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Page 7

LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

MONTAGUE CENTER

MONTAGUE CITY

TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 39

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 28, 2012

## Shad Rebound in Annual River Count



Just beyond the Cabot hydro station, the first of two concrete fish ladders (pictured above, left) provides a daunting obstacle course for shad trying to navigate the passage through the power canal to the Connecticut River upstream of the Turners dam.

BY SHIRA HILLEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – This year's anadromous fish migration in the Connecticut River, particularly shad, surged in numbers, exceeding expectations.

This past spring, the Connecticut River had the highest run of shad returning up river to spawn in 20 years, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

As of June 21st, a total of 489,571 American Shad made it past the Holyoke Dam, via a ride in the Holyoke fish elevator. As of June 17th, 26,888 of those shad successfully bypassed the Turners Falls dam using two concrete fish ladders.

Since the count has been kept, only in 1983, 1991 and 1992 did the shad run exceed 500,000.

Anadromous fish, including shad, salmon, Atlantic sturgeon, blueback herring and other species, are born in fresh water rivers, migrate to the

ocean as adults, and return upstream to spawn in the river of their birth. The physiology of the shad, salmon and lamprey eel undergo incredible metamorphoses to survive in the disparate salt and freshwater environments.

According to the annual count, many more fish bypass the Holyoke dam than the dam in Turners. This is, naturally, partly attributable to the fact that the Turners dam is further upstream, requiring an added journey of several days to a week for a fish to swim from Holyoke to Turners. But critics like Greenfield environmental journalist Karl Meyer have also pointed to the difficulty shad in particular have in negotiating the long concrete fish ladders below the Turners dam, to say nothing of the turbulent currents created by the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro facility, an added barrier to successful fish passage above the Turners

dam.

The Turners Falls fish ladder opened early this year because of an earlier than usual fish run. Researchers believe the low flows and unusually warm spike in temperatures in March signaled to the fish to start moving and make their way up river earlier than usual; migrations usually take place in May.

Despite this spring's encouraging run, the East Coast's native American Shad population is generally struggling and in trouble. Shad have been categorized as a "federal trust fish," protected by government agencies.

Meyer, asked why he thought the numbers of returning shad are high this year, replied, "That's the \$100,000 question; they have no idea. Nobody can explain it. All they can do is count the fish."

Meyer explained, shad that

see SHAD page 5

## Gill Approves Level Funded Budget



Town Meeting voters approved spending \$73,000 to replace the 35-year-old asphalt shingle roof on town hall, contingent on passage of a Prop 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** – With a promise from the selectboard to revisit the budgets, after more thorough vetting, of some town departments in the fall for supplemental spending, Gill voters at annual town meeting on Tuesday, June 19th approved an omnibus \$1,374,338 operating budget for the schools and town for the fiscal year that begins July 1st.

That figure is actually down \$9,635 (0.7%) from last year, but selectboard chair Ann Banash all but guaranteed, "We will come back to you with a supplemental budget in September," for the highway, library, cemetery, and possibly other town budgets, after several more months of in-depth review of the line items of these, and possible other, individual departments by the selectboard and finance committee.

"This budget season was compressed," explained Banash, who

had come back from an extended vacation in Florida in April to find a packed agenda for the town finance and select boards did not allow enough time for in-depth analysis of departmental spending.

"I have more questions than answers now," Banash admitted at annual town meeting. We didn't have enough time to get the info we needed, and I apologize for that."

Despite the compressed time frame in the run up to town meeting, finance committee chair Alden Booth protested that the finance committee and selectboard had worked their way cooperatively through each department's budget, until, "at the last hour, it's changed." Booth cited four examples where the selectboard, the Monday before town meeting, eliminated increases that both boards had initially approved,

see BUDGET page 5

## Leverett Elementary Graduates 15

**BY VICTORIA CLICHE** – The Leverett Elementary School celebrated its graduating sixth grade class at a farewell ceremony, on Tuesday, June 19th. The students paid tribute to their school experience and teachers, with a special dedication to long-time paraprofessional Deborah Brazeau.

The program started with a "Guess that Baby" segment, introducing each of the 15 students, including songs learned in each grade, and ended with a piece written by the students for the anti-bullying assembly they performed earlier in the year. This graduating class has a

reputation for kindness, cohesion and community orientation.

Eleven classmates will go on to Amherst Regional Middle School. Four will venture off to the Hadley Middle School, Four Rivers, PVPA and Charlemont.

The school also said good-bye to four retiring staff, each of whom served at LES for over twenty years: Dorothy Creswell, kindergarten teacher, Allison Ellis, first grade teacher, John Kuczek, head of maintenance, and Laurie Rizzio, preschool teacher. The staff was thanked and acknowledged by the sixth grade and sent off in style!



Foreground: Rhiannon Safford-Wolfram, Ethan Saxenian, Jack Dinsmore. L to R: Stanley Cliche, Ray Starpoli, Soban Tyner, Aiden Foucoult-Etheridge, Isabella Lattanzi, Celia Child, Fiona Warnick, Nicky Dragicevich, and Ahmed Sidibe. Not pictured: Marley Friedrick, Jacob Stowell, and Danielle Woodley.

## Northeast Solar Design Chosen as Solarize Montague Installer

BY SALLY PICK

Solarize Montague and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) are pleased to announce the selection of Northeast Solar Design Associates, of Hadley, as the Solarize Mass installer for Montague, one of 17 communities chosen to participate in the statewide solar power discount program this year.

Northeast Solar will work with Solarize Montague community volunteers to implement the program in partnership with MassCEC. A "Solar 201" public meeting will be scheduled shortly to introduce the installer to the community, discuss the solar power options offered through the program, explain the cost structures and pricing discounts that drop even further with increased program participation, and answer questions from town residents and business owners.

Greg Garrison, general manager of Northeast Solar Design Associates, said his company, "is



This model solar display, featuring working solar panels, showcased the Solarize Montague program in the Franklin County Spring Parade.

pleased to be selected as the installer for Solarize Montague. Members of our team live in, work in and support the town of Montague."

Garrison added, "We believe the world's energy needs can be met with renewable energy. This can be accomplished through education, community action, conservation and the installation of renewable energy systems. Our business model promotes employee empowerment, reinvestment in community and a passion for achievement. We are

committed to making Montague a model Solarize community."

Solarize Mass is a Massachusetts Clean Energy Center program encouraging the adoption of small scale solar PV by deploying a coordinated education, marketing and outreach effort, combined with a tiered pricing structure to provide increased savings as more Montague residents go solar.

MassCEC provides technical support and hosts free educational meetings in the participating communities about the benefits of installing solar to drive interest in implementing the technology.

Visit them online at [www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague](http://www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague) for more information about the Solarize Mass program in Montague and a link to the Montague solar coach to request a free, no-obligation site assessment for solar power from Northeast Solar.

For more information about the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, visit [www.MassCEC.com](http://www.MassCEC.com).



## PET OF THE WEEK

### Pretty Green Eyes



### Luna

Hi, I'm Luna! I'm a three-year old female exotic watercolor tortoiseshell cat with beautiful green eyes.

I'm pretty as a picture, and I'm also friendly, playful and affectionate. I love to snuggle into a blanket as quickly as I'll snuggle into your lap. I'm a natural greeter and I'm very loving. I adore playing with laser pointers. Maybe you have other toys I might enjoy? I hope so!

To learn more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413)548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

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## SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

### Children's Poetry and Magical Clay Creatures

On Saturday, June 30th, a "Children's Poetry Workshop" will be held at 11 a.m. at the Slate Library in Gill.

Join the morning poetry writing workshop for older elementary age children and teens led by award winning poet, Diane Bilyak. Participants will read poems aloud, explore a variety of poetic forms and participate in writing exercises. Bring a favorite poem and your imagination.

On Saturday, July 7th, the library will host the "Magical Dream Creatures" Sculpey Clay Workshop at 11 a.m.

Let your imagination roam as we make a small wire armature and build onto it using sculpey clay. We'll make monsters, aliens, pixies and sprites. We can use fabric and felt to dress and embellish them with a variety of fun art materials! "We are such stuff as dreams are made on...."- Prospero



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. I'm going on my first cruise and am concerned I might get stomach flu. What should I do?

Many seniors frequent cruise ships because vacationers can enjoy what is probably the most relaxing form of getaway. You travel with your own bedroom and all the amenities you can think of. But there are a lot of people on these floating paradises; that means lots of germs are along for the ride.

Among the most common germs are the ones that give you norovirus, also known as Norwalk Virus. This nasty bug gives you gastroenteritis, mistakenly called "stomach flu." Gastroenteritis is an inflammation of the stomach and intestines; it is not related to flu, a respiratory illness caused by influenza virus.

Noroviruses are highly contagious. Usually they are found in contaminated food or drinks, but they also live on surfaces. They spread through contact with an infected person.

Noroviruses are the most common cause of gastroenteritis in the United States. Each year in the United States alone, 23 million norovirus infections cause about

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

### Queasy on the Cruise Ship

50,000 hospitalizations and 310 deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Norovirus (the common term for the infection) spreads swiftly wherever there are crowds of people – nursing homes, dormitories, hotels, and cruise ships.

Norovirus has become associated with cruises because health officials are required to track illnesses on ships, but not hotels and other land-based facilities. Outbreaks on cruise ships are reported more quickly than those on land, and make a lot of news.

The CDC reported 14 outbreaks of gastrointestinal illnesses on ten ships last year. The infections affected hundreds of passengers.

Before we go further, let's discuss the nature of germs, which are defined as microbes that cause disease.

Microbes are microscopic organisms that are everywhere. Some microbes cause disease. Others are essential for health. Most microbes belong to one of four major groups: bacteria, viruses, fungi, or protozoa.

Bacteria are made up of only one cell. Less than 1% cause diseases in humans. Harmless bacteria live in human intestines, where they help to digest food. Foods, such as yogurt and cheese, are made using bacteria.

