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YEAR 12 – NO. 8

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 21, 2013

GILL SELECTBOARD Sewer Rates Going Up

By DAVID DETMOLD

With little further ado, the selectboard voted unanimously on Monday to raise the rates for the 113 Riverside sewer users by 11.1%, for an average annual hike of \$77.75, to deal with an ongoing deficit in sewer district revenue.

The board attempted to bridge the gap between what the district takes in from users and what it spends each year to have the sewerage pumped beneath the Connecticut River and treated in Montague by raising rates last year by 58.8%.

But that attempt to balance the books was set back by a town meeting vote in Montague in September that raised sewer rates across the board, including a 3.24% hike in the rate Montague charges Gill, from \$5.66 to \$5.75 per thousand gallons.

The new rate, effective as of the quarterly bill to be mailed in December, will cost sewer users a little more than a penny per cubic foot of sewage. It should allow the district to pay for the Montague rate hike – along with a smoke test scheduled for this week of the entire Riverside sewer district, to detect faulty connections – and still allow the district to come out with an approximate \$4,000 surplus by the end of the current fiscal year.

Before approving the latest rate see **GILL** page A4

Division VI Champs!



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners' tough ground game helped them bring home the Western Mass Division VI Championship.

By MATT ROBINSON

BUCKLAND – The Turners Falls Football Indians won the Western Massachusetts Division VI Gridiron Championship by defeating the Mohawk Warriors Friday, November 15, 36 – 22.

In the heat of a summer day, before the season had begun, I was observing a practice and Coach Chris Lapointe listed his goals. Number 4 was to get to the Western Mass Super Bowl. Number 5 was to win that game. It made perfect sense to me.

At that time I hadn't heard the naysayers who said Turners was too small and had lost too many seniors. But now that the Tribe from Powertown are the Champions of Western Massachusetts, I hope they've

earned some respect. Turners will play the Central Mass champs, Littleton, this coming weekend at Westfield State College.

The big difference in the game was that Mohawk could not stop Powertown's offense. Turners scored every time they touched the ball, until they finally went down on one knee on the last series of the game.

Turners won the coin toss and elected to receive. They came out striking, and as usual, Turners scored on their first possession. They drove down the field, chewing up the clock and capped the drive with an 18 yard run by Trent Bourbeau. Jalen Sanders caught the pass from Malcolm Smith for the two pointer and the offense left the field, leading 8 – 0.

see **CHAMPS** page A5

Two-Way Traffic Restored To Bridge

By MIKE JACKSON

THE GREAT FALLS – When word got out last Friday afternoon that the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge was open both ways, it spread fast. Soon, the Avenue was busy with joy riders and other curious drivers, honking their horns, turning around, and crossing back over again.

"I drove home from South Deerfield, and I kept driving just to drive over the bridge," said downtown resident Anja Schutz. "It felt wonderful. I was a little nervous!"

In early 2010, SPS New England offered the public two choices for the job's completion: to close the bridge for two years, or to maintain a southbound traffic lane and do the job in four. Most preferred four years one way, and three and a half years later, thanks to an accelerated

work schedule, "limited" two-way traffic has now resumed, though work will continue into the spring, and a lane will sometimes be closed in the meantime.

"We were wicked excited to see the flow of traffic both ways," said Marion LaCoy, owner of Twisters, the new ice cream parlor and café at Avenue A and Second Street. "I think it'll bring some life back to Turners, now that [drivers] can come in and out a lot easier."

Indeed, many downtown business owners have pinned their hopes on a pickup in business based on the village's accessibility from Route 2. This dynamic was highlighted during last winter's Downtown Livability study, commissioned by the town and carried out by Ashfield-based landscape architects Dodson see **BRIDGE** page A6



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

Whither Cumbie's?

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – "What's going on with the Cumbie's building?" Well, that question is not exactly the "word on the street," as they say, but it certainly has been asked frequently as yet another New England winter approaches.

The "Cumbie's building" does not refer to the current Cumberland Farms, on Montague City Road near the entrance to the Patch. That's a going concern, with diesel fuel, premade breakfast burritos and one-dollar coffee. No, the building in question is the decaying eyesore about a hundred yards from the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. It is not exactly the ideal gateway to the Turners' downtown revival.

Yet beauty is in the eye of the beholder and the local access television station, Montague Community Cable Incorporated, (MCCI) has been coveting this relic of seventies architecture for several years.

MCCI officials feel that with a small investment of, say, \$150,000 they could get more space for less money than at their current digs in the Crocker building on Second Street.

For ancient history buffs, that space was inherited from Greenfield Community



SAWYER-LAUCANNI PHOTO

MCCI hopes to transform the forsaken former Cumberland Farms building into its new cable tv studio in Turners Falls.

Television, which briefly ran local access in Montague a decade ago.

So nearly two years ago MCCI proposed to lease the building from the town, or actually from an outfit called Montague Economic Development Incorporated. The EDIC, as it is popularly known, looks like a town board, is populated by town board types and gets support from the Montague Town Planner. But it is actually an independent governmental agency created by the state. Among other things the EDIC can buy, sell and lease property.

The organization took over the Cumbie's building by eminent domain back when the Great Falls Discovery Center was created and, after all sorts of complicated negotiations with the state, now controls it.

The original idea was that the local access station

would lease the building from the EDIC. However the investment and scope of work required to make the space viable led to negotiations for a purchase.

That, in turn, led to some low level conflict between MCCI and the EDIC over something called an LDA, or a "Land Development Agreement." Since the building sits right next to the Discovery Center, the EDIC wanted guarantees about the quality of the renovation, particularly the façade, and wanted the ability to monitor the structure, including the interior, after the sale. MCCI seemed to feel that the EDIC was trying to maintain "control" over the building.

Local board types were rubbing each other the wrong way when the Montague Reporter last covered the issue.

see **CUMBIE'S** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Falling Bricks Come At High Cost

By KATIE NOLAN

The day that contractors completed the \$15,000 repair and stabilization project for the roof at the former Usher Plant boiler building, bricks started falling from the upper part of the building's smokestack.

Paul Prest, highway/wastewater/water department director, told the November 18 selectboard meeting that the department had installed "No Trespassing" signs to help keep people away from the property and safe from falling bricks.

Water department superintendent Pete Sanders presented another wrinkle in the former Usher Plant redevelopment process: he had spoken with staff at the

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and was told that the former well at the property, out of commission for the last 23 years, could not be used as a public water supply for a redeveloped property.

In addition, given the location of the property near both the Millers River and railroad tracks, it was unlikely that a new public water supply well could be drilled there.

Jeff Dubay of the Usher Plant Redevelopment committee reported that Clayton Davenport Trucking of Greenfield provided a quote of \$31,000 to remove the upper 15 to 16 feet of the stack.

Dubay characterized the falling bricks as an emergency, saying that, besides the risk of harm to people who

might come on the property, the roof and building could be ruined if the stack falls onto the building.

Redevelopment committee member Gary Burnett noted that the lower portion of the stack was "missing a lot of cement" and needed repointing. Dubay and redevelopment committee member Linda Downs-Bembury felt that the town should try to retain the lower portion of the stack if possible to do that safely.

Environmental and engineering consultants Tighe&Bond, Inc. had previously provided an estimate of \$50,000 for removing the stack entirely.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin, noting the \$15,000 just spent on the roof, said that action should be taken quickly to protect that investment.

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo wondered if the town should invest the money in the boiler building when it was not clear there would be a source of potable water for the property.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said she had studied photographs of the stack and driven to the property to look at it. "It's missing a lot of mortar," she said,

see **ERVING** page A5



SAWYER-LAUCANNI PHOTO

The Usher Mill's prominent smokestack is in danger of collapse.

The Montague Reporter

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"Planter" Issue is About Turners' Identity

We were very pleased that the Montague selectboard held a public hearing on the use of the downtown planters as part of their regular meeting on November 18. Their willingness to engage the community in the process of defining what regulations (if any) should be in effect to govern the use of these planters is exactly the right move.

We were also encouraged that a number of folks came to the hearing to express their views. And we were doubly encouraged that the board decided that they could not adopt at this meeting the draft regulations proposed by town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, and building inspector, David Jensen. Clearly the issue needs further discussion.

On the surface, the matter seems fairly trivial. But as many came to realize during the lively discussion on Monday night, the real issue is not whether tchotchkes should be mixed with flowers. What is actually at stake is the identity of downtown Turners Falls.

We acknowledge that many individuals have worked with great dedication to develop the lovely plantings which we enjoy throughout the growing season, and have provided year-round maintenance of the planters. And we are all in favor of planters being used primarily for plants. But just as Turners is hardly uniform, we don't feel that the planters need to be all the same either.

There is no question that Turners is changing. In the last ten years the town has begun a transformation from a down-at-the-heels mill town to a lively center for creative endeavors. The Arts Walks, started by Eileen Dowd and Jack Nelson almost ten years ago, began to awaken folks near and far that this was becoming a community of artists. RiverCulture was born out of those initial endeavors to recreate Turners as a place where creativity could, and would, be an economic driver. And while the process is slow, it is happening. More artists and artisans are setting up shop in Turners. Loot, Nina's Nook and Madison on the Avenue complement this upsurge in the creative arts.

The Livability Study recognized this trend and sought to build on what was already happening here. The recommendations called for a number of additional measures to make the downtown an even more attractive and livable place

that would, in turn, become an important catalyst for the local economy to thrive.

Ideas such as expanding pedestrian access downtown, widening sidewalks, and extending storefronts into the street are positive ideas that speak to enhancing the walk along Avenue A. And if the planters also contain some art, even better.

