



# The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 12 – NO. 2

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 10, 2013

## Federal Shutdown: Area Food, Fuel, & Early Education Programs Face Hardship, Uncertainty



The shutdown is likely to impact local food pantries.

By C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – As the government shutdown enters its second week, the effects locally are beginning to be felt in many sectors. Those who have the least are feeling the impact the most. Food security, early education programs and fuel assistance are among the many programs that are already feeling the shutdown bite. In addition, university research labs that rely on federal funding are also in peril. All in all, the shutdown is creating hardship, or at least uncertainty here in our part of Western Massachusetts.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will continue operations and eligible households will still receive monthly benefits for October. Beyond the end of the month, however, the situation is not as clear as SNAP does not have statutory authority to continue

distributing benefits after October. About \$2 billion in SNAP contingency funds are available and could be used to support state administrative activities to issue and process benefits. Contingency funds are provided in annual appropriations and do not expire until the end of FY2014. But as SNAP is providing about \$6 billion per month in benefits, the contingency funds would not go very far if needed to help fund benefits.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, that supports a great many organizations in the county, is also feeling the effects. According to Christina Maxwell, director of programs at the The Food Bank, their organization relies extensively on Commodity Assistance Programs (CAP) including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). While there will be no new funding, existing inventories can still be used. In addition, The Food Bank expects that if and when funding is provided through a Continuing Resolution, it will be available retroactively, which would allow programs to cover their administrative costs

see SHUTDOWN page A4



Marilyn Chiarello of Brattleboro, VT, right, examines dill seeds grown by Gail Mason, left.

## Wendell Launches Seed Library

By SHARON WACHSLER

Wendell is poised to be the newest Massachusetts community – joining Concord and Springfield – to open a seed library.

The Wendell Seed Saving Library, a project of the Wendell Local Food Security Project and the Wendell Free Library, is the brainchild of Gail Mason, whose two-hour September 29, seed saving workshop marked the project's debut. Assisted by Nina Renshaw of Granby, Mason taught over twenty attendees how to pollinate, choose, separate, preserve, and label seeds for personal use and to preserve genetic diversity in the town's food supply.

The seed library, due to open in

March, will provide only open pollinated or heirloom self-pollinated seeds from plants whose parentage is known. Hybrid and GMO seeds will not be used.

Seeds will be included in the Wendell Free Library's card catalog and organized by how easy or difficult they are to germinate, allowing both novice gardeners and seasoned farmers to make informed choices. Those who borrow seeds will save one or more fruits from those plants and save their seeds – following Mason's instructions – to return to the seed library in the fall.

Organizers and participants see the seed bank as a unique way to support agriculture at its most local

see SEEDS page B3

## Leverett Teachers Protest Stalled Contract

By DAVID DETMOLD

Representatives of the Leverett Education Association attended the Leverett school committee meeting again on Monday, October 7, calling for the committee to ratify a new multi-year contract. Negotiations, according to the LEA, have been deadlocked over the length of the new contract, and salary levels sought by the teachers.

"Contract negotiations reached an impasse on July 8, but mediation was not filed by the school committee until September 18," said technology teacher Karen Gravina, who has 15 years of service at Leverett Elementary. "Leverett teachers are currently working without a contract. Our last three contracts have been one year contracts. Prior to that, we were able to negotiate three year contracts."

Essential skills teacher Vivian Kucinski, in her 20<sup>th</sup> year at LES, said, "Last year, teachers agreed to an additional 25 minutes per week of student instructional time. This is equivalent to two extra school days of instructional time for the year without additional pay. Leverett Elementary staff successfully worked during the 2012-13 school year to elevate Leverett from a Level II to

see CONTRACT page A5

## Farm Network Distributes Fresh Local Produce To Low-Income Seniors

By JOHN FURBISH

**TURNERS FALLS** – Every Tuesday morning from the end of July through the beginning of September, 40 income-eligible Turners Falls seniors go to the main Powertown Apartments building on 152 Avenue A to pick up a bag of assorted fresh produce from the Red Fire Farm in Montague and Granby.

The fortunate forty are enrolled in the "Senior Farm Share 2013" program organized by CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture). For a small co-payment of \$10 total, the lucky seniors are able to get bags of assorted produce, each one worth quite a bit more than \$10, for ten weeks in a row! State funding, grants from church congregations, support from Local Hero farm members, and private donations provide the bulk of the costs (about \$90 for each \$100 share) of buying from the farms. The Senior Farm Share program has been in operation for nine years.

In the Connecticut Valley (Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties), one person in seven is a senior. And seniors are all too often plagued by fixed incomes and inadequate nest eggs that are buffeted by inflation and our current economic turmoil. In Franklin County, 7.4% of seniors were living below the



Ken Long looks at his bag of field greens included in the week's share. Patt Caron and volunteers Gloria Holmes and Mary Cavanaugh offer suggestions of how to use them.

poverty line in 2010.

CISA helped 365 people in the senior population in the Valley last year, by organizing twelve farms to supply sixteen distribution sites with vegetable shares in the three counties. In Franklin County, the CISA farm share sites are located in Turners Falls, Greenfield, Shelburne Falls, and Charlemont.

Operating since 2004, the Senior Farm Share in Turners Falls takes place at its distribution site at the main Powertown office. This year Patt Caron is site coordinator, and 40 Turners residents are enrolled (with 5 of them from Powertown). Every Tuesday morning at 7:30, Patt and Kim Hine, Powertown Maintenance Director, go to the big barn at the Red Fire Farm main branch at 184 Meadow Road in Montague Center, where Kristi Ceccarossi brings out as many as eight crates with the week's allotment of produce.

Then they return to the main building of Powertown, where volunteers spread out the boxes on two tables for the fortunate forty to do their pick-ups, from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Red Fire Farm supplies both the Turners Falls and Chicopee sites with organic vegetables. Established in 2001 (and becoming "Certified Organic" the same year), Red Fire Farm is operated by Ryan and Sarah Voiland, two forward-looking farmers who promote a "localvore diet." He studied fruit and vegetable horticulture at Cornell and she studied environmental studies at Vassar. They both are leery of modern agribusiness with its chemically preserved monoculture crops that get shipped by trucks, trains, ships, and planes all over the country and all over the world.

Red Fire offers fresh local

see CISA page A4

## Source to Sea Cleanup: Huge Amounts of Trash Removed From River

By BETH BAZLER

**TURNERS FALLS** – Downtown Turners was teaming with activity early Saturday morning as 78 volunteers gathered at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Ranging in ages from 7 to 79, folks huddled to get their assignments, get briefed on safety, and pick up their equipment. These civic-minded volunteers were heading out on the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut River Source-to-Sea Cleanup. Together, they make a significant positive impact on the environment by removing trash from both the water and watershed lands in Gill, Montague, Erving and East Deerfield.

One measure of the success of this local Source-to-Sea effort is the tally of trash collected from the past 16 years: 30 dumpsters filled with trash – each dumpster taller and wider than the arm span of an average adult and almost as long as four people lying end to end!

