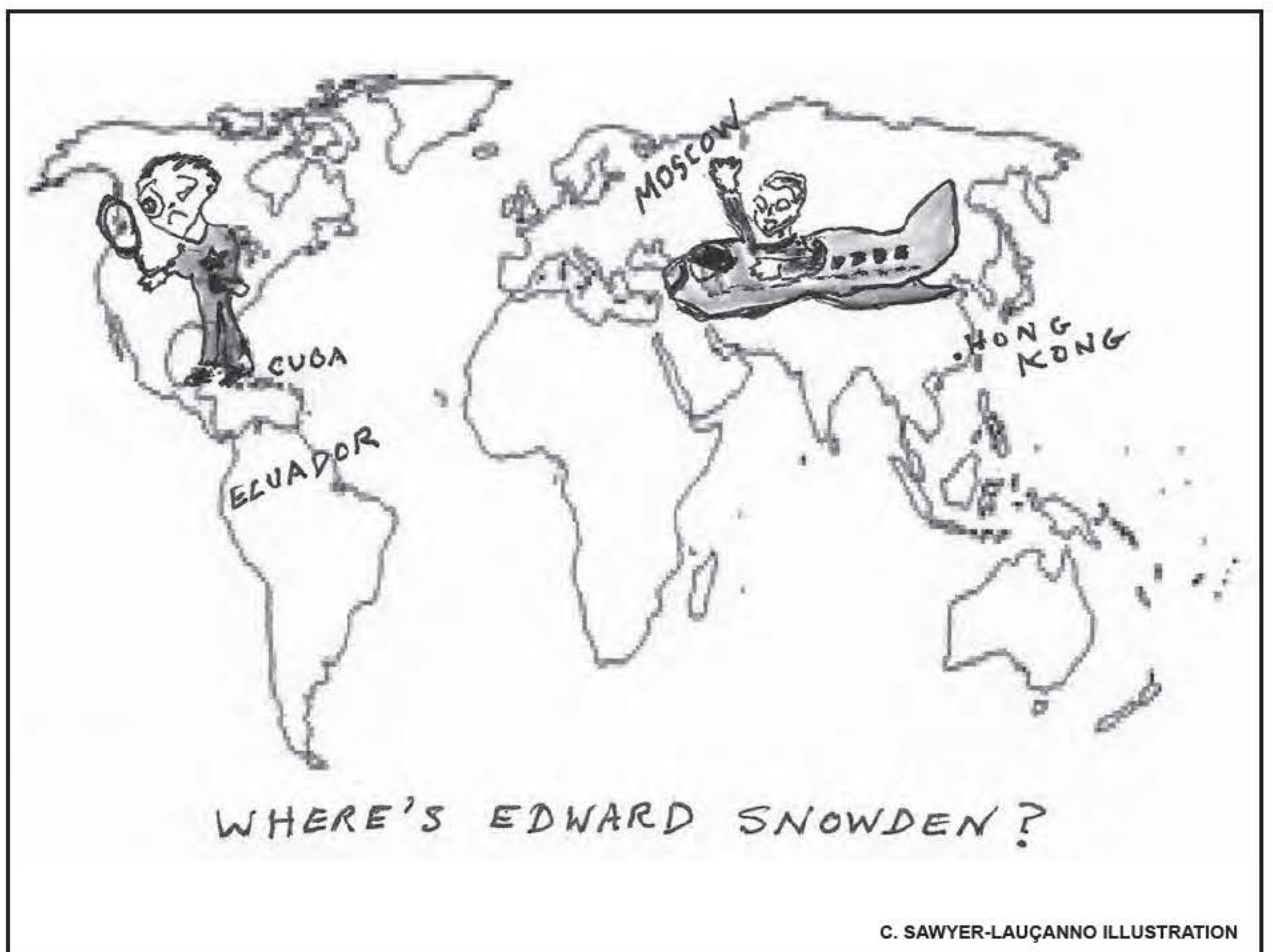
Summer may bring sunshine, flowers, and blue skies, but many should use caution during times of extreme heat and humidity.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) offers the following tips for reducing heat-related problems that can occur during hot, humid days:

- Slow down, avoid strenuous activity. Do not try to do too much on a hot day.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect heat and sunlight and help maintain normal body temperature. Protect your face with a wide-brimmed hat.
- Drink plenty of water regularly and often, even if you do not feel thirsty. Stay hydrated.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages. They can actually dehydrate your body.
- Eat well-balanced, light, regular meals. Avoid high protein foods that increase metabolic heat.
- Stay indoors as much as possible.
- If you do not have air conditioning, stay on your lowest floor, out of the sun. Electric fans do not cool the air, but they do help evaporate perspiration, which cools your

body.

- Go to a place where you can get relief from the heat, such as air conditioned schools, libraries, theaters and other community facilities that may offer refuge during the warmest times of the day.
 - Check with your community for information about possible local 'cooling centers'.
 - Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings or louvers. Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80%.
 - Avoid too much sunshine. Sunburn slows the skin's ability to cool itself.
 - If you are outside, use sunscreen lotion with a high SPF (Sun Protection Factor) rating.
 - Never leave children or pets alone in a closed vehicle.
 - Do not leave pets outside for extended periods. Make sure that pets have plenty of drinking water.
 - Check on family, friends and neighbors.
- If you believe you, or anyone you are with, is experiencing a heat-related medical emergency, promptly call 911, and if possible, move to a cooler place.



C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

MY TURN

It's All About the People



Allen receives a plaque of thanks from the Trustees Soldiers Memorial Committee at Monday night's selectboard meeting.

By PAT ALLEN – I feel fortunate to have been involved with the wonderful energy that we have in Montague now. As a Selectman for the last fourteen years, I have often been the face or the voice of the town; but the credit goes to everyone else - you have had the vision and perseverance to make everything happen.

When I moved to Montague, I became involved in the Planning Board and the Cemetery Commission. We created a Master Plan for the town that continues to help guide us in every day planning as well as long-range goals. Did I say we? It was mostly Mike Bosworth who led that project. Now we look to a new Industrial Park, the Open Space Plan, RiverCulture and the Livability Plan as the continuation of those original goals. As for the Cemetery Commission we documented the town cemeteries, now found on Find A Grave. (Sue San Soucie will remember our trek to Dry Hill Cemetery and the four "dogs" which miraculously morphed into a mother bear and three cubs. What a naturalist I am!)

Bob Newton convinced me to run for the Selectboard. Gee, thanks, Bob – but really, yes, thank you all for being willing to place your trust in someone fairly new to town. I remember the "debate" but mostly I remember the support of Jeanne Hebdon and Mary Drew and the early efforts of MCTV (which is now our eyes and ears at countless meetings and events).

We went through some wild and woolly years in the beginning, which certainly didn't show us in the best light, even though it was a very small number of people running that show. The staff and boards continued in their polite, straight forward, effective manner and worked through the mayhem around them. Police chief and assault issues, domestic violence, the Crocker fire, missing trash sticker monies (twice), open meeting law violations, flip of a coin to decide the chair, recall capability, media struggles – it wasn't a pretty sight. But that wasn't who we really were and certainly isn't who we are today.

2004, in my opinion, was the beginning of a new era for our town.

2004 was the year of Montague's 250th anniversary highlighted by a two-hour parade with its bands, floats, Shriners, a boat and even an airplane. Don Girard, Sue Corey, Jim Mayrand, and others, were the heroes of that event. Other parades like Booster Day; Newt Guilbault with Frank "Soupy" Campbell; the Spring Parade on the Hill, and all the Veterans Day - Memorial Day parades with Art Gilmore, Al Cummings, Mike Cenzano and the Montague Elks, annually demonstrate our spirit and pride.

2004 was also the year that we had the Reconciliation Ceremony with the Narragansett tribal leaders. It started as an effort to break the "Turners Falls Curse" which seemed to hover over the village. Like a pebble thrown in the water, generating ever widening circles of influence and interconnectivity, I went first to Frank Abbondanzio; who then with Joe Graveline developed the concept, and collaborated with Doug Harris and the Narragansett folks, turning it into a very in-

tense personal experience for all of us involved. Today we continue to refine our relationship: we are currently working together to secure a Battlefield Grant to explore the Falls Fight. With that grant in hand, we can look forward to an increasing scope of activity which could encompass a learning center, workshops, research – who knows how far we can go in exploring our past together and where it will take us in the future.