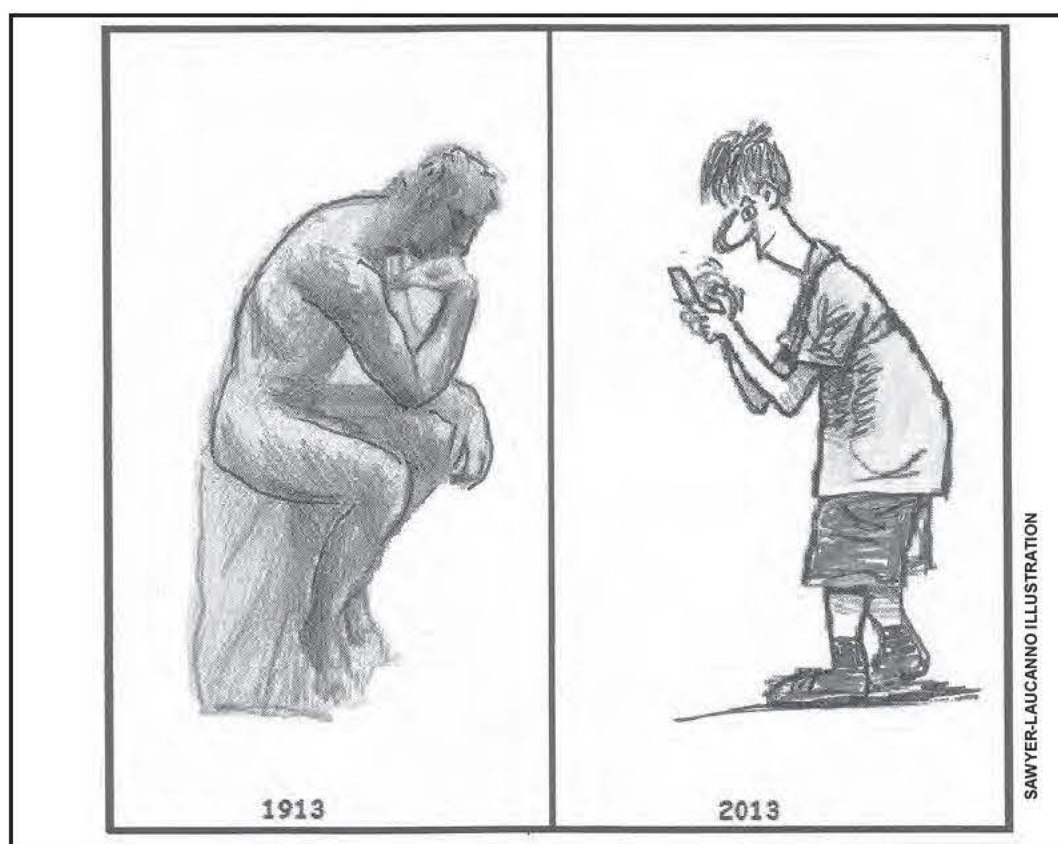
Montague sculptor Joe Landry affirmed this notion when he told the selectboard that tourists aren't going to come to Turners for its horticulture along the Avenue, but for art and expressions of creativity. In our opinion, Joe nailed it. What has been happening downtown is that a number of businesses have created a new look along the streets.

It's not a uniform, cookie-cutter look either. It's wonderfully diverse: Loot, Funk*Shun, 2nd Street Bakery, The Rendezvous, Black Cow Burger, Jake's, Twisters, Great Falls Harvest, Gary's Coins & Antiques, Nina's Nook, Booska's, Avenue A Dental, Kharna Salon, Pipione's, Couture Brothers and Madison on the Avenue, just to name a few, all have distinctive ways of presenting themselves to the public. They are inviting, and folks are noticing. And they're coming. And they're staying. And they're even dropping some much-needed cash into these businesses, and hence into the town.

Now that the bridge is again reopened for two-way traffic, we expect that even more will seek out Turners as a place to shop and dine, and stroll and linger.

We feel that certain guidelines do need to be in place for the downtown, and for the planters. The proposed regulations that prohibit advertising or using the planters to sell items are absolutely just. But we also believe very strongly that creative displays, such as Rodney Madison's, are more in keeping with a new Turners that is fun, and funky, and unique.

We urge the Selectboard to adopt a policy that will allow for a great deal of flexibility in the use of the planters. This is in keeping with all the positive movements that have made and are making the downtown special. It is in keeping with the ideas in the Livability Study. Perhaps most important is that it affirms Turners Falls as a place where change is happening in a constructive, and creative, fashion.



Letters to

the Editors

Open Letter To The FRTA Advisory Board

The Town of Montague Board of Selectmen have unanimously decided to submit public comment in opposition to the abandonment of Route 23 under the proposed 2014 route changes.

This decision comes following a public meeting on October 28 attended by FRTA administration, town staff, and members of the public.

The Board applauds FRTA's efforts to enhance service in Franklin County, but some of the changes in the FRTA proposal could have benefitted from more consultation with the Town of Montague.

We understand that the number of runs per day between Millers Falls and the Transit Center will increase from 8 to 11.

In general, this change will improve service for many users, and the later departure of the last run (7 p.m. vs. 6:30 p.m.) will be helpful for making connections to other routes.

However, the changes, combined with the proposed elimination of Route 23 will have a net negative impact on the public transportation service to Montague.

Montague (pop. 8,437) hosts 12% of the county's population and most of the population is clustered in transit-friendly villages.

As Montague continues to redevelop its village centers and invest in alternative transportation infrastructure, the proposed route changes would remove a backbone transit route -- the only route to

connect the four largest villages of Montague to each other and to Amherst.

This direct connection from Montague (and Greenfield) to Amherst is particularly critical.

Route 23 makes the quality employment and education opportunities of Amherst accessible to Montague residents, particularly for those without access to an automobile.

The 2014 proposal requires two transfers to reach Amherst, and in most cases more than doubles the trip time from the current route, rendering that proposed connection unusable or incredibly inconvenient at best.

There appears to be no viable post-work route from Amherst to Montague.

For example, a 4:30 bus from UMass would get riders to Turners at 5:50 and to Montague Center at 6:05.

UMass employees living in Millers Falls would not get home until after 7:00.

The current low ridership numbers on existing Route 23 can be attributed to much more than a shortage of users:

1) Route 23 has a higher fare than any other route (\$3);

2) Route 23 piggybacks up on trips from Greenfield to Turners;

3) Route 23 has excessively long timechecks.

The combination of these elements, over time, effectively discourages use of the route.

Montague does strongly believe in the mission of regional transportation in Franklin County and that balancing our region's needs with limited funding is extremely complex and challenging.

The Selectmen are willing to work with the FRTA Advisory Board to make appropriate and effective change, but the proposal is not acceptable as it stands.

We believe that route changes of this importance should be part of the collaborative regional planning effort involving planning entities from member towns and the Franklin Regional Council on Governments.

At the very least, the Selectmen urge the FRTA advisory board to consider a scenario where existing Route 23 is enhanced or altered, but not eliminated.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Fairbrother
Chair, Montague Selectboard
Member, FRTA Advisory Board

Two Corrections

In our Leverett Selectboard coverage last week ("Wrangling Over Teacher Salaries Continues," MR Vol.12#07, November 14, pg. A5), we erroneously reported that "the PVTa provides demand response service for the elderly and handicapped to points within Hampshire County, according to Council on Aging member Tanya Cushman, at a cost of over \$1000 per year..."

Cushman wrote to clarify that she did not give this, or any, amount, and that the town of Leverett's current "community assessment" for this service is \$154.

In the same edition, we incorrectly wrote that Suzanne LoManto was offered the position of RiverCulture Coordinator by the town of Montague ("Town Taps RiverCulture Coordinator", pg. A1). Unlike her predecessor, Lisa Davol, who was the RiverCulture Coordinator, LoManto's title is RiverCulture Director.

We apologize for the errors. We will try our best to get the facts right the first time, but when we fall short, which we surely will from time to time, we encourage our readers to set the record straight. Thank you!

What's More Important?

I strongly urge a movement to put preventive fences on the French King and Gill/Montague bridges.

What's more important: a scenic view of "The Rock" or a human life? If that ever gets done then maybe we won't hear from the area people: "We have another jumper."

David Yez
Monmouth, Illinois

WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Local historian, Ed Gregory, presents a slide show of the colossal engineering feat undertaken in the rebuilding of the Turners Falls dam on Saturday, November 23, from 10 to 11:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank.

On Saturday, November 23, there will be a gathering at the Wendell Free Library in memory of **Bob Ellis**, who would have celebrated his 80th birthday on the 22nd. All are welcome. The celebration of his life will include music by "Three Playing For..." a video presentation by Cara Cleveland Cutter, and memories from his brother Joe and others. Afterwards there will be time for food and reminiscing at the library. People who need a more serious meal and/or drinks are encouraged to continue the celebration at the Deja Brew. Zenya will have the new book ready.

WHAI radio's annual **Benefit Breakfast** for the Food Bank of Western Mass. is on Tuesday, November 26. WHAI will open the doors to the studios at 6 a.m. and have a great breakfast spread set up for you to enjoy. Take a tour of the building, meet the radio station staff, and watch Jay Fidanza "in action" live on the air. All WHAI asks in return is a contribution to the Food Bank of Western Mass. Monetary donations are encouraged, but non-perishable food donations are also welcome. The breakfast continues

until 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome. The station is located at 81 Woodard Rd. in Greenfield.

If you are a local business or organization, why not hold a collection at your place of business, then bring it to us on the morning of November 26. You could present your donation to the Food Bank live on the morning show, giving your business or group a little free exposure. For details on the Benefit Breakfast, call WHAI at (413) 774-4301.

Finally a **Thanksgiving Day, November 28, running race** in the Pioneer Valley. DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services present the Sachem Scamper cross-country race in Greenfield Highland Park at 9 a.m. following the GHS XC team course. This will be a lovely way to start the day. Walkers welcome. Overall and age-group prizes including pies and other seasonal treats. There is plenty of time to get to the football game and eat afterwards. Online registration \$15 until 11/25 see www.diasef.org/events.html for details. Day registration starts at 8 a.m. with a \$20.00 fee.

The **TFHSA Alumni Association's All Class Reunion** will be held the day after Thanksgiving, November 29, in the nightclub side of Between the Uprights on Avenue A and Second Street in Turners Falls from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. Alum Lew Collins has again generously offered the use of his facility to the association. There will be music, raffles, munchies, and

lots of socializing and reminiscing. Plan to join and meet the challenge of all TFHS classes to see which class will have the most attendees. This is a free event for all TFHS Alumni. You do not have to be an Association member to attend and help get the word out to your classmates.

Green River Yoga & Movement Arts, 158 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA (above World Eye Books) will be conducting a Viniyoga Flow **Thanksgiving Yoga Fundraiser** to benefit The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, November 30, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Viniyoga Flow is a dynamic, breath-filled style of Hatha yoga in which sequences of postures are woven into a balanced whole-body workout to increase strength, flexibility and body-mind awareness. No yoga experience is necessary to participate in the event. Children ages 10 and older are welcome to practice with their parents. Suggested donation is \$10-20.

Since 1982, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been striving to prevent and alleviate hunger in Franklin, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Hampden counties. In our region, approximately 1 in 8 people suffers from chronic food shortages or needs emergency food assistance, and in some towns, hunger rates are more than 6 times higher than the statewide average. Overall, the number of children and adults served through The Food Bank's emergency food network has increased by 22% since 2006.

The recent cuts to SNAP benefits, effective November 1, have put an added burden on the Food Bank and local pantries and in some cases the elderly and families of low income have seen the assistance cut as much as 50%.

Please be aware of this, and pitch in if you are able.


Join Jennifer Couturier of **We Tell Tales** on Sunday, December 1 at the **Erving Public Library**, 17 Moore Street from 4-5pm. Jennifer will spin interactive tales to bring holidays from around the world to life. A light snack and craft activity will also be available. A free book given to each participant! Sponsored by the Union #28 Community Network for Children and the Erving Public Library. Best for children under 3rd grade. No pre-registration necessary.