Add in almost 18 tons of tires and many refrigerators, microwaves, televisions, car parts and even a parking meter. The good news is that there has been a trend towards less trash in many areas during the years of the clean-up effort. The bad news is that the clean-up needs to happen at all.

This year 41 tires were removed from the silt in the bottom of the Turners Falls

power canal by 18 Franklin County Technical School Landscaping and Horticulture students. During intermittent rain on Friday, students made their hard work fun by sliding down muddy slopes, while holding onto a safety rope, and having a friendly competition to see whether male or female student pairs could carry more tires, threaded on shovel handles, up the steeply sloped canal dike.

Other tires were unearthed from an historic dump along a beautiful rural road in Montague. Initially the group couldn't find the debris that Clean-up organizers had sent them to retrieve. Group member Starr Pinkos of Montague stated, "We didn't want to return with just one beer can and a piece of cardboard. Then, Tim (Tim Delaney of Whately) started waving and whistling from the woods where he had found a dozen tires camouflaged by leaves."

Team member Scott Brennan, of

Greenfield, pulled his truck as close to the newly discovered pile as possible. Ms. Pinkos continued, "We started carrying tires without rims to the road and rolling the heavy tires with rims to Scott's truck. Kate (Kate Putnam, also of Whately) just kept digging them out, but the last few tires were tightly wedged into the earth." The remaining tires were pried out using a stick as a fulcrum. Their collection totaled exactly 50 soil covered tires.

The collecting of trash is only the first step in this multi-day clean-up effort: the

see SOURCE page A3



Cooper Deane and Josh Call, students in Franklin County Technical School's Landscape and Horticulture program, carry tires out of the Turners Falls power canal.

# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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## The Hijacking of American Democracy

Amidst the vulgarly entertaining political theatre, posturing and heated rhetoric engendered by the government shutdown, the reality is that American democracy has been hijacked. A minority group in the House of Representatives has effectively managed to overrule the majority, and in the process hold the country hostage. They are supposedly fighting to overturn a law – a law that was passed by congress and affirmed by the Supreme Court.

There are ways to amend a law. This isn't it. Their extortionist demands that the president negotiate with them is absurd. You don't negotiate a law that has already taken effect. Their irresponsibility is extreme. Not only are a great number of Americans seriously affected, their actions are sending a very dire message to the country and the world that factionalism is alive and well in America.

And now comes the debt ceiling crisis. Just about everybody, except for the Tea Party Republicans, seems to feel that if the U.S. defaults on its debts, true global economic catastrophe is likely.

The Tea Party hostage takers, however, seem to be cheering on a default in the hope that this will finally bring about their ardent desire for a smaller government. This

is blatantly false. What the effect will be is to reduce one of America's strongest assets: the backing of its debt.


The Tea Party Republicans love to evoke the constitution. But their ignorance of what the constitution really says is astounding.

Section 4 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, for instance, declares "The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned." This clause was added precisely to prevent a faction of Congress using the debt ceiling as a bargaining tool.

While they may be ignorant of the constitution and of how American democracy is supposed to work, the Tea Party Republicans, however, do seem to have studied a little something about wrecking a government in order to get their way.

As *New York Times* columnist and former Middle East correspondent Thomas Friedman suggested, perhaps their playbook is taken from that of the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah (Party of God), which in 2011 forced the collapse of Lebanon's government, and elected its own leader president.

Letter to the Editors



## Sewage Sludge Cake: Eat It Or Leave It?

I admire the ingenuity of the workers at the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility (MWPCF) who have designed, developed and implemented a process to produce concentrated sludge cake and to reduce financial and environmental costs.

However, I'm concerned about applying sewage sludge fertilizer to our public, agricultural, and private lands because of its toxicity.

I researched the topic while serving on a local Board of Health for five years, which dealt with the subject of bagging and distributing sewage sludge pellets as "organic fertilizer".

The "organic" component of sludge is mostly human waste, which, if void of contaminants and treated properly (removing

pathogens), can make "humanure". Those who make use of humanure, often owners of composting toilets, need to be aware that pharmaceuticals remain in the waste even when the pathogens are destroyed. They need to avoid household chemical disposal into their composting toilets. Antibiotics, estrogens, and chemotherapy drugs are examples of what may be in the waste stream. In any case, it is inadvisable to use even "clean", processed humanure on vegetable gardens.

Our municipal sewer systems, and septic tanks which are pumped out and the sewage added to that which the MWPCF processes, deliver a mix of household and industrial waste. Think about the chemicals going down your drain from cleaning, hair dyes and beauty

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority administration (Tina Cote, Michael Perreault and two consultants) met privately with Mark Fairbrother (Montague Selectboard), Frank Abbondanzio (Montague Administrator), and Walter Ramsey (Montague Town Planner) on Wednesday, October 2.

This was a meeting required by the FRTA board in a motion provisionally approving route changes, including the elimination of Route 23, the direct route from Montague to Amherst.

The elimination of the route has been opposed by the Montague Selectboard, Montague residents attending hearings, and a petition containing approximately 150 signatures.

FRTA officials did not provide data to explain how Route 23 is financed or why the fare is twice the similar Northampton route. Officials have made scattered and sometimes contradictory claims about costs but have not broken down the financing of any of these routes.

I asked for this information weeks ago. Both the Town Planner and the Montague Reporter supported this request. Now I have filed an official public records request for the data.

The FRTA leadership continues to complain about low ridership on

the Amherst route even though they themselves have created this problem by charging twice the fare and providing much less service than comparable routes (particularly Greenfield to Northampton).

The FRTA continues to argue that they are increasing service to Amherst even though their new "Montague Center Connector" requires going to Greenfield and making two transfers to get to Amherst.

Even if the times were comparable, this is not going to attract commuters. And the times are not comparable, especially for Millers Falls and Montague Center. Montague Center commuters are being asked to get a 6:30 bus to Greenfield and change twice to get to Amherst at 7:40. It is not going to happen: going to Greenfield is not how Montague residents get to Amherst.

This proposal appears to set up divisions between Greenfield, which seems to benefit, and Montague, which does not. Times to and from Greenfield to Amherst are reduced whereas the times from Montague are increased. Greenfield is made the hub of the system.

The FRTA board has weighted voting which gives Greenfield significant power. The perception of a "power play" may not be fair, but the total failure to consult Montague in the planning process enhances it.

The FRTA proposal focuses the

entire route system in Montague on creating a corridor between Greenfield, Turners and Orange. There are 13 trips on this route, which is well served already, but the direct link to the largest employer in the region (UMass) is eliminated. This is absolutely terrible public transportation policy.

This tradeoff should have been discussed with Montague, which pays for most of the local share of Route 23, BEFORE the FRTA staff locked themselves into it.

There was no consultation at all so now "discussions" primarily involve trying to convince Montague of a preordained decision.