2004 was the first year Patricia Pruitt, Allen Ross and I were together on the board of selectmen. The next six years, I believe, were years of harmony and progress in resolving long-standing issues in town. Working with the Finance Committee, with John Hanold and Mike Naughton leading the discussions, and the Capital Improvement Committee, under Les Cromack's calm influence, we labored through ever more difficult financial situations, not of the town's making, and today we see that we have survived that period and have a fairly secure financial footing.

Most of all I would say that our town staff has been the bulwark and the steady influence needed to guide us to the present. When I look at our events, I see our staff volunteering, and that is after making sure all the technical details of permits, cleaning, patrolling, all the background infrastructure support have been laid. We are fortunate to have Patty Dion and Deb Bourbeau, two extremely capable and creative people not only in their positions but ready to don the appropriate garb for the PumpkinFest.

We are secure knowing that Carolyn Olsen keeps our finances and ourselves in check. And that Gina McNeely is tireless at keeping us safe when inspecting buildings, food stalls or putting her efforts behind the health needs of our town. Walter Ramsey may be fairly new but he has claimed as his own the important aspects of planning that will help us develop our full potential; and he is renowned for his pumpkin carving ability. Dave Jensen practically camps out at the Strathmore.

Tom Bergeron and the DPW respond rapidly to citizen concerns, no longer are there issues of "not enough money to buy a sign." Bob Trombley and the WWTP keep trying new approaches to increase efficiency. Chip Dodge and our police department are attuned to our idiosyncrasies, knowing when to push and when to comfort – we have a department second to none. Under Sue San Soucie's leadership our library is flexible and imaginative as is our recreation department through Jon Dobosz's efforts.

Above all, for me, is the Selectmen's office. Wendy Bogusz is the smiling, delightful person you want to meet when you have a concern.

see ALLEN page 5

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GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL 4th QUARTER
HONOR ROLL FOR GRADE 6

FIRST HONORS	SECOND HONORS	THIRD HONORS
Madison Adams	Dominic Carme	Rodney Duteau
Samantha Bocon	Reilan Castine	Reagan Fiske
Lindsey Bourbeau	Jayden Chapin	Ruben Galvez Perez
Ryan Campbell	Alexis Lacey	Ryan Kucenski
Kyle Dodge	Danielle Lively	Dizarre Lopez
Rebecca Harrell	Mireya Ortiz	Bianca Martin
Jenna Jacobsen	Shawn Rivard	Brandon Swenor
Anna Kochan	Holly Tetreault	
Jacob LaBelle	Hannah Welles	
Edison Ovalle-Bartolon		
John Putala		
Hunter Sanders		
Keltyn Socquet		
Victoria Veaudry		
Sarah Waldron		
Amelia Worden		
Cassidhe Wozniak		

FIRST HONORS	SECOND HONORS	THIRD HONORS
Daniel Adams	Korey Bousquet	Samuel Adams
Malik Baker-Gore	Madison Chmyzinski	Lynn Arseneault
Hannah Bogusz	Amanda Cooke	Alex Gheorghita
Sienna Dillensneider	Alora DeForge	Kaylee Jackson
Kasia Dobosz	Zachary Lastowski	Kurtis Kuenzel
Chloe Ellis	Emma Miner	Daniel Momaney
Hannah Graves	Kaeden Socquet	Hadyn Patenaude
Maya Hancock-Pezzati	Samantha Wegiel	Mason Whiteman
Samantha Kolodziej	John Wheeler	
Carlie Kretchmar		
Kyle Kucenski		
Snejana Lashur		
Simon Lorenzo		
Abigail Loynd		
Aliyah Sanders		
Madison St. Marie		
Jeremy Towle		
David Tricolici		

FIRST HONORS	SECOND HONORS	THIRD HONORS
Gabrielle Arzuaga	Nicholas Croteau	Christion Diaz
Tionne Brown	Cassandra Harris	Jemma Rose Dickson
Tahner Castine	Tess Hunter	Hunter Felix
Richard Craver	Nicholas Morin	Alison McKenna
Savannah Donahue	Luis Vega Morales	Mark Waite
William Doyle	Alysha Wozniak	Jacob Wright
Jordyn Fiske		
Melissa Hersey		
Michelle Leh		
Kaili Lynch		
Ian Moriarty		
Owen Ortiz		
Will Roberge		
Patrick Salls		
Amanda Savinski		
Kate Sprankle		
Kortney Thurber		
Hailey Trott		
Riley Wood		
Jordan Wyman		

HIKERS from page 1

hard,” said Mandeville, the front member who dreamed up the walking tour as “a way to get our music out there.” Their honesty was part of the charm...but the effect was more than just charm, or even their riveting harmonies and instrumental touches. Gathering in the forest to listen to the weary foot travelers, with the birdsong and the dusk falling around us, felt magical.

ALLEN from page 4

Surrounded by paperwork that threatens to inundate her, she juggles everyone’s needs and schedules and keeps us functioning. Frank Abbondanzio has witnessed the transformation of the town largely based on his vision and creative energy. It has been his knowledge, experience, and ability to secure grants through our legislative contingent and Boston offices that has enabled the downtown to be the visual presence you see today. Whether recognizing the possibilities of the Colle - Crocker – Cutlery and streetscape projects in Turners and Millers, or the Reconciliation Day, or the recent ethnic forums, his interest in the history and structure of the town has played a huge role in the re-generation of our town.

I look back with amazement at all that has been accomplished in the last decade:

- 2009 Safety Complex ably led by Pam Hanold, Jay DiPucchio and Deb Radway
- Rejuvenated downtown with an abundance of activities, restaurants and shops
- RiverCulture through Lisa Davol: 2011 MA Cultural Council Award; Feast for the Arts; Hard hat Auction; Pop-Up Store; Sculptures, kiosks, sidewalk paintings; Missoula Montana at Food City
- Major revitalization of Unity Park and Peskeompskut Park
- Discovery Center which opened in 2002 and provides very popular diverse weekly programs
- Cable Advisory Committee contracts with Comcast through the efforts of Chris Sawyer-Laucanno, Eileen Dowd, and Garry Earles
- Celebrations:

The two who organize the thing, Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards, hope eventually to play in every town in Massachusetts. This year, as they tour on foot with Amy Alvey and Mark Kilianski, their musical objective is also helping to call attention to the participation of the national government in the M&M Trail, which was recently extended to Long Island Sound and renamed the New England National Scenic Trail. This particular performance

had the effect, as well, of highlighting the work of Mount Grace in saving treasured parcels.

Editor’s Note: The Metacomet-Monadnock (M&M) Trail is a 114-mile long hiking trail that traverses the Metacomet Ridge of the Connecticut Valley region of Massachusetts, stretching through the central uplands of Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire.



Montague Center May Day and Old Home Day

Turners Falls Block Party

PumpkinFest created by Michael Nelson

Soapbox Derby and Mutton Mead both created by Mik Muller

Susie’s Fashion Shows with Chris Jenke and Emily Brewster

Crabapple Blossom Festival by Linda Hickman

Downtown Historic and Art Walks

- Youth Art Park – Jack Nelson and Joe Landry
- Hallmark Art Gallery, unfortunately now closed, but a catalyst for many of the others
- Shea Theater, our “anchor,” programs and projects that bring in many outside folks
- Montague Energy Committee saving the town’s environment through the efforts of Chris Mason, Sally, Pick, Tim Van Egmond and their clever songs
- Build out of the Industrial Park and a new proposed industrial park
- Upgraded airport facilities, working towards financial independence
- Stable budgets with the town and schools, thanks to the Compact and the Tech Panel
- Close relationship with the FR-COG through many initiatives:
- Brownfield Studies and planning grants
- Emergency management capabilities
- Franklin County Bikeway
- TIP programs to rebuild our infrastructure including Greenfield Rd

Health initiatives particularly for our youth

- Emergency dispensing site planning with Jay DiPucchio, Gina

McNeely, and Bob Escott

- Social Service agencies like the Brick House and Montague Catholic Social Services, Habitat for Humanity and the Housing Authority first with Paul Douglas and Bruce Hunter and now Robin Sherman
- Cultural Diversity days spotlighting the ethnic groups of our community
- Montague Reporter and David Detmold

I won’t miss the wasteful lawsuits – the time, energy and money that could have gone in positive directions for the town; nor the difficult personnel issues that were never easy and often had no clear resolutions; nor the emergency crises; nor the length of time it often seemed to take to accomplish any initiatives. I’m frustrated that we haven’t been able to find a good solution to a safe outdoor swimming area for the town, and hope the skateboard park will finally find a permanent home.

