





## PETS OF THE WEEK

### Lovable Snuggly Sweetie Boy



#### Toes

My name is Toes. I'm a male one year old cat who happens to be FIV+. I am an ushy, mushy sweet boy, lovable and snuggly. I love feather toys and I like other cats okay. I'm a young boy who still acts much like a kitten!

FIV+ cats can live long healthy lives like other cats.

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

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### WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

#### Horror Film: *Nightmare Castle*

On Saturday, October 13th, as part of its monthly movie series, the Wendell Free Library will host a screening of the horror movie *Nightmare Castle* at 7:30 p.m.

An atmospheric ominous gothic tale with Barbara Steele playing a double role!

A sadistic count tortures and murders his unfaithful wife and her lover, then removes their hearts from their bodies. Years

later, the count remarries his first wife's mentally unstable sister, who subsequently experiences nightmares and hauntings. The ghosts of the slain return to exact their bloody revenge, until their hearts are destroyed.

Admission is free. For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit [www.wendell-free-library.org](http://www.wendell-free-library.org) or call 978-544-3559.

### WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

#### Mostly Yoga is Back!

The very popular series *Mostly Yoga* returns to the Wendell Free Library on Sunday, October 7th from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. The program will run every from October through May.

Join our merry band of seven Wendell area body movement teachers leading sessions on a rotating basis.

A variety of yoga styles are offered as well as chi-gong and psycho-calisthenics. Teachers include "Apollo" Compagnone, Shay Cooper, Donna Horn, Sam Scherer, Patty Smythe, Christine Texiera and Susan Von Ranson.

Psycho calisthenics is a system of 23 movement and breath works designed for activating, stimulating and rejuvenating the five cavities of the body. It is taught by

Apollo.

Please bring a yoga mat and refrain from wearing scents or perfumes.

Come and enjoy a strong community mostly yoga class.

Donation of \$3.00 or more requested.

### HISTORIC DEERFIELD

#### Archaeology Day

Join an archaeological walking tour on Saturday, October 13th at 10:00 a.m. with Dr. Robert Paynter, professor of anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Then enjoy a guided tour of the Old Burying Ground with a guide from Historic Deerfield at 11:30 a.m.

The tours are free.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** *I have high blood pressure and I'm trying to cut down on sodium in my diet. Should I switch to sea salt from regular table salt?*

Sea salt is made from evaporating sea water. Table salt comes from underground mines.

Sea salt sounds healthier, doesn't it? It evokes lots of images of crashing surf, tanned bodies, marlin jumping out of the water. How bad can it be?

Sea salt and table salt contain the same amount of sodium chloride. Switching won't help you with your high blood pressure. But you're on the right track.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture advises people with high blood pressure to reduce their daily sodium intake to 1,500 milligrams per day. The recommendation for adults who do not have high blood pressure is 2,300 mg per day, which is about the amount of sodium in a teaspoon of table salt. However, the American Heart Association says the daily intake of sodium should be limited to less

than 1,500 mg a day for all adults. About nine out of ten Americans consume too much sodium. Americans on average consume 3,436 mg of sodium daily.

High-sodium diets are linked to increased blood pressure and a greater risk for heart disease and stroke. Reducing the amount of sodium you consume can help lower blood pressure or prevent it from developing. Less sodium also makes blood-pressure medications more efficient.

Table salt (sodium chloride) is not the only problem. The main sources of sodium in the average U.S. diet are: five % added while cooking, six % added while eating, 12 % from natural sources and 77 % from processed foods.

So, focusing on prepared and packaged foods is the most effective way to cut down on sodium. When you buy these foods, read the Nutritional Facts panel for the amount of sodium. Some products also include sodium terms.

Here's what these terms mean: sodium-free, less than 5 mg per serving; very low-sodium, 35 mg or less per serving; low-sodium, 140 mg or less per serving; reduced sodium, 25 % less sodium than usual; lite or light in sodium, 50 % less sodium than the regular version; unsalted, no salt



Donna Horn and Brianna Droben smile in front of Donna's art at the Garlic and Arts Festival in Orange.

### Montague Voter Registration Deadline

BY DEB BOURBEAU - Wednesday, October 17th, 2012 is the last day to register to vote for the upcoming November 6th presidential election. Registration will be held at the town clerk's office for all Montague residents who will be 18 years old on or before November 6th, 2012. Office hours will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 17th. Even if you have been registered to vote for years, many federal and state laws impact your registration status. If you have moved, changed your name or if your local census form was not received at the town hall, you may encounter an issue at the polls, so all eligible citizens are advised to act now to check your voter registration status. The town clerk's

office is located at the town hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Town hall hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Town hall is closed on Fridays. For more information call the town clerk's office at 863-3200, ext 203.

### Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

#### Grade 6

Ryan Campbell  
Bianca Martin

#### Grade 7

Kasia Dobosz

#### Grade 8

Kate Sprinkle

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### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - October 8th- 12th

#### GILL-MONTAGUE

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

#### Monday, October 8th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, October 9th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1:00 p.m. Painting Class

#### Wednesday, October 10th

8:30 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, October 11th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, October 12th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

#### ERVING

Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 413-423-3308, for meal information and reservations. 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, and find out when will be the next blood pressure clinic.

#### Monday, October 8th

9:00 a.m. Fitness Class  
12:30 Quilting  
**Tuesday, October 9th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Program  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, October 10th**  
9:00 a.m. Dance Classes

10:15 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
12:00 Bingo  
**Thursday, October 11th**  
8:30 a.m. Foot Clinic  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect  
**Friday, October 12th**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch

#### LEVERETT Senior Activities

- Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga - Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
- Senior Lunch - Fridays, 12 p.m. Call 413-367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

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

On **Friday, October 5th**, the Senior and Community Center will host the *Coffee Connection* from 7:30 - 10:00 a.m. The Wendell Country Store contributes coffee for the event. Stop by and visit with your neighbors while you enjoy coffee, tea, snacks and conversation.

Send your questions to  
[fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com).





## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - The Fourth Annual "Blessing of the Animals" will take place at noon, on Sunday, October 7th on the front lawn of the First Congregational Church of Montague, 4 North Street, in Montague Center. Bring your favorite pets and animals, large or small, to attend a short service and receive a laying on of hands and personal blessing from Pastor Barbara Turner Delisle or Pastor Jeremiah Rood, from the South Deerfield Congregational Church.

A delightfully talented group of local youngsters participating in the Strings for Kids program, in partnership with Artspace and the Greenfield Public Schools, will be performing at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue, in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 6th, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. "Strings for Kids" is in its fourth year of offering free weekly violin or cello group lessons with very committed and determined players. There is sure to be some toe-tapping going on. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of GSB.

Wendell will hold a **Harvest Dinner** on Saturday, October 13th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. outdoors on the town common if the weather is nice, or, if it is rainy or cold, indoors at town hall. Everyone should bring their own plate and silverware, a dish to share, and picnic blankets or a lawn chair for a big picnic on the Wendell town common. A donation of \$5 to \$10 will benefit the Good Neighbors food pantry. For more info, call 978-544-8772.

Leverett Elementary School will be holding an open house on Wednesday, October 10th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to come to school that evening with their children, who will be showing off all the different places in the school that make up their school day. This will also be a chance for parents to meet teachers and sign up for a parent teacher conference for November.

The 32nd Annual **Leverett Harvest Festival** will be held this year on the playground and in the gym of Leverett Elementary on Saturday, October 13th. For vendor info, times or a chance to volunteer, please call Tanya at 413-548-8099 or visit leverettlistings@aol.com. Make sure to check out the Kids' Bazaar.

The "Keep Smiling" Relay for Life team will hold a pasta dinner fundraiser on Sunday, October 14th, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Kazimiers, Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Music will be provided by Seven Mile Line. There will be a drawing for a Husqvarna sewing machine. Contact Charlotte at 863-2413 for tickets.

The Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, off Route 63 in Erving, holds their **Harvest Bazaar** on Saturday, October 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with crafts, a coffee can raffle, bake sale, plants, jewelry, kids table, books, and more. Proceeds benefit the Erving Senior Center.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION



Lead Solarize Montague installer, Rusty Ingold-Smith, of NorthEast Solar in Hadley, installs the program's first PV panels on the barn roof of Taylor Hill residents Daphne Bye and Mark Fraser.

**BY SALLY PICK** - This week, Northeast Solar is installing the first Solarize Montague photovoltaic (PV) systems. Daphne Bye and Mark Fraser, of 60 Taylor Hill Road, are the first to have their PV installed. Susan Conger, of 4 Main Street, a member of the Montague energy committee, was the second to go to contract under the reduced price program, and is next in line for solar panels.

Fraser is enthusiastic about the program. "We had been consider-

ing a grid-tied PV system, and when the Solarize Montague program materialized, we were spurred into action. The deal financially is fantastic, and it gives us a chance to participate in a community-driven program. The folks from NorthEast Solar are great to have around, and they began the installation over two weeks before they said they would! Thank you Solarize Montague for making this possible."

Conger said she, "Looks for-

ward to feeding the grid green energy from [her] solar PV."

If you want to learn more about the Solarize Montague program, and the price breaks it offers for Montague residents and businesses going solar, several Solarize events are scheduled for this month. You can (hopefully) see a newly installed solar PV system during open house hours on Saturday, October 13th, between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., on the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's annual Green Buildings open house self-guided tour. Look for the blue and white Green Buildings sign, along with the Solarize Montague sign in the front yard of 25 Union Street behind the post office, in Montague Center.

The next Ask Solarize session will be held on Tuesday, October 16th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Turners Falls safety complex. Ask Solarize is an opportunity to walk in with your questions about Solarize Montague and get answers one-on-one from an expert from the program. You may, for example, want to find out more about the no money down lease (or power purchase contract) option. The Montague energy committee will have a table at Pumpkifest, on Saturday, October 20th that will include Solarize brochures and fact sheets and people staffing the table who know about the program.

For more Solarize Montague info or to arrange for a free site visit, contact the program's solar installer, NorthEast Solar, at 413-247-6045 (info@northeastsolar.biz) or me, the community solar coach, at 413-559-7257 (sjp@crock.com). October 31st is the final deadline to sign a contract or turn into a pumpkin. Sign up now, so you won't be haunted by the ghost of Solarized Montague passed.