Some bacteria produce dangerous poisons. Botulism, a severe form of food poisoning, is caused by tox-



Bill Leb adds more support brackets to the pedestrian walkway of the Gill-Greenfield Bridge from the safety of a man-lift, high over the Falls River. Sidewalk's open. Now, all we need are some pedestrians!

## FACES & PLACES

### CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

#### Upcoming Events

A Story Time Picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 11th at 10:15 a.m. with Ruth O'Mara.

This year's annual No Strings Marionette Company puppet show is *Wasabi: A Dragon's Tale*, which will be presented on Friday, July 13th, at 10 a.m. in Peskeompskut Park or the Carnegie Library.

### CORRECTION

#### Gill-Montague: Free Food

Last week, a listing of the "Gill-Montague: Free Food and Fun" Summer Food Program was printed. We regret to have mistakenly reported the wrong address and day for the Montague Catholic Social Ministries / Turners Falls Play Group. Their correct address is 78 Avenue A. They serve children up to 7 years old on Wednesdays only.

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## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – July 2nd - 13th

### GILL-MONTAGUE

Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the meal site manager. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

#### Monday, July 2nd

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday, July 3rd

9:00 a.m. Walking Group

#### Wednesday, July 4th

Senior Center CLOSED for Holiday

#### Thursday, July 5th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch

#### Friday, July 6th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

### ERVING

Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413)423-3649. Lunch is daily 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. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, and find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

#### Monday, July 2nd

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise  
12:30 p.m. "Healthy Eating"

#### Tuesday, July 3rd

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

#### Wednesday, July 4th

Senior Center CLOSED for Holiday

#### Thursday, July 5th

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect

11:00 a.m. Brown Bag

12:30 p.m. Open Studio

#### Friday, July 6th

9:00 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Lunch – Finger Sandwiches / Ice Cream Social

#### Sunday, July 9th

12:00 p.m. Pitch

#### Wednesday, July 11th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba

12:00 p.m. Bingo

#### Friday, July 13th

11:30 a.m. Lunch – Cook Out

### LEVERETT Senior Activities

- Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).

- Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12:00 p.m. Call (413)367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

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

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## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** – **Deadlines are fast approaching** to sign up to be a vendor at the 2012 **Turners Falls Block Party**. Sign up by filling out the simple online application at [www.gmpartnership.org](http://www.gmpartnership.org) and mailing in your check (payable to The Brick House). Doing this will let us know that you are interested in being a vendor at the Block Party on Saturday, August 11th. Spaces are not guaranteed after July 6th. Your best chance is to sign up by Friday, June 29th.

The **Montague Center Firemen's Association** annual evening **Bonfire** will be Tuesday, July 3rd at the ball park on Station Street. The tradition has been carried on since the 1960s. This year a food vendor will be on site selling hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, cotton candy and drinks. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to enjoy this annual event.

The **"Teens and Tweens TnT"** program at the Wendell library will be taking a break for the summer. This also means that after July 1st there will be no open hours at the library on Sundays until further notice. Enjoy the great outdoors!

Please join **stone carver** and cathedral builder, **Tim de Christopher**, for what is sure to be an hour full of fun, entertainment and information at the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in

Turners on Saturday, June 30th, from 11 a.m. to noon. De Christopher is self-taught in this profession and has been working, shaping and forming slabs of stone into pieces of internationally acclaimed beauty for decades. Learn the finer qualities of soapstone, limestone, Hawley schist and crows foot, to name a few. De Christopher will bring in a few of his pieces and others can be viewed at his studio in Turners Falls on 3rd Street. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Greenfield Garden Club's **20th Annual Garden Tour** is co-sponsored by the Greenfield Garden Club and the Greenfield Agricultural Commission. They will be joining to offer a farm and garden tour on Saturday, July 7th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at the Trap Plain garden from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the corner of Silver and Federal Street in Greenfield. Tickets are \$12 per person.

This self-guided tour with complimentary refreshments will also include border collie demonstrations and farm tours. For further information, contact Linda at (413) 522-1686, or e-mail [davidptylar@comcast.net](mailto:davidptylar@comcast.net).

Join Rachel Roberts at Barton Cove in Gill on Saturday, July 7th, from 9 a.m. to noon for an exciting program about the **dinosaur tracks** found there. There will be a variety

of hands-on science and art activities connected to dinosaurs, fossils, and tracking. Hike to the dinosaur track quarry and find tracks set there millions of years ago. Participants should come ready for a hike. The workshop is free and intended for families with children ages 5 and older. Pre-registration is required at 1(800)859-2960. Heavy rain cancels this program.

A small patch of land sits in the middle of the Connecticut River at Turners Falls – sandwiched between the power canal on one side and the largest river in New England on the other. The history of the **Patch** is the story of industrialization, immigration, fish, birds, rocks, resilience, and more. Participants will explore some of these stories while taking a leisurely stroll through the little neighborhood with eight streets and paths through the woods and amazing views. Meet Janel, Massachusetts DCR summer staff employee, at noon on Saturday, July 7th, at the corner of Avenue A and 11th Street in Turners Falls, near the canal side bike path to start this two-hour journey.

A four-part science and nature education workshop for children will be offered on July 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th as part of the 2012 Junior Ranger **Nature Kids program**. Nature Kids is for young naturalists, ages 8-11. All programs will start at 10:30 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls and will last about 60-90 minutes. Junior Ranger Nature Kids programs are free and open to all. Space is limited; call (413) 863-3221 to register.

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

Feast. Food has been donated by local restaurants, including Hope & Olive, Ristorante DiPaolo, The Rendezvous, Burrito Rojo, Wagon Wheel, 2nd Street Bakery, Hillside Pizza, Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters, The Cookie Factory, and more.

More information and tickets for the Feast for the Arts can be found at [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org).

RiverCulture works to create a vibrant and connected Turners Falls community, through innovative partnerships and cultural programming. RiverCulture believes that experiencing arts and culture significantly enhances quality of life and is a vital component to a healthy community. By highlighting Turners Falls heritage and the many local assets and creative endeavors it cultivates, RiverCulture intends to engender a strong sense of place.

*Lisa Davol is the director of Turners Falls RiverCulture.*

## Charlemont Forum Features David Gergen

**BY PAM WALKER** – The third annual Charlemont Forum, a two-part lecture series, on "Preserving Democracy: Problems of polarization in American Politics and Religion" will take place Thursday, July 5th and Tuesday, July 24th at the Charlemont Federated Church in Charlemont. In this election year, the Forum committee is focusing on public policy concerns regarding the upcoming elections and politics in the U.S.

On Thursday, July 5th, at 7 p.m. David Gergen will speak on "Polarization and American Politics: Causes and Prospects." David Gergen is senior political analyst for CNN and Professor of Public Service and Director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School. He served as an advisor to four U.S.

Presidents: Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton.

On Tuesday, July 24th, John Bonifaz, a constitutional lawyer, will present on: "We the People or We the Corporations? How we can fight back to reclaim our democracy." He is co-founder and Executive Director of Free Speech for People, a national campaign pressing for a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution to make clear that corporations are not people with constitutional rights. Bonifaz is a 1992 *cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School, and a 1999 recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

The lectures are free, and supported by a grant from the Charlemont/Hawley Cultural Council. An audience dialogue with the speakers, and refreshments will follow the talks.

## Cable Advisory Survey Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You

**BY GARRY EARLES** **MONTAGUE** – Montague's Cable Advisory Committee, made up of volunteer residents, has been working hard over the past year and a half in preparation for a new contract period with Comcast for community cable television services.

The committee wants to determine the extent to which Montague residents use Comcast cable television and other communication services, such as internet and phone.

To this end, the cable advisory committee has prepared a brief, thorough and easy-to-fill-out survey, which will be mailed to every address in Montague in the next few weeks.

Responses will be tabulated and used in the negotiations to extend the current ten-year contract with Comcast, set to expire next year.

All towns served by a cable television company such as Comcast are required to have a contract between the town and the cable company. The town of Montague gets money from Comcast to support our public access television station – Montague Community Television (MCTV).

As a public access station, MCTV broadcasts selectboard meetings, school committee meetings, town meetings and many public events like the Block Party and Soap Box Derby.

The survey is an opportunity for all Montague residents to tell us about what services they like and don't like and what their con-

cerns with Comcast are. That information will help us negotiate the best contract we can on behalf of all Montague residents.

We need your help! When you get the survey, fill it out and either mail it or drop it off to the town clerk's office in town hall, 1 Avenue A, in Turners.

You can also return the survey to the drop box in the breezeway of Food City. The due date is July 25th, 2012.

The Cable Advisory Committee is always looking for ways to make better television, internet and phone services available for Montague residents. The communication industry is evolving rapidly with new and better technology ever on the horizon.

To help keep Montague abreast of the 'connected world,' consider joining the Cable Advisory Committee; leave your name and contact info with the town clerk.

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## Tea Partiers Distort Colonial History

BY SAM PIZZIGATI

WASHINGTON, DC – Not too long ago, Americans only dressed up in George Washington wigs and tricorn hats on the Fourth of July. But then the Tea Party came along. Colonial garb started turning up at rallies all year around.

In quick order, the legacy of 1776 started to 'belong' to the Tea Party crowd. The Founding Fathers, the Tea partisans claimed, wouldn't abide government interference in their lives. And neither should we. If we today just stayed true to 1776, the United States would remain forever 'exceptional.'

And how do we stay true? The Tea Party – and like-minded GOP conservatives in Congress – had a ready answer: No new taxes. Ever. Not even on the super rich. Forget all that fussing about inequality. Starve the Beast. Keep government small.

This basic line quickly became the reigning mantra within conservative circles. But this dogma jumbles the historical record. The patriots of 1776 didn't stage a revolution to keep government small. They revolted to keep America relatively equal.

As new archival research by economists Peter Lindert and Jeffrey Williamson documents, those colonists lived in a society that supported far more equality than mother England. In 1774, on the Revolution's eve, the colonies probably enjoyed "a more egalitarian income distribution" than "any other place on the planet," Lindert and Williamson write.