Save the date for the third annual **"It's A Wonderful Night,"** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 19 in downtown Turners Falls. There will be caroling, tree lighting, musicians, Santa, and plenty of shopping opportunities, ending with a free movie screening at the Shea Theater at 8:30 p.m.

Last year many businesses had holiday parties, decorated their windows, and/or invited a craftsperson to sell their wares. In order to be listed in the map and promotional materials, please **RSVP by November 29** with details of what you or your business will offer (art show, music, discount, promotion, etc). Please email Erin MacLean at erin@loottheshop.com.

Finally, Montague Catholic Social Ministries has received dozens of **warm, handmade winter hats** in children's sizes through the generosity of the United Way of Franklin County which they would like to share with the community. Please stop by 78 Avenue A on Wednesday or Friday mornings, during Turners Falls Playgroup hours from 9:30 to 12 noon, to pick up a hat if you know a child who could use one!

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Public Art, or "Non-Plant Objects?"

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

MONTAGUE – What is art? This is not the kind of question that one would expect to dominate a local selectboard meeting, particularly in a former mill town on the Connecticut River. But that seemed to be the crux of the issue, at least to some impassioned residents attending the Montague Selectboard meeting on November 19. We are clearly deep into the post-modern era in Powertown.

planter this past summer. These items, sometimes referred to as tchotchkes, seemed interesting and fun but tended to overwhelm the plants. There were also questions of precedent for other planters and whether town property was being used to display items for sale. The Selectboard, in August, asked Madison to "tone it down" pending the development of a policy. Madison thought he had toned it down. Town officials did not and recently ordered him to remove the

effect of the plants and flowers, the plants and flowers must remain the primary focus. Plantings must not be outnumbered by non-plant objects."

As far as enforcement is concerned, the policy proposed that in case of disagreement with a decision of the Planter Committee, "the Board of Selectmen or tree warden as applicable shall hear the appeal of request for an exception and deliver a decision."

This policy and its enforcement seemed to rub the large crowd in attendance the wrong way. Joe Landry, a local artist who has worked with schools and students in the area, made an impassioned defense of "public art." "Is this policy for the horticulturalists or to entice the tourists?" he asked. Landry argued that "people travel the country to see public art" but not to view plants. "That is the more serious part of this conversation." Landry also questioned whether the policy would discourage students from working on the planters.

Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno argued that the proposed guidelines were "too vague": "I would hate to see creativity stifled." Noting there is a "tradition" of putting gnome sculptures in gardens, he suggested that the policy incorporate a "percentage," presumably of objects or space that could be devoted to non-plant items.

Jeanne Golrick, of Millers Falls suggested, as she has done in the past, that the planters or at least some of them, be handed over to students at the Franklin County Technical School. Turners Falls community activist John Furbish noted that in the winter there were virtually no viable plants so it was unrealistic to consider the spaces "just planters."

Rodney Madison suggested that town government had confused the issue of insurance for his sidewalk displays with the planter issue. He stated that he had taken approximately fifteen non-plant items out of his planter but was then told "to pull up everything." He stated after the meeting that he has also purchased the required million dollar insurance policy but that the selectboard has not yet acted on his

request to reinstate his sidewalk display permit.

In response Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio made a distinction between planter objects and public art. "Public art displays should be treated differently," he argued. Linda Hickman, current interim librarian and long time streetscape committee member, stated that involving children in the planters was a great idea that had proven difficult to implement in the past. Building Inspector David Jensen offered to give up the planters he works on to anyone interested, including presumably children. Christa Snyder, a member of the streetscape committee noted that at the current time, two planters are available but they are on the "yucky side of the street."

After more than an hour of discussion the Selectboard decided to put the policy on hold for the time being.



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

Town Hall's hearing room was packed for discussion of the planter regulations.

The issue was a set of guidelines proposed by a semi-official group called the "Streetscape Committee" for the planters on Avenue A in Turners Falls. These planters were created in the 1980s and, for many years did not contain many attractive plants. The lighting was bad, the soil was bad, and the planters contained trees which produced too many roots. The highway department valiantly tried to maintain them with a declining staff. Then, in the '90s, a committee was established. Local organizations and residents were encouraged to adopt planters. After trial, error, and a lot of work, one can now walk down Avenue A in the summer and see plants and flowers. There is also diversity, from the underappreciated hosta to sunflowers and even a few calendula.

So who needs guidelines? The issue arose when Rodney Madison, owner of the store "Madison on the Avenue" placed large numbers of "non-plant objects" in his

objects.

At first glance the policy developed by Building Inspector David Jensen and presented by Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, seemed reasonable and not terribly controversial. A new "Planter Committee" was established to "assume care and custody of Avenue A planters, their aesthetics and to assume the process of facilitating these policies." "These policies" included advising the Selectboard and tree warden, assigning planters to businesses and individuals, distributing "plant materials," and organizing work bees. The committee was not supposed to be an agent of enforcement, a job that was given to the selectboard.

So far so good. But then came the following policy...

"Items that are not plants should be kept to a minimum and not dominate a planter. While the addition of non-plant objects such as rocks, art, tchotchkes, etc. may be used to enhance the overall

Notice of Public Hearing
2014 Montague Community Development Strategy Annual Update
Tuesday, November 26, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.
2nd Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall
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CUMBIE'S from page A1

Town meeting has spoken twice on the issue, apparently preferring a serious effort to renovate the building to demolition. At a special town meeting on May 5, 2012, town meeting was presented with a motion to spend approximately \$30,000 "for the purpose of restoring 38 Avenue A through remediation and roof repair or demolition of the building."

That motion was directly linked to the prospect of leasing the building to MCCI. The meeting passed the motion but removed the demolition option, a move generally considered to reflect support for a renovation by MCCI. The final motion passed by a 58 to 24 vote.

A year later, another special town meeting voted 45-37 to reject a motion to add demolition as an option for use of the previously appropriated funds. So it has seemed town meeting wants an MCCI renovation.

So what's going on with Cumbie's now? The building is not in fabulous shape. The roof continues to leak despite repairs financed by a town appropriation; the walls are wet and moldy. All this for a building that looks like it came off the set of the old TV show "Cannon".

According to Mike Langknecht, chairman of the MCCI board, the issues over the LDA have been resolved. The roadblock now is financing. MCCI applied to several banks, including the Greenfield Savings Bank, for renovation loans but were rejected.

The problem, according to

Langknecht, has been restrictions on the use of the property that accompanied the process by which the EDIC took control.

So-called "Chapter 512 agreements" place limitations on the use of acquired properties (for example, that they be developed for public or cultural purposes). Banks are hesitant to make loans on properties with these restrictions.

In October the EDIC gave MCCI one more month to make progress on financing.

Last Monday, just minutes before that time limit had passed, Langknecht informed Walter Ramsey, the Montague town planner who works with the EDIC, that an organization named "Common Capital" had agreed to accept an application for a loan.

Common Capital is a private non-profit based in Holyoke that, among other things, loans money to small business and private non-profit organizations who find it difficult to obtain financing through traditional methods.

According to their website, "Every dollar that Common Capital deploys is an investment in job creation, opportunity for low income people, essential community services, neighborhood rejuvenation and environmental sustainability."

The organization has assisted a number of businesses in Western Massachusetts ranging from the Amherst Cinema to Lhasa Cafe, a Tibetan restaurant in Northampton.

MCCI has submitted an application to Common Capital for a \$150,000 loan to finance the Cumbie's renovations.

According to Michael Abate, Common Capital's chief operating officer, the organization has received an application from MCCI, kicking in a process that will take four to six weeks.

Abate was positive but of course could make no commitments. The MCCI application is in good shape because the organization has already applied to banks for loans. It appears that the restrictions on the property would be less of a concern to Common Capital than to a commercial bank.

On the other hand, Common Capital would certainly like to see a guaranteed revenue stream for the term of any loan. Currently negotiations between MCCI and Comcast, the main local cable provider, for a new license have not been completed.

Revenue for the local access station will continue during the negotiations and an agreement will eventually be finalized. It is doubtful that another local access entity would take MCCI's place.

Still, an organization like Common Capital would be hesitant to hand out money until the Comcast agreement and the local access assignment are finalized.

Will all this fly with the EDIC? As of this writing, the town planner is attempting to organize a meeting of the organization before Thanksgiving.

GILL from page A1

hike, selectboard member Randy Crochier said he "believed the smoke test won't show up anything that could be impacting this year's rates. The money we owe to the town of Montague we are going to owe to the town of Montague," he said. Crochier and his colleague John Ward noted the district did not presently have enough money on hand to fix any major problems the smoke test might uncover.



Eddie Ambo of the Gill DPW blows smoke into the sewer lines.

Ward said, "The sewer district is very close to operating in the red. At some point, the infrastructure will fail. We probably should have raised the rate more the last time, rather than raising it again a year later."

Two of the three selectboard members, Ward and Ann Banash, who participated in the vote remotely from her Florida vacation home, are ratepayers in the sewer district.

Also on Monday, the selectboard received the second and third installments of a three part energy audit of town buildings from Bart Bales and Bales Energy Associates.

The studies of town hall, Slate Library and the Riverside municipal building, are intended to point the way to cost effective capital improvements to these three buildings, to reduce energy use and costs.

The town has about \$134,000 left from a Green Community grant received from the Department of Energy Resources, and the selectboard intends to discuss the findings of the energy audit with the town energy commission on December 16th before deciding how much of the remaining grant funds to allocate toward energy saving upgrades to these buildings.

Bales recommends converting the Riverside building's heating system from steam heat to hot water, installing a fuel efficient propane gas furnace, and insulating the building's walls and attic.

The Slate Library, due to its cinderblock construction and its designation as part of the historic town center district, is a more complicated structure to retrofit for energy efficiency.

Bales recommends removing the dropped ceiling, insulating the attic space, returning the upper balcony to public use, and perhaps insulating the inside of the concrete walls on the main floor and basement.

The board will join Montague and Leverett in calling on the Franklin Regional Transit Authority to reconsider proposed route changes that would eliminate a direct north-south bus line from Greenfield to UMass Amherst.

At the same time, the board may inquire as to the possibility of restoring some fixed route bus service to the Route 2 corridor through Gill, now that the obstacle of the four year repair of the Gill-Montague bridge is finally removed.

Gill pays a little more than \$6,000 a year in assessment to be part of the FRTA's demand response service, which provides van service for the elderly and handicapped. Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said currently FRTA provides about 200 to 300 one way transports for Gill residents using demand response service to some point in Franklin County.

But the board also recalled the days when Gill received weekday fixed route service with a stop at Riverside on the east west corridor of Route 2, as well as less frequent runs from the Mount Hermon campus to Greenfield for their membership in the regional transit authority.