### WELCH from page 1

In all pieces except "Bobcat" the artist makes compositions that depend on fairly deep space. Roads, a river, snow filled areas function as visual paths leading the eye back in space. The result pulls the viewer into the paintings, creating a sense of intimacy. In "Full Bloom," her use of texture is particularly effective where brushwork combines with a variety of colors to create a combination of vitality and calmness.

Light plays an important role in these paintings. In "Morning Serenity," the fog-filled background seems to emit the warm light that bathes the flower-filled trellis in the foreground. In "Home at Sundown," the setting sun backlights the tree, fence and house and shines directly on the viewer. In "Valley Tobacco," the light seems to follow behind the tractor, emphasizing the darkness of the tobacco-filled barn. The artist's use of color,

while for the most part linked to each locale, encompasses a wide range, as does her use of dark to light values. These, along with her subtle use of texture, add to the richness of the pieces.

The artist, who maintains the Windy Hill Studio in Bernardston, has been making art for most of her life, and has focused much more time and energy on both painting and photography since retiring. She writes that she "... hadn't considered the idea of becoming an artist

until she accompanied a friend on a visit to the studio of the late Greta Carey of Williamsburg. She admired a particular painting and inquired about the price. Carey responded, 'It isn't for sale. But, if you join my art class, you could learn to paint one yourself.' She did join her class, and what began as a casual hobby has become a truly rewarding extension of her love of the outdoors and her appreciation of the rural New England landscape.

Welch has shown extensively in

the Valley both in juried shows and in solo exhibitions and has won numerous awards. She can be reached by email at marie-welch@comcast.net.

Please visit the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library and view this exhibition, that runs until the end of October. Library hours are Tuesday, from 3-6 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



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## Promoting Unemployment

BY MITCHELL ZIMMERMAN  
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA - Mitt Romney says president Barack Obama should be fired because he failed to fix the economy. This reminds me of the classic practitioner of “chutzpah” — the man convicted of murdering his mother and father who throws himself on the mercy of the court as an orphan.

Since the beginning of Obama’s presidency, Republicans have focused on one thing — making him a one-term president. Their strategy for achieving that goal: sabotage economic recovery, keep unemployment high, and blame Obama for it all.

When George W. Bush’s presidency ended nearly four years ago, the financial crisis was deepening and the economy was going into freefall. Obama and Congress halted the collapse by enacting a stimulus program to kick-start the economy. The alternative: watch America slide into a second Great Depression, as the economy shed 700,000 to 800,000 private sector jobs per month.

Yet Republican lawmakers just said No. Every Republican House member voted against the stimulus, as did 38 of 41 Republican senators. What did they propose to do about the crisis? Nothing, except — you guessed it — cut taxes.

That is still the GOP’s only prescription for America’s ills. But U.S. businesses don’t need more tax cuts to create jobs — American nonfinancial companies are sitting on a record \$4.8 trillion in cash right now.

The 2009 Recovery Act directly funded the creation of jobs all across America, and supported education, public safety, rebuilding infrastructure, and investing in renewable energy. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that this measure boosted employment at the end of 2010 by up to 3.5 million jobs.

But when the stimulus money started to run out in 2011,

Republicans used their control of the House and their veto power in the Senate to prevent further job creation. Instead, they made austerity and budget deficits their priority.

“Austerity” meant cutting spending on the things America needs, like public schools, environmental protection, veterans’ health benefits, food and drug safety inspections, and highways. When you cut government spending on such programs, it means that people aren’t hired to do these things, or they are fired. Their families spend less because they are out of work, so demand for other goods and services weakens, and jobs are lost in other parts of the economy too.

You can argue the deficit must be cut. You can’t argue that austerity increases employment. When you save government money by causing hundreds of thousands of workers to be laid off, we call that unemployment.

Cutting back on government spending during hard times has been tried before. In the depth of the Great Depression in 1933, unemployment was almost 25 percent. After four years of the New Deal, by 1937, the jobless rate had dropped to 14 percent. Then the budget hawks of that era reduced government spending and tightened credit. The result: unemployment leaped five percent and the Depression dragged on another four years.

When our economy has fully recovered, it will be time to tackle the deficit. But not now.

Republicans know this. They have decided to keep unemployment high for their political ends. Austerity equals higher unemployment. And high unemployment hurts Obama’s reelection bid.

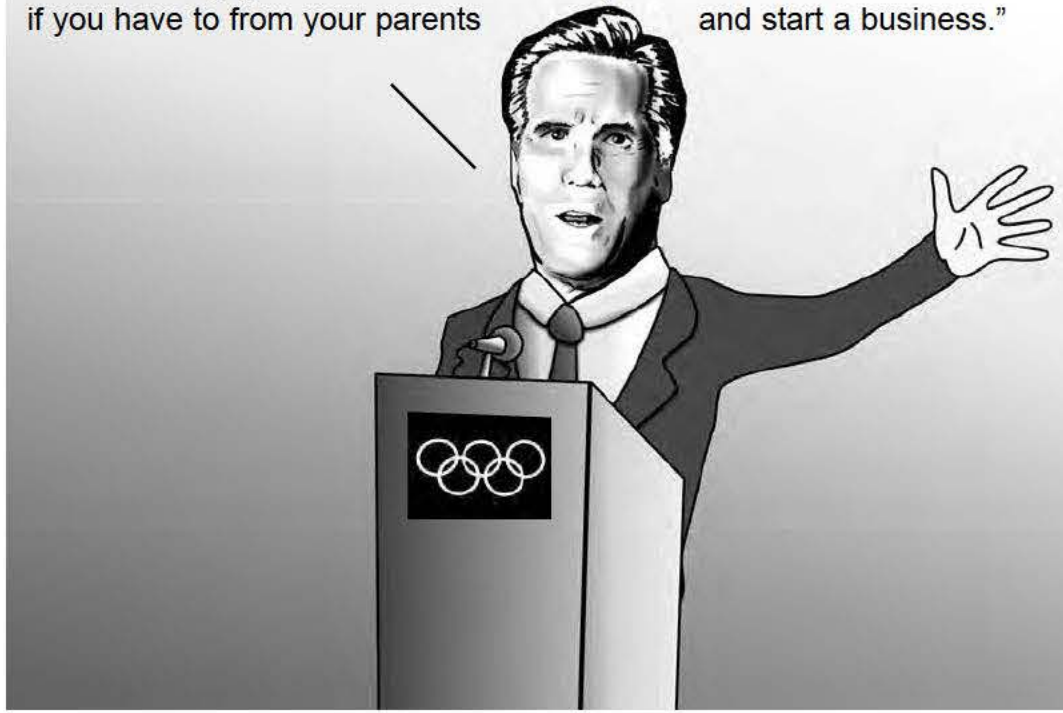
Naturally, Republicans don’t admit they sought high unemployment. But, as the legal maxim goes, men are presumed to intend the natural consequences of their acts. The natural consequence of austerity is more unemployment.

Republicans have come close to admitting it. Last year, Texas governor Rick Perry actually threatened the head of the Federal Reserve Bank, saying it was “treasonous” for the Fed to try to stimulate the economy before the election. This would be “playing politics.” Last month, Republicans resumed their efforts to bully the Fed into inaction, again attacking it for focusing on unemployment.

Who is the real traitor to the people of America? Someone in government who tries to reduce unemployment, or those politicians willing to prolong the misery of millions of unemployed Americans because they hope it will help win an election?

*Mitchell Zimmerman is an attorney who lives in Northern California. This article first appeared in OtherWords (OtherWords.org).*

“On Day 1, I will begin turning this economy around with a plan for the middle class. We’ll see capital come back, and we’ll see — without actually doing anything — we’ll actually get a boost in the economy. If that doesn’t work — borrow money if you have to from your parents and start a business.”



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

## Mitt Romney Won the First Debate by Battling the President on the Specifics of Economic Policy

LETTERS TO



THE EDITOR

### Opposed to Foreign Aid While US is Awash in Debt

About three weeks ago, I called the White House secretary and expressed my feelings about a new article in which the U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton pledged “hundreds of millions of dollars in debt relief, private investment capital, and job creation funds to Egypt.” I said this was unheard of, in my opinion, with the debt this country faces. I was told my opinion would be

passed along to President Obama.

In Sunday’s Republican, I read that senators Brown and Kerry both voted to give aid to Pakistan, Egypt, and Libya. This after ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three State Department aides were killed in Libya. This week, I telephoned both Senator Kerry’s and Senator Brown’s offices and stated just how disgusted I was with their vote, especially

when this country is faced with an enormous debt crisis, and that I as a taxpayer and a person they were elected to represent do not agree with their position on this matter.

Perhaps my calls were in vain, but I expressed my feelings and got it off my chest. It would be nice if more people did the same.

— Art Gilmore  
Millers Falls

### Compromise Sought on Montague Center School Development

Oh, our beloved Montague Center School, who would ever think your presence would spark such controversy? If we could only catapult you to a place called Rowe, to once again sit on a hill overlooking a pond, be loved by a community for what you were meant to be: a school.

At the last zoning board of appeals meeting, John Reynolds urged attendees to get involved, and come up with proposals for the building’s reuse.

Well, I’d like to remind everyone that it was the town that mandated the building could no longer serve as a school since it would undermine our current school district. If that were so, why do neighboring towns handle charter schools running in harmony with their public schools?

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio stood up at that meeting and cited all types of ideas that

were floated for the school, one being condos.

He claimed, “The market isn’t there for condos.” I beg to differ. Many local towns are seeing a huge number of condo units being built. Several older residents are seriously considering selling their large homes, and would love to move here in the village, and a two bedroom, two bath condo might be just the ticket. Not a 400 foot square box.

Much of the recent media reports on a “Not in my back yard” philosophy in play in this discussion, and perhaps that is accurate. But wouldn’t any homeowner be concerned over a project that will significantly impact his or her “back yard?” Some of the statistics that were floated around at the meeting seemed a little “off.” Traffic and parking will certainly increase far more than the 11 cars per hour that were quoted by the

developer, Mark Zaccheo.

In defense of our town meeting members, they asked several times for plans from the current developer when asked to vote funds for the water main. The response was that no matter who buys the building the new water main would be needed. Therefore, the current developer was given a leg up, as he knew the main would be funded by the town.