I look forward to the solution to internet access for the entire town; a new community center housing the library and senior center; new identities for Strathmore and Railroad Salvage; the completion of a state-of the-art residential development in the Montague Center School Building; a new home for MCTV; the re-opening of the Gill-Montague Bridge; the reconstruction of Greenfield Rd (a 40 year project that Walter Sojka and Stan Kascpura would love to have seen).

According to one of my friends, Montague is a way of life and I thank you all for the opportunity to have shared that way of life with you.



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So Isolated and So Repetitive: *John Kurtyka Tells It Like It Is*



EDDY PULA PHOTO

Kurtyka, drumming with Limp Flamingo.

By BRITTANY BRUCE

TURNERS FALLS—It's a rainy Monday evening, and I'm sitting in my bedroom drinking lukewarm beer with my good friend Renny Skithitis. We're patiently awaiting the

arrival of Montague-based musician John Kurtyka so I can ask him a series of contrived, yet interesting, questions. Somewhere in the middle of Jenny Lewis' "Acid Tongue," Kurtyka arrives. He says things, and we offer him a beer. At first he de-

clines, then changes his mind.

BB: You had a project called John Kurtyka's Limp Flamingo. Where did that name come from?

JK: We were sitting on the porch at the Voo and the guitarist's girlfriend at the time said she saw an inflatable flamingo floating in the river while she was tubing. It popped and went limp, so she took it out of the river and started waving it all around, saying that "Limp Flamingo" would be a good name for a band. I said that I thought it was a good name, and then the guitarist said that it should be called "John Kurtyka's Limp Flamingo," and I said, "No, that is not a good idea."

But he insisted that it be called John Kurtyka's Limp Flamingo. I kept saying that it sounded horrible but after that, every time he booked a show, he put down "John Kurtyka's Limp Flamingo." It's a phallic joke, in case you didn't get it. It's really emasculating, and it made me feel really bad for a while, but I got used to it. I don't have a problem with that, by the way.

It's also a reference to Alice in Wonderland: there's a part where they play croquet with flamingos, but Alice's flamingo doesn't want to get stiff. So, she has to coax it into getting stiff. It doesn't work, so she has to play croquet with a limp flamingo.

BB: Who are some of your musical influences?

JK: The earliest musical influences that I was exposed to were at my grandfather's house, and it was

Harry Belafonte. I listened to a lot of calypso and big band jazz. When I was about five or six I listened to Queen. I would put one of their records on the player and it was really good. I also got really into a *cap-pella* and this one band called Sha Na Na.

It wasn't until I was like eleven or twelve that I got into rock and roll. I was also really into Marilyn Manson for a long time. I went through a rebellious phase where I just wanted to listen to music that would make my parents uncomfortable. Like, I listened to a lot of Insane Clown Posse and looking back on it, it's not very good.

I also got really into gangster rap: early '90s gangster rap. The whole NWA thing really appealed to me. I also really wanted to be a gangster, but I didn't, because I lived in Montague Center. I'm not cut out to be a gangster.

BB: What do you think of the local music scene?

JK: Well, you don't get paid very much, if at all. There aren't a lot of venues to play at, and the ones you

can play at have a very low capacity. It's not glamorous or illustrious, and it's not really much fun.

I don't really like playing here because the music that I like doesn't appeal to the people here. It's a really niche audience that I cater to, and I just can't find it here. Being a part of the local music scene is no good. I would never tell someone to play in Franklin County because even if you get a fan base, you're not going anywhere, because it's so isolated and so repetitive. All the bands end up sounding the same.

There really isn't much of a music scene, compared to most places outside of Franklin County. Even the Berkshires have a better music scene. You could almost say that the Franklin County music scene is non-existent because it doesn't go anywhere; it's stagnant. I cannot name a band from Franklin County that I really like. Furthermore, I'm not even really a big fan of music.

BB: Why the drums?

JK: I don't exclusively play the drums, but I did start playing the drums to further develop my rhythm, and it also seemed really cool to try to sing and play the drums at the same time. I

liked that it was challenging, and I didn't have a bass or a guitar at the time, and it seemed a more durable instrument than the bass or the guitar. Plus, it's really hard to find a good drummer. Everybody knows how to play the guitar and I'm much better at playing guitar than playing drums. I also play the piano. That's my main instrument.

BB: Why do you wear a mask when you perform?

JK: I don't always wear a mask; that was just with Limp Flamingo, really. It was only because it's really hard to play the guitar and sing at the same time, so I would just put the mask on and put the microphone in the mask.

It's not for cosmetic purposes; it's not to enhance the show, although I now find that it does. It's really just so I don't have lean over to sing into a microphone. It's also kind of a challenge, because I cannot see out of the mask.

BB: You put on a great show. Where do you come up with your material?

see KURTYKA page 12

"To Be Free"

Down through the ages, slavery was employed by many nations; the Babylonians, the Egyptians, the Americans, all enslaved people to build their countries. America still suffers from enslavement, but this enslavement comes in diverse forms such as popularity, power, prominence, money, alcohol, drug addiction, to name just a few.

What is it you might be enslaved to?

The Bible says: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey; whether of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16)

The principle here is that everyone is a slave to someone or something, whether it be a person, a possession, or activity.

The question is: Who am I serving?

The Bible says: "But now having been set free from sin, And having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. (Rom. 6:22)

Be set free from sin and darkness by asking Christ to be your Savior and be free indeed.

This is as written.

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Milot's "Distant Objects" To Open at Nook

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

A new exhibition entitled "Distant Objects" by Barbara Milot opens at Nina's Nook on July 5. The exhibit features a series of small constructions that combine photographs of cloud formations with three-dimensional elements made from wire, hardware and wood. Milot's work suggests ways we attempt to tame and navigate the world around us in the face of uncontrollable elements such as air and water.

According to Milot, her intention is to transform two-dimensional digital images into tactile art. "My sky constructions are digital photographs of skies printed with pigment inks, then mounted on wood panels.

I alter the photos by drilling holes, scratching lines and inserting wires and hardware.

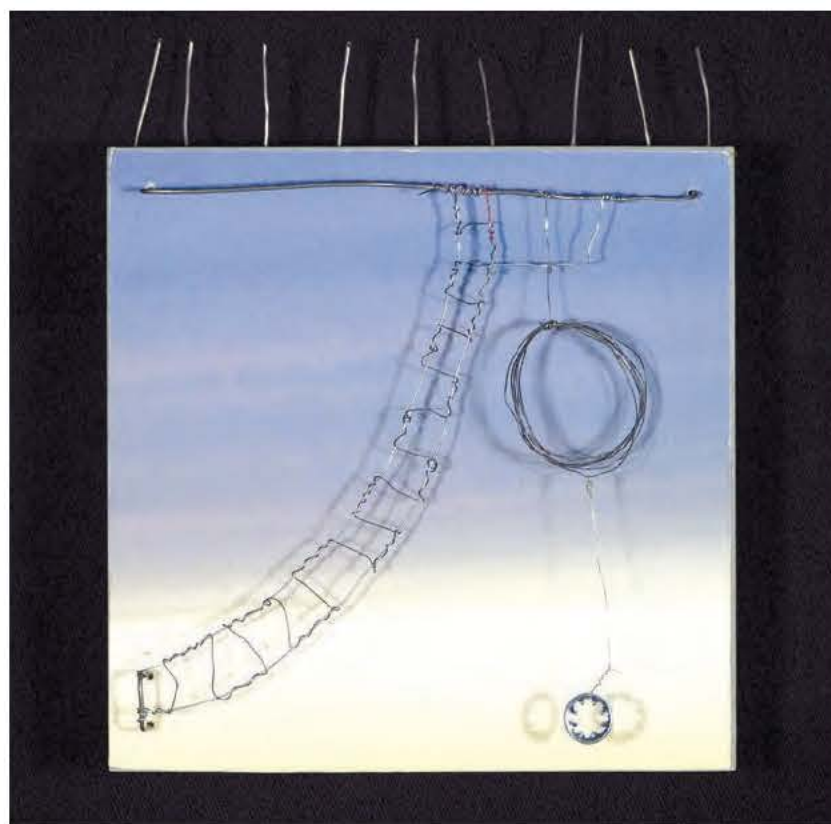
"My intention is to make a digital image into a tactile object. I want to interrupt the way we read the original image by superimposing a three-dimensional system of marks and lines. To my mind, this is similar to the way that maps superimpose a linear system on the natural environment in order to direct the way that we interpret it.