The FRTA staff does not appear to have seriously considered the alternative proposal to Sunderland endorsed by the Montague Selectboard. This proposal was not mentioned at the last FRTA board meeting.

It is not clear that these issues were discussed at the last FRTA Transportation Advisory Committee meeting which, although mandated by the state, appears to be powerless.

The Montague Selectboard will be discussing these issues at its next meeting on October 15, at 7:00 PM, upstairs at town hall in Turners.

This will be a public meeting. All concerned should attend and let their voices be heard.

products, painting, working in your garage, etc.

Then think about the industries, the hospital, hair salons, automotive businesses in our area which are discharging chemicals and pharmaceuticals into the waste stream. Think about the storm water runoff containing every substance used in our cars, trucks and buses. Dioxins from paper mills, PCBs, nickel, cadmium, oil and gas, are just a short list.

Unfortunately, we don't have a way to remove these substances when creating this very concentrated sludge. We can kill the pathogens from human waste, but that's the least of our worries.

I know that testing for contaminants is hit or miss, as one day's wastewater will contain different contaminants from the next day's or the next month's. Furthermore, I doubt that testing will include all the possible contaminants, as that is a very expensive and extensive process. There is simply no practical and low-cost method to test sludge for harmful contaminants on a daily basis. It would be futile in any case, as there will always be contaminants harmful to human health in sewage sludge.

Sludge contains all the stuff we work very hard at to keep out of the environment, keep out of the streams and rivers. To then spread it all over the land, which drains to the same rivers, and directly expose ourselves to through food and direct contact, makes no sense. Sludge, like animal manures, tends to run off of land when it is applied on the surface. It is light and floats; it is washed away when put on bare ground. It runs right back into the same streams and rivers, and then is called pollution.

If the Department of Environmental Protection were to approve the use of sludge cake as agricultural fertilizer, we must look at such a decision in light of DEP's interest in locating scarce disposal sites, as a possible consideration overriding the protection of human health. (Health is not DEP's area of expertise.)

My own town's recent experience with DEP was very unfortunate, as many Montague residents

are aware. Wendell sited a very "short-lived", tiny construction and demolition landfill on the Montague border overlooking the Millers River. Despite the Wendell Board of Health's numerous protests over many years, for a decade DEP kept extending the dumping permits to such an extreme that finally the over-capacity landfill, amazingly balanced on the side of a hill, began shifting towards the river.

In an emergency operation DEP then wasted over ONE MILLION OF OUR TAX DOLLARS to redistribute the waste. They refused to listen to our common-sense arguments about gravity! They lost our trust.

Please don't rely on government agency approvals. Please protect our agricultural lands, home gardens, yards, and public parks from sludge cake contamination. We must use our own common sense to protect public health and help stem the tide of degenerative diseases. Please, DON'T LET THEM EAT CAKE!

— Gloria Kegeles  
Wendell

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

**Franklin Tech Football** coach Joe Gamache hadn’t beaten the Pathfinder football team in 12 years, until Saturday, October 5, when the Eagles downed the Pioneers, 35-6.

“Words can’t really explain it,” Gamache said of the victory. “(The Pioneers) are the defending Super Bowl champions and they put a scare on us with that first drive. They chewed up almost the entire first quarter and were able to punch one in, but the kids really responded in a positive way.” FCTS Eagles are now 4 - 0 in league play and 4 -1 overall. They next host Smith Vocational on Saturday, Oct 12, with a kick-off at 1 p.m.

**Great Falls Coffeehouse Series** on Friday, Oct 11 presents Martin Swinger, a lively singer-songwriter whose music spans oysters, dyslexic theology, Betty Boop and Buddha with performance panache and ingenious songs which are surprising, intimate, outrageous, and true. Opening for Martin will be local favorite, Stephanie Marshall of The Boxcar Lilies.

The **Discovery Center** will also be celebrating its **10th year anniversary** the same night. Enjoy anniversary cake, meet GFDC Friends and just have a good time. Doors open at 6:30 pm, the concert begins at 7:00. Refreshments will be available. Museum and Museum Store are open during intermission. Donations (\$6-\$12 suggested at the door) help the Friends support free nature programs at the Center. The Friends of GFDC host local bands, singers, and individual musicians in the Great Hall on the second Friday of each month.

**Bingo** at the Turners Falls Branch of **Greenfield Savings Bank** on Saturday, Oct 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Jay Fidanza, WHAI radio personality, and Britney Lambert will be teaming up to call the numbers. GSB will provide cards, prizes and light refreshments; all you need to bring is yourself. Seating will definitely be on a first call basis so reserve your spot at 863-4316.

Enjoy the brilliant colors of fall, the dramatic cliffs of **Rose Ledges**, and explore historic 19th century stone quarries and signs of wildlife.

This three mile loop hike is a local favorite, offering beautiful scenery during peak fall foliage at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, 63 Millers Falls Road in Northfield. Hikers should bring lunch and water, dress in layers, wear sturdy footwear and be comfortable hiking over somewhat hilly terrain with an elevation gain of 800 feet. The hike is on Saturday, Oct 12, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. and is recommended for ages 10 and older. The program will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. For more info please call 800-859-2960.

The **Great Falls Discovery Center** begins its **winter hours** on October 12. The center will be open on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until mid-May 2014. School groups, senior centers and other organizations can still reserve times for educational field trips through a staff representative by calling 413-863-3221.

The **Wendell Council on Aging** will hold a forum on **housing for seniors** from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, at Wendell Town Hall. “Aging in place” in a small rural town with few organized services can be difficult. The forum will present information about programs that help seniors stay in their homes despite physical and financial limitations. There will also be information about affordable over-55 housing options in the area. After the presentations, over soup provided by Council on Aging members, par-

ticipants are invited to share their ideas about what they would like to see in Wendell to promote safe, affordable housing options for seniors in the future.

“**Seussical**”, the musical, opens at the Shea Theater on Friday, October 18, at 7:30 p.m. with all your favorite Dr. Seuss characters. Performances continue on Oct. 20,25,26 and 27. No Performance on October 19 which is “Pumpkinfest” in Downtown Turners Falls. For show times please visit [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org).

A **public farewell** is planned for retiring **Montague Public Libraries Director Sue SanSoucie** on October 23 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A. David Payne, the new Director, will be welcomed.

Patrons, co-workers and volunteers are invited to add recollections and mementos of SanSoucie’s 30-plus years at the Montague Public Libraries to a scrapbook. SanSoucie has been a staunch supporter of the Montague system of neighborhood branches.

The event is being planned by the Trustees, staff and Friends. Patrons are invited to join the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries to participate in future events and fundraising. Contact the Carnegie Library for more information at 863-3214; to volunteer, contact Bunny Caldwell at [buncald@comcast.net](mailto:buncald@comcast.net) or (413) 824-0439.