Mr. Reynolds also pointed out the building can’t be left empty to follow in the footsteps of other town acquired properties that are crumbling beyond repair. No one argues that point. But area folks want some reassurance that no matter what is housed in the building it will coexist with its neighbors.

Our word of the day has to be compromise.

— Ann Fisk  
Montague Center

### Backs Zaccheo

The Montague Center School building, located on the edge of downtown Montague Center, is a beautiful, older brick structure, topped by a traditional cupola and weathervane. It is surrounded by woods, a marsh, a ball field, and one house to its north side facing School Street. Other houses line the street to the north and east. The former school building is owned by the five villages of Montague.

After an extended, broad search for proposals, Mark Zaccheo, of the Olive Street Development in Greenfield, responded to the town with a detailed plan. He made an extensive evaluation of the property and has proposed developing

the building as a multi-apartment dwelling. Mr. Zaccheo has much experience in modifying and managing residential properties in the Greenfield area, and has a history of creating aesthetic structures and efficient rental situations.

While the transition of this building from a school to an apartment house will effect some changes in the immediate vicinity, leaving the property empty will continue to be an expense for the town, lead to further deterioration, and cause continued difficulties marketing the property. I strongly recommend that the Zoning Board of Appeals supports Mr. Zaccheo’s request for special permits as requested. I believe the communi-

ty will benefit from this change by way of generating taxes for the town and revitalizing a historic building.

— Al Ross  
Montague Center

### Rail WiFi

Shira Hillel’s article on passenger rail refers to a “long term idea” to offer wi-fi on trains. In fact, almost all Amtrak trains (including all Northeast Regional and Springfield to New Haven shuttles) already offer free wi-fi access.

In short, the good news she reports is even better.

— Peter d’Errico  
Leverett

**Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation Legal Notice**

The Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation are actively seeking committed members. In accordance with the Montague Economic Development Plan, the EDIC may implement economic development projects designed to decrease the unemployment rate and eliminate decadent and blighted open areas existing in Montague. To date the EDIC has been instrumental in the Discovery Center development as well as industrial development in Montague. There are currently two primary initiatives: 38 Avenue A reuse (Old Cumberland Farms) and industrial park planning. The EDIC is currently looking for individuals to fill the following seats: industrial development, low income, and one general at-large seat. Please contact Walter Ramsey, Town Planner at 413-863-3200 x112 or [planner@montague-ma.gov](mailto:planner@montague-ma.gov) if you are interested or write directly to the Montague Board of Selectmen.

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## TRAFFIC from page 1

car to change a tire.

Workers need to raise the bridge because a fixed, or immobile plate, is going to change places with a mobile plate. It is called "Reversing Fixity," which is a little like doing a do-si-do in square dancing, but in this case, without music, though one of the local DOT engineers is an accomplished musician.

It is only fitting that in reference to this resurrection of the bridge that the plans occasionally have oblique biblical references.

"The bridge must be raised up," as from the dead, perhaps. Then there's the term "Reverse Fixity" where the fixed plate will become mobile and the mobile plate will become fixed; clearly a veiled reference to Matthew, Chapter 20, verse 16, "The first shall be last, and the last shall be first." Which is often how it feels waiting in traffic when the one lane is closed for temporary maneuvers by the excavators removing old concrete.

The reason for using the term "Reverse Fixity" in describing the below deck reversing maneuver may be to dazzle folks with the engineer's vocabulary, or perhaps to

reassure his parents that not all that college money went to buy beer.

The lubricated bearing plates are part of the expansion joint mechanism. Wear plates allow the bridge to move back and forth as it expands and contracts with the temperature. Replacing lubricant and seals are part of the project. This work needs to take place during a period of mean temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit; tentatively, sometime in October.

Somehow, a golden opportunity to use another grand term, "lubricity," was overlooked in describing the greasing of the plates, which could also be referenced in October as "contributing politically." Because it slides off the tongue like greased Teflon, "lubricity" may be a far superior term, without political undertones.

In preparation for the remaining sections of deck replacement, Atlantic Bridge & Engineering employees are chipping rust scale with "needle guns," which are air powered hammers with a cluster of hardened needle-like rods on the business end. The needles dance on the rust and scale to clean the I-beams in preparation for painting. Once the beams are cleaned and

painted, five-inch thick sections of grid deck prefabricated at Atlantic Bridge & Engineering of Salisbury, MA will be bolted together on the existing bridge I-beams.

As in previous installations, the grid will then be half filled with dense bridge binding concrete, followed by high performance 6,000 pound per square inch concrete, forming the deck of the traveled way.

The most amazing feat performed by Atlantic Bridge and Engineering was to measure the bridge with laser measuring devices at the very beginning of the job. They carried the measurements to their shop 100 miles away, designed and fabricated the deck grid panels to the exact dimensions, and trucked the grid panels back to the Gill-Montague Bridge. They close the bridge to traffic and set the grids on the existing I-beam stringers in the dead of night, when the last shall be first and all good sinners are snug in their beds. Next morning, when people awake, the bridge is open to traffic, and they wonder why not much seems to be happening on the bridge's reconstruction.

The new five-inch composite grids are set over anchor studs pre-

viously welded to the I-beams, so the studs anchor grids and concrete to the I-beams, forming an integrated unit. The old eight-inch thick concrete bridge deck simply lay floating atop the I-beam stringers, unattached. The new method results in a cohesive unit of beams and deck, strengthening and stiffening the entire bridge. Pity the poor demolition contractor who has to take it apart, 100 years from now.

The new sidewalk is cantilevered, hanging three feet further out over the river than the old sidewalk, which was also cantilevered out over the falling waters of the Turners Falls dam, similar to Frank Lloyd Wright's famous house, "Falling Waters." Unfortunately, Frank Lloyd Wright's pride and joy recently underwent extensive reconstruction to rescue it from "Falling into the Waters." Wright had never studied engineering, or architecture, and in this case it showed.

In preparation for extending the sidewalk out over the river, Atlantic Bridge & Engineering steelworkers sheared off the heads of rivets on the old support beams with an air powered "rivet buster," removed the beams and replaced them with I-beams three feet longer. They bolted

the longer beams in place with three quarter inch diameter high tensile strength galvanized bolts, one and a quarter inches long. Steel workers tighten the nuts with torque wrenches to more than 300 foot pounds of torque.

Though the rationale for moving the sidewalk three feet further out over the river is to widen the traveled way, plans call for funneling traffic into a narrowing of the bridge's approach to Avenue A by about the same amount, in the area of the concrete railings.

In order for the sidewalk to get around the outside of the art deco abutments, workers are constructing concrete corbels (corbels are thick shelf-like brackets). Workmen have begun grouting one inch thick reinforcing rods into holes drilled to anchor the corbels on the art deco abutments at both ends of the bridge. Eight reinforcing rods anchoring the corbels are one foot eight inches long, except for the top reinforcing rod, which is two and a half feet long. The result will be a balcony-like structure suitable for viewing the dam, or to enable a reporter to warble on the corbel, reciting biblical parables.



## FIXING from page 1

tower survived the blaze, and were preserved in a place of honor where the temple once stood. But the hundred year old bell tower, surrounded by a thicket of choking Japanese knotweed, had fallen into disrepair and suffered further damage in last year's heavy wind storms.

This spring, the bell finally broke free from its mooring and fell to the ground. The LPVA put it back on its perch, but the historic structure was basically unsound.

Last June, the town of Montague awarded the LPVA \$6,000 from a revolving fund of housing rehab loan repayments to repair the temple bell and tower. The LPVA believes they will be able to use part of that grant for historic preservation in the village beyond the bell and its tower.

The LPVA bell subcommittee organized the purchase of building supplies locally, at a reduced rate, and arranged for the bell to be repaired locally as well. Erin Bernard arranged for a donation of \$500 worth of lumber for the bell tower restoration.

Unfortunately, the bell's clapper disappeared years ago. No one seems to know how or when, though photographs taken in the 1980s show the bell with the clapper.

On September 5th, life-long Lake Pleasant resident Bob Emond reported to the bell committee that Deerfield Fabricators gave an estimate of \$2,400 just to remove the bell. The complete restoration of the bell was set to cost roughly \$6000. Thus, the committee decided against paying to restore the bell. Instead, they decided only to repair it.

"We don't want the bell to look new. Otherwise, we'd buy a new

bell," said Bond.

Dead and dying trees were removed from around the tower, to enable the removal of the bell and repair of the bell tower. On September 10th, after being granted a permit from town building inspector David Jensen (who lives just a few houses away on Denton Street), Emond and a crew of friends successfully removed the old temple bell from the dilapidated bell house so it could be repaired. According to Bond, the bell is currently being repaired by a friend of Emond's, who will not charge for his time.

Since the bell has been removed along with some of the rotting boards, the biggest question is whether or not the bell tower itself can be saved. For the time being, the top of the bell house will be sealed off from the weather with a tarp.

The current bell house is an open air structure that holds four benches. Future LPVA meetings will assess the tower structure and decide whether to simply repair it, rebuild it, or come up with a different, larger design that would serve as a more useful public gathering space for the community. The association is committed to keeping the architectural design in tune with the 19th century feel of the village.

## The Bridge of Names

The Bridge of Names unites the two halves of the village with a rustic footbridge that allows villagers and their guests the opportunity to contemplate the serene beauty of the deep glacial kettlehole lake for which the village is named. A curious innovation of this particular footbridge is the decades old tradition of neatly routing the names of villagers who

pay a small sum for the privilege into the closely spaced pickets that form the two sides of the bridge. Not only villagers have paid to have their names engraved for posterity on the bridge. Elvis, John Wayne, and most of the Beatles have also purchased pickets, judging solely from their routed names.

Now, nearly all the pickets on the Bridge of Names at Lake Pleasant have been sold; only one or two remain. The sale of pickets over the years provided funds to cover the costs of replacing old pickets that have succumbed to rot or damage. Now, with limited space for new pickets, such sales alone will no longer cover the costs of replacing old pickets.

The LPVA may explore building further railings extending out from the bridge on one or both sides of the dingle to allow room for additional pickets. They association may also establish a fund for picket replacement, and solicit contributions from

the Lake Pleasant community or hold fundraisers to cover ongoing bridge maintenance costs.