As the selectboard continues to discuss the potential for community shared solar photovoltaics on the town owned Mariamante property at the corner of Main and West Gill Road, town treasurer Ronnie LaChance told the board she had arranged another one year loan - this time for \$149,100 - from the Greenfield Cooperative Bank, at a rate of .63% interest, for the town's original purchase of the 12 acre lot more than a decade ago.

LaChance said the town has begun paying down that loan, originally for \$245,000, at the rate of about \$13,700 a year for the last five years.

The board hired Debbie Gleason, a Greenfield resident with paralegal background, to be the shared clerical assistant to the planning board, zoning board, board of health and conservation commission at \$13.01 an hour.

The town will invest a \$500 DEP recycling grant to purchase recycling bins and, something new this year, compost buckets, for town residents.

The energy commission hopes to put on a workshop on backyard composting for town residents in the spring, at which the new buckets may be distributed.

Finally, the board signed a letter backing a grant that would allow towns in Franklin County that are members of the new cooperative public health service to access the UMass tick testing center to provide up to 100 free tests of ticks brought in by residents, who may be concerned about the presence of Lyme and other tick-borne ailments.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Tackles Robust Agenda

By JEFF SINGLETON

In addition to dealing with planters and public art, the Montague Selectboard had a large assortment of issues on its plate for the November 19 meeting.

Next John Dobosz of the Parks and Recreation Department came forward to announce a hearing on November 20 at 7 p.m. to listen to public input on an upgrade of Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant.

tentially be funded by Community Development Block Grant funds. There will be more hearings on the park.

At 7:15 the discussion of planter policy began, lasting for a bit over an hour. (See article on the Planters, pg. A3.)

After this discussion, another potential applicant to operate a medical marijuana dispensary in Montague approached the board.

Terence Noonan, who presented the request, noted that Marina Goldman had become involved in the medical marijuana issue as a result of doing hospice work.

pay property taxes or be subject to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement. Noonan stated "that is my understanding but I could be totally wrong."

To advance to Phase 2, ANL had to be vetted by the state and submit a \$30,000 application fee. The company also had to give the state evidence that it had at least \$500,000 in its control and available to ensure that the applicant has sufficient resources to operate.

Next up was Linda Hickman, the new interim library director, with a request that the Selectboard support a \$75,000 Community Innovation Grant for electronic equipment and training.

Police Chief Chip Dodge requested that the board accept the resignations of several police officers, including Chris LaPointe, who are apparently moving on to bigger and better things.

privacy concerns but noted that it was a "once in a lifetime opportunity." The board accepted the resignations, approved a hiring process for LaPointe's replacement and approved the transfer of officer John Dempsey to the position of detective.

DPW chief Tom Bergeron requested that the board approve Dan Poirier as a new groundskeeper. This is an additional DPW position approved by town meeting primarily for work on Unity Park but also to help with non-truck snow removal during the winter.

Town planner Walter Ramsey came before the board seeking the board's approval for a range of issues, including the appointment of Suzanne LoManto as the new Riverculture Director.

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio requested that the Board approve Janel Nockleby as the chair

of the town Historic Commission, approve a 2 AM closing time for establishments on New Year's eve, and approve still more funds for the Berkshire Design Group.

Abbondanzio also discussed the reopening of the Turners Falls Bridge to two-way traffic, noting that there had already been a "soft opening" with a more elaborate celebration planned for the spring.

At the end of the meeting, a selectboard member asked, "What's happening with the Cumbe's building?" or words to that effect. See our article on pg. A1 for the answer.



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CHAMPS from page A1

Mohawk, ranked number two in Western Mass, proved they deserved to be in the game. They took the ball and scored their own TD and the game was knotted at 8.

Turners took over at midfield and marched down the field. The boys in white (Turners was the visiting team), again moved the ball and this time it was Malcolm Smith's turn to score.

Mohawk was unable to score on the ensuing drive and gave up the ball on downs, deep in Turners' territory. Powertown took over at their own 15 and systematically drove up the field and down the other end and as per usual, Turners scored in the final minute of the first half.

But Mohawk was not done yet. They drove down the field and scored just as time ran out and the teams entered the locker room, with Turners leading 22 - 14.

The (soon to be) 9 and 2 Indians took over with good field possession. And coach Lapointe used every down he needed. Going for it on 4th and goal from the 8, Jalen Sanders caught a TD pass from Malcolm Smith and Turners took back the lead.

The Turners' D forced a punt and the offense took over. "We have the only coach who will go for it

on 4th and 14," one of the Turners Falls fans yelled. It was actually 4th and 12 and coach Lapointe decided to go for it. Turners was able to drive up the field with wonderful clock management but the drive stalled at the Mohawk 40.

The offensive line of Turners opened up holes in the Mohawk defense and allowed Trent Bourbeau to get an incredible 190 yards on the ground.

Malcolm Smith was 6 for 8 in passing for 93 yards. The line gave him plenty of time and his receivers made some remarkable catches.

Malcolm Smith and Jalen Sanders each scored a touchdown. Trent Bourbeau had two. Melvin Moreno kicked two PATs.

So where do we go from here? It's uncharted territory. Instead of finishing with a super bowl win and preparing for Turkey Day, Turners has extended their season and has become one of the four best teams in Massachusetts Division VI.



ERVING from page A1

"Let's take the whole thing down and be done with it."

After further discussion with redevelopment committee members, all three selectboard members voted to approve the expense of taking down the upper 16 feet of the stack and stabilizing the remainder.

Goodwin asked Prest and town administrator Tom Sharp to find out if the town could treat the falling bricks as an emergency and hire a contractor without following normal competitive bidding procedures.

He also asked Prest and Dubay to contact other contractors to see if they could find a lower estimate for the work.

Regarding the \$31,000 cost, Dubay said, "Given the overall value of the property, it's not a lot of money." Downs-Bembury, citing the Colony Mill in Keene, NH, which now has a restaurant in a former industrial boiler building with its historic smokestack, said, "Erving could be a destination," after the former Usher Plant is redeveloped.

After completing other business, as the board discussed future agenda items, Klepadlo said, "We do need to have a discussion about water supply at the property."

He noted that, with work proposed by the state for Route 2 over the next two years, it might be possible to locate a water source on the other side of the highway and install piping under the roadway while it was under reconstruction.

Burnett added, "Just a thought... unless you get water in Wendell and it comes across the bridge."

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LYNN PELLAND PHOTO

Anne Harding, Beverly Ketch and Holly Givens joined in Saturday's impromptu parade from Turners Falls to Gill.

BRIDGE from page A1

& Flinker.

By Saturday at noon, an impromptu parade had been organized, by word of mouth and social media, and endorsed by the Montague Business Association, and by the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Gill's Riverside neighborhood, which offered free coffee and ice cream at the parade's finish line.

Enlivened by Turners Falls resident Kevin Smith's tuba, which tooted out the melody to Simon & Garfunkel's "59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)," a small crowd gathered, bearing balloons, signs, masks and noisemakers, to make the trek on the beautiful, clear November day.

Reveler Bill Holbrook, owner of Jake's Tavern on Avenue A, commented: "There's nothing but good about this! I feel like a survivor, at this point. Yesterday, the bridge opened up around 4, and we had a line out the door from 4 to 8!"

"I'm thrilled to death," said Barbara Stewart of Lake Pleasant. "I've been waiting for this day for a long

time."

"My life just got so much better," chimed in Haley Morgan, of Montague City, her voice muffled by a terrifying mask.

Jack Nelson, resident and co-owner of Carriage House Designs on Canal Street, added he was "just so glad it's open. Too many things, besides the taxpayers, paid the price. But it had to be done. You don't build 'em once, and they don't last forever."

"We should have gratitude walks more often," noted singer and performance artist Quickchange, of Turners Falls.

And as cars headed both northbound and southbound tapped their horns — some on their own accord, some prompted by Holly Givens' handmade "2-Way Bridge: Honk 4 Joy" sign — others in the parade turned contemplative, seeing again for the first time the scale of the bridge, its graceful arch over the dammed-up Great Falls, and the stately rows of street lamps lining its railings.

"It's gateway art in itself! This is the most amazing piece of sculpture

around here," said Lisa Davol, marketing and membership manager at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

Frank Abbondanzio, Montague's town administrator, also joined in the parade, which he called "a real spontaneous event — the first of many parties," and "indicative of the community's cohesiveness."

Abbondanzio said that the town has been in discussion with the state about the possibility of having a big ribbon-cutting party on the bridge to mark the job's completion in April or May, and that he has been looking at records from the bridge's original opening celebration in 1938 for ideas.

SPS and its subcontractors, said Abbondanzio, have done "a wonderful job with the bridge, with an eye toward historic preservation. It could have been done in a functional way, but everything was done in a

way that honors the status of Turners Falls as a National Register Historic District."

He also said that the town is looking into the possibility of having binoculars, for sight-seeing, installed on the walkway's cutouts.

Wagon Wheel owner Carol Ann Zaccara, scooping cones for the celebrants, explained that when the bridge project started, "lunch business went down 30% immediately."

Like Turners' shopkeepers, she hopes the restoration of two-way traffic will help shore up business. "We're glad to have the bridge open."

The spirit of the day was summarized by Turners Falls resident Effie Paxton. "I like it," declared Paxton, who had clearly chosen chocolate ice cream, "because now we can walk across it, and drive across it both ways."

"That's a good thing!"



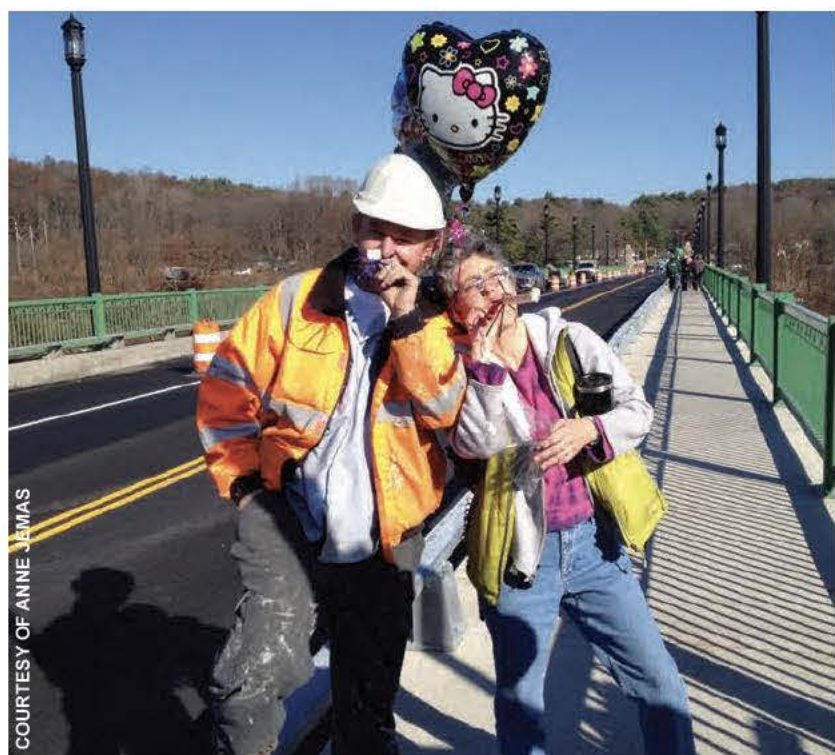
MassDOT Route 2 Improvements Walking Tour

On Saturday December 7, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) staff will be conducting walking tours of portions of Route 2 in Farley and Erving Center. These are locations where safety improvement projects are planned over the next few years. According to MassDOT, concerned citizens are invited to join one or both of these walking tours. This will be a chance to visualize the proposed changes and provide an opportunity to give comments and recommendations while these projects are still in early design.