"The scale of these constructions is deliberately small (4" - 8"). I like the contrast of vast or deep with tiny and close. The constantly changing elements of clouds and light also contrast with the constructed quality of the hardware and wires. Lastly, the scale is related to the human body.

The field of vision for viewing each piece is narrow and it is necessary to move in close to the work in order to see the background photograph and the metal additions. This makes the experience of looking at the work solitary and intimate."

"Distant Objects" runs from July 5 until July 28. A reception with the artist is planned midway through the show to coincide with Third Thursday Night Out in Turners Falls on July 18. Nina's Nook is next to the Black Cow Burger Bar in Turners Falls at 125A Avenue A.

Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 6 p.m., and by appointment at (413) 834-8800. More information is available at www.ninasnook.com.



First "Third Thursday" a Great Success



A curious crowd gathered at the newest shops in town, FUNK*SHUN (pictured) and Madison On The Ave.

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – The first of the Third Thursdays events in downtown Turners, last Thursday, June 20, was lively, well-attended and highly successful. Folks began to gather along the avenue in the late afternoon and the steady stream of strollers continued until 9 p.m. Perfect weather helped but so did a genuine enthusiasm for what downtown Turners is, and can and

will be.

The idea for Third Thursday was an outgrowth of the Livability Workshops spearheaded by town planner Walter Ramsey. Many of the participants expressed the desire to revitalize the downtown even when special events were not occurring. During the last holiday season, special downtown shopping nights were introduced, which garnered large turnouts, setting a welcome precedent.

Ramsey commented: "The idea of a consistent Third Thursday event was met with significant enthusiasm among the cultural organization partners and downtown business owners when it was first planned last September... There is a direct connection between Third Thursday events and [our] objectives of increasing foot traffic and facilitating business development in downtown. Compared to the successful annual festivals in Town, this type of event will attract customers on a more regular basis and allow local businesses, cultural organizations, and local artisans to showcase their wares. Artists crawled out of the woodwork to



Theodore Hinman, an emissary from Mutton & Mead, demonstrated blacksmithing on Avenue A.

show their work to the Third Thursday audience. It is an important step in the revitalization of Montague, and it is something the entire community can get behind."

Outgoing RiverCulture director Lisa Davol was delighted with the response: "I'm thrilled with so many new shops and participants in events like third Thursday and in the vibrancy of the downtown itself. This event was so much fun that it makes me want to keep my job with RiverCulture! Seeing so many people in all the shops both old ones and new ones gave me the same feeling as when I saw so many people in the street during the first block party. Almost brought tears to my eyes. I love this community and

everyone in it."

The theme for the event was "Knights! Camera! Action!" which tied in the downtown activities with last weekend's Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival, and graduation at the Hallmark Institute of Photography.

Photographs taken by students from the graduating class were on display at a number of venues, including Loot, Jake's Tavern, Madison on the Avenue, Gary's Coins and Antiques, Black Cow Burger and the Shea.

The Mutton and Mead crew also turned out to entertain the crowd with a mounted knight, jugglers, a costumed rock band, blacksmithing, and other wandering Medieval characters. Nina's Nook also featured Medieval-inspired art and accessories.

Peskeomskut Park was the scene of a screening of *The Princess Bride*, part of the Shea Theater's "Movies in the Park" series.

At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Frank Gregory, the artist who painted the interior nature murals, gave a tour. The Great Hall featured Nicole Werth's exhibit, "Plants and Animals of the Con-

necticut River Valley."

At the Third Street Studios, artists Max Armen, Loren Burke and Wes Talbot presented current work; Talbot's work was also featured at Madison on the Avenue, which hosted a music performance headlined by Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth.

Allen Fowler held an open studio at his Second Street workspace. The newest addition to the downtown retail scene, FUNK*SHUN, also was open for business.

LYNN PELLAND PHOTO



Caleb Wetherbee serenaded the crowd in front of Nina's Nook on Avenue A.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Tax Taking and Update on Internet Access

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At 8:30 on June 19, and with light still in the sky at their meeting closest to the summer solstice, the Wendell Selectboard went into executive session to discuss strategy for litigation, with building inspector Phil Delorey present. They said they would return to open session later to continue signing the 120 appointment slips that fill the town's committees and departments for fiscal 2014. Reporters did not stay and instead returned home with the moonlight growing stronger as the sunlight grew dimmer. Four people were scheduled to come to the meeting, but only two actually came.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley came in to update the board about an inhabited house that the town recently acquired in land court through tax title taking. When they were notified of the taking, Manley said the residents seemed surprised although there was no reason for them to be surprised. The title taking has been going on since 2008. Manley said that the town should get insurance for the property immediately and have the building inspector check for basic safety in the building, smoke detectors and railings, as soon as possible.

Beyond that she asked selectboard members for advice on a good approach, one that would be humane toward the residents, but at the same time would begin the process of getting the residents out so they could get on with their lives, and let the town take over the property. The town, "can't have tenants." But, she said, "we do not want to be completely heartless." Selectboard member Jeffery Pooser asked if anyone had had a conversation with the residents, and Delorey said that both he and police chief Ed Chase spoke with a relative 6 years ago.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that insurance on an unoccupied dwelling is more expensive than on an occupied one.

Board members decided that the first step should be to send both husband and wife each a certified return receipt letter asking for some response by July 1, two days before the board's next scheduled selectboard meeting which will be July 3. The building inspector should do the basic safety inspection, and Delorey said that Chase was willing to go with him. What the town does after that will depend on how they respond. If they refuse to leave, the county sheriff has authority to evict them.

Town Building Connection to the Internet

Robbie Heller reported on the workings of the Community Anchor Institution (CAI) task force and their recommendations for connecting town buildings to the fiber optic cable that the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) expects to have operating in Wendell, "by the end of the month." Aldrich said there were rumblings that it may be later. The task force decided to have a fiber optic connection to a single building, most likely the library, possibly a second connection at the highway garage which is also the emergency operations center, for back up or if there are problems with the line of sight wireless signal. The other town buildings would be connected by Access Plus each with a 10 megabit wireless signal, which will include one megabit for voiceover internet. Antennas are already in place; there is a conduit between the town hall and the police station so a fiber optic connection between them can get a signal to both those buildings from one antenna. The Senior Center will need an antenna. The cost for internet

telephone will be about one third what the town now pays for a Verizon land line, but the telephones are expensive, about \$200 each. One good feature is that a contract with Access Plus will be for just one year, and so allow some flexibility.

Heller announced a meeting of the task force at the town office meeting room at 6:00 on June 27, and selectboard member Dan Keller suggested, "one of us should be there." Pooser volunteered.

Town counsel, David Doneski sent the town a letter with corrections for the contract being written between the town and Envirohealth, the company headed by Dan Mascroft that is working to install a 2 megawatt solar array in town. The town is to receive ½ cent per kilowatt produced, but may want a higher rent because it will get no net metering credits from this array; the available net metering credits have already been taken by the contract with Seaboard Solar. Aldrich has the task of contacting town administrators of Orange and Northfield to learn details of their PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) arrangements with the solar installations in those towns. Envirohealth is committed to supplying electricity within 21 months, but Mascroft is suggesting reducing that time to 12 to 15 months after which they will pay the town rent whether the array is on line or not.