## Bridge Block House Roof Repair

On the weekend of September 22nd-23rd, about 30 volunteers showed up to repair the roofs of the two blockhouses that provide shelter and benches at either end of the Bridge of Names. Once again, Emond led and guided a crew of professional builders and eager novices in climbing up to remove the old shingles from the block houses and the sheathing from one, so they could be repaired and re-shingled. The village rallied and repaired the roofs in a single weekend.

Although the expense of filtration and the plentiful alternatives would seem to preclude its ever again being used for drinking water, Lake Pleasant is still designated as a back-up water supply reservoir for the town of Montague. That is why no swimming or power boats are

allowed in the lake. The Turners Falls Water Department owns the lake and the land around it where the bell tower is located. Members of the LPVA are meeting with the water department this coming week to discuss further repairs to these village structures.

The LPVA would like to establish a historical society to preserve the archives of Lake Pleasant's varied history. Many photographs have been collected already and the association has begun working on a documentary about the town as well.

On Sunday, October 21st, a giant Lake Pleasant community tag sale will take place at the so-called Scalpers Lodge, near the intersection of Lake Pleasant Road and Broadway, with baked goods and raffles. All the proceeds from the sales will go the LPVA fund for the continued repairs of the bell, tower, bridge and other improvements to the village.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Breaking & Entering; Burglary and Larcenies

Wednesday, 9/26

4:54 a.m. Breaking and Entering reported and investigated at Shady Glen, 7 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

9:24 a.m. [redacted] arrested for probation violation near 2nd Street Bakery on Fourth Street in Turners Falls.

11:26 a.m. Burglary reported and investigated at CeCe's Chinese Restaurant, 57 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

3:22 p.m. Vandalism reported at 366 Turners Falls Road, Montague.

4:50 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested for a drug violation at her home in Turners Falls.

Thursday, 9/27

1:01 a.m. [redacted] arrested on warrant at his home at [redacted]

[redacted] also of [redacted], arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, assault and battery, resisting arrest, and endangering children.

11:21 a.m. Larceny reported and investigated at Turners Falls High School, 222 Turnpike Road.

1:25 p.m. Fraud reported at [redacted] Avenue A, Turners Falls.

3:10 p.m. Larceny reported at [redacted]

[redacted] arrested for

a drug violation at her home in

Turners Falls.

Thursday, 9/27

1:01 a.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested on warrant at his

home at [redacted]

[redacted] also of [redacted], arrested and

charged with disorderly conduct,

assault and battery, resisting

arrest, and endangering children.

11:21 a.m. Larceny reported and

investigated at Turners Falls High

School, 222 Turnpike Road.

1:25 p.m. Fraud reported at [redacted]

Avenue A, Turners Falls.

3:10 p.m. Larceny reported at [redacted]

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Jay K's Liquors, 59 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

6:39 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested on Route 47

and Gunn Road, Montague.

Charges include operating a

motor vehicle under the influence

of alcohol, possession of an open

container, operating to endanger,

and a marked lines violation.

Friday, 9/28

5:07 p.m. Shoplifting reported at

Jay K's Liquors, 59 Avenue A,

Turners Falls.

7:17 p.m. Larceny reported at

Fifth Street, Turners Falls.

Saturday, 9/29

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6:45 a.m. Burglary reported and investigated at Eagle Automotive, 147 Second Street, Turners Falls.

8:54 p.m. Larceny reported at [redacted] Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls.

Sunday, 9/30

1:21 a.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested on Turners Falls Road.

Charges include 4th offense of

operating a motor vehicle while

under the influence of alcohol,

operating to endanger, failure to

stop for police, possession of an

open container, and a marked

lanes violation.

4:25 p.m. Larceny reported at

Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A,

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## Remembering Fukushima, Raising Awareness on Vermont Yankee

BY PAM RICHARDSON

**WENDELL** - The Wendell anti-nuclear, pro-environment affinity group, Water, Roots and Branches, held a tree planting ceremony on the Wendell Common this summer in the midst of Old Home Day

activities, on Saturday, August 18th. A Japanese Maple was planted in memory of the people who have perished, or will perish, from the Fukushima nuclear reactor meltdowns of March, 2011.

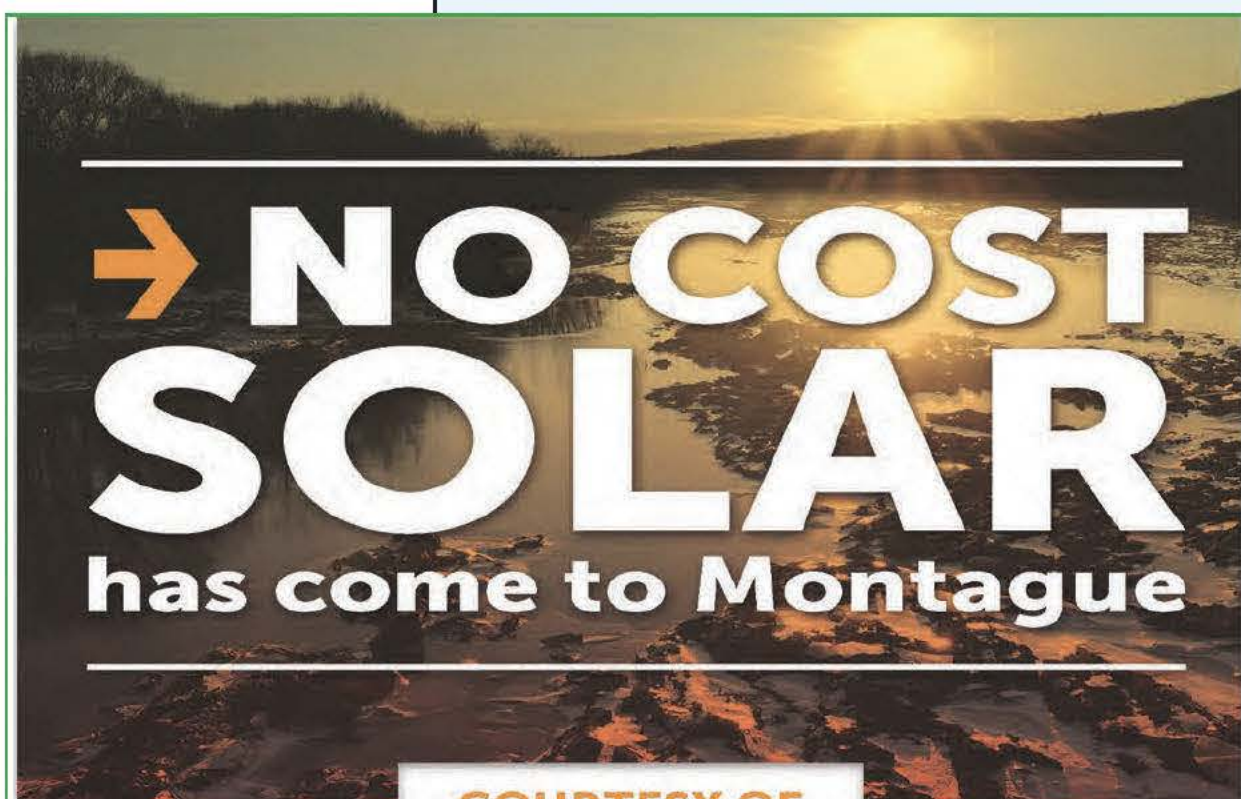
The SAGE Alliance will con-

duct a banner drop from bridges along the highway to alert travelers on the I-91 corridor this Columbus Day weekend to the proximity of Vermont Yankee, another GE Mark I boiling water reactor, of the same make and model as the Fukushima reactors that suffered loss of containment in the absence of offsite power in Japan last March. To find out more about this public awareness campaign, go to [www.SAGEAlliance.net](http://www.SAGEAlliance.net)



PAM RICHARDSON PHOTO

Judy Hall addresses the crowd at the tree planting ceremony in memory of the victims of Fukushima on the Wendell town common this summer.



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# Linda Wentworth Leaving Leverett Library

BY DAVID DETMOLD - "I wanted everyone to feel welcome here, and so did the volunteers," said Linda Wentworth, flying out the door at 5:00 on Tuesday to pick up her son after school in Amherst before returning to introduce Florence syndicated cartoonist Hilary Price for a 7 p.m. talk on cartooning at the Leverett Library.

In her wake, she left a swirl of leaves, leaflets rustling on the packed bulletin board, baskets of free magazines awaiting takers, and discount books begging to be bought to help the library - and that was just in the entryway and foyer.

Beyond the double steel and glass doors to the main room, a quiet beehive of study and activity hummed, with patrons helped to their choices on the stacks by willing volunteers, others working away quietly on the internet, and more volunteers laboring under the able direction of assistant librarian Sue LaClaire, in the spacious administrative office behind the circulation desk.

"We worked to make this a place welcoming to everyone who comes in," said Wentworth, looking back on her nine year stint as Leverett's library director even as she glanced at the clock, threw a few things in her bag, and parried final questions from an inconvenient interviewer. "I thought about how to attract people. A lot of people were in the habit of going to the Jones Library."

In Amherst. It's fall, and though the spacious, L-shaped Leverett Library radiates order and invites intellectual inquiry, beneath the bright, polished interior change is in the air, even here.

Wentworth certainly met her goal, attracting more than a small town's fair share of readers to make the library a regular stopping place to check out books and take part in programs. Or to access the internet and



DETMOLD PHOTO

D'Ann Kelly (right) at the circulation desk with Linda Wentworth at the Leverett Library.

meet their neighbors. Or admire art shows in the community room, or the perennial gardens on the grounds.

But now, Leverett is losing Wentworth herself to the Jones, where she has taken a job as head of collections. Her last day in Leverett will be October 17th.

Wentworth had never been a library director before Leverett hired her, and Leverett had never had a library like the 4,680-square foot building that opened six weeks before she came on board. Wentworth credits Leverett's former head librarian Lorna Rivers with spearheading the drive for the new building, and for automating the circulation system for the library's growing collection. But the tiny, 845-square foot Field Library gave the

town little hint of what was in store once the new building opened in 2003.

## Farewell Celebration for Linda Wentworth

Join the library trustees and the board of the Friends of the Library at a dessert potluck on Friday, October 12th, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the community room of the library. Come wish Linda Wentworth well as she departs for a position at the Jones Library in Amherst.