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**SOURCE** from page A1

next wave of volunteers focuses on hauling trash. Trucks and labor from many groups including the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, New England Environmental and FirstLight Power, help with this stage of the effort. Many hands make light, or at least lighter, work and these volunteers, who work late into the afternoon, are fueled by lunch from the Wagon Wheel in Gill.

Disposing of the trash in an environmentally sound manner is a crucial step in the clean-up effort. The Town of Montague generously opens the gates of their transfer station, where recyclables are separated and removed from the solid waste stream. Many area businesses donate their time and expertise to help dispose of some of the more problematic trash. Alternative Re-

cycling Systems, Covanta Energy, Bridgestone Tire and Lakin Tire East, and the Environmental Response Section of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection all play an important role.

The tally from Saturday’s efforts included 1½-30 yard dumpsters of debris, 116 tires, 1,500 pounds of scrap metal, seven mattresses/box springs, seven televisions, two cubic yards of recyclables and even the remnants of a duck blind. Beyond the statistics, the true value of the Source-to-Sea Clean-up effort in eastern Franklin County is the experience of those involved, coming together for a few hours, to make a difference in their communities. Clean-up volunteer Chris Gleason summed up his desire to help with the statement, “I wanted to give back to the community that has given so much to me.”



**FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**  
**FALL“CLEAN SWEEP” – BULKY WASTE COLLECTION**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 – 9 A.M. TO NOON**

Northfield Hwy Garage; sites in Buckland & Whately  
Tires, gas tanks, furniture, TVs, scrap metal, etc.  
No pre-registry. Cash fees for disposal. District residents only. Call (413) 772-2438 for more information,  
or visit [franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html)

the finalist out of 17 applicants for an opening on the police force. Following Chief Gary Billings’ recommendation, the board agreed to sign onto a Franklin County mutual law enforcement agreement, which will allow on duty patrolmen to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth across town lines during the course of regular duty.

For example, if an on duty Leverett patrolman traveling to court in Greenfield encounters a drunk driver, that officer would legally be allowed to make the traffic stop in another Franklin County town.

The Community Preservation Committee is seeking one new at large member to fill the seat left vacant when Laurel Kahn retired from that committee.

Rich Brazeau agreed to join a newly created ad hoc committee being organized by the school board to look into the long term sustainability of the Leverett Elementary School, in view of declining enrollment.

The school building, enlarged to comfortably house between 200 and 250 students, now has a pre-K through 6 enrollment of just 121, including 19 students using the

‘Choice In’ program from neighboring towns.

The selectboard, at the request of school principal, Anne Ross, examined ways to expand the scope of the Kimball Trust, a fund administered by the school to provide clothing to “poor children” in Leverett. The board was sympathetic to the request to expand the scope of the charitable trust to include students attending the school from other towns, but after reading over the text of the original bequest, felt bound to the original intent to limit the gift to children – whether in school or not – from within the borders of the town of Leverett.

Mark your calendars for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvest Festival at the elementary school on Saturday, October 19. Kicking off with the Firemen’s Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m., the festivities continue with live music, food and games, raffles and demonstrations, an old vehicle show, horseback rides, and greenhouse tours.

That same evening, from 5 to 7 p.m., the 6<sup>th</sup> grade puts on their spaghetti supper, so come and enjoy!

**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**  
**Short and Fairly Sweet**

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard had one of its shortest meetings in recent memory but there were no complaints from its members or the sparse crowd in attendance. Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio was on vacation.

The meeting began with a very brief discussion of the shared animal control officer agreement with Greenfield., which the selectboard had approved and funded but not yet signed. The agreement provides that Montague, Deerfield and Greenfield share the cost of the officer on a 25%-25%-50% basis.

“It’s wonderful,” Montague police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge declared. “Greenfield is doing everything.” That is, Greenfield is providing the officer, the car, the office and the tools. The selectboard unanimously directed the chair to sign the agreement.

Next up was a change order for the Unity Park Improvements project but since Bruce Hunter, housing authority official who oversees the project, was not in attendance, the issue was tabled.

Next came Charles J Garbiel II,

current owner of the Shady Glen Restaurant. Garbiel sought to have his beer and wine license amended to allow liquor service to begin at 10 a.m. (to 1 p.m.) rather than 12 noon on Sundays.

The change is in response to a change in state law on the hours of Sunday liquor sales. The request was approved unanimously with selectboard member Chris Boutwell recusing himself.

Finally an application was approved to allow the Harmony Lodge of Masons in Montague City to place a sign on their property.

Under “topics not anticipated” there was a brief discussion of the recent meeting between Montague officials and officials of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority. The meeting was called to discuss proposed route changes affecting Montague, particularly eliminating the direct route to Amherst. Chairman Mark Fairbrother reported on the meeting and stated that the issue would be on the next selectboard agenda.

The next selectboard meeting will be on Tuesday, October 15 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at town hall.

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**  
**Green Energy Choices for Leverett**

By DAVID DETMOLD

Members of the Leverett energy committee told the selectboard on Tuesday, October 8 they have been in discussion with two electricity suppliers – Veridian and Pear Energy – who promise lower electric bills and a chance for local residents to purchase power provided by Green alternatives like wind or solar photovoltaics.

With the advent of energy deregulation, Leverett consumers are now free to keep their current service provider, Western Mass Electric Company, and at the same time choose another company to supply their electricity.

Companies like Veridian offer Green power, lower rates, and even a \$2 monthly rebate on residents’ electric bills that can be pooled in a local nonprofit to advance energy saving efforts in town, according to Portia Weiskel, a member of the energy committee.

The selectboard kicked around ideas as to which existing local

nonprofit might be best suited for this purpose. Some thought the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust might be approached, or the nonprofit wing of the Franklin Regional Housing Authority, or perhaps a local church committee. Weiskel said more details on the energy committee’s deliberations with Green electricity suppliers would be forthcoming soon.

Meanwhile, the town’s own project to install a 15 kilowatt photovoltaic array on land near the public safety complex and elementary school is finally underway. The details of the \$98,650 contract with the Greenfield Solar Store are being finalized, and the land has been cleared.

The project, which is expected to be completed before winter, will supply power to one or the other of the town’s public buildings, and will be paid for out of the recent grant the town received from the state Department of Energy Resources for becoming a Green Community.

In other news, at their next meeting the selectboard will interview

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## SHUTDOWN from page A1

retroactively. But the Food Banks will not receive federal funds to offset the cost to store and distribute TEFAP foods. In addition, TEFAP orders expected in January will likely be delayed since USDA cannot place the orders until the government reopens.

Child Nutrition Programs will continue for the immediate weeks following the government shutdown. School breakfast and lunch programs and meals provided in day care settings (CACFP) will be able to keep serving meals until probably the end of October. Senior Nutrition Programs, however, do not have funds to continue during a shutdown. Since the Department of Health and Human Services is shuttered, it will not be able to fund Senior Nutrition programs, which includes both home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) and senior congregate feeding programs. Local Meals on Wheels programs will not be affected immediately. Programs are generally reimbursed after meals are already delivered. However, if the government stays closed for a lengthy period of time, this will result in a direct financial loss for Meals on Wheels programs that receive federal funding. Additionally, state or local funding reserves that have been used to make up for sequestration cuts are likely depleted, so any cushion that may have been there to weather the shutdown is gone.