The proposed work in Farley includes reconstruction from Old State Road to Wheelock Road and includes a bus stop at Maple Avenue with connecting sidewalks to the adjacent neighborhood.

For Erving Center, the design includes a sidewalk to connect Mountain Road to North Street, using retaining walls to cut back and hold the slope. Traffic calming measures being considered for the village center include the possibility of textured colored pavement at some intersections, landscape and gateway treatments to highlight the village center area, solar-activated speed signs, and pedestrian improvements at North Street.

MassDOT staff will meet with interested people at Bridge and Holmes Street at 10 am and at Route 2 and East Prospect Street at noon. Questions can be directed to Tom Sharp at the Erving Town Hall (413) 422-2800, extension 102.



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Irineu Wuitik takes a break from building a giant bridge to celebrate with grateful Turners Falls resident Anne Jemas.

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NOVEMBER 21, 2013

New Group Art Exhibition at the Wendell Free Library



Details of group show at the library.

By RICHARD BALDWIN

For the first time since beginning art exhibitions at the Wendell Free Library, the members of the Library Art Committee are having a group show of their own works. All six members have filled the walls of the Herrick Room Gallery and the two shelves in our display case near the check-out desk. The Gallery displays larger wall pieces, and the case is filled with small mostly three dimensional work. As one could imagine, the range of work is broad. With thirty-five separate works in all, there is something here for everyone to enjoy.

Sylvia Weatherby has two groups of small birds made of felt; one group, "Bird Mobile", is hanging from the ceiling in the Gallery, the

other, "Birds", is in the display case. They add a light note to the Gallery space and fit in well with the pervading nature theme throughout. It is the first time we have used space other than walls and case.

Helen Haddad shows several examples of her potato prints as well as actual potatoes used in the printing process. In "Owl", an almost monochrome print, Helen creates an amazingly convincing image of an owl. Her more fanciful "Bird" is colorful and humorous.

The potato "scraps" in the display case are like art objects themselves reminding one of colorful relics.

Julia Rabin (our Mural artist), who had a wonderful show of her smaller work in the display case this past May and June, shows four

see ART SHOW page B3

DOMIAN PLAYERS: A MOMENTOUS ANNIVERSARY

At 21, Greenfield's Danny Cruz has been the frontman of an intense mud-lightning metal band for a full third of his life. Incubated by a notorious years-long weekly residency at the Brick House in Turners Falls, the ensemble now tours the Northeast regularly and is highly regarded in certain circles. We asked Cruz to reflect on the band's anniversary, and this was his response.

By DANNY MONSTER CRUZ

TURNERS FALLS – Hey Domian Players, Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth fans, this is your main drag queen singer and celebrity gangsta glam rocker electric pioneer Danny Monster Cruz, giving the 411 about the medieval 'DOME!

As I'm sure some of you know, Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth (FDOME) is a glam rock metal jam band from the Turners Falls area. Female fans of FDOME and me call it mud-lightning-metal-with-pop-appeal-electric-danny-cruz-music.

Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth's momentous anniversary is today. Seven years of neon. On November 21, 2006, the band was formed.

To our long-term fans, what do you think about the albums we have released so far? Give us some of your own feedback to our music so far as a band. Have you heard "The Seed of Contempt", "Electric Scary Land", or most importantly "Horny Gaga Dog"?

We are always looking for talented female musicians to join the band; synth players, back up dancers, and fans of rock and roll, met-

al, and Lady Gaga. We play and love all styles of music.

We practice weekly on Thursdays at 5 p.m. at Aiyana, Jeremy, Andrea, and Zack's homestead in Turners Falls called the BioDome. Contact any of us for directions.

We play shows every few weeks that are off the chain! We hope that other bands would ask to play at this venue as well as others in the area such as the Rendezvous or anywhere on the east coast that pays to play shows! We will play any house show, basement show, night club or strip club.

Hey fans, there's a person that I have met at the Brick House during open mics in the past named Jenny. At the Rendezvous the other night I asked her if we could be friends and talked about hanging out in the future! Maybe one day we could hook up! She is into fashion and Lady Gaga and that really rules! I dig it! I hope you, Jenny, will hang out with the band!

I, Danny Monster Cruz, could care less about Ke\$ha's music, I don't think she's very talented. That's my honest opinion! I think that Lady Gaga is very talented, and I think her art direction and lyrical thinking makes her a genius. I think she is the next Audrey Hepburn, a true goddess of artistic talent.



"Imperial Dragon," by Danny Cruz

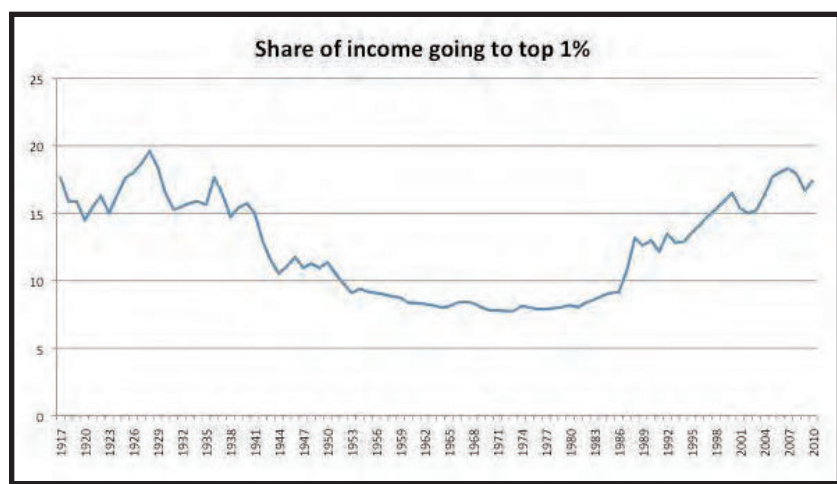
My other influence is the controversial scum punk GG Allin, from the bands the Jabbers and GG Allin and the Murder Junkies. Also, the early nineties god of shock, Marilyn Manson. Our band is inspired to wear drag because of Marilyn Manson, and Gaga inspires our glam element of fashion.

The one and only Frank Hurricane and his solo project Hurricanes of Love is an influence! He was born in North Carolina and he is a musical god of the South! We are also in a sick rap side project with our friend Loren Burke called Stoned Jackals!

I think Lady Gaga is a very positive, unique, and artistic person and I dream that our band can meet Lady Gaga. I want to become

see FDOME page B6

GCC Senior Symposium: Economic Inequality in America



By LEE WICKS

GREENFIELD – It seems as though we've recently created rather genteel language for some of our most challenging social problems. Hunger and the fear of not knowing where your next meal is coming from has become "food insecurity."

The vast divide between people with more money than they will ever need or be able to spend and those who lack food and housing, is called economic inequality.

In a Senior Symposia talk entitled *American Inequality: the 99 and the 1* at the Greenfield Community College downtown campus last week, UMass Professor of Economics Gerald Friedman explained how and why the standard of living for most Americans has been static since the late 1970s, while virtually all income gains

have gone to the wealthy.

"Economic Inequality" strikes me as a bland way to describe a system that enables Paris Hilton to build a \$35,000 home for her dog at the same time that, as a member of the audience pointed out, 90 homeless families have recently been housed in motels in Greenfield.

Professor Friedman showed a slide of the famed doghouse, and another demonstrating that the super-rich can actually drink cocktails flecked with gold.

He told stories of hedge fund managers betting hundred-dollar bills on the arrival time of office building elevators. He built a strong case against excess, and juxtaposed images of opulence with photographs of people living without homes in American cities.

But, then he turned towards the real source of extraor-

dinary wealth, and it's not from working. "Yes, heart surgeons, and sports figures and some CEOs earn tremendous salaries, but that is not where the money is – not the billions that get someone listed in Forbes Magazine as one of the 400 wealthiest Americans," he said.

"In 1990, a person needed to earn 6,000 times the average American income to make that list," he said, adding, "Today it takes 22,000 times the average family income to see your name in print in Forbes. Millionaires don't make it. You need a billion at least."

Speaking of averages, according to Professor Friedman, 60 percent of Americans don't own stock, and the average 401k retirement plan is just \$35,000. And there was more sobering news:

- 40% of Americans will experience a year of poverty between ages 25 and 60.

- 54% will spend a year of poverty or near-poverty (below 150% of poverty line).

- 80% will experience welfare, near-poverty, unemployment.

see GCC page B4

A True Blast From The Past



DRESSER PHOTO

Stone Dresser, of Montague, blows the historic conch shell in front of the Montague Congregational Church.

By LILLIAN FISKE

MONTAGUE – In the foyer of the Montague Congregational Church is a small table. On it is a glass case containing a conch – pronounced *conk* – shell.

This shell is well over 250 years old, as it belonged to the Clap family on Federal Street until it was purchased by the District for one pound 10 shillings in 1759.

This shell was blown at the Meeting House for forty years, until it was voted to build a belfry and a bell was purchased from Cabotville, now called Chicopee.

I find no record of what happened to the bell when the members of the orthodox Church tore down the meetinghouse.

They had not had a minister for two years, and were afraid the Baptist congregation would take over the building.

I assume it must have been damaged as, when the present brick church was completed in 1834, the congregation was called by the shell.

The current bell was cast in East Medway by Holbrook & Son in 1870. Conch is a common name that applies to a number of different medium-sized sea snails or their shells. The King conch is found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.

The shells range from white to red in color. The shell at our church was probably white, but now has a gray cast.

Fossils indicate that the conch first appeared about 65 million years ago. Evidence

shows that the shell was used 3,000 years ago for cooking pots, chisels, knives, scrapers, hooks, earrings, buttons and pendants. The shell was used in Europe to carve cameos.

Today the shell is used in Tibetan Buddhism to call together religious assemblies. During the actual practice of rituals, it is used as a musical instrument and as a container for holy water.