Still, Wentworth was not sure the new building would offer a big enough canvas, or professional support. "I didn't know if I would like it at a small library," she said. Wentworth had worked previously

for 15 years at the Cornell University Press before moving to Amherst, earning a degree in library science and working part time as a reference librarian at the Jones and at Greenfield Community College.

remark, which prompted a burst of laughter from LaClaire. But when she was thinking of applying in Leverett, Wentworth came by to look at the new library when it was just finished with construction and said to herself, "Wow! I want to work in that building."

When she interviewed for the job, Chris Condit, chair of the library trustees, told her, "We want this to be a community place. We built it for community."

After it opened, the trustees realized they had built it with nowhere near enough parking, and soon had to double the lot from 30 to 60 spaces.

And Wentworth has never been lonely there.

Under her direction, the Leverett library expanded from 15 to 25 hours of service, closed Fridays but open Sundays to be available to more residents, and began a community reading program, part of the nationwide series 'On the Same Page'. Hundreds of Leverett readers picked up a copy of Northampton author Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains* that year, the first title chosen in Leverett, and many came to the library to hear Kidder speak about Haiti, the subject of that book. More pitched in to help raise money for Haitian relief.

"I call Leverett the 'Town that Loves to Read'," said Wentworth, who has an impish smile and eyes that light up when talk turns, as it

often does in her presence, to literature. And figures she presents to defend the library budget each year to the selectboard bear out her observation.

Leverett, population a little more than 1850, circulates more library materials than all but 24 of the 123 Massachusetts towns with population under 5000. And, no other Massachusetts library with comparable circulation operates as frugally as Leverett, thanks in large part to the 40 odd volunteers (well, perhaps they are not so odd) who help out regularly staffing the circulation desk, shelving books, maintaining the library's website, and with a myriad of other tasks.

Giving the lie to rumors of the impending decline of printed books and libraries to hold them, Leverett circulated 46,814 materials last year - the busiest year ever at the Leverett Library. Hmmm... that's about 25 books or audiotapes a year for every person in town.

"She's been fantastic," said Chris Condit, chair of the library trustees, speaking of the departing director. "She's set the tone and made the library essentially the town's living room."

Condit said he understood why Wentworth would choose to take a job locally that offered better pay and a chance for professional advancement, and he was unstinting in his praise.

"She's just a superb people person, who still maintains a professional ambience about her. She basically runs 40 volunteers, and that's a delicate job, because you've got to make them feel at ease and needed, but at the same time she's their boss. She's been a dream employee: she brings problems to your attention, but she is capable of working entirely independently. She has great ideas about how to involve community, and she has a wonderful community that responds."

Condit said an interim director will be put in place while a search committee goes about hiring a new library director. Condit felt optimistic that a new director "with the same qualities" could be found to take up where Wentworth leaves off, because the library now has a "wonderful reputation, and Leverett is clearly a town that loves its library."

Asked for parting words of advice for her successor, whoever that may be, Wentworth did not pause (no time). "You will be blessed with a wonderful community that loves books," she said. "Take advantage of the talents you will find here."

As she has done, bringing musicians to volunteer for summer evening performances on the patio in the butterfly garden, planned and planted by other volunteers. She prompted many local mystery buffs to act out parts in a Grade A home-

see LIBRARY page 8

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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Town Advised to Hold onto Current Regionalization Committee

BY KATIE NOLAN - The Erving selectboard appointed police chief Chris Blair as interim emergency management director this week, after former director Luke Hartnett resigned effective October 1st. Deputy director Laura Conway, who attended the October 1st selectboard meeting, concurred in the board's choice and said of Blair, "We work well together."

Town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp reported that town counsel Donna MacNicol recommended continuation of the current school regionalization planning committee created by town meeting to study school regionalization options. Under Massachusetts general laws, town meeting may approve formation of a three-member regionalization committee appointed by the moderator.

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo commented, "I don't think this committee feels comfortable being a three-member committee," and directed Sharp to ask MacNicol about ways to legally form a five- or seven-member regionalization committee.

Sharp also reported on the

Route 2 task force meeting of September 27th, attended by about 20 Erving residents, where the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) presented preliminary design information for two projects in Erving:

Widening by eight feet, and realigning a two-mile stretch of Route 2 from Old State Road to Wheelock Street, and including a bus stop at Maple Avenue.

And widening Route 2 from Mountain Road to North Street, along with possible realigning in the town center to calm traffic. A pedestrian activated blinking light could also be installed at the intersection of Route 2 and North Street.

Sharp said hearings will be held when the design is 25% complete and that MassDOT has not funded either of the road improvement projects yet.

The selectboard reviewed the capital improvements plan that covers fiscal years 2014 to 2017 and prioritized expenses, bringing over \$80,000 of planned future capital costs into the fiscal year 2013 budget. Some of the capital items the board priori-

tized include: \$15,000 for a washing system for fire department turnout gear, \$15,000 for special one-time highway services, \$15,000 for fire hole maintenance, \$10,000 for a portable emergency generator to power wastewater treatment system pump stations, \$10,000 to upgrade the town hall telephone system, and \$2,500 for a computer and printer for the recreation commission.

Retiring Erving Elementary School principal Charlene Galenski asked the selectboard for clarification about the town's contribution to her health insurance costs when she retires this month. Selectboard member and town treasurer Margaret Sullivan told Galenski the town will include her as a member of the town's health insurance plan, but will not pay any of the premium, because Galenski did not work the required ten years at Erving.

Galenski will be responsible for paying the full insurance premium. However, because Galenski worked in the Buckland, Colrain, and Deerfield schools earlier in her career, Erving can bill these towns for a portion of Galenski's insurance costs and then reimburse Galenski.

The selectboard reviewed open continuing appropriation accounts and decided to close several of them at the end of the current fiscal year. Several of the accounts are for completed projects (such as the Vietnam veterans memorial) or for expenses the selectboard felt belonged in departmental budgets (money for fire department turnout gear, for example).

The selectboard unanimously approved the taser use policy developed by police chief Blair. Tasers, which are electronic stun devices, may now be used by trained police officers as a pain compliance technique in response to an active resistant person, according to the policy.

Friend.

"It's hard to say goodbye to all the wonderful people I've known in Leverett," said Wentworth, and here she did pause for a moment....

Imagination, inspiration, dedication, all mingle in the creative act of nourishing a widening circle of bibliophiles, parents of children learning to read, yoga practitioners, music lovers, sojourners at the fount of knowledge.

"It's been perfect. I've never been lonely. I've never had so many friends at work in my life," she said.

And somewhere along the way, Wentworth directed not only the growth of a new library, but the growth of a more vibrant community. We will miss her very much.



## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Hamilton to Selectboard Dog Hearing - "Screw You"

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - The Wendell selectboard's September 26th meeting was dominated by a hearing for dogs owned by Andy Hamilton.

Hamilton arrived early, but had to wait while the board discussed other agenda items until the hearing's scheduled time of 8:00 p.m., by which time dog officer Maggie Houghton had arrived.

Houghton began the hearing by listing a series of Hamilton's dogs' escapes: August 6th when they were picked up by the New Salem dog officer, August 12th when they were again running loose in New Salem, but made their own way home before Wendell Police chief Ed Chase could find them, and September 5th when they were found outside the Deja Brew pub in the center of Wendell.

Just in the last week, Houghton said she got two calls from Hamilton's neighbor Johanna Fitzgerald complaining of the dogs being in her yard, where they are almost every day, according to Fitzgerald, frightening the young children. Selectboard chair Christine Heard recused herself from the proceedings because she is Fitzgerald's mother.

Another neighbor, Kathleen Leonard, who met the board earlier in the evening for other business, gave the board a letter of

complaint about the dogs as she left the room.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser added that he had brought Hamilton's dogs home once as well. He thought the dogs were well behaved with him, an adult. But Pooser felt that did not change the basic issue, that the dogs were getting loose and intimidating neighbors, and people walking by.

Hamilton first asked why this was the first time he was hearing about the complaints, and why he had not been contacted before he was told to appear at a hearing.

Houghton said contacting him is difficult; he has no working telephone number.

Hamilton asked why she did not use the U.S. postal service; he has a box at the Wendell Center post office.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said, "The question for you is: 'Where is the fence?'" By this, he referred to the fence Hamilton said he would build to keep the dogs from getting loose. He made that promise at the last dog hearing he was called to in front of the selectboard, in February of this year.

Hamilton admitted his dogs had made a couple of escapes since then, but he was in the process of building a secondary fence, and complications at home were slowing the process.

Keller asked, "A couple?"

Hamilton said Keller interrupted him, and there

followed an interchange where he told Keller to explain himself, but interrupted each time Keller tried to speak, and then said no more until Keller started another sentence.

Keller counted the seven incidents mentioned in the hearing alone.

Hamilton asked, "How am I supposed to know? Where is the communication?"

Keller said, "This is it now." He said, "You are clearly skirting the question," which is - why are the dogs not restrained.

Pooser said at the previous hearing, in February, Hamilton had said he would fence in his yard so the dogs would not escape. "The question is not just about you, it is about liability for the town. If we don't take action," Pooser said, at this hearing, "the town is liable if anyone is hurt by the dogs." Pooser said Hamilton should find a new home for the dogs.

Hamilton asked, "What about three strikes?"

Keller said, "You have had ten strikes. Every time the dogs get out is a strike."

Hamilton said he is working overtime by moonlight to put up a solid fence, but "They ain't moving." He said he would go to court, and stormed out of the room saying, "Screw you. They ain't f\_\_in' moving. Have fun."

The office was silent for a

see WENDELL page 9

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

### Minor Fenderbender, Downed Wires

Thursday, 9/6

5:22 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury PD with a M/V accident with PI on Montague Road in Shutesbury.

Friday, 9/7

7:55p.m. Well-being check at a Moores Corner residence. No problems.

Sunday, 9/9

12:35 p.m. Medical at a Still Corner Road residence. Bee sting allergy. Parents administered Epi

pen, subject not transported. Parents to follow up w/personal physician.

Saturday, 9/15

5:35 p.m. Assisted Leverett F.D. with locating and transporting two hikers on Mt. Toby, one injured.

Sunday, 9/16

3:55 p.m. Report of ATV's in the road on No. Leverett Rd. Checked area, G.O.A.