Our colonial top 1% took in just 8.9% of colonial household income. Back in England, the richest 1% raked in 17.5%, nearly twice that share.

Free American colonists – from average families – had significantly higher incomes than their English counterparts. And the rich in the colonies had significantly smaller incomes than England's richest.

What explained the difference? In mother England, American patriots noted, wealthy aristocrats were manipulating the levers of government to enrich themselves and deny average people the fruits of their labor.

Our generation of 1776 considered aristocracy a direct threat. They would struggle to free themselves – but not their slaves – from it. Their new nation, they pledged, would be a republic.

The founders had read their history. Previous attempts to establish republican rule – in Athens, Rome, Venice, and Florence – had all failed. Inequality had wrecked them.

Our founders wouldn't repeat that mistake. They would celebrate the relative equality of their young nation as a bulwark of republican liberty.

"We have no paupers," Thomas Jefferson wrote. "The great mass of our population is of laborers; our rich, who can live without labor, either manual or professional, being few, and of moderate wealth."

Added Jefferson: "Can any condition of society be more desirable than this?"

To Jefferson and his generation, equity seemed nature's way. Most colonials lived on small farms. The earth they farmed could yield only so much wealth. If government just let the economy alone, no one would ever become fabulously wealthy.

This advocacy for limited government seemed to make sense in an agrarian nation. But the United States didn't remain agrarian. A century after 1776, giant corporations lorded over America's economic landscape, and new industrial elites were enriching themselves at the expense of working Americans.

But working Americans would fight back. Over the first half of the 1900s, they would use government to limit the corporate power to exploit. They would put in place progressive taxes that cut the new corporate rich down to democratic size. They would, in short, stay true to Jefferson's egalitarian vision.

Over recent decades, we've lost that vision. Our top 1% now expropriates a greater share of national income than the old English aristocracy ever dreamed of.

The Tea Party followers and their pals don't mind this glaring inequality. But the founders cared deeply about equality. So should we.

*Sam Pizzigati edits Too Much, the online weekly on excess and inequality published by the Institute for Policy Studies. This article first appeared in Other Words.*

### Note to Readers: Summer Print Schedule

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

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on July 5th, 19th, August 2nd or 16th or 30th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

### WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

*Montague Reporter*

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## U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 6/27/12

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15,332

Deaths:

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SARAH DUPREY ILLUSTRATION

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### No Extra Alcohol Promotion at Block Party, Please

The Gill Montague Community School Partnership would like to clarify for your readers and for the community what our intent is, and is not, regarding town policies that address alcohol licenses and alcohol advertising.

We are not opposed to responsible and appropriate consumption and sale of alcohol. As a community coalition that works to prevent underage drinking, we commend participating alcohol retail outlets, taverns and restaurants that had a 100% rate of compliance with local and state laws regarding the sale of alcohol, which is essential in help-

ing to stop underage drinking, drunk driving and public drunkenness. These are goals we certainly all share.

The Coalition has been in the process of contacting all the downtown businesses that sell or serve alcohol to request that during the Block Party on August 11th, they join us in providing a family-friendly atmosphere by not using any additional alcohol advertising such as posters, hats, balloons, t-shirts or other handouts that can and do attract children. Research has unequivocally demonstrated that alcohol advertising, often marketed

to youth, impacts adolescents and is correlated with increased underage drinking.

We hope the Block Party brings increased numbers of patrons to all the downtown businesses, and that we can work together to learn more about alcohol marketing and youth.

We welcome dialogue on this and other issues that affect the youth in our community. For more information, call (413) 863-3604 or visit: [www.camty.org/research/Summary\\_Brochures/brochure0305.pdf](http://www.camty.org/research/Summary_Brochures/brochure0305.pdf).

– Cate Woolner

G-M Community School Partnership, Turners Falls

### FCC Calls for Cell Phone Safety Review

MARK SCHEERER

BOSTON – It's supposed to be the first review of cell phone safety standards in 15 years by the FCC, but some say the planned review does not go far enough.

Camilla Rees with the group ElectromagneticHealth.org says it's good news that the FCC is talking about conducting a cell phone safety review, but she says the review needs to be expanded, because, she says, current cell-phone safety standards don't address a number of potential human health risks.

"These standards currently only measure risks from the heating effect of a cell phone, and they don't even consider risks from the non-thermal effects, and risks from the modulation of the signal, which can be very biologically disruptive."

An FCC spokesperson calls it a routine review and says the agency

believes the current emissions guidelines pose no risks to consumers. Rees says that statement leaves some people wondering if the agency has not pre-judged the results of the review.

Devra Davis of Environmental Health Trust says cell phone consumers might feel safer if they lived in Canada. She says health officials there were quick to inform the public about the recent World Health Organization finding that cell phone radiation is a possible human carcinogen.

"Just across the border in Canada, consumers are being warned to use cell phones with a headset and speaker phone, and not to have children use cell phones except for emergencies."

The whole issue of electromagnetic health was the focus of a resolution passed last week by the U.S.

Health Freedom Congress in Chicago. Davis says the action supports consumers' right to know about the potential risks from wireless products.

"We do not have enough information to assume that these devices are safe, and we have a right to know what science tells us now, and we need to be monitoring and studying things, rather than experimenting on people."

Advocates for Electromagnetic Safety say Congress needs to actively oversee the proposed FCC review process.

*Mark Scheerer writes for the Commonwealth News Service, a free news service for Massachusetts produced by the Public News Service, an independent news organization with bureaus in 35 states, committed to the public interest.*

## Mass Attorney General Appeals Pilgrim Relicensing SUPPORTS VERMONT'S APPEAL OF ENTERGY DECISION ON VY

BY DAVID DETMOLD

PLYMOUTH – Massachusetts attorney general Martha Coakley has filed an appeal of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ruling that allowed the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth to extend its operating license for 20 more years. On Monday, June 18th, Coakley filed the appeal against the NRC's May 2012 3-1 vote in favor of Entergy Nuclear's bid for a 20-year extension of Pilgrim's operating license, saying the NRC acted "arbitrarily" and "abused its discretion" by relicensing the 40-year-old plant without "fully considering the important safety issues raised in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident," in Japan.

The Mark-I General Electric boiling water reactor in Plymouth is of the same age, make and model as the three reactors that suffered catastrophic containment failures there, leading to the massive release of radiation and the subsequent permanent evacuation of 100,000 Japanese

citizens after the loss of offsite power at the Fukushima Daiichi complex following an earthquake and tsunami in March of last year.

In related news, about 200 unionized Pilgrim nuclear plant workers, members of Utility Workers of America Local 369, locked out of their workplace by Entergy on June 5th after contract negotiations broke down, voted down a new contract offer from Entergy on June 20th, in an ongoing dispute over wages and benefits at the Pilgrim reactor.

A number of Cape Cod and Plymouth area environmental organizations have called on Governor Deval Patrick to intercede with the NRC to close Pilgrim until that job action is settled, claiming that recently hired replacement workers are endangering public health and safety due to their unfamiliarity with the operation of the nuclear reactor.

"It is unreasonable in this current economic climate for a company like Entergy to continue to demand give backs in the wake of record profits.

[J. Wayne Leonard] the CEO is not being asked for a cut in benefits, why should these workers? Instead, he is risking the well-being of the entire community by having replacement workers do the job of the experienced people that earned him those profits," said Jennifer Doe, of Massachusetts Jobs with Justice.

Coakley's office has also joined eight other states in an amicus brief in support of the state of Vermont's appeal of a federal lawsuit initiated by Entergy, over the Vermont legislature's decision to effectively deny state permission for a 20-year operating license extension for the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor, in Vernon.

Anti-nuclear groups organized under the banner of the SAGE Alliance ([www.SAGEAlliance.net](http://www.SAGEAlliance.net)) are calling for a regional protest and civil disobedience action at the gates of Vermont Yankee on Sunday, July 1st, beginning at the town common in Brattleboro at 10:00 a.m. and proceeding to the reactor site by bus and bicycle caravan.



**SHAD** from pg 1

returned to spawn this year were born around the year 2005. Did more small fish survive the dicey downstream run to the ocean that year?

"We can't know."

It is also possible this year's later spring rains made for gradual inclines in the river's currents, which made for easier swimming upstream.

**Shad in the West**

American Shad, native to the East, were brought out West in the late 1800s and introduced to the Pacific coast. There, they rapidly established, dispersed, and became prolific. As an invasive species, they have thrived, and now proliferate from Southern California to Alaska.

In 1798, the Turners Falls dam was the first dam built that cut all the way across the Connecticut River. Soon after, Holyoke and Enfield built dams that crossed the river entirely as well. The dams posed insurmountable hurdles for anadromous fish.

In June of 1871, Seth Green of the New York Fish Commission, known as the "Father of Fish Culture in America," traveled by train from New York's Hudson River to

California, carrying with him 12,000 newly hatched American shad in milk cans. Never before had such a trip been attempted.

On his way across the continent he anxiously tended his piscine charges, adding ice to their water and attempting to oxygenate their carriers by pouring fresh water back and forth between the milk cans by hand.

In Green's own words: "At Chicago... I first tried the water from the city water-works, but found there was too much oil in it... The fish were still in good order when we arrived at Omaha, but there I could not find any water in which they would live five minutes... The only way I kept my charges alive was by drawing the water out of the cans into pails, and pouring it from one pail to another until purified... [Somewhere between Omaha and Ogden] Bad water all day, with the thermometer 100° in the shade from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. I used ice-water the entire day, a very little at a time, and had hard work to keep the temperature of the water below 82°. I began to feel blue and doubtful of the result. The fish suffered considerably..."

By the end of the month, Green's tribulations came to a close. He successfully deposited his remaining shad into the Sacramento River: "...there were about 10,000, in good order."

Thus was the American Shad's formal introduction into the waters of California accomplished, the unlikely cross-country odyssey by train of a fish native to the East Coast rivers and the Atlantic Ocean.