Aldrich said that close reading of the appropriate state law seems to say that the Wendell Access Committee as proposed at the June 5 selectboard meeting will require a town meeting vote. Aldrich has already started a list of possible articles for a fall special town meeting. The law allows remote participation at board and committee meetings, but not at town meetings.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Cave Hill Road Realignment Discussed

By DAVID DETMOLD

"I just wanted to take a preliminary look at it," said selectboard chair Rich Brazeau on Tuesday, referring to the possibility of spending a good chunk of the town's Chapter 90 highway state aid to straighten the intersection of Cave Hill and Montague roads.

The discussion arose in advance of a July 9 meeting between the selectboard and abutters to the proposed gravel pit expansion on Route 63. One of the concerns abutters to the gravel pit and landscaping business owned by Richie Roberts have consistently raised is the danger and noise caused by heavy equipment traveling down the narrow, curving Jackson Hill Road, a dirt road that is the shortest path between Roberts' home on Hemenway Road and the landscaping operation on Route 63.

Roberts, who insisted at a recent zoning board of appeals hearing on the proposed expansion of the gravel mining side of his operation that his trucks do not speed on Jackson Hill, and only pass back and forth twice a day, has suggested he would not be averse to using Cave Hill to Montague Road as an alternate route to his landscaping business, if it were possible for large trucks to make a right hand turn off Cave Hill. But as that intersection is presently configured, he said, a right hand turn is not possible for big rigs.

The selectboard has talked about the difficult alignment of that intersection before. According to a survey map from 1951 Brazeau presented to his colleagues on Tuesday, it would seem that discussion has in fact been going on for quite some time.

"It's a bad curve," said board member Julie Shively.

"I'm only interested in it if it makes sense in and of itself," said board member Peter d'Errico, referring to the possibility of straightening the intersection to make Cave Hill join Montague Road at a right angle.

D'Errico made it clear he did not want the selectboard to appear to endorse straightening the road as a response to one neighborhood's concerns about truck traffic, as rerouted traffic would simply impact another group of residents.

"The abutters [there] would just say, 'Why make this a larger intersection?'" said d'Errico. "We're just straightening it out. It might be a safer intersection," said

Shively, who added she had seen drivers negotiate the curving approach at the bottom of Cave Hill onto Montague without slowing or stopping.

Brazeau offered a ballpark estimate that it might take \$100,000 of the town's Chapter 90 aid to accomplish the reconstruction of that intersection. He said a new survey would be needed, and that wetlands on the east side, and ledge on the west, could make the task more difficult to accomplish.

On the plus side, Brazeau said it appeared the road had been shifted long ago toward the west from the center of the original layout, and the town owned the land directly to the east, eliminating the need for acquiring more land to straighten the road.

Highway chief Will Stratford said the town of Leverett received \$151,710 in state Chapter 90 aid last year, of which about \$33,000 is still on hand. Stratford said he had plans to combine that sum with whatever the state finally decides to allocate for Chapter 90 this year to resurface parts of Cushman, Montague and Cave Hill Road. Both the governor and the legislature have planned to increase Chapter 90 funds to communities statewide, but the actual totals have not been released.

Stratford said the highway department had completed a section of repaving on Montague Road just west of the Cave Hill intersection about two years ago, and he said only a small portion of that work would be impacted if the town does choose to realign the Cave Hill intersection now.

The selectboard noted that an alternate route for Roberts to get his trucks down to Route 63 does exist, on North Leverett Road, and d'Errico wondered how often the low clearance, thirteen feet, at the railroad overpass on that road would actually prevent heavy equipment from using that route.

In other news, the selectboard appointed a committee to survey the barn owned by Steve Blinn at the junction of Rattlesnake Gutter and North Leverett Road. That survey, a preliminary step to demolishing the sagging structure, which appears to be listing toward the Sawmill River in the last throes of disrepair, will take place on Thursday, June 27, at 10 a.m. in company with Franklin cooperative building inspector Jim Hawkins. The survey committee, which will include

structural engineer Bob Leet, of Wendell, includes Matt Kelly and fire chief John Moruzzi.

Kelty was appointed as a "disinterested citizen." Brazeau wondered how he could get to become a disinterested citizen.

The board will extend an invitation this summer to the Leverett school committee to meet jointly to discuss budget issues outside the grind of the actual budget cycle, possibly on July 30. The board would like to talk about things like charter school reimbursements, and how school funding fits into the town's larger financial picture.

Although the board has doubts as to whether an all electric Toyota RAV4 would make a suitable vehicle to replace fire chief John Moruzzi's ancient Durango, they authorized applying for a state grant to purchase one anyway. If approved, the grant would also include a charging station, which would likely be placed at the town's safety complex and highway garage.

Moruzzi, who says his current vehicle is no longer reliable on turns, has requested a four wheel drive with enough room to carry equipment. The RAV4 has storage capacity for equipment, but there are no four wheel drive, all-electric or hybrid vehicles on the state list at this point, according to town administrator Margie McGinnis.

The electric vehicle has no gas back up engine, a fact that gave d'Errico pause. It has an approximately 100-mile capacity on a single charge, but the selectboard noted that Moruzzi may like to keep the lights on when he arrives at a fire. Would this cut into its range?

Brazeau suggested he could pack a mountain bike in the back, just in case.

D'Errico suggested he could charge it off a portable generator in case of emergency.

The town would have a year to accept the free vehicle, or not, if the grant is approved.

The board also approved an application for a Brownfields survey of the former mill building at 2 Dudleyville Road, across the street from the Blinn barn. The property, which has attracted interest from private buyers recently, apparently has old oil tanks in the basement that may have leaked. The historic structure, which Shively thought may have been a grist mill at one time, sits directly on the Sawmill River.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Leave It Alone!

Tuesday, 6/18

10:10 a.m. Report of a large black bear on High Street.

11:30 a.m. Report of malicious property destruction at Veterans Field. Report taken.

Wednesday, 6/19

9:40 a.m. Assisted with disabled motor vehicle on North Street.

7:45 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with out-of-control juvenile.

Thursday, 6/20

11:30 a.m. Aggressive bear, with cubs

in tree, reported on Mountain Road. Advised caller to leave area.

2:40 p.m. Motor vehicle lockout at Renevators Supply. Entry gained.

5:45 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported at Laurel Lake. Unable to locate.

8:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with domestic situation on Millers Falls Road. Found to be all verbal; subjects separated.

Friday, 6/21

2 a.m. Assisted

Montague PD with single-car crash.

7:20 a.m. Assisted with lockout at Northfield Road residence.

7 p.m. Report of truck dumping trash at Papermill Road. Gone upon arrival.

Saturday, 6/22

12:10 a.m. Alarm sounding at Lester Street. Building checked out secure.

2:50 a.m. Alarm sounding at Lester Street. Building checked out secure.

3:20 p.m. Criminal application issued

to [REDACTED], for operating a vehicle after revocation of license and with no insurance.

9:10 p.m. Caller reported hit-and-run accident on Route 2 eastbound. Vehicles located. Accident found to have occurred in Greenfield. Information sent to Greenfield PD.

Sunday, 6/23

6:20 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with domestic disturbance at Mim's Market.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on June 26, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Hogweed

Last fall John Krauss, engineer at the electrical generating plant at Cabot Station in Turners Falls, became aware of more than a dozen giant hogweed plants growing near the fish ladder. Contact with the invasive plant's sap causes painful burning blisters that can leave blackened scars. The best way to destroy the plant is to harvest the flowers before they seed. If that fails – turn and run.

Millers Post Office Closes

The village post office in Millers Falls will close its doors for good this Saturday. The Springfield Post Office's decision to close the Millers station was apparently based on safety concerns over pick-up and delivery, as there is no parking lot, though longtime

Discovery Center Transfer

Dave Ziomek of the Great Falls Discovery Center came before the Montague selectboard to request the transfer of a parcel of land across from town hall to enable his project to move to the construction phase this summer. The board agreed to convey the deed for the land, on which the town's World War I memorial sits, to the Department of Environmental Management. \$300,000 worth of state-funded improvements to the site will begin within weeks of the deed's closing. This will make the old mill building, formerly part of the Montague Paper Company complex, a destination point for visitors and tourists.