Clare Higgins, Executive Director of Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire and North Quabbin Regions, gave a pessimistic report on the future of two of the programs she manages: Head Start and Fuel Assistance. According to Higgins, funding for Head Start was already in jeopardy before the

shutdown due to the sequester. As a result, Community Action had to undergo a major reshuffle.

"We opened late, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September," said Higgins. "Our contract date for federal funding, though greatly reduced, was October. But there was no funding on October 1 because the government had shut down. Which meant we would have had to tell parents that our 'first day is our last day.'"

Community Action reached out to the state for help. Tom Webber, Massachusetts Commissioner of Early Education and Care and Governor Deval Patrick came through, allowing Community Action to draw down funds from the State's Head Start Supplemental Grant program. Normally, Higgins said, "we only utilize this money once a month over the year but to keep the program open we had to pull out the cash now." The problem is that this only provided funds for Head Start through this Friday, October 11. Beyond that, however, there is no funding. "It's scary," she said. "I'm hoping the federal government can come to its senses."

For now, the WIC program will be able to continue. Due to a combination of a USDA contingency fund as well as careful budgeting by state WIC authorities, benefits for WIC will continue for the month of October. USDA has no legal authority to continue providing benefits under the Women, Infants and Children program during a shutdown, but states are able, with the help of the USDA contingency fund, to have the money and legal authority to fund the assistance program for the rest of the month. Higgins said she felt there was probably enough money to keep the program going until the first of the year.

The Fuel Assistance program,

that serves over 5000 households in the Community Action region, however, is blocked by the shutdown. Like Head Start, fuel assistance funding had been significantly reduced by the sequester. "[Because of the sequester] we already had to lay off staff," she said. The employees remaining can only process applications sent in by mail. There just simply isn't enough staff to offer counseling or to take applications in the office. And the heating season has already begun. Without any funding, the thousands of households that rely on fuel assistance now have to wait in chilly homes for the shutdown to end. Higgins was also critical of the Republican willingness to fund the reopening of various Washington institutions so tourists won't be inconvenienced. "They can open the Smithsonian but can't fund Head Start, WIC or fuel assistance programs."

Higgins said that at this point Community Action is simply "fighting to hold on to what we have." She said her staff has been wonderful. "They are devoted and it has been very difficult for them because they care about the people they serve. I can't say enough about them." She also said she was extremely grateful to Representative Jim McGovern for introducing a bill to fund everything. "He's there for us."

In addition to these programs, universities are also feeling the shutdown. Deemed "nonessential," all types of scientific research conducted at public universities, such as UMass have halted. The USGS Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in Turners Falls is also closed but some furloughed employees are volunteering their time to safeguard the fish populations in the lab.



## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Draft Articles for November 4 Special Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard, finance committee and interested citizens discussed costs for tuitioning Erving students to the Gill-Montague school district, information-collecting drones, a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries, purchasing a new police cruiser and other issues as they reviewed draft articles for a November 4 special town meeting. The total for draft articles raising and appropriating money from taxes is \$168,000.

Union #28 finance director Michael Kociela was questioned over draft articles requesting \$6,412 for fiscal year 2013 and \$110,594 for fiscal year 2014 secondary student tuition at Gill-Montague district schools.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden noted that the worksheets for calculating the tuition rate appeared to include sixth grade students. However, Erving pays tuition only for grades 7 through 12. Erving sixth graders who attend Gill-Montague schools are school choice students, funded under a different program.

The selectboard and fincom asked Kociela to provide more information about how per-student rates were set before the draft articles are finalized. Kociela assured the board and fincom that each Gill-Montague invoice is scrutinized and that there are no payments for sixth graders under the tuition-rate plan.

Cyd Scott presented a petition article creating a bylaw that would make Erving a "drone-free zone." It would prohibit operating a drone within Erving airspace and also prohibit Erving agencies, departments, officers or employees from using drones or drone-collected data. Scott said that government and commercial information-collection drones are a threat to privacy and civil liberties.

Police chief Chris Blair said that the term "drone" should be defined in the bylaw and that there should be a public safety exception in the bylaw to allow police to assess a dangerous situation in a building, using a drone.

Boyden observed that the assessors might unknowingly buy drone-collected information if it were included in data packages used for

setting property values.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan recommended that Scott revise the proposed bylaw language and resubmit the article for a future town meeting. Scott agreed and the proposed article was removed from the draft warrant.

The planning board requested amendments to the zoning bylaws that would define "medical marijuana treatment center" and adopt a moratorium on the use of land or structures in Erving for such a center until October 31, 2014.

Planning board chair William Morris said that the moratorium would allow the planning board time to consider and adopt zoning bylaws for treatment centers. The planning board will hold a hearing on the proposed bylaw October 17.

When questioned on the need for a new \$40,000 cruiser, Blair said that repair costs for the 2008 Crown Victoria cruiser have been increasing over the past few years and that the cruiser had been scheduled for replacement this year in the department's long-term vehicle planning.

Other draft articles for the special

## CISA from page A1

organic vegetable farm shares, local fruit shares, pasture-raised organic egg shares, and local organic flower shares — all for pickup in two locations in Montague; one each in Granby, Amherst, Northampton, Springfield, and Worcester; and 13 locations in the Boston area.

The Senior Farm Share produce is grown on the 70 acres of Red Fire fields in Montague Center and the 30 in Granby. Like any farm share program, Red Fire starts choosing the weekly bags based on what gets ripe and when, throughout the growing season. The Red Fire's loose vegetables and bags of organic produce look fresh and tasty, and they are set out in good amounts for mainly individual households.

Two days after the last week of 2013 shares, CISA and Red Fire invited those who had used the Powertown site to a tour of the farm, and nine seniors attended. The tour started with a feast of bread, cheese, and fresh organic fruits. Ryan Voiland gave a talk at the picnic tables, then drove a tractor to pull us on a hayride with show-and-tell stops along his fields.

Red Fire Farm is situated on the rich soil that was left from the draining of glacial Lake Hitchcock about 14,000 years ago. The Pocumtucks farmed these fertile lands for thousands of years. They'd plant seeds on top of dead fish, to give extra nutrition to the growing crops, and corn and beans side by side, so the beans would circle around the growing corn stalks (to make it easier for Pocumtuck women and children to weed the growing crops).

If you are a senior aged 60+ in our readership area and think you might be eligible for the beneficial 2014 senior farm shares, please contact Claire Morenon by writing her at CISA, 1 Sugarloaf Street, South Deerfield, MA 01373, or calling her at (413) 665-7100, or by emailing her [claire@buylocalfood.org](mailto:claire@buylocalfood.org).