A wave of successive forced migrations of fish populations had begun. Today, several fish species artificially introduced to California waters (striped bass, black basses, and others) are so commonplace many people mistake them for West Coast natives.

In 1916, Cabot Station was constructed in Montague City and Turners to produce hydroelectric power. There are two power stations, one at either end of the 2.5-mile-long Turners Falls canal, which together generate thousands of kilowatts of power.

On June 8th of this year, a group of fish scientists from across the country were visiting the Turners Falls fish ladder, excitedly dis-

cussing the season's migration in the viewing station. They were in town for an engineering and fisheries conference held at UMass, entitled "the Paradox of the Dam," where they discussed fish crossway designs and traded knowledge and ideas.

According to biologist Richard Hinrichsen, West Coast fish ladders employ newer designs that not only are more successful than our East Coast ladders, but even deliver better results (and more fish) than our fish elevators.

While West Coast scientists are trying to revive their native Pacific salmon population, the shad are doing great on the West Coast. At the Bonneville Dam in the Colorado River, the counts went from 5,000 returning shad in 1938, to over 3 million in 1990.

"Oh, stubborn Nature! While folks on the East Coast struggle to save their shad runs, spending hundreds of millions of dollars on restoration, shad remain depleted. But shad on the West Coast thrive greatly," wrote Hinrichsen.

The Cabot Station fish ladder in Turners has 66 steps in its ladder. One visiting scientist commented to


another on June 8th, "Sixty-six steps is too energetically exhausting for the fish."

According to Karl Meyer, "The Holyoke fish lift is the most successful fish passage on the East Coast." But Meyer called the Turners power canal "a death trap" for shad.

Meyer said the two concrete ladders at either end of the Turners Falls power canal too long, and the currents in the canal too strong, for most shad to successfully navigate.

Meyer explained that an 1872 Supreme Court decision requires dam owners to create fish passages for the benefit of citizens living upstream.

"The Turners dam is up for relicensing in 2018. Improvements to fish passage will be part of the relicensing process," and preliminary meetings to revisit the fish ladder design have taken place, according to Kim Noyes, the Environmental Education Coordinator of the First Light Power Company, which owns the dam.

"Now is the chance. Now is the time to make changes," Meyer stated emphatically. 

**BUDGET** from page 1

including: an extra \$400 for the cemetery commission for mowing; an extra \$5,000 for the tree warden to remove problem trees, cut back to \$3,000; a request from the highway department for an additional \$9,000 to cover increases in contracted services and materials, to keep roads in good repair; and a recommendation to add funding for four extra hours of service at the Slate Library, also zeroed out by the selectboard, without consultation with the finance committee, 24 hours before town meeting.

A number of residents at town meeting called for harmony and cooperation between the finance committee and selectboard in budget negotiations, but Booth and Banash both assured the meeting that any differences were minor in comparison to the overall accord struck by the oversight boards.

"I don't think we're squabbling," said Banash. "We've agreed to disagree on certain things."

But on Monday, June 25th, at the selectboard meeting Banash again spoke of the differences in approach of the two boards, or at least in her approach to departmental budgeting and that of the majority of the finance committee. Banash called for a rigorous review of the budgets of each town department, saying, "I don't think any of the department heads are really budget people." She stressed the finance committee would be invited to what would

essentially be selectboard reviews over the summer months, department by department, of budgets that were apparently settled only temporarily at the annual town meeting.

Town meeting was characterized by a number of contentious issues, including whether to allow a \$1000 salary increase for the elected positions of town clerk, tax collector, and treasurer, whether to allow another annual installment of \$14,356 for part-time officers at the police department, and whether to finally buy a new police cruiser, narrowly rejected last year but approved by a two-thirds majority on June 19th.

Raises for the elected officials were approved on a standing 35-22 vote (one of about a half a dozen standing votes called by newly elected town moderator John Zywna after contested voice votes considered too close to call).

Town meeting rallied around the two-person police force of chief David Hastings and sergeant Chris Redmond, approving a separate warrant article for part time officers' pay for a third straight year, despite statistics cited by finance committee member Tupper Brown he said showed Gill spending \$119 per capita on policing, as compared to the average of other Franklin County towns (excluding Greenfield) of \$76 per capita. Not only that, but in a move Brown called "outrageous," town meeting by declared majority (in a narrowly voice vote) decided not to allow the

issue of part-time police officer salaries to be pulled out of the omnibus budget for separate discussion in future years.

Both Brown and finance member Claire Chang stated that police chief Hastings had told the boards he had spent only about \$11,000 of the total \$30,000 allocated last year for part time salaries at the police department, as of the end of May, and they used this information as an argument against supplementing the police department budget for '13 with ad added \$14,356 for part timers.

But Hastings said part-timers were apt to cancel shifts at the last minute, and were reluctant to work holidays, since the pay was not a sufficient inducement to take them away from their full-time jobs in other towns' police forces, or from their families on major holidays. That, rather than a preference for overtime pay on the part of Hastings or Redmond, was the main reason expenditures on part-time salaries had not measured up to the amounts allocated last year, Hastings told the meeting.

Many in the room spoke of the danger and difficulty of the department's work, and the feeling of protection they gained from Hastings' and Redmond's dedicated work.

On the issue of increasing pay for the town clerk, treasurer, and tax collector, both the selectboard and finance committee opposed a motion made by former selectboard member Nancy Griswold to

increase the salary of these officials by \$1000, in addition to an across the board 3% cost of living increase all town employees received.

But town clerk Lynda Hodson-Mayo spoke directly to the voters, and had the advantage of going first in a three-and-a-half-hour agenda, when attention and attendance was at its peak (and no sums had yet been expended), when she said, "Elected or appointed, the job we are contracted to do is the same. We have fought off the move to go to appointed [posts] because we want to serve you. It's the people we want to represent; it's the people we need to go to to increase our pay."

Hodson-Mayo said the selectboard had begun to move the elected positions of town clerk, tax collector and treasurer up to parity with other town employees' hourly pay, or that of their counterparts in nearby towns, but had abandoned that effort after approving a \$2000 salary increase for the clerk and treasurer/collector in 2011, level funding those positions last year.

The voters backed Griswold's amendment by a wide margin.

A motion to approve a \$1,408,058 assessment for the Gill Montague Regional School Committee passed unanimously, after Brown gave a short oration on the subject of the state's feckless regard for the so-called fiscal compact between the school district, member towns, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.


"This will be the third year in a row the towns have unanimously accepted the school budget," said Brown, following years of GMRSD budget rejection by town meetings in Gill and Montague, not to mention the DESE's fiscal takeover of the district in 2009.

Brown urged newly appointed interim superintendent Mark Prince, present at the meeting, to "stay on track with a fiscal plan that looks like it will lead to fiscal stability" for the district, even though "the state fell short" of its fiscal compact target for Chapter 70 increases in education aid to the district "for the last two years."

Despite the state failing to meet compact spending targets, "the school came in far below" what had been agreed to for spending levels, Brown reminded town meeting, and "that helped the towns a lot."

This year, the GMRSD beat its projected 2½% budget increase, coming in with a budget showing only an increase of .9%.

"That will not be the case next year," warned Brown.

Finance committee member Timmy Smith credited departing interim GMRSD superintendent Nadine Ekstrom for curtailing runaway spending for out-of-district special education placements, which had been costing the district as much as \$1 million for four SPED students a year, by bringing those students back to district schools for classroom learning. 

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## THE MONTAGUE REPORTER AT THE EYEFULL TOWER



Montague Reporter subscribers Diane Lyn Andersen and Richard Andersen, reading their favorite paper at the foot of the Tuileries Garden overlooking the Place de la Concorde in Paris. French cell tower in background.

## Franklin County Fabricators Help Keep the Lights On

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** – Time has taken its toll; the steel draft tubes at Cabot Station #1 are largely held together by rust.

Franklin County Fabricators are in the second week of an eight-week job of replacing draft tubes for First Light at Cabot Station #1, located behind the former Rockdale Store.

The 24-foot long draft tubes, which stand upright, are cone-shaped, going from a diameter of seven feet and increasing to ten feet in diameter. The draft tubes stand upright in the 60-foot long, 14-foot diameter penstock (intake pipe). The new tubes are of 3/8th mild steel plate and come in sections the Franklin County Fabricators' crew bolt together with galvanized structural steel bolts. The crew sandblast the new tubes and coat them with epoxy paint to forestall rusting. The old draft tubes, installed in 1918, have deteriorated from the original 3/8 inch, down to 1/8 inch, composed largely of rust.

Both draft tubes have quarter-turn intake elbows in good condition. The new tube sections will attach to the elbows at the top.

Employees Chris DuLong and Nate Tyler said they need to drill 110 holes to bolt the new tubes into existing cast iron rings that had been poured into the concrete floor of the station in 1918. They will then fasten the new tubes, with three-quarter inch bolts, to the holes they bored in the existing cast iron



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Franklin County Fabricators' John Campbell stands beside a new draft tube prior to installation at Cabot Station #1 in Turners Falls.

ring.

One of the advantages of working in the underground powerhouse is that Franklin County Fabrication workers were in a cool place during the recent heat wave, as they drilled holes and cut out the old tubes with acetylene torches.

To keep the new tubes from moving from vibration from the force of surging water, John Campbell, co-owner of Franklin County Fabricators, engineered a design to solidly anchor the tubes in a cradle of channel iron, secured to the rock walls with three-quarter inch bolts, set in epoxy in holes bored into the rock.

The new draft tubes are in the yard of Franklin County Fabricators

in the final stages of welding, sand-blasting and painting. Meanwhile, DuLong and Tyler cut and remove the old rusted sections of draft tubes at Cabot Station #1.

The reason for the term "draft tubes" is that water falling through the tubes creates a draft that spins the turbines. The draft supplies more force than the pressure of water, alone. The reason the tubes increase in size is to exhaust the falling water as quickly as possible to create a greater force of draft.