6:00 p.m. Minor fenderbender on Dudleyville Rd.

Operators exchanged info. No further assistance needed.

6:30 p.m. To a Long Hill Rd residence for a 9-1-1 medical. Child slipped in a tub. No assistance needed.

9/18/12 18:50 Wires down on No. Leverett

Road near Skerry Rd due to storm. Closed road, notified Northeast Utilities.

Tuesday, 9/18

7:15 p.m. Checked

downed wires due to storm damage on Montague Road, No. Leverett Road and Dudleyville Rd. Northeast Utilities and Leverett F.D. called out.

Thursday, 9/27

5:32 p.m. Officer arrested

[redacted] for unlicensed operation of a M/V after a M/V stop. Transported same after booking to F.C.H.C. Held on bail for court on 10/1/12.

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Get Ready to Start Your Pumpkins

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - The Montague selectboard gave the go-ahead to another much anticipated Pumpkin Fest on Monday, as organizer par excellence Michael Nelson told the board, "Everything is ready to go. We're ready to roll, and praying for good weather."

The 3rd annual Franklin County pumpkinfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 20th, from 3 - 9 p.m., on Avenue A, and if past experience is any guide, the population of the town of Montague should roughly double during those hours, and a huge number of jack-o-lanterns will be checked in and checked out by the milling crowd of thousands.

Nelson said a new feature this year will be a Haunted House, set up by the Turners Falls RiverCulture program, in the former Greenfield Savings Bank across from Peskeompskut Park. Ruby's Complaint and Curly Fingers Dupree will be among the musical acts enlivening the event. Free parking will be available at the high school, with shuttle busses running late into the evening. Nelson said there would be fewer food vendors this year (30!) and more craft vendors, and special \$7 memorial Pumpkinfest glasses will be on sale to benefit next year's event. So get ready to start

your pumpkins!

The board appointed Jennifer Peterson as the new part time bookkeeper for the parks and recreation commission, at 20 hours, at \$12.26 per hour, starting this week. The board also approved health agent Gina McNeely's interim job description for the newly created position of part time health inspector, a 14.5 hour a week job that will go to Caroline Merriam at \$20.63 per hour, who is already working 5 hours a week as the town's public health nurse. (Need a flu shot? Or want to talk to someone about other health concerns? Merriam holds office hours from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. each Wednesday at the town hall, except the last Wednesday of the month, when you can find her at the Montague Senior Center from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.) Merriam, who previously worked for the Amherst board of health, has been trained to conduct safe serve inspections, McNeely said.

The board signed off on a notice to proceed for S&R Corporation of Lowell to begin removal of a 900 ton asbestos tainted pile of debris, all that remains of the former Building #10 at the Strathmore Mill, burned down in an arson fire in 2007. The clean-up, which must be completed within 90 days, is costing the town approximately

\$165,000, with a \$200,000 grant from the EPA paying for the rest. Removal of the debris pile is considered essential for the future redevelopment of the 244,482 square foot, 1871 vintage abandoned paper mill. The pile is also blocking access for abutting Southworth Paper Mill, and Swift River Hydro.

The Harmony Masonic Lodge on Masonic Avenue in Montague City will hold a 5K road race and 2 mile walk on Saturday, October 20th, from 9:30 a.m., with proceeds benefiting the Harmony Lodge Charities, which include a food bank, summer camp scholarships for special needs children, and the wetland outdoor classroom. More info can be found at: redcloverrovers.com.

Don Valley was appointed to the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, to serve out the unexpired term of departing member Andrew Killeen, until June of 2013. Other residents are being sought to serve on this board, which will work on the redevelopment of the former Cumberland Farms building on Avenue A and 2nd Street, and the coming development of a new industrial park off Turnpike Road. If interested call the town planner at 863-3200 extension 207.

mate dispute on East Prospect Street. Verbal altercation only. Peace restored.  
11:35 p.m. Call to Central Street residence regarding a bat in the house. Gone upon arrival.  
**Sunday, 9/30**  
6:58 a.m. Alarm at Christina's restaurant. Building found secure.  
12:30 p.m. Report of child custody issue at Mountain Road residence. Report taken.  
11:41 p.m. Criminal Citation issued to [redacted] for suspended license on Route 2 at Dorsey Road.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Suspended Motor Vehicle Operators

**Tuesday, 9/25**

7:10 a.m. Report of Rail Road crossing lights and gates activated since 6:50 a.m. No train. Notified railroad.

10:50 a.m. Medical emergency on Northfield Road. Assisted on scene.

**Wednesday, 9/26**

8:50 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle lock out at Box Car parking lot.

**Friday, 9/28**

1:00 a.m. Suspicious subject walking east bound on Route 2. Same was fine.

2:20 a.m. [redacted]

arrested for marked lanes, operating under the influence of alcohol and reckless operation of a motor vehicle, on Route 2 and Dorsey Road.

5:45 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle at Christina's restaurant. Was newspaper delivery person.

6:00 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle reported on Route 2, French King Highway. Not a hazard. Owner made own arrangements.

**Saturday, 9/29**

10:50 a.m. Criminal citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension and speeding on Moore Street.

4:15 p.m. Criminal citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operation of a motor vehicle after revocation of registration and without insurance on Route 2 at Christina's restaurant.

7:53 p.m. Criminal citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operation of a motor vehicle without insurance at the Route 2 bypass.

9:45 p.m. Report of room-

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Regionalization Debate Advances

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Murky cross-currents swirled at the Leverett school committee meeting on Monday, as Shutesbury school committee chair Michael DeChiara dropped by to try to clarify a legal matter in dispute with Union 28 superintendent Joan Wickman, and to defend a claim in a document called "Exploring School Regionalization: Facts and Background" recently issued by the Shutesbury regional school district planning committee, on which he serves, that, "Practically speaking, towns such as Shutesbury do not have any local control," over their schools. Despite the fact that districts in U-28 hire the superintendent, set policy and budgets for their schools, DeChiara stood by that claim,

and said since the Education Reform Act passed the state legislature in 1993, "You don't have supervisory control."

He later reiterated, "You don't have local control."

But the exact nature of the legal dispute between DeChiara and Wickman was hard to discern, and may have been a topic discussed at an executive session at the end of the meeting, under an agenda item simply called, "Legal Matter."

In any event, DeChiara said he had checked with the attorney general's office and determined that a school committee member who is related to a staff member at a school, as Leverett school committee member Sara Dolven is related to a teacher at LES, may vote on any item in a school's

budget except the salary line item that includes the relative's salary; the committee member may also vote on the bottom line of the entire budget.

DeChiara also said that the Shutesbury school committee will hold a discussion about "the benefits or not benefits of being in Union-28", the superintendency union Shutesbury shares with Leverett, Wendell, New Salem and Erving, on Thursday, October 18th at 7 p.m.

DeChiara said Shutesbury's regionalization committee, working jointly with the committees of Pelham, Amherst and Leverett, have decided to only explore the possibility of regionalizing with those four towns, not see **SCHOOL** page 10

## WENDELL from page 8

half minute.

Houghton said after Hamilton receives a certified letter telling him to remove the dogs, he has ten days to appeal in court, and in a similar situation years ago, an appeal had been considered after the ten day limit had passed. She said if she picks up the dogs again, she has to return them if Hamilton pays the fine. She offered that she might board them out of town to try to avoid that eventuality, or avoid having them freed in the night as has happened in other cases.

Aldrich said in the meantime, the law will change, and under the state's new law the town will not be allowed to exile problem dogs from town.

Houghton said having the dogs moved to another town will still be allowed, because this action was taken while the state's old law was still in effect.

The meeting's scheduled agenda opened with Kathleen Leonard reserving the town hall for Saturday, October 13th, for the fourth annual potluck harvest dinner from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., to benefit Good Neighbors.

Leonard said she wants to hold the meal early in the day so that if weather permits people can eat outside on the common. Attendance has been growing, and last year enough people came to make the town hall feel crowded.

Highway commission chair Harry Williston stepped in to say that Cooleyville Road was unofficially open, but the bridge is still waiting for guardrails. Officially, the road is still closed.

The energy committee requested a special town meeting to see if the town will adopt zoning bylaw changes that would streamline siting for renewable energy facilities, and an energy saving stretch building code, in an effort to earn Wendell a "Green Community" status. That designation would make Wendell eligible for state grants that can be used for energy efficiency improvements in town.

The board set the date for the special town meeting for Thursday, October 18th.

Other articles on the warrant would transfer money left in the dam inspection account, change a road name and pay a bill from a prior year, for a camera bought by the assessors.

The planning board will hold a hearing on the proposed bylaw changes on Tuesday, October 9th.

Aldrich read that the annual veterans' service meeting will be held in Turners Falls on October 11th, at 5:00 p.m. Keller said former selectboard chair Ted Lewis has been attending those meetings, and he would see if Lewis would represent Wendell again.

During the week Ed Hines, who lives in the old parsonage, donated a box of old town reports, not for every year, but spanning dates from 1868 to 1991.

Pooser suggested meeting postings that as of now are only required to be posted at the town office building, should also be available on the town website. Several boards get their agendas posted by sending Aldrich an email and having her print it and post it.



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**CLEAN UP** from page 1  
its environs clean.

Joanne Flagg has been bringing students from her sixth grade class at the Gill Elementary School to the annual Connecticut River clean-up for several years. For some families, this has become a tradition. Diane Garland and her son Clayton, of Northfield, were on the clean-up for the first time, but last year it was her husband and an older son. "And this is something we can do every year," Garland noted.

Dennis Goshea and his son Deven often go fishing together, and it was on a recent trip down a riverbank in Gill that Dennis stepped on a chunk of wood that had two nails sticking out. They went right through his sandal and into his foot, and that was inspiration enough to get involved. Deven strode determinedly with his schoolmates up Foster Road in Montague. In mere moments, they were picking up bottles, paper, and tin cans. "Which bucket is which?" asked one, who wanted to be sure she separated the trash properly. A minute later, a lawnmower, three tires, and two storm windows were piled up for a crew of haulers to pick up later. Flagg called her students' attention to two propane canisters and showed them how to deal with this kind of item, tying a piece of neon pink ribbon to a branch just above the canisters to help the haulers find them.