Interested individuals and groups might also contact her to make donations to maintain or expand future farm share programs.



town meeting include:

- Transferring \$151,515 from the Usher Plant demolition appropriation to pay off the Brownfields Cleanup loan for the property.
- Transferring \$20,000 from sewer main inspection and repair appropriation for purchasing two new pumps for the Route 2 wastewater station. Highway, water and wastewater director Paul Prest said that the 31-year-old pumps had been damaged by "wipes and rags" disposed into the system and that parts were not available to repair them.
- \$5,000 for a part-time recreation commission administrative clerk. Commission member Matt Kolodziej said that the commission had high turnover because of the time-consuming paperwork involved in recreation programs.
- \$3,000 for cleaning and main-

see ERVING page A6

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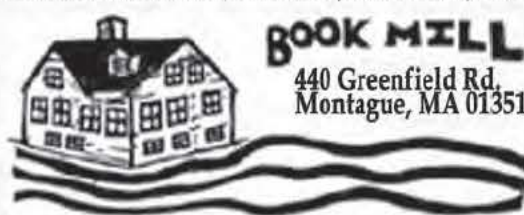
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**CONTRACT** from page A1  
a Level I school.”

Special education instructor Aris Etheridge said, “We are concerned that the town selectboard has now released partial salary figures for Union 28... The abbreviated salary scales, coupled with a recent statement by a member of the selectboard quoted in the newspaper and on the town website claiming that “on average, Leverett teachers are paid 11% higher than teachers in Erving, 7% higher than teachers in Shutesbury, and 33% higher than teachers in Swift River” are not only incorrect, they are misleading.”

Rhonda Frankel-Fein, school psychologist, with 27 years of service, said, “For the 2013-14 contract year, Amherst teachers received a 2% increase, Erving teachers received a 2.25% increase, Swift River teachers received a 2% increase, and Leverett town employees received a 2% increase. Leverett teachers were offered a 1.5% increase.”

After the meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Bill Stewart said, “Fourteen years ago the Leverett school committee and selectboard made a commitment to close the salary gap with Amherst,” regional school, where Leverett’s upper grades are educated. In that time, the gap has jumped from about 3% to over 10%.”

School committee chair Katherine Brooks offered to act as a liaison to the selectboard to clear up any discrepancy in the salary comparisons among Union 28 schools noted on the selectboard’s page of the town’s website.

With that, the teachers filed out of the meeting room, and the school committee turned to a lengthy and free-wheeling discussion about the sustainability of the Leverett Elementary School, which has been experiencing a steady drop in enrollment of Leverett students, and the prospects for future regionalization with Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury.

Interim U-28 superintendent Bob Mahler offered enrollment statistics to frame the discussion. From 2006 to the present, enrollment of elementary students from the town of Leverett has dropped from 145 to 102 students. Choice in students from

surrounding towns have made up for part of this drop, varying from a high of 28 in 2006 to a current low of 19. Students choosing to leave Leverett to attend surrounding public schools, so-called choice out students, have risen slightly from zero in 2006 to 5 the last three years. Leverett students attending private elementary schools have dropped slightly over this time period, from 11 in 2006 to 6 this year. Home schooled students have held relatively steady, from 8 in 2006 to 6 this year.

YEAR	LEVERETT STUDENTS	CHOICE IN	TOTAL	CHOICE OUT	PRIVATE	HOME SCHOOL
'06 - '07	145	28	173	0	11	8
'07 - '08	133	26	159	2	10	9
'08 - '09	136	25	161	2	3	7
'09 - '10	134	28	162	3	6	6
'10 - '11	137	26	163	3	6	8
'11 - '12	126	22	148	5	10	7
'12 - '13	117	26	143	5	8	11
'13 - 14	102	19	121	5	6	6

Many of the challenges facing Leverett Elementary come down to math.

With the return this month of one home school student “to the fold,” as principal Anne Ross put it, Leverett Elementary currently has an enrollment of 121 students.

Brooks said, “We have only three classes with more than 14 kids. We have to face the real possibility that the regionalization plan is not going to come about. We can’t blame [the enrollment figures] on rises and drops in demographics – it’s systemic.”

Later, regional school committee rep Kip Fonsh confirmed that the regional upper schools are also experiencing enrollment declines: over the last three years, the population of middle school students has dropped from 493 to 474; high school enrollment has declined from 1168 to 1053.

Sarah Dolven said, “It seems regionalization would be a more real threat to the school staying open than otherwise.”

But Fonsh assured the committee

that wording was being worked out in the regional school planning board to insure that none of the smaller towns in the Amherst region would lose their schools, if elementary regionalization is approved. He said it was possible that students from Amherst or North Amherst could be bussed to Leverett to equalize classroom sizes in a regional system.

Brooks said, “Years down the road, the town could decide it is no longer sustainable to operate a school with this number of students,

combining classes with Shutesbury, “This would allow us to not take school choice kids going forward.”

Dolven said, “This building is not at capacity now. We could educate our middle school students here. Maintaining a building of this size and keeping it in working order is a concern...”

Cheryl Bonica suggested expanding the school’s pre-K program to welcome students from other towns, as, she said, “There is not a lot of quality pre-K around.”

Bonsignore proposed inviting some town offices to take up quarters in part of the elementary school, to share utilities and maintenance. “The building is too big; town offices are too small,” she opined.

Dolven speculated that the introduction of townwide high speed internet in Leverett might lead to an influx

of younger families, boosting the school’s population. But Fonsh said, “The zoning laws are pretty crippling. As long as they remain as they are, I don’t think you are going to see a lot of building in Leverett.”

Fonsh clarified that the regionalization effort with Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury is still very much alive, with three options currently on the table: a pre-K through 12 configuration for all four towns, a pre-K through 12 option for Amherst, Pelham and Leverett, with Shutesbury remaining in Union 28 for the elementary grades, and a variation of the latter option where Shutesbury retains its own school committee but pays for shared services and a shared superintendent with the Amherst region. He said the option originally under consideration, a pre-K through 6 region with Amherst, Pelham and Leverett, is no longer viable, because of lack of support in Amherst, as was made clear at the July meeting of the regional school

planning board. The school committee voted unanimously to set up an ad hoc committee on the sustainability of the Leverett Elementary School, with Bonsignore volunteering to solicit involvement from members of the selectboard and finance committee.

In other news, interim superintendent Bob Mahler demurred when asked if he would consider extending his contract for another year, while various regional configurations are sorted out at town meeting. He said, “That is something I would need to think about. I’ve been on the job eight weeks now. I will be clear about what I want to do,” by the time the Union 28 personnel committee meets again on October 22.



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## Developer Still “Actively Pursuing” Montague Center School Project

By LEE WICKS

After hours of emotional public hearings on the development of the former Montague Center School into a twenty-two-unit apartment building, little has changed at 15 School Street. The only evidence of any development is some string marking the boundary between the school property and the closest neighbor. It appears that the new water main designed to bring sufficient volume to the building to enable a sprinkler system is done and not leaking, though some say it does. The pond is slowing becoming a silty wetland, and weeds are

sprouting in the cracks that buckle the driveway.