Tonight, as you switch on a light, think of Franklin County Fabricators down in the dark bowels of Cabot Station #1, working away to keep your lamp light burning bright.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Fox Attacks Chickens; Cows Back in Fenced Area

**Monday, 6/11**

8:20 a.m. Tree reported in the roadway on South Cross Road. Assisted highway department with removing same.

7:58 p.m. Court process papers served to subject on French King Highway.

**Tuesday, 6/12**

3:15 p.m. Western Mass Electric Co. contacted regarding unsafe telephone pole located on West Gill Road.

**Wednesday, 6/13**

3:15 p.m. Assisted resident with fire issue.

3:40 p.m. Reported chickens attacked on Main Road by dog from

Munns Ferry Road.

Owners all contacted.

4:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with arrest of subject with two warrants.

5:50 p.m. Reported cows loose on Main Road. Assisted with placing all cows back in fenced area.

8 p.m. Tree reported in roadway on Hoe Shop Road. Removed same.

**Thursday, 6/14**

11:40 a.m. Reported fox attacking chickens on South Cross Road. Fox disappeared on arrival.

**Friday, 6/15**

7 a.m. Report of identity theft. Under investi-

gation.

3:30 p.m. Report of truck selling meat, door to door. Did not locate.

5:45 p.m. Report of erratic operation of a motor vehicle on Route 2. Located motor vehicle at Mobil Station. Spoke with operator.

8:30 p.m. Assisted traveling family with flat tire on Route 2.

11:15 p.m. Checked on suspicious motor vehicle in the lower fields at Mount Hermon.

**Saturday, 6/17**  
11:30 a.m. Court process papers served to resident on Walnut Street.

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## Back to Nottinghamshire



Michael Muller and Donna DuSell

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**MONTAGUE** – After the crowds had left, trudging back up the dirt track from the Millers Falls Long Bow and Quarterstaff Club and the recreated 14th Century Nottinghamshire of Robin Hood and Maid Marion to the prosaic world of Turners Falls Road and 21st century Franklin County, the actors and vendors and assorted hangers-on in the glad rags of the Mutton and Mead Festival got a

chance to unwind together on Saturday evening. At least for one night.

We caught a few of them on camera, weary and elated, with the glow of tournament jousting still on them, after competing for archery prizes, the arch glances of ladies-in-waiting seeking the approval of real men in body armor, the

happy children

snatching a few more minutes to replay the roles that children before them have reenacted for the last seven centuries or more...

"This year proved beyond all doubt that the Mutton and Mead Festival is an event Franklin County wants to see. We more than doubled our numbers from last year," said lead organizer Michael Muller, of Montague Center. Over a ton of non perishable food was collected at the door for the Franklin County Survival Center's food pantry, and somewhat more than \$3500 was raised to help renovate the Montague Grange.

Among of the hundreds who gathered for last weekend's Medieval Festival, a great many joined in the spirit of the event by dressing in period costume. They delighted to realistic jousting tourneys staged by mounted actors from Round Table Productions, and whooped it up to an abbreviated version of *Titus Andronicus* by Vixens en Garde, and the antics

of Rufus the Mudbanger and company, who provided a 30-minute condensed History of England while flopping about in the mud. Children romped in a sapling grotto with period games, traversing an obstacle course, mastering the mechanics of a catapult loaded with marshmallows, or trying to knock each other off a log using smurf quarterstaffs.

Meanwhile, many of the audience had a hard time discerning whether their neighbors were just regular folk dressed as 14th century

ing himself as one of the 1%. Robin said, 'I'm going to take the 99%'s gold,' and tossed it into the audience. Robin Hood and his Merry Men were 'Occupying Sherwood Forest,'" added Muller, adding to the anachronistic feeling that as much as things change, here or in Nottinghamshire, the more they stay the same.

Meanwhile, "Holy Smokes sold out of all of their lamb and mutton early, both days," said Muller, leaving attendees to subsist on turkey wings and, of course, flagons of mead provided by Green River Ambrosia of Greenfield. All the four dozen vendors did well in a simulated 14th century marketplace, where leather goods, statuary, cutting boards, and similar wares were on offer for a florin, or equivalent tender.

As the crowd thinned out, and the thunderclouds that failed to dampen the day's merriment gave way to a gilded midsummer eve, a brief cast party was held, the ladies in waiting let down their hair, and ale began flowing like the Sawmill River.

Sunday night held an even bigger celebration in store for the hard-working cast and crew. "We held back on the libation on Saturday," said Muller. "But Sunday night was an all out celebration bordering on Bacchanalia. The all-volunteer



DETMOLD PHOTO

Young Sir Cris Lett, of Athol, in shining armor

cast has been working on this since January. Sunday was a beautiful day with record attendance."

At the end, Muller said, more than one cast member was in tears as they returned to the workaday world of the modern century, leaving the camaraderie of Nottinghamshire and Mutton and Mead behind.

Until next year.

Go to. Or go to the website MuttonandMead.com to give Muller some feedback on their efforts, and you could be among those who win a free pair of tickets to the third annual Medieval Fest when it returns to Montague in 2013.



DETMOLD PHOTO

William Sadowsky as Little John: "Barkeep, fill my tankard lest I smite you with this quarterstaff!"

ry yeomanry, or whether they were indeed the rehearsed actors of the Mutton and Mead crew, each with their own back story and playing the part of Shire folk, ready at the drop of a feathered cap to enhance the day's experience with tales of Robin Hood, stolen gold, and a venal Sheriff out to steal from the poor, as ever.

"This year," said Muller, "there was a chest of gold that was supposed to be transported out of the Shire for safe keeping, but it went missing, and a skirmish and fight ensued with the Sheriff and Robin Hood. Robin was victorious, and the Sheriff was accused of enrich-



DETMOLD PHOTO

Eric Cruze, of Brooklyn, calling it a Knight



DETMOLD PHOTO

Elizabeth Barnes of Northfield and Adam Loseman of Turners share a drink or two.



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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Bids Opened for Usher Mill Cleanup

**BY KATIE NOLAN** – Four bids have come in for the town's cleanup of the former Usher Mill on Arch Street, which is in a shambles following an arson fire and years of neglect by various owners. Only the former boiler building is in salvageable condition.

The bids ranged from \$822,782 from J.R. Vinagro of Johnston, RI, to \$1,031,000 from S and R Corporation of Lowell. SMR of Norwood and Jaymor Enterprises of Pelham, NH also submitted bids.

Alternate "deduct" bids, providing the amount to be deducted if the boiler building is left in place, differed significantly, ranging from \$4,000 from Jaymor, to \$237,000 from S and R.

Tighe and Bond consultant Jason Barroso said he was surprised at the wide range of estimates for the alternate bid. Barroso will review the details of the bids and will give the selectboard a recommendation.

At annual town meeting in 2011, the town appropriated half a million dollars to clean up the Usher Mill site, which has only recently been acquired by the town for back taxes.

Administrative assistant Tom Sharp said, "We had already taken steps anticipating that half a million dollars would not be enough to complete the cleanup. I've had encouragement from Peggy Sloan at the FRCOG that the town of Erving could borrow \$150,000 at low interest. Also, we became eligible for a \$50,000 grant," for the Usher Mill cleanup.

But Sharp said the town may yet have to go back to town meeting for an additional appropriation to complete the project.

"We feel the obligation," explained Sharp. "No one is comfortable with the chance of someone getting hurt," at the derelict mill complex. "And we know we can make the area into something better."

Interim department of public works director Paul Prest reported a valve in the new senior center geothermal system is leaking, resulting in a shutdown of the geothermal system to prevent flooding in the new building.

In addition, Prest told the selectboard a number of items still need to be addressed at the new senior center by MCMUSA, general contractor for the project. Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin asked for a spreadsheet listing items to be fixed, the responsible contractor or subcontractor, and a formal response for each item at the next selectboard meeting. Prest agreed to have a spreadsheet prepared.

The selectboard discussed the potential for a "joint venture" with Northfield ambulance service, possibly even sharing costs for a new advanced life support (ALS) ambulance that would serve both towns. Goodwin said it would first be necessary to understand the financials, but a joint ambulance service might provide better service and also a revenue stream. "There is a lot of homework to be done," before taking action, Goodwin said.

A meeting between the selectboards of Northfield and Erving to discuss the idea on June 26th. The meeting was "productive," according to Tom Hutchinson, Northfield town administrator. Subcommittees will be set up in both towns to look into

the matter further.

Richard and Donna Pomeroy of French King Highway have had a verbal agreement with the town for over 20 years allowing the town to use their long driveway for access to the town's 800,000-gallon water tower, with the town responsible for maintenance of the way.

Now, the Pomeroy's are planning to sell the property and, on advice of their realtor, want to formalize the town's responsibility for maintenance.

Planning board member Jacquie Boyden said she had searched and couldn't find any written agreement between the town and the Pomeroy's.

Initially, the Pomeroy's asked the driveway be accepted as a town road. However, according to planning board chair William Morris, making the drive a town road would require widening and installing drainage, which he said was "not feasible".

Boyden said if the driveway became a town road, it would provide frontage for 37 acres of land.

Currently, the Pomeroy's are asking for a formal agreement about road main-

see ERVING pg 10

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Town to Tackle Transfer Station Sticker Scofflaws

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** – As of September, Leverett residents – and there are apparently more than a few! – who are in the habit of ignoring the stipulation to purchase a sticker before using the town transfer station will be barred at the gate.

That is the decision of the selectboard, under the chairmanship of Rich Brazeau, on Tuesday, June 26th, after hearing transfer station manager Neil Brazeau's description of repeat sticker scofflaws sliding in the gate by first promising to buy a sticker at the transfer station office, dumping their materials, and driving off in a cloud of dust and a flurry of recycling debris without ever coming across with the cash.

In case some residents, hardened to the habit of cheapskate *sans* sticker materials transferring, think they can still get away with it after the September 1st deadline, the selectboard agreed to ask the police to park a patrolman near the landfill station gate each weekend after Labor Day to back up the landfill attendants' authority on the policy.

To encourage law-abiding citizens to continue to obey the law of the landfill, the transfer station will offer

stickers for sale at the low rate of \$25 a year for the months of July and August.