Dispute over Trash, Tree

The Wendell health board

postal clerk Thomas Gessing, who grew up in town, said, "I have never seen an accident on this corner."

Ceria raised concerns about the inspection, saying he did not receive prior notification. He also repeated concerns he has raised at prior meetings about a tree that fell on his trailer. He believes the town is responsible for the tree, and he is considering taking the town to court.

A New Day for Turners?

With the renovation of the Colle Opera House nearly completed, the Brick House's proposed art corridor project on Third Street, and now the bike path and the Great Falls Discovery Center coming online, newly-elected selectman Allen Ross opined, "We could carve out a destination which is a center for guided walkways and tourism for our state and for New England." Not a bad prospect for a bankrupt community.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Celebrating the Service of Allen, Town Staff

By PATRICIA PRUITT

It was a complex and discreetly emotional meeting of the selectboard: celebratory, with heartfelt thank-you's, and a cake for good service and dedication by 21 town employees and the retiring five-term selectman, Pat Allen. The employees received certificates recognizing their years of service, and Mrs. Allen received a plaque recognizing her years as selectman, and a gift from employees – a hibiscus tree to plant in her yard – in appreciation for her work on the town board and county-wide through her participation on the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Allen worked on many other committees, and for many other causes, both in Montague and in Franklin County. However the evening's business was wait-

ing the board's attention, and the selectmen's room was rapidly filling with citizens coming to discuss the recent weekend parking ban on Seventh Street.

Chief Dodge was ready for the discussion which was led by Diane Kurkulonis, granddaughter of the founder of Saint Andrews Episcopal Church on the corner of Prospect and Seventh streets, with her husband Alan on visuals. Kurkulonis made a compelling argument for the difficulty created by the parking ban for the parishioners of St. Andrews, particularly the elderly and the handicapped. She explained that it had taken much time and effort for the church to install the handicapped access and now the very entrance to the church was rendered inaccessible due to the distance of Prospect Street from the church entryway.

Chief Dodge, taking their remarks to heart, proposed that the parking ban be moved to begin with L Street, and asked if that would help. He received a resounding "yes" from the assembled church members.

Father Stanley J. Aksamit of Our Lady of Peace brought out a further consideration explaining that there are weekday evening meetings at his church which, especially in the winter time, find drivers facing parked vehicles on both sides of Seventh. Aksamit wondered if a 7-day ban limiting parking to the north side of Seventh Street, from L Street to Avenue A, was a better solution covering all circumstances.

The board agreed, and the ban will now be in effect seven days a week until April 1. The members of St. Andrews

and the Chief seemed pleased with the outcome. David Jensen suggested a policeman directing traffic on Saturday and Sunday might solve the problem as well, but by then the discussion had found its solution.

In other police business, the Chief once again requested the board to extend officer Suchanek's Section 111F sick leave until August 5, 2013, as recommended by his doctor. Jeanne Golrick, in the audience, asked if the chief would be returning to town meeting to get more cash to cover the costs generated by this leave. Dodge allowed that it could become necessary in the next fiscal year, but was not at this point. Mark Fairbrother made the point that this couldn't go on indefinitely. The Chief said he hopes this will be the last extension necessary, and that Officer Suchanek hopes to be back before August 5.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with the following:

- approving a one-day liquor license for Berkshire Brewing Co. at the Shea Theater on July 19, 2013;
 - approving Unity Park change orders #2 and #3, and pay requisition for \$159,890.23 for Diversified Construction Services, LLC;
 - signing two Memoranda of Understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for hauling recyclables and sludge hauling and disposal;
 - and approving the "Form A – Approval Not Required" endorsement of the planning board for the subdivision and sale of nine acres of a 15-acre parcel in the Turners Falls Industrial Park.
- The Executive Session was announced as cancelled.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Can You Find All Ten Species in This Week's Log?

Monday, 6/17
12:50 p.m. Request for officer to remove a shirtless white male seen looking into patients' windows at Farren Care Center. Unable to locate.
1:07 p.m. Report of a possibly rabid woodchuck in a backyard on Crocker Avenue. When the caller tried to shoo it off, it charged at him and then disappeared under a neighbor's shed. Advised to call back if woodchuck reappeared.
3:19 p.m. Caller requested an assist for a large turtle in danger of being hit on Masonic Avenue. Turtle moved to a safer location.
3:42 p.m. Real estate agent for a building on Third St reported finding a flyer inviting those interested in the property to contact a third party. The third party was told he should not leave signs on property. Agent told to call back if it happens again.
Tuesday, 6/18
10:15 a.m. Driver stopped on Hatchery Rd and issued summons for driving with suspended/revoked license for OUI, and for operating a vehicle without care in starting, stopping, turning, or backing.
11:17 a.m. Caller from Third St reported receiving harassing mail from a person known to her. Referred to officer.
3:21 p.m. Report from Third Street of burglary/breaking and entering. Suspect located and apprehended by Deerfield Police. [redacted] was arrested and charged with misdemeanor breaking and entering.
3:53 p.m. Caller reported wandering sheep in her yard on Ripley Road. Services rendered.
7:16 p.m. Report of a suspicious auto at Unity Park. Investigated; occupant was burning sage.
7:36 p.m. Dispute between former tenant and Third St landlord regarding withheld funds. Advised of options.
7:52 p.m. Thomas Hill Country Club member reportedly threatened other members, claimed that he would "blow people's heads off," and left club. Officers contacted suspect by phone but he accused them of harassment and kept hanging up on them. Investigation revealed suspect has a suspended license and is on probation. Officer finally reached suspect by phone and advised him that he is being trespassed from the country club. Call placed to probation.
7:54 p.m. Walk-in report of a deer standing in the middle of the roadway at Third Street and Unity Street. Referred to officer.
Wednesday, 6/19
9:56 a.m. Report of a vehicle with lights flashing and alarm sounding being driven on L Street. Area search negative.
2:51 p.m. Accident with property damage between tractor trailer and car at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Drive. Written warning issued; report taken.
4:41 p.m. Turners Falls Road resident reported possible phone fraud by

"Protection Services." [redacted] shows this is New York number; Google search reveals complaints of company. Advised of options.
7:14 p.m. Domestic disturbance on High Street. Peace restored.
9:46 p.m. Second report of domestic disturbance involving same High St. parties. Officers spoke to involved parties; peace again restored.
Thursday, 6/20
11:10 a.m. Millers Falls resident concerned that the movie vans are not stopping at stop sign at Franklin and Newton Streets. Report relayed to officers in the area.
11:45 a.m. Montague City Road resident reported that a bear crossed through his yard last night at around 8:30 p.m. No damage/destruction reported.
12:46 p.m. Meadow Rd resident reported both his neighbors have multiple beehives and that bees swarming his property have kept him from using his swimming pool last year and this year. Advised of options.
1:15 p.m. A baby duck was found near the movie detail in Millers Falls; adopted by officer.
1:48 p.m. Dangerously driven vehicle reported on Montague City Road. Both occupants found to be unlicensed. Keys to vehicle were confiscated and brought to dispatch to await pickup by a licensed operator.
2:41 p.m. Possible breaking and entering reported at Salvation Army Store on Avenue A. Investigated; determined that no entry was made.

5:48 p.m. Hatchery Rd resident reported neighbor was removing barbed wire fence from her property as well as dumping tires. Advised of options.
[redacted] was arrested on three default warrants.
8:08 p.m. Call for officer to assist with dispute on South Prospect St. Determined to be civil matter. Advised of options.
Friday, 6/21
12:20 a.m. Two males were observed pushing a shopping cart with an open container inside at L Street and Third Street. Subjects were advised of alcohol consumption bylaw.
12:35 a.m. Loud noise reported from a gathering at a house on Grove Street. Peace restored.
1:46 am: Single vehicle accident reported on Turners Falls Rd. Vehicle located in woods with substantial damage and both airbags deployed. [redacted] was arrested and charged with a marked lanes violation; operating under the influence of liquor; and operating to endanger.
7:30 a.m. Millers Falls Rd resident reported her purse and loose change were stolen from her unlocked vehicle overnight. Report taken.
6:40 p.m. Noise complaint regarding idling train behind Millers Falls residence. Caller advised that Montague PD can lodge a complaint, but cannot force the train to move. Attempted to call railroad; no answer. at dispatch.