Students from the UMass Water Geographies class were new to the clean-up. Led by professor Eve Vogel, this crew filled two truckloads with tires, party trash, and scrap metal from along the riverbank below the Turners Falls dam. Students from Deerfield Academy

were another new addition to the roster of volunteers this year. One group went to Millers Falls, while another accompanied the school's Environmental Science teacher and sustainability coordinator, Jeff Jewett, to the shores by Cabot Camp near the base of the French King Bridge. Feet and gloves muddy, they posed gleefully with their bags of trash for a school photo, but their prize-for-oddness find came from the Millers Falls side of the camp. Two students noticed a double parking meter submerged by the shore, and others hauled it up a steep slope, slippery with wet leaves and mud.

Two lucky individuals took a boat ride with Bill Gabriel of Northfield Mountain from Barton Cove to Kidd's Island. "Half a canoe, old tents, scrap metal from old Model T's and wagons, a 1948 license plate, a recliner, a stinky rug, lots of Styrofoam, and plastic bottles," listed Gabriel, when asked what they found there.

Laurel Carpenter, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff member at the Discovery Center and USF&W refuge manager Barry Parrish were joined by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation staffer Janel Nockleby in a boat that departed Sunderland and went north to Third Island. They returned with a full boat of trash, and Carpenter reported, "There are probably still ten more truckloads."

Volunteers are not always affiliated with a group. Sue Sharbaugh, from Erving, came back for her second year on the clean-up. She and her husband, Harry, are lifelong nature lovers and have been taking care of the local leg of the Metacomet and Monadnock hiking trail for a decade.

The river clean-up is an extension of their commitment to the outdoors. She and Kevin Pelosky, an employee of the Massachusetts Office of Fish & Game who was volunteering on his day off, cleaned the canoe launch, bike path, and part of Greenfield Road by Poplar Street. While they found three tires and some trash, they thought the area did not look as bad as they had expected, which is heartening. Another individual volunteer, Deborah Bazer of Lake Pleasant, joined in with the Deerfield Academy group. The colorful signs advising the clean-up in recent weeks were thanks to her artistry.

Not all the clean-up happened on one single day. The Northfield Mount Hermon outdoor team were out on the river during Thursday's heavy rainstorm, when most of us were glad to be indoors, pulling junk out of an old dumping spot north of the Pauchaug Boat Ramp. A few tires were left behind because they could not be extricated from tree roots. They formed a catamaran by tying their canoes together to haul what they could to shore, filling three truckloads. The team from the Franklin County Technical School has been rescheduled to go out at the end of October, so the clean-up is not over quite yet.

The tally so far: one 30-yard dumpster, 44 tires (the lowest number in years), 800 pounds of scrap metal, four five-gallon buckets of household hazardous materials, two mattresses and a box spring, two recliners, and 14 gas tanks.

Thanks to all the volunteers for their public spirit and willingness to help make the environment we all live in just a little cleaner and a little better.



**SCHOOL** from page 9

the "outer ring towns" of Wendell, Leverett and Erving. He said no decisive votes would be taken on the matter before next March at town meeting.

Leverett school committee member Catherine Brooks said, "I don't get the impression our school committee is all gung-ho for regionalization. We're interested. It's on the table. But we're not champing at the bit for regionalization."

In other news, the committee voted to spend \$75 a meeting to hire a notetaker to record the minutes of each meeting, so that one of the committee members would no longer have to be tasked with that duty.

"This job is so complex, and getting more complex by the month," said committee member Kip Fonsh. "I don't think it's possible [for committee members] to give undivided attention to the matters at hand if they're taking notes."

School committee chair Dawn Sacks said, "I agree with everything you said. But I feel it's the wrong time, with contract negotiations with the teachers and budget negotiations with the town coming up."

Sacks voted in the minority as Fonsh's motion passed, 4-1.

The meeting got started with half

a dozen teachers and staff speaking in support of hiring a third janitor, part time, to keep the school clean. Long time maintenance supervisor and head custodian John Kuczek retired in June, and his trained replacement Tabitha McClellan resigned last month, reportedly because she felt she could not keep up with the demands of maintenance at the school with only one assistant custodian. Principal Ann Ross said the third position had been cut due to a need to bring the FY'13 school budget in as near to level as possible.

Teacher Bill Steward said the decision to reduce the total number of hours of custodial staff, "At this point, doesn't seem to be working within the school in terms of cleanliness, attention to detail, and health, potentially."

Unusually, a broomed up pile of debris was seen in the hallway leading to the library before the meeting convened, but later in the meeting that pile had been swept up, and a custodian was seen hard at work vacuuming rugs in a further hall.

Kuczek split his time nearly 50-50 with in a trial arrangement whereby he oversaw maintenance of other town buildings, in the last 18 months of his tenure. When he announced his retirement last spring, the administration determined not to repeat the

trial, keeping McClellan fulltime at the school. This decision also played a role in the school committee's choice to cut the third part time custodial post.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico came to the school committee meeting to ask for assistance in compiling a current list of unfunded state mandates, which the town intends to contest through the Massachusetts auditor's office. Wickman offered to spread the word and enlist the aid of the other member towns in Union 28, and d'Errico thanked her for that offer.

On another point, Ross clarified that home school students are currently welcome to use school facilities and participate in school programs. A policy is being developed on this, "to give some guidance for the benefit of [home school] parents and the school," Ross said.

Finally, Fonsh said a vote is likely to be taken at the Amherst-Pelham Regional School committee meeting on October 23rd about proposals to move the start time for the upper school forward, which would necessitate moving back the start time of the elementary school. Fonsh said the specific proposal or proposals to be voted on will be made public next week.



**Stolen Laptop Contained 18 Years of Work**



DETMOLD PHOTO

*James Wright wants his computer back intact.*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - On Friday night, September 28th, someone walked off with an ASUS laptop computer from the first floor apartment of James Wright, on Fifth Street in Turners Falls. A neighbor in Power Town said he saw a young man wearing fluorescent sneakers leaving with the laptop in a hurry that night. Wright said the police are holding out little hope that Wright will get the laptop back with the hard drive intact.

Wright said he had all his collected writings, poems, even a biography of his friend Eddie McGee, guitarist for the famed Worcester rock band the Bugs, on that laptop, with no backup. He'd like it back intact.

Wright was working the late night shift at the Boulevard Diner,

on Shrewsbury Street in Worcester, the city that gave birth to the American diner, when he got a call from Antoinette Wilson, a disabled friend raising three children in Turners, that she needed his help. He moved out to support her, and went to work as a cook at the Shady Glen from 2006 - 2009, when his own physical disability took him out of the workforce for good. Wilson passed on in 2011, and since then, writing has been his passion and his emotional mainstay. He'd like to get that laptop back intact.

"It's not the computer," said Wright. "As far as I'm concerned, they can keep the computer. Just give me my writings back."

Anyone with information about this crime should call the Montague police, at 863-8911.

*Due to a layout error in the issue of September 20th, we inadvertently failed to print the remover of an article on the late Alfred Verrier, and the fulfillment of his final wish. We apologize to his family for the error, and reprint the entire article, below.*

**World Traveler Comes Home to Rest**

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**

**GREAT FALLS** - The scattering of the late Alfred Verrier's ashes at Unity Park on Saturday afternoon, September 15th, was the result of a concerted effort led by Verrier's best friend, Donald Girard. The Turners Falls police cooperated by cordoning off First Street. A contingent from the Marine League fired a volley of shots from M-1 Garand rifles as part of the ceremony.

"Al wanted his ashes scattered in the river by Unity Park because that was his favorite place to play," Girard said. "We'll scatter some opposite the park utility building and the rest further up, off of the Red Bridge abutment."

Girard played taps in a touching tribute to Al, our friend and fellow classmate, who had graduated Turners Falls High School with us in 1948.

"Everyone was very cooperative, and I'd like to publicly express my gratitude to town officials for giving permission to scatter Al Verrier's ashes at Unity Park, and for the Montague police for closing the street to traffic," Girard said, noting that one of the Montague police officers is also a Marine veteran.

Verrier joined up after attending Boston University. While in the Marines, he met a girl from Millers Falls in Italy, who spoke glowingly of the Foreign Service. Verrier didn't learn her name but heeded her words. After leaving the Marines, he joined the U.S. Department of State as a diplomatic courier. A lover of history and geography who had won a history award in high school, Verrier was thrilled to travel the world and

get paid to do it.

A diplomatic pouch isn't just a briefcase chained to a courier's wrist as seen in movies. The pouches can weigh thousands of pounds, but still must be guarded during special handling at airports until they reach their destination.

Verrier's first post as courier was in Cairo in 1956. In his next seven years as courier, he traveled one and a half million miles from that office.

In his extensive travels, he met Rosita Gianovich in Australia. They were married in the Panama Canal Zone in 1965. A daughter of Chinese and Italian parents, Rosita is fluent in eight languages. Together, they have four daughters: Monique, Nicole, Jacqueline and Michele, and eight grandchildren.

Verrier's promotion to supervisor curtailed his extensive travels. In 1978 he was promoted to Chief of Diplomatic Courier Service; later upgraded to Director. In 1988, he was promoted, yet again, to Senior of Foreign Service, which is equal to a military general.

When Verrier worked with Ambassador George H. W. Bush in Beijing to improve diplomatic operations, they developed a lasting friendship. Al's mother, who ran Marie's Yarn Shop on Avenue A in Turners Falls, knitted stockings for all the Bush grandchildren. Barbara Bush often mentioned the stockings were hung every Christmas, and they appeared in the background of published photos. Verrier retired to live in Fairfax, VA, in 1995. He died June 22nd of this year.

After scattering Verrier's ashes at Unity Park, friends and family left for the Ocean Harvest in Keene, N.H. to dine on fried clams, a favorite dish of Al's at his favorite restaurant.

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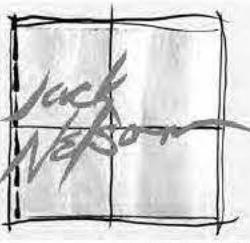
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### ALL THE TIME:

#### EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library: Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 – 11 a.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.

#### EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

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

### ART SHOWS:

#### NOW through OCTOBER 6th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "Peter Monroe: Negatives From the 1970s". 29 photograph prints from negatives exposed by Monroe between 1973 and 1978, taken mostly in Brooklyn and Queens, NY, Connecticut, and Long Island's North Shore. Each photograph is accompanied by Monroe's personal narrative.