After that, stickers will cost \$35, and will only be available at the treasurers' office at town hall, during Dee Ann Civallo's normal working hours. See the town website for more details.

Before moving on to other business, the selectboard spent a few moments discussing violations of etiquette at the transfer stations' "take it or leave it" area, where some residents apparently think residual value can still be found in old phone books and tourist guides to Paris from the 1980s.

Earlier this month, while on weekend patrol, part time police officer Gary Sibilia executed a U-turn on North Leverett Road to pursue a speeding car, and collided with a postal delivery vehicle stopped by the side of the road to deliver at a resident's mail box. Both the post office employee's vehicle and Sibilia's police cruiser sustained substantial damage, and the post office employee suffered neck injuries.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico called for police chief Gary Billings to undertake a thorough review of pursuit policy with all mem-

bers of the force.

Meanwhile, police sergeant Tim Batchelder is still away from active duty, convalescing from a medical condition brought on during preparation for overseas military service with the Air National Guard.

Turning to the fire department, the selectboard appointed two new on-call firefighters, pending the results of medical exams: Ursula Humphrey and Stephen Sengebusch, bringing the complement of active firefighters to 15. Amy Rice was appointed captain on the fire department, filling the third captain vacancy.

Speaking of vacancies filled, Leverett Elementary principal Anne Ross informed the board the hiring process has been completed to replace three departing teachers. Margot Hambleton, an in-house hire, will become the new kindergarten teacher in September; Alissa Alteri Shea, coming to Leverett with 20 years experience teaching from the Albany, NY area, will teach first grade; and Angela Regan, a teacher from Belchertown who has substituted in Leverett before, will take the helm at second grade.

see LEVERETT pg 10

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Assault in Millers; Dog Fight on N Street; Vandalism on the Bike Path

Tuesday, 6/19

10:14 p.m. Assault on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Advised of options.

10:17 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Fourth and L Streets. Investigated.

11:58 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Second Street. Investigated.

Wednesday, 6/20

12:31 a.m. Fight on Avenue A. Investigated.

1:01 a.m. Runaway juvenile on L Street. Services rendered.

2:34 p.m. Vandalism on the bike path. Investigated.

3:28 p.m. Drugs, narcotics

violation on Fourth Street.

Investigated.

11:57 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Davis Street.

Investigated.

Thursday, 6/21

11:50 a.m. Disorderly conduct on Fourth Street.

5:22 p.m. Trespassing by the river on Poplar Street.

Services rendered.

6 p.m. Drugs, narcotics violation on Third Street.

Referred to an officer.

6:59 p.m. Dog fight on N Street. Referred to an officer.

8:55 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Second

Street. Advised of options.

Friday, 6/22

10 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Avenue A. Advised of options.

10:35 p.m. Fight at Food City Plaza on Avenue A. Area search negative.

Saturday, 6/23

2:11 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street.

Advised of options.

8:45 a.m. Arrest of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on a probation warrant at the police station on

Turnpike Road.

5:26 p.m. Warrant arrest of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at the police

department on a

straight warrant.

8:04 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Second Street. Report taken.

8:14 p.m. Assault and battery on Dell Street.

Sunday, 6/24

12:46 a.m. General disturbance on Avenue A. Services rendered.

2:18 a.m. Domestic disturbance at Between the

Uprights at Second Street on Avenue A. Services rendered.

5:57 p.m. General disturbance at the Millers Falls

Rod and Gun Club on

Turners Falls Road. Services

rendered.

Monday, 6/25

10:13 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Hatchery Road.

Services rendered.

3:45 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on West Main Street.

Advised of options.

11:40 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Laurel Lane in

Montague Center. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 6/26


11:23 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Swift

River Hydro Electric on

Canal Street. Services rendered.

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Town Hall Kitchen Upgrade Proposed

BY JOSH HEINEMANN – Kate Nolan, Nina Keller, and Judy Hall met the Wendell selectboard on June 20th to propose revitalizing the town hall kitchen.

The three women and Jenny Brill met at the energy committee's May 20th food security forum and discussed bringing the town hall kitchen up to commercial standards, so the town could put the kitchen and town hall to more active use.

Nolan recalled that in the 1970s, Wendell community dinners were prepared at the town hall, not just reheated in its kitchen. Community dinners were easier to stage at the town hall in those days. Nolan hoped that tradition could be restored, along with fire department pancake breakfasts and the like.

Back then, a heavy duty, six-burner gas stove and oven had pride of place in the town hall kitchen. No one seems to know what became of that appliance, or when the light duty electric stove came to take its place in the town hall kitchen.

Nolan said that for the kitchen to be certified by the board of health, it would need a double deep sink in addition to the sink that is there now, which Brill called a hand-washing sink.

Keller envisioned holding classes on food preservation, canning, pickling, freezing and drying. She added that type of activity could take place in town hall now, but that with a certified kitchen, such lessons could lead to the production of commercially salable products.

Home gardeners could preserve their own produce, Keller continued, and sell their excess if they wanted. The present kitchen facilities would allow for classes to be held at town hall, and community meals, but it will not pass health code standards for public use.

Hall said she was working on a grant application with Good Neighbors and the Western Massachusetts Food Bank to start gathering the funds needed to upgrade the kitchen. The *ad hoc* committee is not presently looking for town money to assist, but that if the town were to spring for a dishwasher they would not complain.

The committee stressed they would not want to displace the well-utilized Good Neighbors food pantry that currently operates from town hall.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard reminded the committee that the water to the town hall kitchen is turned off in the winter to ensure that the pipes in the crawl space don't freeze.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said steps could easily be taken to supply water to the town hall kitchen in winter by wrapping pipes with heat tape and insulation or draining pipes after each use.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich pointed out rerouting water through copper pipes in the heated part of the building would be expensive, and a commercial dishwasher would be as well.

Not all the work has to be done at once. The committee is still developing priorities and possibilities.

Heard suggested presenting questions to town custodian Larry Ramsdell, who has just surveyed other maintenance projects at the town hall.

The Selectboard authorized formation of a five-member committee to explore the upgrade of the town hall kitchen, with one vacancy, to give Hall's grant application more authority with the grant funding source, the Western Mass Food Bank.

Nolan, Hall, and Keller expressed some dismay at the constrictions of open meeting law, but Heard replied that the worst problem is the need to post an agenda two days in advance of committee meetings; discussion outside formal meetings and beyond an agenda is allowed, just not active decisions. Aldrich can post an agenda if she receives it on time.

Aldrich said she had received an email informing her of the completion of the work at the Fiske Pond dam as planned, with the downstream side of the retaining wall backed with boulders and stones. The job was a great success, but the work put the dam back onto the radar of the DEP.

Several years ago Wendell hired an inspector who had the town clear vegetation from the dam, but the state

never received a report from him, and now the state is demanding a dam inspection report be on file by October 15th, 2012, or the town will face fines of \$500 a day.

Board members felt Dave Lenart, the engineer who designed the dam reinforcement, could write a new report and file it with the state.

The selectboard, the assessors and the building inspector have been working together to create a building inspector job description. Heard said the building inspector, Phil Delorey, and the assessors approved an addition to the job description, in which the building inspector will provide the assessors with a notice of a building permit, and copies of plans within two weeks after he receives them.

Dale Kowacki, whose house is the only one on the far side of Old Farley Road, which connects to Erving, but is not passable to the Wendell side of the Road, has asked that his side of the road be renamed to avoid mail delivery and emergency service access confusion.

A road name change may be made at a town meeting, and Kowacki proposed several suggestions: Millers Road, Millers River Road, and Fishing Road.

Whatever name is offered on the town meeting warrant can be changed by amendment at the meeting.

Marianne Sundell told Aldrich she is willing, but not thrilled, to become a third member of the conservation commission to fill a vacancy on that board.

Heard commented that it seems the same 20 people are doing everything in town.

Selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser was not at the meeting, but Heard and Keller spent over ten minutes signing appointment slips for the new fiscal year. Keller said town clerk Gretchen Smith, select-

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

## Bylaw Approved for Large-Scale Solar Installations

BY KATIE NOLAN – Erving's June 25th special town meeting approved new zoning bylaws for large-scale photovoltaic installations and signs and raised fees for special permits, variances, and zoning board appeals. In addition, the town approved \$110,000 for emergency generators for the senior center and also for the town hall and Erving Center firehouse.

According to the new bylaw, solar photovoltaic systems structurally mounted on the ground with a minimum capacity of 250 kW may be constructed on properties of at least 40 contiguous acres, or 20 acres by special permit. Proposed large-scale systems will require site plan review by the planning board and will be required to comply with setback and other design requirements. The photovoltaic zoning bylaw passed by a vote of 20 to 1.

The new sign bylaw, which passed unanimously, regulates the size and lighting of exterior signs, and prohibits signs that "flash, move or display movement or generate music or an audible message." Already existing signs that don't conform to the bylaw will be grandfathered. Planning board chair William Morris characterized the existing sign bylaw as "extremely restrictive," and said the new bylaw gives greater control to the zoning board of appeals.

The meeting voted to raise fees for special permits, variances, or zoning board appeals from \$150 to \$300 for residential projects and \$500 for commercial projects. The finance

committee did not recommend increasing the fees.

Planning board member Jacqueline Boyden told the meeting the current fees don't cover planning board costs for notifying abutters and advertising.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock told the meeting the finance committee "might have voted otherwise" if they had had the planning board's cost analysis earlier.

Retiring finance committee chair Stanley Gradowski wondered if, by raising fees and charging commercial projects more, the town was "showing an anti-business attitude." The fee schedule passed by a vote of 14 to 6.

The special town meeting approved transferring \$60,000 previously allocated to sewer main inspection and repair for the purchase of an emergency generator for town hall and Fire Station #1, and transferring \$50,000 from the senior center capital project for purchasing an emergency generator for the center. The senior center will be available as an emergency shelter when necessary.