Yet, if all goes as planned, Mark Zaccheo of Olive Street Development LLC, told Town Planner and Conservation Agent, Walter Ramsey, that he intends to begin construction after the New Year. They met on Thursday, October 3 to discuss the future of the project. Though Olive Street Development LLC does not yet own the building, Zaccheo said he is still actively pursuing the project

Ramsey said there are still several unknowns being investigated such as the sprinkler requirements, changes to solar renewable energy

credits, and an asbestos survey. In an email message he wrote, “Clarification on these items is needed to be solidified prior to sale of the property.”

The town is drafting a purchase and sale agreement for the selectmen to sign in the next two to three weeks. When asked if the public would have any input into the agreement, Ramsey said that the Selectmen typically discuss the terms of dispensing real estate in executive session. Public input will be accepted if sent to the selectmen prior to the meeting. Meeting agendas are posted at Town Hall and on the Town’s website, and the executive session will be posted as well as part of the regular meeting. Massachusetts General Law requires that the meetings be posted no less

than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

In the purchase and sale agreement Ramsey said, “There will be a rescission clause that reverts the property back to the town if the development does not meet his commitments.” When asked if the town could end up paying for asbestos removal, Ramsey said this could not happen if the developer was involved in the project. If for any reason Zaccheo backed out, the town would continue to own the building and, Ramsey said, “We’d be back at square one.”

Those who want to provide input into the purchase and sale agreement should write to the Selectboard, and those interested in learning more about the sprinkler requirements, the energy credits and the asbestos survey should check upcoming meeting agendas.

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**ERVING** from page A4

tenance supplies to support re-opening the Pearl B. Care museum of Erving history on Main Street. Prest told the board that the historical commission has been working to clean the long-closed building and preserve historical artifacts. There will be an open house at the building October 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

•\$3,000 for information technology wages and in-house training. Because fincom member Jake Smith is also the IT expert working with town employees, the fincom decided to wait to vote on whether to recommend the article until they had a quorum of members without Smith, in this way avoiding a potential conflict of interest.

•Acceptance by the town of a donation of eight parcels of land from Morris Housen and family and Erving Industries, Inc. Seven of the parcels are on the east side of Keyup Brook adjoining the former Usher Plant property. Town administrator Tom Sharp told the board that the 2012 real estate

taxes for the parcels was approximately \$10,000.

•Payment of FY 2013 fire department bills for \$198.38 and \$269.85.

•Revision to the cemetery regulations interment section.

**Log Storage at Usher Plant**

Bill Lemieux of High Street asked the board for permission to store logs temporarily at the former Usher Plant near Arch Street. Lemieux said that his mother wants to harvest a timber lot across the Millers River on Old Farley Road in Wendell, but there is no way to truck the logs out through Wendell. The family would like to truck the harvested logs over the Arch Street bridge. But because a full log truck would be overweight for the bridge, Lemieux said the hauler would take half loads (25 to 30 logs) across the bridge, store the logs temporarily at the Usher Plant property, and then fill the truck on the Erving side of the river. Lemieux said the timber harvesting would take two

winter seasons, but that he expected the storage would be for only 8 to 10 hours at a time. He estimated the area that would be used at approximately 40 feet by 20 feet.

Jeannie Schermesser of the Usher Plant re-use committee said she had concerns about a two-year commitment, and suggested a one-year permission, with the possibility of extension to two years. Boyden asked about the town's liability in case of an accident at the log pile and said that allowing the log storage would set a precedent for use of town property for profit-making ventures. Usher Plant re-use committee member Gary Burnett felt it was unfortunate "if the town can't accommodate citizens without a big uproar."

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin commented, "Maybe we can put up so much red tape that people can't move in this town." However, when Lemieux gave the name of the company he expected

to haul the logs, Goodwin recused himself from the discussion, saying he had bought wood from the hauler, which could appear to be a conflict of interest. Acting chair Eugene Klepadlo said that Lemieux seemed to be trying to do the right thing by taking half loads to keep the bridge unstressed and suggested that a commercial log hauler would most likely carry liability insurance. The board asked Lemieux to provide documentation for the log hauler's liability insurance before they made a decision on permitting the log storage.

**Usher Plant Roof Repair**

The selectboard signed a contract with J&Z Construction, Inc. of Oxford, MA for stabilizing the roof of the former boiler building at the former Usher Plant. J&Z bid \$15,750 for the work. The June annual town meeting had voted \$20,000.

**Fractured Fairy Tales PJ Story Hour**

Bring the whole family and JUMP into a storybook! Jennifer Couturier of We Tell Tales will share a special interactive story telling performance on Thursday, October 24 at the Erving Public Library.

Once upon a time there was a large, old book full of classic fairy tales. Then one day settings became scrambled and characters got all mixed up!

This very funny performance is filled with zany props and silly make-believe.

Sponsored by the Erving Cultural Council, the Erving Public Library and Union #28 Community Network for Children.

No pre-registration necessary. For more information please contact Gillian Budine, (978) 544-5157 or email budine@erving.com.

**2013 Source to Sea Cleanup****17th Year!****Participating Groups:**

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Franklin County Technical School,  
Landscaping & Horticulture Shop  
Mount Toby Friends Meeting  
Northfield Mount Hermon School  
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# MoRe

YEAR 12 – NO. 2

B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

OCTOBER 10, 2013

## Bridge of Names To Debut At Northampton Film Festival

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Many years in the making, the home grown feature film, *Bridge of Names* by Elyria Pictures, will make its world premiere at the Northampton International Film Festival this weekend.

Shot all over the Pioneer Valley, from Greenfield to Turners Falls, to Montague, on the railroad tracks in Millers Falls, to various spots in Northampton, local residents will recognize many of the places in the movie.

This film is written produced, directed and performed by many talented people with strong connections to the Valley. This is why writer/directors Liz Foley and Pete Hobbs are so pleased to have it included in the film festival this weekend.

The movie features many gifted local actors, including Court Dorsy, Jeannine Haas, Bill Dwight, Susanna Apgar and Lisa Enzer.

The movie also features a breakout performance from their young female lead, Rachael Zeiger-Haas, who grew up in Florence and attended Pioneer Valley Performing Arts.

The movie's producer, Marina Goldman, is a Montague resident. Actor Rip Torn, whose resume includes many major motion pictures including *Men In Black*, and appearances in TV dramas and late

see **BRIDGE** page B2

## DENYSE DAR EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT NINA'S NOOK

BY C. SAWYER-LAUCANNO

**TURNERS FALLS** – The latest show at Nina's Nook features colorfully vivid paintings by Denyse Dar. Dar is a self-taught, naïve artist who began painting just two years ago in 2011. Dar approaches life with an upside-down, inside-out perspective which translates into unique, happy works with a bright, bold sense of color. She paints the common places passed by everyday in a way that allows viewers to see these locales with fresh eyes and wonder. Her whimsical landscapes resonate deeply with viewers.