These very historic shell horns have been used throughout the world as seafaring horns since the dawn of sailing ships. The British Navy used these horns for over 500 years. They are still found on British yachts.

The meat of these shells is used for food. Meat can be used raw or in salad, or cooked as in fritters, chowder, gumbo and burgers. In East Asian countries this seafood is cut thin and then steamed or stir fried.

While Stone Dresser is blowing our conch to call our congregation for special services, perhaps a white-coated waiter in Bermuda is serving a tourist conch chowder; while a bride in Hawaii is opening a wedding gift of a colorful conch, which according to legend assures her of a prosperous and happy future; and it is not hard to visualize a monk in a monastery dipping his hand into holy water from a conch shell as he baptizes an infant.

Pet of the Week



“Sweet Pea”

Purr purr purr! My name is Sweet Pea and boy, do I live up to that name! I will be the first to greet you

when you come to visit and if you sit down, you better be ready for me to crawl into your lap, because I will! You will never be able to find a kitty more affectionate than I! I do not even mind being picked up and carried around!

Aside from loving the company of people, I am also in good company with other cats! And just look at my face and cute mouth! Looks kind of like I have a milk mustache! If I haven't convinced you yet, stop in to meet me! I will have you sold after a short visit!

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org

**Senior Center Activities
November 25 to 29**

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 11/25

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 11/26
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Sing Along with MorningStar

Wednesday: 11/27

10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening
12 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday: 11/28

Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday: 11/29
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

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

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregated meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

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

Monday 11/25

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 p.m. Movie
Tuesday 11/26
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank Craft Project
Wednesday 11/27
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Bingo
Thursday 11/28
Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday 11/29
9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).
Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

NOTES FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Poaching And Extortion

Monday, 11/4
6:40 am. Assisted District Attorney's office with arrest of Main Road resident.
3:20 p.m. Neighbor dispute on Walnut Street over property lines and a mailbox.
6:22 p.m. Possible jumper reported headed for the French King Bridge. Subject not located.
Tuesday, 11/5
3:50 p.m. Possible poaching reported on Ben Hale Road. Under investigation.
5:05 p.m. Welfare check

on French King Highway resident.
Wednesday, 11/6
7:05 a.m. Suspicious activity reported on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge the previous evening at 11:30 p.m.: past assault & battery.
3:25 p.m. Phone extortion reported by Riverview Drive resident.
6 p.m. Suspicious male walking on Center Road. Checked OK.
6:20 p.m. Motor vehicle reported causing a disturbance at the Mobil Station. Gone upon

arrival.
7:45 p.m. Reported suicidal youth located on Facebook. Officer assisted same.
9:10 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with barricaded, armed suspect. (See Montague Reporter Vol.12#07, "Turnpike Road Standoff Ends Peacefully")
Thursday, 11/7
8:25 a.m. Reported erratic operation of motor vehicle, passing a school bus on Main Road.
11:25 a.m. House alarm at Hill Drive residence.

Friday, 11/8
4 p.m. Resident reported harassing behavior on Facebook.
Saturday, 11/9
3:45 p.m. Past domestic disturbance on Walnut Street reported. Under investigation.
9:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road. No injuries.
Sunday, 11/10
5 p.m. Subject reportedly headed to the French King Bridge to jump. Located same and transported.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

The Many Varieties of Hepatitis



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. How many kinds of hepatitis are there?

Your liver helps your body digest food, store energy and remove poisons. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that makes it stop working efficiently.

Hepatitis is usually caused by a virus. There are five main hepatitis viruses--types A, B, C, D and E. There are several other causes of hepatitis.

Some people who have hepatitis have no symptoms. Others may have loss of appetite, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, fever, muscle and joint pain, diarrhea, dark-colored urine, pale bowel movements, stomach pain, and jaundice.

Hepatitis A
Hepatitis A virus (HAV) is in the feces of infected persons. It is most often spread through contaminated water or food. Hand-washing can prevent the spread of this virus. Many cases of HAV infections are mild; most people with HAV make a full recovery and remain immune to it. However, HAV can be life threatening. Safe and effective vaccines are available to prevent HAV.

Hepatitis B
Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infec-

tions range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks, to a serious long-term illness that can lead to liver scarring (cirrhosis) and cancer. HBV usually gets better on its own after a few months.

It is transmitted through contact with infectious blood, semen, and other body fluids from having sex with an infected person, sharing contaminated needles for injecting drugs, or from an infected mother to her newborn.

Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all infants, older children and adolescents who were not vaccinated previously, and adults at risk for HBV.

Hepatitis C
Hepatitis C virus (HCV) usually causes a chronic condition that can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer. Hepatitis C virus is mostly transmitted through exposure to infected blood. Sexual transmission is also possible, but is much less common. It can also spread from mother to baby during childbirth. There is no vaccine for HCV.

Usually, hepatitis C does not get better by itself. The infection can last a lifetime. Medicines sometimes help. Serious cases may need a liver transplant.

Hepatitis D
Hepatitis D virus (HDV) infections occur only in those who are infected with HBV. The dual infection of HDV and HBV can cause a more serious disease. Hepatitis B vaccines provide protection from HDV. HDV is transmitted through contact with infected blood. Hepatitis D is uncommon in the United States.

Hepatitis E
Hepatitis E virus (HEV) usually does not lead to a chronic infection.

It is caused by ingesting fecal matter in contaminated water or food. HEV is a common cause of hepatitis outbreaks in developing parts of the world. It is rare in the United States. Safe and effective vaccines to prevent HEV infection have been developed but are not widely available.

Alcoholic hepatitis
Alcoholic hepatitis is likely to affect people who drink heavily for a long time, but not all heavy drinkers develop it. Moderate drinkers can get alcoholic hepatitis. If you have this form of hepatitis, you must stop drinking; it can be fatal.

Women have a higher risk of developing alcoholic hepatitis than men do. Other factors which may increase your risk include: type of beverage (wine is less risky than beer or liquor), binge drinking, obesity and being African-American or Hispanic.

Toxic hepatitis
Toxic hepatitis is from exposure to over-the-counter pain relievers, prescription medications such as cholesterol-lowering statins, herbs and supplements, and industrial chemicals. Alcoholic hepatitis can be included in this category.

Autoimmune hepatitis
Autoimmune hepatitis is inflammation that occurs when your body's immune system attacks your liver. Untreated autoimmune hepatitis can lead to cirrhosis and liver failure. When treated early, autoimmune hepatitis often can be controlled with drugs that suppress the immune system.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.org

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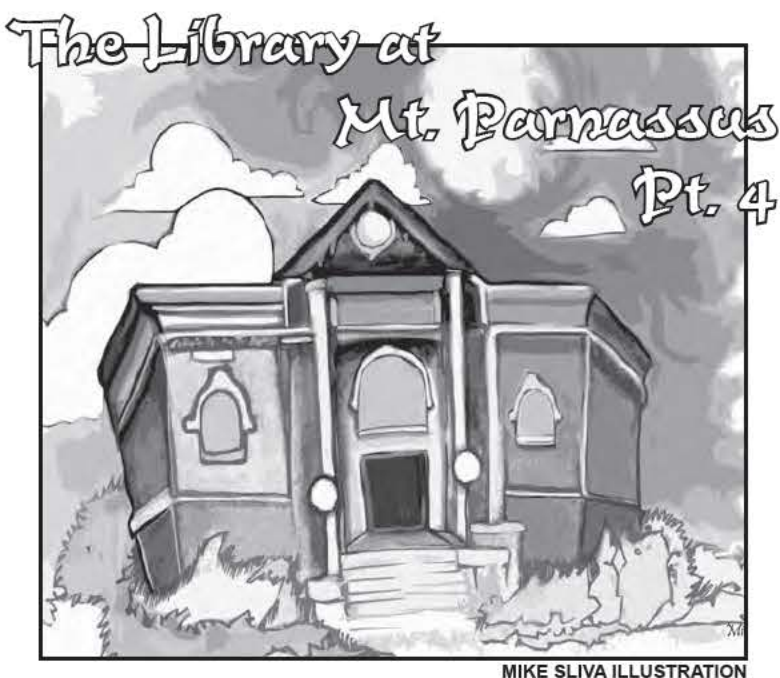
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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Rancor in the reading room. Tony's slash-and-burn recital of the Town Meeting Notes from the Attic Times has set Orville off again. But Cadmus remains unmoved...



By DAVID DETMOLD

“Tony!” cried Orville in a choked voice as he climbed half way out of his seat. “I asked you... I asked you not to... you m-m-mother.... you m-m-mother...”

“Oh, please,” laughed Tony, wiping at his forehead.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw Melantha, in the other room, at her perch behind the main desk, turning slowly toward us on her high backed stool.

Come to think of it, we had only Tony's word on it that he was an economist. What is an economist anyway? We all knew he did something down at the University.

Perhaps he was merely a grad student in economics, one of those perpetual scholars who slowly pass the years away, sifting through their theses in a gathering detritus of dust and dandruff until they die. Or perhaps Tony was just a student of economics in a general sense, as we all are, even I, in my own small way, looking through the want ads in the library, searching for a job.

Suddenly, Melantha spoke:

The proof of days lies in the quotient

Subtracted from love's blind emotion

Remaindered with the little sum
Left to us when day is done.

In the silence that followed, we could hear Orville's bones rattling as he jounced his knees against the bookshelf in the corner. His ragged copy of Life Magazine had slipped to the floor.

“Is she OK?” I whispered to Cadmus.

At the main desk, Melantha was staring off into space, her black eyes void of expression. I kept my eyes on her, half hoping she would notice me. In the lamplight, her dark hair fell about her shoulders like a shroud, her red dress glowed.

“I've never heard her go off like that before,” I said quietly.

“Sometimes she does,” replied Cadmus, noncommittal.

The flames crackled in the fireplace.

Cadmus stretched out his legs and parked his heels on the fender, his boots mapped with scars and gullies, like the watercourses of the badlands.

“What do you make of that?” I asked him in a low tone. “That obscure quatrain?”

Cadmus glanced up at me with desolate gray eyes. “Melantha don't like nobody throwin' out the paper,” he said, “without everbody's had a chance to read it yet.”

That makes sense, I thought. He spit into the fire.

Melantha fascinated and intrigued me. Lately I found myself wondering if the real reason I was checking out so many books this winter was to catch up on my reading list or whether I was just looking for more excuses to check out the new librarian.

I wandered over to the main desk to talk to her some more.

“Hey,” I leaned over the counter. “What's the story with that crack in the front steps, anyway? What are they so concerned about? A little thing like that. I mean, two thousand dollars! Two thousand dollars could go a long way towards new library materials in a town like this.”

There seemed to be a sort of mist rising from the floorboards behind her.

“Melantha?”

She was still gazing off into space, but I thought her gaze came close enough to mine to almost make me hope she might be interested in what I had been saying.