Speaking in support of transferring \$40,000 from free cash for a new police cruiser, police chief Chris Blair said the department was moving up the scheduled replacement of its 2005 Crown Victoria cruiser by one year because, at 132,000 miles, it had already needed transmission work and would likely need other major repairs. The cruiser expense was approved unanimously.

The town also voted \$8,000 to replace the town's radar speed trailer. Blair said the current radar trailer had been "pieced together" eight years ago, is hard to read, is not waterproof, and has a battery that won't hold a charge for long. The new radar trailer will run on solar power.

The town approved \$10,778.10 from the water enterprise fund for an electronic water meter reader, to replace a 20-year-old reader.

Moderator Richard Peabody, noting Gradowski's retirement from the finance committee, expressed the town's appreciation for his years of service to the town. Gradowski said his work on the finance committee was "rewarding, and gratifying."

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

## 'Welcome to Wendell' Sign Stolen; Vandalism

**Tuesday, 5/29**  
10:15 a.m. Locke Hill Road resident reported a yellow wind sock taken from her driveway.  
**Thursday, 5/31**  
4:52 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Depot Road. No injuries.  
**Saturday, 6/2**  
5 p.m. Wren Gould Road resident reported hitting downed tree on Montague Road at about 6:30 a.m. on this date. No injuries.  
11:23 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on New Salem Road. Three injured parties transported to hospitals.

**Friday, 6/8**  
3:41 p.m. Wendell Depot Postmaster reported that the "Welcome to Wendell Depot" sign was stolen from a post across from Post Office.  
8:10 p.m. Morse Village Road resident reported being threatened by two male subjects in his driveway.  
**Saturday, 6/23**  
3:14 p.m. Shutesbury Officer reported vandalism at Pine Brook campground.

board clerk Joy Gorzocoski, and he had inventoried, re-boxed and labeled the cleaned documents in the town hall vault. He said that the contents were mostly run-of-the-mill financial records, with few documents dating from

before 1800.

Keller said the effort to put more street numbers up was waiting for assistance from a work crew from the Franklin County sheriff's department, but that in the meantime, residents can pick up reflective

numbers to install themselves. The sign should be clearly visible in the headlight cone of a car, and be far enough back from the road so as not to pose an obstruction for snowplows.

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## Ferry Meadow Farm - part XLVI

Dreaming  
Somewhere in New England 2017

**BY ELOISE MICHAEL** – We can hear the water. There will be no more markers now. We follow the stream for a distance until it disappears over a rock, falling five or six feet to a pool below. This is the place.

"I guess we shouldn't waste any time," Jason says. For the first time this week, he looks scared, too.

"Yeah," I whisper. "We came all this way. This is it."

Jason puts a backpack on the ground and begins filling it with rocks. They are easy to find, scattered all around the stream. After watching him for a minute, I start picking up rocks, too. When the backpack is full, Jason zips it, then

straightens up to face me.

"Sure you don't want to run away with me to Europe?" He smiles his lopsided grin, his eyes twinkling as though this were all a big joke.

"I told you," I say quietly. "That won't work."

"I know." He picks up the backpack and helps me put it on backwards, on my front. It's heavy. I bend my knees to balance the weight. Then Jason clips it twice, the sternum strap and the waist strap, both on my back. We walk to the edge and look down. Jason throws a rock, and we watch it hit the water and sink.

"You can always change your mind later," he says. "Of course you

can."

"Of course I can," I repeat.

"You can come to Europe next month. Tomorrow even."

"That's right," I say. "Of course I can."

We look at each other. It seems like Jason is trying to find the right thing to say. Finally he settles on, "I'll see you soon."

"OK"

"I love you, Resa."

I feel like there is not enough time to be surprised, so I just say, "I love you, too." And I mean it.

Then I jump. My body reacts first to the cold. My last calm thought is that Marissa was right. The water is deep. I watch the surface disappear above me in a cloud of bubbles as terror overtakes me. I am going to die, and every instinct I have tells me to tear off the pack. I claw at it and

reach for the clips in the back. The pain in my lungs spreads to my arms, which are no longer doing what I want them to. I focus my gaze on the surface above – not so far away – and desperately try to pull my body to that place. The air I need is little more than an arm's length in front of me.

With a final burst of adrenaline I surge upward, and I am sitting up in bed, in my house in Turners Falls, my heart racing. You always wake up before you die, I think to myself.

In the foggy space between dreaming and waking, I consider that the whole thing might have been a dream. Maybe I still have a job at the bank. Maybe Jason was never here, and I was never at Ferry Meadow. The shapes of my bedroom come into focus, and I sort reality from my sleepy musings. No, Jason was really

here. It is summer. I have no job, and, looking around this room, I know that I belong at the farm now.

While I have been hiding out at Ferry Meadow, the transition from one body to the other has been disorienting, since they have been living in two separate places, living two separate lives. In fact I have not had a dream at all – not in the usual way – for seven months. I have always been awake.

Tonight, when I lie down to sleep, I will dream in crazy non-sequitur, which will seem unsurprising in the moment, and which I will not always remember, just like regular people. Also, like regular people, I will sleep at night. Right now, ahead of me is my first day as a person with one body. No second mind will dream what I do today.

*Continued Next Issue*

### LEVERETT from page 8

"They are very good people," said Ross, who added, "The process went very smoothly."

The selectboard took the opportunity to inveigh against the bureaucracy in Boston that has required the town to pay an architect from the eastern part of the state to oversee the ongoing Green Repair window replacement project at LES, which has not proceeded so smoothly. Ross

said with luck and the delivery of windows from Ohio in time, the new thermal efficient windows should be installed over the summer, starting with two classrooms, and then moving to the hall windows and office windows.

A letter from Wendell-New Salem school committee chair Mike Yohan, decrying Leverett's withholding of a total of \$4,157.52 in contributions to the health benefits of Union 28 central office staff over the fiscal year ending June 30th, led to a round robin of denunciation from the selectboard of the U-28 benefit policy, and of superintendent Joan Wickman for continuing to enforce it in the face of near unanimous opposition from the selectboards and school committees of U-28 towns.

For those not following the minutiae of this ongoing dispute, the treasurers of Shutesbury and Leverett are faced with bills for dental work and percentages of health benefits in excess of the benefits those towns pay to their own teachers and town employees, none of whom get dental coverage, and all of whom receive a much lower town contribution to their benefit plans than the U-28 central office employees currently enjoy. This discrepancy is tied to the fact that Erving is, at the moment, the lead town, the town with the most students enrolled in a U-28 school, and therefore gets to

set the level of benefits for central office staff. Erving pays dental and a percentage of health benefits for town employees in the range of 80%, whereas Leverett, for example, contributes only 50% to employee benefit plans.

Now, all the towns in the union are seeking special legislation to allow them to contribute to U-28 central office staff benefit plans in the same proportion they compensate their own employees, as a matter of fairness, and also to avoid the disruption to the central office staff's ability to do long-term plan-

ning around their compensation packages from lead town status changing from time to time within the union.

While the hoped for special legislation is pending, Leverett has notified U-28 it will no longer pay benefits in excess of their own town's compensation level of 50%.

"We're livid about it," said Rich Brazeau, whose wife has been employed as a paraprofessional at Leverett Elementary. "We're going right to the limit on this. We're talking about leaving the union over this."

### ERVING from page 8

tenance. Morris said, "Their true interest is to get the [maintenance] question answered."

Goodwin asked if there would be a higher standard for maintenance of the drive under a formal agreement. "What level of maintenance is acceptable?"

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo said the town needed to be responsible for maintenance in order to get to the water tower.

The board asked Sharp to find out more about the level of maintenance required for the driveway and the current agreement between the Pomeroy and the town.

The board voted to terminate fire chief Almon "Bud" Meatty's appointment at the end of the next

fiscal year (June 30th, 2013). This move was recommended by town attorney Donna MacNicol, who has recommended the town move from appointment of the posts of police chief and fire chief, to a contractual basis of employment for those two positions. The board intends to begin this changeover with the fire chief, and then work on a contract with the police chief, according to Sharp, and the town is required to give one year's notice before terminating the fire chief's appointment.

Prest was appointed as Department of Public Works director as of July 1st. He will receive a retroactive pay raise effective the day after his appointment as interim director.

Town administrator Tom Sharp

"It's not fair to our own teachers and employees," added Julie Shively.

Yohan's letter noted that Leverett pays benefits to regional employees of the Amherst-Pelham district at different levels than town employees receive, and concluded with the statement, "In the interim, innocent children are being affected by your interpretation of Chapter 32-B," referring to state law governing payments of health benefits.

Peter d'Errico called this clause in Yohan's letter a "tear-jerker."



reported to the selectboard that town counsel and the town's insurance agent foresaw no problems with shutting down Church Street to hold a block party later this year. Church Street resident Charlene McDonough said she would provide the selectboard with the date for the block party at the board's next meeting, on July 9th.

The board discussed updating the town's retirement policy to reflect changes in state law. Under the new state law, proportional retirement costs for a retiring worker who worked for more than one municipality can be billed to the previous municipal employers. Sharp will present a draft town policy at the next board meeting.



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### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

### EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

### THURSDAYS in JULY

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

### EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

## ART SHOWS:

### NOW through JULY 22nd

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Photo Coterie*, year end images of the class of 2012 at Hallmark.

### JUNE 29th through JULY 29th

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

### JULY 1st through AUGUST 5th

Ursa Major Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Indestructible Mirror*, Moder Tibetan Painting, reception July 1st at 7 p.m.

### JULY 1st through JULY 30th

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

## LOCAL EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, JUNE 28th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, 8 to 10 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 28th through SUNDAY, JULY 1st

Living Memorial Park, Brattleboro: Vermont Theatre Company presents *Henry V*, for its 23rd Shakespeare-in-the Park, 6 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 29th & JULY 6th SATURDAY, JUNE 30th & JULY 7th

SUNDAY, JULY 1st & JULY 8th Arts Block, Greenfield: Old Deerfield Productions presents *The Madwoman of Chailot*, a play with Linda McInerney, with John Sheldon and NECCA Circus performers. 7:30 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 29

SATURDAY, JUNE 30 SUNDAY, JULY 1 Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players presents *The Norman Conquests*.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 29th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Young Children's Story Hour*, this month's story is about the water cycle. Includes a craft. 10:30 a.m.