11:54 p.m. Lost cat reported on Old Sunderland Road: female, gray and white, no collar. Report taken.
Saturday, 6/22
3:05 a.m. Attempted breaking and entering reported on Fourth Street. White female-suspect seen running towards Food City. Area checked; nothing found. Information passed along to detective.
5:26 a.m. Caller reported someone destroyed his mailbox on Old Sunderland Road. Services rendered.
7:36 a.m. Officer observed a damaged vehicle on L Street showing evidence of a possible hit and run accident. Report taken.
2:50 p.m. Report that ongoing telephone harassment of staff at Survival Center on Fourth Street has resumed. Statements completed.
3:04 p.m. Report of a second mailbox destroyed on Old Sunderland Road.
4:55 p.m. Caller reported that a friendly golden retriever had just shown up at his door on G Street. Owner located and referred to caller.
5:27 p.m. Larceny reported on Avenue A. A rake and possibly some other items were taken.
Sunday, 6/23
3:55 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls reported that her boyfriend was burning her clothes in the front yard. A 30 year old man was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property under \$250 and burning personal property.

Montague Recognizes Town Staff's Service

Name	Years of Service
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David Jensen	25
Patricia Dion	22
Debra Bourbeau	16
Wendy Bogusz	16
Carolyn Olsen	18
William Doyle	19
Charles Dodge	20
John Dempsey	17
Richard Suchanek	21
Christopher Williams	18
Matthew Cadran	16
Dennis Dobias	31
Tina Tyler	26
Mary Ann Packard	17
Linda Hickman	16
Susan SanSoucie	30
Bob Trombley	20

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The Poetry Page

Poetry Page Edited By Patricia Pruitt
design by Claudia Wells

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

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Carlin Barton, and Michael Muller.

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at poetry@montaguereporter.org.

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It's not the toad lady Chang O
pounding immortality on the moon,
Not the moon between the branches
Nor even the branches,
But the breeze lifting the branches.
Today it's the breeze
Shaking little weeds in waves,
Leading flowers to dance,
Tapping tree tops.

- Hans Herda
Leverett

Cottonwood

Do the trees shiver in the cold wet rain?
Do the small trees shiver more?
Leaning up against their elders,
Seeking their strengthened core?

Trees felled, like darkness falls, over and over again
Their gaudy roots unclothed, waving, exposed
Elder light flowing from the broken grip of long tender toes
Children of the wood smell their dying brotherhood
Root denied connection to the rooted,
Chaos's patterns of feathery growth searching and calling.
Beseeching tree to memoried tree,
Aged to young and back again,

Some say that trees hold spirits
Wood sprites captured in a sylvan maw
Faces revealed by the buzz of a saw
Some sweet and curious, some gnarled and furious

What myths these beings hold,
What stories never told?
Shivering in the cold and rain,
Toe to toe with presence so old?

No stronger greater lore,
Love creates, nothing more, nothing needed.
A force of love's creation, green-lit and seeded.
Teaching ancient knowing of a windblown past.

- C. Howland
Amherst

Messages

Gift
In the grass
Its green insistence
On spring

Or the life
Forgotten somewhere
Above our heads
The faces in the photos
The child's drawings
That worn-out sweater
missed for years
These tiny returns
Of kindness memory
Coming into focus

In the eyes
Shining, an elaborate
Scaffolding
Of feeling
We gather it
Into our bodies
All parts
Yet seldom
Show it, not even taking in
What happens
Still, it goes on
And there
It is
Washed up
On our shore.

- Louise Lemora
Turners Falls

The Universe is Undivided

Dawn light shines rose on the crown of Brushy Mountain.
All else is gray, is twilight too dark for shadow.
In the meadow below, three sheep move slowly
With small steps, the ancient forward rhythm of grazing.
They do not feel the light beginning to fall like a saddle
On their broad backs. Only the rip and tear of
Spring grass filling their mouths is true.

Near the mountain a waxing moon lies resting,
its nurse star follows but all other stars have disappeared.
The sky lightens and allows the misty air to turn
a tremulous blue. No bird yet sings.
Like a seashell slowly opening, the light and colors rise
in perfect flow and balance, and I feel the new dawn breathe.

When the light rises a familiar surge of will returns and
splits me from these eternal rhythms, blue air,
grazing sheep and journey of the moving star.
I bow my head and pray to live keeping the old wisdom
that knows it is not ourselves or things but only
our ebb and flow and balance that is real.

For this is the truth about our universe, from
its infoldment shaking out forms and
consciousness in change and infinite variety;
it is the truth that nothing is ever separate. I rise
now with this dawn rising, and rise
and reach my face up into a field of stars.

- Alice Scheffey
Leverett

Contributors' Notes

Hans Herda, retired math prof, writing poetry for fifty years, always reading poetry. The realm of nature is my great inspiration but I have other sources.

C. Howland is a poet who works at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Louise Lemora is a resident of Turners Falls.

Alice Scheffey has lived a long time in Leverett until now when the trees are grown up so high that I cannot see Brushy Mountain in the June dawnlight. She writes poetry "because it is true that the work of poets are so needed, as it has ever been, in times when the soul seems sickened for want of hope."

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

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

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

ART SHOWS:

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

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

LOCAL EVENTS:

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *No Sudden Movements*, James Von Dant, *Suburban Downfall*, and *VillaMas*. Come see 4 awesome bands! 6:30 p.m., \$

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., \$

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Community Smokes*. 9 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.



Northampton's Fancy Trash have been playing a regular Tuesday night residency out at Mocha Maya's in Shelburne Falls. Catch them in their element, with weekly special guests. Every week at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jesse Hanson*, multi instrumental singer/songwriter. 2:30 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 2

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 7:30 p.m., free.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series*, featuring poets Martin Espada & Karin Gottshall. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

JPCA Black Box Theater, 110 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls: Ja'Duke presents *Les Misérables*. 7 p.m., \$

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. All American Swing 'n' Roll. 7 p.m., free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jenn & Basho*, folk americana. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *The Odd Couple Quintet*, with *John Clark* and *Michael Rabinowitz*. Original compositions and jazz arrangements of classical works. 8 p.m., \$

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

SATURDAY, JULY 6

JPCA Black Box Theater, 110 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls: Ja'Duke presents *Les Misérables*. 7 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Keeley Filgo*, acoustic folk blues. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

JPCA Black Box Theater, 110 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls: Ja'Duke presents *Les Misérables*. 2 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Justin Hillman*, alt folk. 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 8

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. Bring a picnic supper, blankets and lawn chairs. 7 p.m., free.

TUESDAY, JULY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD. *Rossini's Armida*. 6:30 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lisa Marie Ellingsen*, americana blues. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Brook Batteau*, alt rock dance pop. 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JULY 12

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Terry Jenoure's *My Bronx*, interdisciplinary theater piece. 6 p.m., \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Little Shop of Horrors* (1986). Color, 88 min. PG-13. Music before the show: *Natural Music School*, Broadway tunes, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fireseed*, celtic appalachian folk. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghostlight Theater presents *The Woman in Black*. 8 p.m., \$

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Ellingtones and The Warblers*, rock. Free, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Terry Jenoure's *My Bronx*, interdisciplinary theater piece. 6 p.m., \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Little Shop of Horrors* (1986). Color, 88 min. PG-13. Music before the show: *Daniel Hales & the frost heaves*,

indie rock, folk, country mix, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rick Murnane*, pop rock, with special guest *Siobahn Hotaling*, pop singer/songwriter. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghostlight Theater presents *The Woman in Black*. 8 p.m., \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Willy & the Poorboys*, CCR cover band; *Spacecrab*; *The Sweaty Discomforts*. Rock, 9:30 p.m., free.