#### NOW through OCTOBER 28th

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: "Eleven" - work by Hallmark Institute of Photography October 2012 Graduating Class.

#### NOW through NOVEMBER 29th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Photographs by John Grabill.

### LOCAL EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4th

Bowker Auditorium, UMass, Amherst: Film and Q&A with director - Documentary: The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, A Torch for Peace. 7 p.m. Free.



**Separated By Birth**  
An art show and anniversary

An artists reception and exhibit opening of "Separated By Birth," paintings by Cathe Janke and Stephen Cabill, will be held at the one year anniversary of LOOT on Friday, October 12th at 7 p.m. The exhibit will be on display through December 12th.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Patrick Donnelly & Jean Valentine - poetry reading. 7 p.m.

Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls: Shag. 7 - 9 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Relics - favorite 50's & 60's oldies. 8 - 10 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Kristin Hoffman (singer / songwriter) with special guest Stephanie Carlin (jazz, funk, folk). 7 p.m.

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Danceteria - electro-pop, new wave, 80's to today. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Equalites - reggae. 9:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Country Triple Show: LittleWolf, Eyes of Jane & Ryan Brooks. 9:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6th

Grammar School, Putney, VT: Annual Medieval Village Faire - games, merchants, feasts, musicians, festivities. 10

a.m. - 4 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Watershed History - The Grand Trunk Hotel. Built in 1872 and taken down in the 1960's, come learn about the grand old days in Turners Falls. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: Oktoberfest - flavors from Germany. 4 - 10 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Movie Night - Japanese anime film, "Spirited Away," followed by a brief discussion. 6 - 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: Square dance to live old-time music. Caller Jennifer Steckler with music by Her Majesty's Streak o' Lean. 7 - 10 p.m. \$5.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Oakes & Smith (folk pop) with special guest Justin Hillman (alternative folk). 7:30 p.m.

The Montague Bookmill, Montague: Carrie Ferguson, full-band show, and Kristen Ford and Kara Kulpa. 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Afterglo - Current & Classic Hits. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Celtic Session - musicians of all levels can sit in and perform traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Blueberry Buckle - family band. 2 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Ramblin' Jack Elliott & Jeffrey Foucault. 7 - 10 p.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: Irish Session. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Eric Love - singing favorites from the 60's & 70's. 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Karaoke by TNT productions. 9 p.m. - 12 a.m. Free.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10th

Montague Grange: Circle Dance. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: Karaoke with Dirty Johnny. 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Special Halloween Show - Doctor Gasp "The Misshapen Jack-O-Lantern Tour" with special guest Wooden Dinosaur. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Surly Temple - Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & of course, Tommy Boynton! 8 - 10 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse Music: Doug Hewitt Group - rock & jazz fusion. Refreshments available. 7 - 9 p.m. Donations support free nature programs at the Center.

LOOT found + made, Turners Falls: Artists reception & Loof's One Year Anniversary Party - painters Cathe Janke & Stephen Cahill exhibit Separated by Birth opening. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Fancy Trash - indie folk rock. 8 p.m.

The Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: Ed Byrne Latin Jazz Evolution. 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: The Headband - reggae. 9:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th

Variety of buildings in downtown Greenfield: The Brick + Mortar Video Art Festival - Video Art & live performances.

Variety of venues in downtown Greenfield: The Greenfield Word Festival - Poets, Spoken Word Artists, Writers.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14th

Visitor Center at Hall Tavern, Historic Deerfield: Historic Trades Demonstrations: Silversmithing with Steve Smithers. 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Celtic Session - musicians of all levels can sit in and perform traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater Presents: Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka. 2 p.m. Call the Shea to reserve tickets at 413-863-2281. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Ray Mason - indie rock. 2 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick - Warped Americana. 7:30 - 10 p.m.

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 15th

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Screen Freshener - an informal screening series looking at exciting cinema, curated by Neil. 8 - 10:30 p.m. Free.

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16th

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: Behind Bars: Voices - A one-act play about the lives of women incarcerated in America. From courtroom to segregation cell - a look at the ways in which women navigate this oppressive, restrictive, and punishing environment. Social conditions, women's health, mandatory minimum drug policies, and the very real experience of being a mother and becoming a mother while incarcerated are represented in the scenes and the play concludes with a section of poetry. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17th

Montague Grange: Circle Dance. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: Karaoke with Dirty Johnny. 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18th

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: Take Back our Lives - candlelight vigil and march in honor of domestic violence month.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Invasive Species - a chat with Jennifer Forman-Orth of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources about invasive species and the effect they have on people and wildlife. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Free.

Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls: Shag. 7 - 9 p.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: Quebecois Session. 8 p.m. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Jeffrey Martin - Americana folk. 8 p.m.

### CALL for Erotic ART SUBMISSIONS

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "Triple S:

Sensual>Sexual>Smul" show in February 2013. Naughty, bawdy, funny--or just merely suggestive-- artwork--anywhere on the continuum of erotica--is welcome. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Smaller works more likely to be chosen due to space constraints in the unique and very tiny gallery. Last year's show was a very popular, fun event! Email jpegs to naban@verizon.net with "SSS" in subject line OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A Turners Falls MA 01376. Include contact information, brief artist statement, dimensions and prices of work, and a non-refundable fee of \$10 (check to Nina's Nook or PayPal to naban@verizon.net) by 1/20/2013.



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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - Fall is bitter-sweet. The early maples are turning orange and red. Late wildflowers edge the yard: purple asters, yellow sunflowers and a white blooming weed I have no name for. There are crisp apples for the picking and eating.

Cool weather makes the mouth water for soups and apple pie. The humidity is gone and the night sky is full of stars. October's clear light brings everything into sharp focus. Cooling temperatures add zest to the step and a new infusion of energy.

The poignancy of all this beauty is the knowledge that it will not last. The days are too short; the morning light comes later, and the evenings close in too soon. The summer-weight clothes are no long enough without an added layer. The midday warmth disappears too quickly. The songbirds are mostly silent now; their daylong symphony has been replaced by the quarrelsome chatter of crows and jays. The dreamy languid days are over.

As you finish harvesting the garden, now is the perfect time to look forward and to begin to plan for next season.

While we are not religious about it, we have kept something of a garden log since we began a garden here by the river some 30 odd years ago. This book reflects the triumphs of bountiful harvests, early pickings, crop issues and some failures. It also records dates of first crops and frosts and the effects of weather extremes. Like the diaries many of us attempted to keep in younger years, much is unrecorded, some months empty of comment.

Now as the season winds down and thoughts are fresh, we will note down things we won't otherwise remember. A sturdy garden fence will be at the top of the list for next year, since we lost much to the voracious woodchucks and some, less

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

### Autumn in the Garden

regretted, to the delicately nibbling deer.

Next season, we plan to grow some crops in greater moderation. There really were too many tomato plants despite the fact that we gave away three quarters of what was raised in the sunroom. The plants were too crowded and as they were huge, each competed with the other for the sun and water supply. They also practically shaded out their shorter neighbors, the sweet peppers.

Good gardening also requires a certain ruthlessness. We're going to shorten the list of varieties to those most favored and to the best performing. That will leave Sungold, arguably the tastiest and longest performing cherry and Early Girl which was indeed the earliest full sized fruit. When we set out the plants Memorial Day weekend, the Early Girls were already blossoming and provided us with fruits at the end of June right alongside those sweet cherries.

While all of the beefsteaks take longer to mature, we will continue to grow Celebrity for the perfect fruits and strong tomato flavor, and Brandywine because, while the fruit is lumpy and tends to crack, these sweet pinkish red fruits are splendid for slicing and always the largest we grow. We'll round out these four standouts with two others we'll look forward to choosing when the garden catalogues come in.

If you can note what varieties most pleased you from last season's garden, this brief jotting alone can start your list as you peruse the new catalogues of tempting offerings next winter.

For example, more green beans. We love fresh garden beans steamed lightly to lock in color and right-out-of-the-garden taste. For next year's garden, this means a shift from bush beans back to the pole variety. Growing the plants upwards means better plant hygiene, less tendency to mildew if the season is wet, ease of weeding and ease of picking these crispy beauties at the young and slender phase. Kentucky Wonder is an old tried and true variety. It's also fun to grow Scarlet Runner beans for the bright red flowers from which

the traditional green beans grow. Maybe with the shortage of bees those plants will also better guarantee vigorous pollination, as their bright flowers signal to the wandering pollinators.

Forget the space grabbing large fruits which take all season to produce and which, each fall are grown in our area in legion and sold at very reasonable prices. While it is fun to grow your own winter squashes, if your garden space is small, save the earth for short season crops and those like sweet peas which are pricey even at the height of their season. A short ride into our Valley will net as much butternut, acorn, Hubbard and other winter squashes as you can store, and it will get you out and about for views of the splendid

fall colors too.

Here are some tips from the UMass Extension Service newsletter regarding the harvesting and storage of winter squash. They recommend harvesting winter squashes when the rinds are hard and the color deep and solid. They recommend leaving a couple of inches of stem on these fruits. Winter squashes should be stored at temperatures of 45-55 degrees. Finally, the newsletter notes, "In olden days, settlers would store winter squash beneath their beds." I love that. I've never yet found the right spot for squash storage. The cellar is too warm with the wood stove going. The garage is too cold. I never thought about the unheated upstairs bedroom. Perhaps I'll try the under the bed trick at the risk of frightening my paranoid feline friend.

Finally, earlier, earlier, earlier. Next year we will put those salad greens, peas, radishes, kale and other leafy vegetables in as soon as the ground can be worked. Once the soil

is dry enough to crumble in the hand, forget how cold it feels to the touch and put in all of the cold crops you can. The seeds will germinate and these plants do love the cool weather. They can even sustain a light frost or two.

Planting cold crops early will also benefit the gardener in two other ways. You'll avoid some of the later season pests which can plague these plants and you'll harvest them in time to give the space over to the crops that prefer warmer soil and air temperatures. This timing will allow even gardeners working with small space to grow a wide range of cold and heat loving plants each season. You will also increase the chances that whatever New England weather may come, much of what you try to grow will do well, giving you the satisfaction of producing your own food and the enjoyment of truly fresh garden flavors.

Happy end of season gardening and planning for the new season to come!

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