All the same, I couldn't help glancing over my shoulder to see what she was looking at.

The chandelier in the lobby was turning slowly on its chain, its lights flashing brilliantly against the backdrop of the chipped and yellowed plaster walls. Through the heavy glass double doors, I could hear Lucius singing as he worked away in the vestibule. His high, pure voice rang off the curving walls and ceiling, rising higher and higher in a glittering glissando until it finally resolved itself in one long earsplitting note that set the chandelier spinning and the quarter panes ablaze in the ocular window high in the gable wall above the outer doors.

“Would you like the complete story?” asked Melantha, in a dreamy sort of voice. “Or a synopsis?”

So, she'd been listening to me after all!

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Two Car Crashes, And Some Internet Fraud

Friday, 11/8
8:50 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Long Plain Road. ■■■■■, ■■■■■, ■■■■■, backed out of his driveway and collided with ■■■■■, ■■■■■, of Northfield. Both Subarus sustained damage but were able to continue under their own power. ■■■■■ was issued a written warning for failure to yield.
Tuesday, 11/12
2:58 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle parked

in the woods off Cave Hill Road. Gone upon arrival. 3:54 p.m. Walk-in reported an unattended campfire at a Montague Road address. Resident advised to extinguish it.
Wednesday, 11/13
9 a.m. A North Leverett Road resident reported possible Internet fraud. Subject advised.
4:50 p.m. A Long Plain Road resident complained of a tree stand and game camera found on her property. Subject notified

environmental police, and advised to post her property.
Thursday, 11/14
9:19 p.m. Backed up Shutesbury Police with a domestic disturbance on Pelham Road. Subject arrested and booked at Leverett PD.
Monday, 11/18
5:40 p.m. Local farm stand owner turned in a wallet belonging to a Wendell resident. Subject located and wallet returned.

Wednesday, 11/20
11 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Montague Road. ■■■■■, ■■■■■, of Montague Road lost control of his Ford Focus while traveling westbound, and skidded into a tree and down an ■■■■■ embankment. ■■■■■ transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital by Sunderland Fire Department ambulance. Vehicle totaled and towed.

ART SHOW from pg B1

works in the Herrick Room as well as smaller pieces in the display case. The larger work, “Untitled Oil Pastel”, is made of woven blue painted paper. The three smaller paintings also in oil pastel, “Brighton Beach”, “Tornado” and “Rocks” are elegant minimalist landscape compositions, more somber and mysterious.

Phyllis Lawrence has several larger fabric works in the Herrick Room. She exhibits a combine made of woven fabric and found objects in “Remains of the Day”. It is reminiscent of a well composed scrapbook of tactile memories, a fantasy attic of natural materials.

On the opposite wall she shows one two part hooked wool piece, “Homage to Sea, Stone, and Andy Goldsworthy”, and a larger quilted work. The images are of stones, lily pads and flower, all skillfully done in subdued, earthy colors.

The row of stones have a black line snaking through them, a nod to a Goldsworthy piece. Her quilted work, “Forest Glen”, is a landscape composition with a rectangular center area of curving tree forms set

against a blue patterned sky. This area is on a background cross of fabric of pebbles and corner squares of fabric printed with images of stones.

Richard Baldwin exhibits three realist oil paintings, two still lifes and one landscape. The two still lifes are vividly colored and are composed of images arbitrarily arranged. “Six Easy Pieces,” oil on board, is a combination of six areas. A green pepper leans against a burnt sienna colored brick on top of which is an oversize piece of popcorn and a square shape of orange macaroni and cheese. These four images rest on a table top against a dark green ground.

Another brightly colored painting, “Sisters”, is of three close up images of irises. The third painting is more somber and impressionist, a landscape dark in the foreground with light from the sun permeating the whole from the back.

Annie Souza exhibits an unusual piece, “Wood That I Did”, a vertical pine board in which she has used the grain of the wood and the knots so commonly seen as foils for a fanciful composition of moths, butter-

fly and insects that exist inside the wood itself. She has transformed the experience we all have of ‘seeing figures in knots’ as children into a mystical and whimsical piece of art. Her use of colored pencil and watercolor make for colors that while vivid work well with the color of the wood. In the display case Annie exhibits a small ceramic piece, “Funny Funnel,” which is exactly that.

The two tiered display case is filled with small to tiny works too numerous to detail here. Twenty pieces fill the shelves and range from “Mouse Thieves Book and Illustrations,” a book by Phyllis Lawrence, to a “Pile of Painted Twigs” by Baldwin, to a basket by Julia Rabin. These small pieces are done in many materials and run the gamut from serious to silly.

Please stop by and see this unusual show.

The show runs from November 10 through January 20 in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library. Hours: Tuesdays, 3 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays noon to 2 p.m.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Dog, Goats, Door, Needles, Raccoon: Not Where They Should Be

Monday, 11/11

8:48 a.m. Call from a Nashville, TN man complaining that his mother, who lives in Gill, refuses to return his dogs to him. Referred to Gill PD.

5:50 p.m. Investigated suspicious dumping in dumpsters at new Greenfield Co-op Bank site on Avenue A. Dumper stated he was on the job there.

Tuesday, 11/12

7:59 a.m. Investigated pile of leaves left in road on Coolidge Avenue.

10:27 a.m. Loose goats in neighbor's yard on East Chestnut Hill Road again. Owner located; will repair fence.

6:53 p.m. Small brush fire on Turners Falls Road. TFFD responded.

7:10 p.m. Avenue A

resident returned home to find rear door to house open and off the hinges. No other damage observed. Landlord advised.

7:30 p.m. Neighbor disturbance/concern for child welfare on Fourth Street. Investigated; reported to DCF.

Wednesday, 11/13

1:35 a.m. A summons was issued for a Turners Falls man on charges of domestic assault and battery; intimidating a witness; and malicious destruction of property over \$250.

4:02 a.m. Recurrence of neighbor dispute on Grout Circle.

8:20 a.m. TFFD conducted an odor investigation on Avenue A.

2:04 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Second Street.

4:28 p.m. Car struck and damaged by large buck in Montague Center. Unable to locate buck.

Thursday, 11/14

7:08 a.m. Two vehicles vandalized on Fifth Street. 10:49 a.m. Needles retrieved from trash of bathroom at F.L. Roberts.

7:39 p.m. Witness report of assault and battery in Millers Falls.

Friday, 11/15

6:19 a.m. Deer struck and killed by vehicle on Turners Falls Road.

5:13 p.m. Caller reported that traffic speed on Avenue A has increased since the reopening of the bridge. (See story, A1.)

Saturday, 11/16

11:58 a.m. Officer on scene of small parade across Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. (See story, A1.)

12:20 p.m. Complaint

regarding horse trailers being parked on both sides of Old Northfield Road, making it difficult for vehicles to pass through. Services rendered.

Sunday, 11/17

12:00 a.m. Loud noise complaint regarding party on Grove Street. Party spoken to.

10:58 a.m. Report of raccoon running through yard on North Street. Advised of options.

4:36 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road, a summons was issued on charges of attaching plates to a motor vehicle; uninsured motor vehicle; operating an unregistered motor vehicle; miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violation; and having no inspection sticker.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Phone Scams

Phone Scams	Wednesday, 11/13	court warrants.
Tuesday, 11/12	3:40 p.m. Assisted	Friday, 11/15
3:16 a.m. Alarm at Christina's Restaurant, Route 2. Checked same. All secure.	at scene of medical emergency on Prospect Heights Lane.	10:05 a.m. Alarm at Mountain Road. Found to be secure.
2 p.m. Report of suspicious male walking in area of Forest Street. Gone upon arrival.	6 p.m. Resident at station to report stolen dog. Found to have happened in Northfield. Subject advised to contact Northfield PD.	Saturday, 11/16
2:15 p.m. Resident at station to report phone scams. Investigation confirmed scam. Resident advised.	Thursday, 11/14	5:30 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at old paper mill on Papermill Road. Patrolled area.
	3:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted], for	Sunday, 11/17
		5:15 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Northfield Road.

GCC from page B1

• Half of our country's children will depend on food stamps.

The vast wealth of the super rich does not trickle down to alleviate the suffering of the poor or even the struggles of the diminishing middle class, and raising income taxes on wealthy people would not help; their money comes mostly from investments, said Friedman.

"If you wanted to generate revenue from the rich," he said, "you would tax the financial activities of the super-rich, the buying and trading that result in these fortunes."

That is, if you can locate the money, since much of it is hidden in offshore tax havens, the professor added, noting that, as Mitt Romney reminded us when asked about his offshore holdings, this is perfectly legal.

Heads nodded; taxing financial activity seemed like a fine idea. But wait; these same wealthy people and corporations (that now count as people when campaign contributions are tallied) are pouring millions into campaigns for conservative candidates committed to lowering taxes for the rich, reducing environmental regulations, and eliminating programs that keep poor people fed and housed. How would this progressive tax legislation ever get passed in the current environment of partisan politics?

It was illuminating to learn that under the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower the tax rate for the rich was 92 percent. It was interesting to learn that the tax cuts helping the wealthiest people were instituted under the Carter administration. In addition, the detailed charts and graphs did a fine job of building Friedman's case against the 400 and the policies that have made their success possible.

But, at a certain point, I lost interest in the 400. I felt a bit like some-

one reading *People Magazine*, with all kinds of inside information into the lives of the rich and famous, and I felt myself thinking, I don't care about those people. I heard this reaction from others afterwards.

A student taking a semester-long course with professor Friedman would have time to slowly absorb the mounting case that made our future as a nation seem so grim. In a class, or perhaps a future presentation, there would be time to discuss the other 99 percent, the group most affected by this vast inequality.



Prof. Friedman.

How many people working full time need food stamps, for instance? And I'd like to see a chart comparing the costs of housing and health care with average wage gains over the last twenty years.

Finally, I'd like to understand why people with such wealth and power seem to be waging a vicious war on the poor. Perhaps I need a sociology class for this question.

Professor Friedman then talked about the need for a living wage, not simply a minimum wage. He touched on the consequences of outsourcing, noting that if someone has an MRI at Baystate, it is probably read in India!

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on November 20, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Developers Tour Erving's Usher Mill

Visions of brewpubs were dancing in the heads of some of the developers and town officials walking through the sagging corridors of the old Usher Mill on Friday. The Housen family, which currently owns the seven-building complex, has offered it to the town of Erving for a dollar in exchange for forgiving the back taxes.

The first and most obvious hurdle to any future use of the mill, which has been abandoned since 1990, is the 12'4" railroad overpass over the only entrance to the site. Town sewer lines run under that road, so it can only be lowered a few feet. The tour ended with a catered lunch from the Box Car Diner at the Erving town hall.

Uncrossable Bridge

Fire chief Gene Beaubien told the selectboard Monday night that the plank bridge on Vassar Way, a privately maintained road, would not support large fire equipment, a problem that has existed "for probably twenty years." "I'm not taking a 200,000-pound fire truck with six people over it," he said.