The Night Kitchen, Montague: *The Charlie Apicella* guitar trio, gypsy, swing & jazz guitar, 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hearts and Bones*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Bright Lines*, Abe Loomis, & Justin Hillman, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dubs & Frenchy*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Jim Kaminsky*, 10 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Loomis Band & Flabberghaster*, 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 30th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Investigation Station: Fish*, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Water Under the Bridge*: historic bike tour of the bridges of Turners Falls & Montague City along the canal-side bike path, 12 to 2 p.m. Free.

Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant: *National Spiritual Alliance presents a Psychic Fair*, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Kaziemerz, Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Feast for the Arts*. Ticket price includes

dinner and a vote for the new artistic crosswalk to be installed across Avenue A this summer. Ticket proceeds will directly fund the winning proposal. Info at [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org), 6 p.m.

The Night Kitchen, Montague: *The Alex Snyderman Trio*, with Miro Sprague on piano, Alec Darien on bass, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffmann*, 8 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Fenibo*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Ellingtones*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, 9:30 p.m.



Environmental Police Officer Terry Whitney addresses the Quabbin Civil War Remembrance Day steering committee on the live-fire Civil War Black Powder demonstration scheduled for July 4th at the Orange Gun Club. (Photo by Genevieve Fraser)

### TUESDAY, JULY 3rd

Playing fields on School Street, Montague Center: Montague Center Fire Association presents the *Annual Bon Fire*. Food is available from 6 pm on, fire is lit at dusk. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Please do not bring debris to the site.

Gill Commons: *Common People Summer Concert Series* presents *Andy Davis*, Folk music for Gill folk, 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 4th

Orange Gun Club: Environmental Police Officer Terry Whitney of Hardwick will open the Quabbin Civil War Remembrance Day on Wednesday, July 4 at 9:30 am at the Orange Gun Club with a live firearms Civil War Black Powder Shoot demonstration. The Orange Gun Club was established in 1884 and is the oldest chartered gun club in Massachusetts.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Fourth of July Backyard Dance Party*, with DJ Bobby, Reggae 5 to 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Fourth of July Backyard Music Bash*, Captain-Salls Orchestra, 8 to 11:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JULY 5th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poet's Series* featuring Peggy O'Brien & Dawn Potter, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

### FRIDAY, JULY 6th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Something Else*, jazz, groove, funk, ska, 9:30 pm. Free

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Odd Couple*.

### SATURDAY, JULY 7th at 7 p.m.,

### SUNDAY, JULY 8th at 2 p.m.,

### SATURDAY, JULY 14th at 7 p.m., and

### SUNDAY, JULY 15th at 2 p.m.

Orange Town Hall: *Lincoln: The Musical*, Civil War era songs, By Michael Riccards, Directed by Genevieve Fraser,

### SATURDAY, JULY 7th

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Watershed History: The Patch*, meet at the corner of Avenue A and Eleventh Street in Turners Falls, near the canal side bike path to start the journey. 12 to 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Peachy's*, Americana, Blues.

The Yoga Studio, Shelburne Falls: *Special Talk on Modern Tibetan Painting*, by Paola Zamperini, Associate Professor of Asian Languages and Civilizations at Amherst College. 7:30 p.m.

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Summer Workshop Series Kick-off BBQ*, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., At 10 a.m. *Kids Movement with Anna*, ages 3-8; 11 a.m., *Grow Your Own Food!*; noon to 1:30 p.m., *Free Community Meal*. See full workshop schedule at: [brick-housecommunity.org](http://brick-housecommunity.org)

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *John Kurtyka's Limp Flamingo, Local Gyro, Grownups*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JULY 8th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *James Grinwis, Christopher DeWeese* poetry reading. Free.

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

### TUESDAY, JULY 10th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Movie Nite* with host Donna, *In America*, 9 p.m. Free.

Gill Commons: *Common People Summer Concert Series* presents *Stephanie Marshall Band*, country music with a Massachusetts twang, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JULY 12th

## the Rendezvous

(ALL SHOWS 9:30 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

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THURS 7/5	FALLTOWN STRING BAND 7:30 FREE
FRI 7/6	first: Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade at 7pm FREE then, at 9:30: SOMETHING ELSE (jazz/groove/funk/ska...) FREE
SAT 7/7	John Kurtyka's Limp Flamingo, Local Gyro (ex-Lord-Jeff), Grownups (ex-Bella's Bartok) (rock...) \$3
SUN 7/8	James Grinwis, Christopher DeWeese poetry reading 4pm FREE TNT KARAOKE 9pm-1am FREE
TUES 7/10	MOVIE NITE w. host Donna: "In America" 9:30 FREE
FRI 7/13	Jeremy Dubs Presents SPEAK! 9:30 FREE Happy Jawbone Family Band
SAT 7/14	After Green-River-Fest Drinkin' and ... (???)
SUN 7/15	Donal Hales and Frost Heaves new CD "You Make A Better Door Than A Window" festivities: poetry reading, art opening, video viewing, album listening, begins at 6:30 FREE
MON 7/16	BINGO! 8pm FREE
WEDS 7/18	QUIZNITE with guest QuizMaster ALEX! 8pm
THURS 7/19	Half Shaved (jazz with Lorry Klein, Jon Olman, Seth Hoffsummer) 8PM FREE
FRI 7/20	TO BE ANNOUNCED
SAT 7/21	Upper Valley Music Festival. Music, noon to midnight, all over Turners! Voo shows culminating with Lux Deluxe at 9pm. \$10 for all venues all day, benefits the American Cancer Society. Details at <a href="http://UPPERVALLEYMUSICFEST.COM">UPPERVALLEYMUSICFEST.COM</a>
SUN 7/22	TNT KARAOKE 9pm-1am FREE
WED 7/25	Pammy's South of the Border Feat. rhythms of Vallenato Cumbia and Calypso 8:30PM FREE
THURS 5/26	Scott Kuzmeskus (singer-songwriter) FREE 8pm
FRI 7/27	Bright Lines (rock/trackerbilly/roots...) FREE
SAT 7/28	Party for Joshua Warren Art Opening, with words and music by J. Warren, Michael Melivier, and Friends. All evening long. FREE
SUN 7/29	SUNDAY LOCALS: Richard Chase Band (folk/rock) 6pm FREE
MON 7/30	DADA DING'S OPEN MIC 8pm, sign-ups start at 7:30

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## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Keeping the Varmints Out

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – Just to be sure, I have checked my garden log, and it is indeed an early season.

In case you've forgotten, we had an unusually warm March after a mild, dry winter. Since spring began, the weather has been warm (and often hot) so that many flowering plants and shrubs came on early and bloomed for too short a time.

The opening days of summer seem to be out to set similar records. I have already harvested the first peas and cherry tomatoes. In the tradition of the gardening folklore, we usually enjoy the first peas around the fourth of July, although in three other years recorded since I began my log in 1998, we've harvested peas in late June and once, in 2004, on June 16th.

After a traditional January with eight days below zero that year, early March featured the fifties and mid April several days in the seventies and eighties. Hence, perhaps, 2004's early peas.

This year's tomato plants are

some of the biggest and stoutest ever. They have already topped their metal cages by several inches. The tallest of these beauties is close to five feet and the others are not far behind. You can imagine the shock of finding that an intruder had crudely lopped off the top stems of one of the plants and left two large piles of scat.

After a few minutes online I knew way more about animal scat than I wanted to. Usually deer scat is shaped in round pellets, but when a more moist diet is being consumed (our garden plants?) the scat can be described as more of a cluster or pile. The other potential depositor is the black bear.

Oh, my! I guess we'd prefer the deer!

All along, I've been suspecting the fat woodchuck observed often at the edge of the yard and we've protected the garden produce with low fencing. I've never had a critter chew on my tomato plants. It would be daunting to install a high fence around the whole garden which now takes up two-thirds of the side yard. Research revealed however, that the woodchuck is a tidy critter which usually builds a separate privy off his underground burrow. Who knew? Maybe he's sticking to the plentiful wild green growth at the edge of the yard.

Well, we could get a dog and immensely shorten the life span of the scaredy cat which has lived in the house for the past six years and which has become more timid as it ages. I could become a hunter, an unlikely choice for this extreme pacifist. Or I could mark my turf as the animals do and hope that whoever is out there respects my territory.

Those who have read Farley Mowatt's *Never Cry Wolf* will remember that this arctic scientist found this method to be the best for keeping the curious wolves out of his human space and supplies. It worked. The wolves never crossed the line again. Well, enough said. I'm game for the experiment and I'll keep you posted. Desperate situations require desperate solutions.

Meanwhile, on a happier note, the peas are delicious (no pun what-

soever intended), requiring the least intervention of a little butter, salt, and perhaps a shot of cream. A bowl of this garden candy could truly be served in place of dessert.

The Swiss chard is ready to eat. Unlike the kale it has not been nibbled, perhaps because it is planted further into the garden and is keeping company with the garlic. Maybe there should be some research done on companion protective planting.

Also, for whatever it's worth, we've noticed that while the kale has also been sampled by insects, not so the happy chard. I think we'll try some experimental companion protective planting next season and try to chart results for a while.

Every garden season brings its own challenges. The truth is, why would we take on the expense and labor of growing our own food if it were easy? We rural New

Englanders are hardy perhaps because of the challenges of weather, location and the proximity of the animal life that settled here before we did. Every year there are great crops, and others that do incredibly poorly. We have seasons of infestation and others relatively varmint-free.

The satisfaction of growing and eating fresh, tasty food will continue to bring most of us back to the seed catalogues each winter, however disappointing the last season may have been. After all, despite the challenges, gardening not only feeds the table, it also feeds the soul.

Good luck with your varmints and happy gardening!

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