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By LESLIE BROWN

Our tent is pitched as close to the water as possible and we are well-equipped with sleeping bags and air filled mattresses. We have a huge lantern and a small stove for early coffee. A far cry from the unpleasant memories of childhood camping trips, the *whoosh* of air mattresses which must have been the forerunners of the water bed, the interminable bugs, the rain, and my dog-led trek through a nest of ground bees!

Nestled on two hundred plus acres on Lake Champlain, the campground offers meadow and mountains, a freshening breeze always,

and the accompaniment of bullfrogs, ducks, geese, osprey, eagle and loon. There are also fire pits, showers and such amenities, walking trails, and a swimming pool. Situated east of Vergennes, it lies in the most extensive valley of rolling dairy farms in New England, guarded by blue layers of mountains on both the Vermont and New York state sides.

Visitors can be as active or as leisurely as they choose. There is much to visit: Fort Ticonderoga, a short cable-driven ferry ride, maritime museums, wineries, antiquing, cheese factories, and, of course, a plethora of restaurants, from roadside BBQ to elegant dining.

We play tourist for a couple of days but also just hang out at our home away from home, reading, scanning the skies with the binoculars, and just reveling in the greatest joy of being away: no lists. We do what we want with the moment, no more, no less. No thoughts of cleaning, weed-

ing, painting and so forth. We take the leisurely routes, 103, 30 and such, with far less traffic and a slower pace which allows for stopping at roadside historic markers, picture taking, and anything else we fancy.

We drive through brief, intense rain, but arrive in a dry patch to pitch our tent, check out our surroundings, and have a scratch evening meal of leftovers, salad and fruit. We go to bed under a clear, starry sky, awoken to early morning rain, and drive into town for coffee and a sumptuous breakfast. Afterwards the rain has stopped and our weather continues for the next four days with sunny skies. Midday temperatures are early summer-like; at night we chill to readings which make a down-filled sleeping bag most welcome.

Four nights later we are home again, with plenty of time to check out the yard and garden. Much has happened in our short absence. The Peonies have succumbed to the heat and

the rain, the asparagus gone to fern, and the Laurel browned off. There is also new growth to enjoy. The peas are blooming but also podding up, the sweet peppers have bloomed, the cherry tomato has bright green fruit, and the pole beans are up. The summer lilies are starting to open in reds and oranges and yellows, sharp bright colors after the pastel tones of spring. The lawn is full and a strong green; it, at least, has loved the rain. Up north it was haying time and the summer flowers, Lupine, daisy, buttercup were everywhere.

The super moon loomed large and beautiful making feline and humans alike a bit restless in the bright light of their sleep. Down at the river, a few late-night revelers set off firecrackers in the small hours of the morning. We hear the sharp and pitiful cries of something in the talons of a large owl. We promise ourselves one more day of a slower pace before we take on trimming the lawn, weeding the

strawberries and catching up on laundry. We are a bit short of sleep but mellowed by our time away.

Next week it will be full summer, with heat and humidity, so there are indeed some chores to be done before we indulge in swimming and floating in the kayaks, watching the ball game, and cooking on the grill late in the evening. Summer is an intense season, with heat and thunderstorm dotted by the occasional clear, bright day. It is loud, with outdoor music and fireworks, and fast-paced, as everyone crams in activities and traveling. Children become bored, and parents long for the start of school. It is framed with ends and beginnings.

Enjoy the harvests of food and flower, and keep planting as long as the season allows. Take time for yourself by indulging in a good book, floating on the water, walking in the cool of the evening to admire the stars. Happy summertime and happy gardening!

MUTTON & MEAD MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL: History, Song and Dance, and Much Merrymaking

By MARK HUDYMA

TURNERS FALLS – The members of the Shire put on another weekend of shows, music, and merriment for the citizens of the 21st century this year. This was the third year of the annual Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival, and it was larger than ever.

Attendees began by walking the driveway to the fairground, with signs on the trees describing historical events: Kitty Hawk, The Black Plague, as we moved back in time to the day of Robin Hood, 1210 AD. There were scripted shows throughout the day telling the story of Maid Marion being forced into marriage with Sir Guy Gisbourne.

The shows felt additive to the original story, created a sense of immersion, and made an old story feel new. The actors went so far as to learn the dialect of the time, and spoke in it while in character, and out in some cases. The marriage ended in violence, with the Sheriff being ousted by one of his guards. There was a

flurry of swords and fighting, and once again, Robin and his Merry Men saved the day. Patrons shouted from the sidelines at the characters, cheering for Robin and booing appropriately at the Sheriff. The show concluded with a riotous sing, with the cast and the Festival's bands playing a couple songs each.

In addition to the cast singing and putting on shows, there were a number of outside acts featured at the festival, including music by pirate band Below the Gaff and a thunderous combination of bagpipes and drums known as Cu Dubh. The Cu Dubh show included dancers for much of their performance, which made for a visual and auditory spectacle. Another show was Vixens Engarde, three women performing the "bloodiest, sauciest bits of Shakespeare" with comedy and fighting.

Trying to bring some education to the fair was the New England Historical Preservation Association, a group of individuals portraying soldiers returning from the crusades. Michael

and medieval themed goods. Most prominent were the endless tents selling various forms of home made jewelry and trinkets, but among them were the more unusual, including wood carvings, and flowers fashioned from melted vinyl records.

There was a bounty of food to explore, from freshly made french fries to a booth from Hattaporn's Thai Kitchen. And there was Mutton and Mead; both received many compliments from brave culinary adventurers.

Featured at the fair for the first time was the Skeleton Crew Theater, an interactive theater group based in Greenfield. They were responsible for the large costumed trolls wandering around the shire, as well as their own section of the woods which hosted the "Three Fates", and Finn the Skeleton. Jonathan Chappell, the di-

rector of Skeleton Crew, said "it was our first year, and now we have an idea of how we can fit in to the Mutton and Mead."

"It was a positive experience for everybody involved," said David Agro, director of the show. Over 5,000 attended the festival this year. "The community continued to show its support, and we rewarded them with another great show and experience."

This seems to have held true, as everyone, from the patrons to the cast, all walked away feeling happy and

sated. Leah and Goose Berkowitz-Gosselin said that it was "the best fair they had been to for children, there's so much a three or four year old can do". Erica Richard, another attendee, said that there was "always so much to do, and it's so interesting."

Mutton and Mead was once again an exciting and busy event, with enough going on to keep a person watching and entertained all day long, resulting in what may have been the best Mutton and Mead yet. That is, until next year!



Nice day for a knight's wedding? Sunday's stage show, under a hot sun.

KURTYKA from page 6

JK: I mostly just steal it from other musicians. I go on the Internet and get the sheet music from other people's acts, and then I just take little pieces of it and just use that. Sometimes I will come up with something original, but I don't really want to call it original. I mostly just listen to music that I like and try to emulate that. I don't draw inspiration from any divine source. I play what I think is good, or whatever I hear on the radio.

BB: So, you're playing in the band Zombie Nurse now?

JK: Yeah. We just got a new drummer and now I'm working on a film with Hilary Graves and Amanda Kimball. We have aliases: Vex Valkyrie, Lady Graves, Earnest Citadel,

and a mysterious fourth person. It's just more fun that way.

We dress like zombies, sometimes we dress like doctors and nurses and zombies. I dress like a nurse sometimes. I have a nurse uniform and I look pretty hot in it.

But yeah, Vex Valkyrie and I are working on a movie, and it's a science fiction movie about aliens that come to enslave the human race. They actually don't want to enslave the humans so much as they just want to kill them so they can move in. The script is still in the works, though. It could all change but all the members of Zombie Nurse will have a role in the movie. So, that's exciting.

BB: What's a Zombie Nurse show like?

JK: It's exciting. There's a lot of

fake blood. I actually just made a blood-squirting mechanism for my costume so I can squirt blood on people. Fans often come to the shows dressed as zombies, and are encouraged to do so. Pretty much dress up as anything undead.

Right now I'm building an operating table for the shows so we can strap someone to it and rip their guts out. I've also been practicing magic, so I'm hoping I can incorporate that into the show.

We have lots of new material coming out, as well. We're gonna record an album after we find a studio, and we're in the process of looking for a studio now. We're professionals.

BB: Um, are you having fun?

JK: No.



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