He reported on the problem after a resident, Ellen Johnson, said that when she had been notified her home insurer was going out of business, she found that insurers have become more restrictive since the California fires, the 9/11 attack, and other disasters. Selectmen took the matter under advisement pending contact with town counsel.

Parking Lot? Sculpture Garden?

"Eliminating this last blight from Turners will spur the development

of downtown," said Montague selectboard member Allen Ross, during a public hearing on the proposed demolition and cleanup of the collapsed garage at Third and Canal Streets.

The property is now in tax title. If a federal EPA Brownfields grant comes through, the town will take it over to oversee its cleanup.

One proposal is to turn it into a parking lot, which could help revitalize the canal district, particularly the Strathmore Mill. Another idea mentioned was to create a sculpture garden.

Tighe and Bonde reported an initial surface assessment found arsenic, barium, cadmium, mercury, and small amounts of PCBs.

Loose Horse

Police responded to a call reporting a loose horse on Hatchery Road in Montague Center. The horse's owner was notified.

Project Unspeakable: This Friday in Leverett

LEVERETT – The Leverett Peace Commission Presents Project Unspeakable, a dramatic presentation of the meaning and circumstances of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy at the Leverett Elementary School, this Friday, November 22 at 7 p.m.

Project Unspeakable is a play written by Court Dorsey and associates that tells the whys and wherefores of these assassinations, using the documented words of the real historical persons who were involved in these events.

Through the medium of live theatre, the intention is to challenge the silence that for decades has surrounded the "unspeakable" assassinations of these major public figures. In so doing, it intends to shed light on the "unspeakables" of today such as the NSA spying. In the

broadest sense, Project Unspeakable is an attempt to liberate the truth, so that the truth can liberate us.

The authors and producers plan hundreds of performances around the country in the tradition of The Vagina Monologues and The Laramie Project. The nationwide launch will take place on Nov. 22, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy. The first performance in the Valley will be in Leverett as a semi-staged reading. The reading will be followed by an opportunity for discussion.

Ingrid Askew directs the production. Readers include: Barbara Tiner, John Sheldon, Carlie Tartakov, Paula Green, Rose Sackey Milligan, Jim Perkins, Tom Wolff, Amilcar Shabazz, Tim Bullock, Gary Gruber, Barry Brooks, Peter Daniell, Jenny Daniell, Pat Fiero, Portia Weiskel, and Alice Scheffey.

He connected the demise of the labor unions with wages and benefits, but there was just not enough time to delve deeply into the inter-related issues that would explain all the bad news on the graphs.

Towards the end, he tried to offer hope and rally people towards action. He cited past political movements that resulted in dramatic social change, like the abolition of slavery.

In the last slide he outlined what he feels needs to happen to restore the American Dream:

- Restore the minimum wage
- Reregulate the financial sector
- Promote collective bargaining
- Prevent managerial interference with unionization
- Restore the social safety net
- Restore tax equity

That's an impressive wish list. But Professor Friedman had made such a strong presentation about the power and influence of the 1 percent that I left without much hope at all.



Wendell Holiday Fair to Benefit Swift River Music and Arts

The Wendell Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8, from 10 to 4 p.m. at Wendell Town Hall.

The Holiday Fair will again be a fundraiser for the Swift River School Music and Art departments.

Local artisans, farmers and crafts people will be exhibiting

their wares for you to purchase.

All proceeds from the raffle, vendor tables, and luncheon will go to the Swift River School.

Last year the committee gave the school over \$2,200 from the Fair, and we hope to do even better this year.

On Saturday, Ed Hines and a wonderful group of children will

be entertaining with winter songs around noon.

On Sunday at 1 p.m. the Wendell Chorus will again bring their goose bumps and magic to the hall.

Lunch is served from 11:30 to 2 p.m. Hot cider is provided by Wendell Meeting House all day.

Tea, coffee, cocoa and snacks are available throughout the day.

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ONGOING: EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center,

Turners Falls: *Changing Coastlines*, oil paintings by Paula Tessier on display in the Great Hall through November 30th. Great Falls Discovery Center is open Fridays and Saturdays, 10 to 4 p.m.



Instrumentalist Ralph White performs, with openers Frozen Corn and Frank Hurricane, at the Montague Bookmill on Saturday, November 30th at 8 p.m., \$6.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Painting The World Happy*, work by Denyse Dar on display through November 23.

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, *Du Bois In Our Time*, exhibit continues through December 15.

AUDITIONS:

ARENA Civic Theater: auditions for *Hell and High Water* at Jones Library, Amherst, Tues., Nov 26, 7 p.m. (final time)

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Hour: Turkeys!* For children ages 3-6 and their adults. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Project Unspeakable a dramatic presentation of the meaning and circumstances of the assassinations of JFK, Malcolm X, MLK, and RFK, at the Leverett Ele-

mentary School, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Peachy's*, Americana blues, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *T. Wraight, J. Eckerson & Friends*, rock and roll. Free, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Mark Nomad Band*, highly dance-able blues and funk, 8 p.m.

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Guerilla Toss, Zach Phillips, Arkm Foam, Zebu!, Anthro Rex, Fat Creeps*. Big benefit for the victims of the Route 9 Hadley fire, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Little Drummer Craft Fair, Franklin County Technical High School, Turners Falls. Over 60

artists and craftspeople from the Pioneer Valley and beyond presenting their unique handcrafted products. Refreshments by culinary students. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Investigators: Beavers!* Geared toward grades 2 to 5. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Christa Joy*, folk, & *Susan Cattaneo*, country rock, 7:30 p.m.

Parsons Hall Project Space: 362 Dwight St. Holyoke. Opening/screening for *Lake Hitchcock Center for the Book Arts Magazine: The Uncanny Pioneer Valley*, feat: Neil Young Cloaca, Diagram: A, Alicia Renadette, and work of 42 other artists! 7 to 10:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Rogues*, traditional Irish, Americana, bluegrass, Dylan, The Band and more, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *AfterGlo*, current and classic hits, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dr. Who 50th Anniversary* -- on big screen. Afternoon (call for time).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Shelton-Up Close & Personal*, 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: student directed one act plays, *Phantasma*, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Shelburne Falls: *Moonlight Magic*, open studios, music, crafts throughout the village, parade of lights at 5:15 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Women's Collective*, 6 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Jonathan Stevens and Hank Berry, Jefferson Berry* preserves perfect rhythm on guitar, \$, 7 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Scream To Be Heard Entertainment* all ages show. 7:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Brick House, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls: *H'Art & Soul presents Wishbone Zoe*. Suggested donation for adults; children under 17 free. 1 to 2 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Mist-Covered Mountain Concert, Molly Hebert-Wilson, Max Cohen, and Donna Hebert*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Ralph White & Frozen Corn*, \$, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: GCC student music performance *Contemporary Music and Chorus Ensembles*, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* poetry reading featuring Kate Hanson Foster & Karen Skolfield, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Mostly Martha*, \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie: Natural Music School, food songs, 7 p.m. Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *John Statz*, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *James Montgomery*, \$, 9 p.m.



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THANKFUL

Living from paycheck to paycheck brings to mind one Thanksgiving when we did not get paid until Friday. The company we worked for provided a turkey for us, which we received on Wednesday, but no paycheck. We all may have similar stories and remember them as though they happened yesterday.

The Bible says: "Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5)

This of course is the feeding of the 5,000 with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. The evidence convinces the disciples they could not feed that many people.

Jesus had other plans.

The Bible says: "And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down, and likewise the fish." (John 6:11)

Jesus the Provider fed the entire crowd to the point of satisfaction, and gathered up the fragments, totaling 12 baskets.

This event shows us that Jesus Christ is most dependable to meet our daily needs.

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FDOME from page B1

friends with her and open for her on tour someday. I have similar political beliefs and spiritual agenda to hers: I accept the junkies as people, and I accept people with disabilities!

I like people to be non-conformists and I like women with emotional disabilities who are flirtatious and outgoing! I am interested in knowing more about the human condition.

Frank is dating a wonderful woman named Kristin and everyone enjoys being around Frank and Kristin, and all people think that Bob is an amazing guy and a messiah to all of us. His dog Sookie is a standard French poodle.

I really miss Coco and Mary, and I know they are on their long spiritual journey in Ontario, I really respect those guys and think they are great people. I think Loren Burke is the awesome savior; he is my everything.

I love Andrea as a friend because she is warm and welcoming and likes playing synth music with me! I like Jeremy Latch, who is a hard workin' man and a cool guy who plays in some awesome bands such as Bang Tail Cat and Haute Larvae as well. I love that he is into Tom Petty.

We love the one and only Nick Williams. We think he is off the chain!

We love Corey, but we think that he has an addiction to a fascist

MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD



PHOTO COURTESY FRANK BARRETT-MILLS

During a down time during the Host International Food Show in Milan, Italy, Master Chef Frank Barrett-Mills (middle) of Montague discusses the news back home with Chef Andrea De Dea (right) and Chef Morgan Pasquel (left). They especially liked the restaurant ads.

board game called Settlers of Catan, but that doesn't mean that he is a fascist! He is a cool guy and he doesn't like fascism and dictatorships. We all think that they are evil and not good to the world.

Settlers of Catan is about the slave trade of the Westernized world and imperialism, and supports greed. I don't support imperialism.

Hey fans, do you know Turners Falls is named after a mass murderer named William Turner? He caused pain and suffering to the native people of this area. I don't support the racial genocide of the Native Americans.

We really Love Jeremy Tatro who loves pizza, soda and Scooby Doo. He is a great friend to us and a scholar! We think Lucy Watson is a really cool person and an artistic genius, and think she is a great

friend. We also like Julie. We think she is a cool musician and a nice person to know!

We think Mike Jackson is a cool gangsta and we think Rodney is a cool friend of ours at Madison on the Ave!

We love Luke from his solo act Lucius Bachman. He works at Salvation Army and is an awesome friend to us! We really love Robin's dad, David Detmold, and his awesome son, Robin! We think he is a pound puffin former WOW Gangsta!

This concludes the article. I hope you enjoyed this spiritual narrative, thank you MUCH LOVE to all our readers, we worked hard on this, please give an open response letter back to the editor if you think this is cool! We approve this message!



Flaming Dragons frontman Danny Cruz. Say Hi if you see him around.

LOREN BURKE PHOTO

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Scholarships for High School Seniors

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts announces it will award a total of \$50,000 to 25 local high school seniors this academic year through its scholarship program.

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ethnicity, via the RMHC Scholars Scholarship.

Scholarship applications are now available online at www.rmhc-ctma.org/scholarships or by calling 1(855) 670-4787. Students can also see their guidance counselor for applications. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2013-2014 program is January 21.

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