She says of her work, "I think I am to art what Willie Wonka was (in theory) for candy. I seem to tickle the palette and jump start

others' imaginations. And it elicits such a strong, positive response from people. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think I'm the luckiest bugger on the planet to have a job that literally makes people happy and reminds them that they are ALIVE. There is no better purpose in life."

Dar's work will be on display at Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A Turners Falls MA from Oct 16 to Nov 23 with a reception with the artist on October 19, from 5-8 p.m. during the Pumpkin Festival in downtown Turners Falls. For more information about Denyse Dar, visit her website at <http://www.denyse-dar.com>. For more information about the show and Nina's Nook visit [www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com) or call (413) 834-8800.



www.denyse-dar.com

## Mission: Skate Park

By DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** – After getting the go-ahead from the Montague selectboard in August, the Unity Skate Park committee has spent the last few weeks finalizing plans for an October fund drive to kick off the effort to build a permanent, concrete skate park next year at the former Williams Way at Unity Park.

The plan is to raise as much of the local match – about \$50,000 – as possible, before going to town meeting in May of 2014 to seek the rest. The selectboard has agreed to have the town planner work with the group to write the state PARC grant, due in July of 2014, to raise the remaining 70% that will be needed to build a state of the art skate park, the first of its kind in Franklin County.

The committee and its sponsor, the Brick House, has been working steadily toward this goal for the last 15 years. The committee is proud to have the endorsement of town meeting in closing Williams Way for this purpose, the selectboard, for providing \$17,500 to produce bid ready plans for the project, and the public for their support.

The fund drive will kick off this week with The Unity Skate Park raffle, with prizes contributed by many

local businesses.

The grand prize is a custom built skate board courtesy of Credo and Bryan Dolan Casework, valued at \$140. This handsome board will be on display in the storefront window of Madison on the Avenue for the next few weeks, along with two other prizes: handcrafted cutting boards donated by Bryan Dolan Casework.

Other prizes include a \$50 gift certificate from



Skate Committee member Bryan Dolan shows off the deck being raffled.

Green Fields Market, a variable speed jigsaw from Couture Brothers, a \$30 gas card from Rau's Sunoco, a handmade apron from Funk-Shun on 3rd Street, and \$25 gift certificates from Loot, the Rendezvous, and Jake's Tavern. *The Montague Reporter* has kindly contributed a two-year gift subscription as another of the prizes.

Raffle tickets will be on sale by members of the committee and their supporters in the coming weeks, and are also available at the Montague Reporter office at 177 Avenue A, at Loot, and at the Rendezvous. Tickets cost \$1 a piece, six for \$5 or 25 for \$20. A generous supporter has pledged to match the first \$1000 we raise in the month of October with an additional \$500. We are seeking additional matching pledges of \$100 or more: contact Ellen Spring at 863-2829 if you can help!

The raffle tickets, along with custom painted t-shirts, will be on sale at Pumpkinfest, where the skate park committee will stage a skating demonstration, with contests for the best trick moves, at the parking lot next to the former DiPaolo's restaurant.

On October 25, the fund drive will continue at Jake's Tavern, where 10% of sales from all drinks between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. will be donated to the skate park committee, along with proceeds from a special raffle of a lobster dinner for two, with a bottle of wine, and other prizes. The raffle will continue in the breezeway of Food City at 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on October 26. The drawing will take place on Halloween!

## West Along the River The Millers Falls Scrapbooks (Part II)



"Some of the Original and Present Members of Franklin Engine Company, No. 2, of Erving." Recognize a relative? See pg. B4 for names.

By DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS AND ERVINGSIDE** – Two scrapbooks made their way into my hands a short while ago. For the time being, the person who collected all the clippings and photos, sometime in the 1950s, remains unknown. No one had signed the collection, donated to the Erving Historical Commission. Stories gleaned from these scrapbooks will appear here in this column over the coming months.

### Franklin Engine Number 2 and the Great Millers Falls Fire

The other day, in spite of another beautiful autumn morning, all old gold and burnt orange, I found myself indoors rummaging around in the upstairs north bedroom, looking for documents great grandfather Judah Smith had set aside generations ago.

Now, this north bedroom, which

we have always called the Cold Room for obvious reasons, has served as a collection place for all sorts of household goods no longer called on to serve. Old chairs, bedsteads, worn clothing, shoes, books, letters, corn cob pipes, photographs, even great grandmother Lizzie's seeing eye glasses, have all made their way up to the Cold Room. Like a lot of New Englanders, we have a hard time throwing anything away, you never know when you might need it!

Up there I knew I'd find what I was looking for. A strange convergence of events combining the current feuding in the Erving Fire Department, the anonymous Millers Falls scrapbooks mentioned above, and great grandfather Judah himself, all told me there's a story waiting to be told there somewhere. And so it began more than 130 years ago...

On October 30, 1895, Millers Falls basically burned to the ground.

see **WEST** page B4

## TURNERS STAYS UNBEATEN



Malcolm Smith hands off to Trent Bourbeau

By MATTHEW ROBINSON

**ATHOL** – Homecoming should be interesting this year. Along with the pomp and pageantry of the parade, the royal court, the class floats and the rally, the Turners Falls faithful will see if their hometown team can stay perfect. So far this season, Turners is 4 and 0, outscoring their opponents 132 to 49. But four games does not a season make. "We have four wins." Coach Chris Lapointe said after the Athol game. "But I don't want to end the season with four wins." You see, Coach Lapointe knows how hard it's been staying undefeated. Not one of the four opponents has just rolled over. Each has tried as hard as they could until the final whistle.

On Friday, October 4th, Turners defeated the Athol Red Raiders 22 - 8 under the lights in Athol. The game began like so many others this season, the Boys in Blue scored first. Trent Bourbeau had two carries and got the first down and then Malcolm Smith caught Melvin Moreno with another pretty TD pass and the Tribe

was leading 6 - 0 after three plays.

But Athol didn't give up. They drove down the field and the blue defense seemed to be faltering until Athol fumbled it and Turners started their next drive at their own 20. Turners see-sawed back down the field but fumbled themselves and gave the Red Raiders 1st and ten at the Red 49. Turners D found their intensity and facing 4th and 14, Athol was forced to punt.

On their next possession, the tribe was forced to punt when a penalty changed 3rd and 5 to 3rd and too long. After the Turners punt, Athol took the ball and moved all the way down the field. Almost. Athol had a first down on the Blue 10 yard line. But the Turners Falls Red Zone defense stood and pushed the Raiders back, away from pay dirt. Athol came up empty and the tried but true defense left the first half in the hands of their offense.

Turners took over, on their own 15, with 4 minutes and 39 seconds left in the half. But they didn't panic. Coach Lapointe has been here before.

He had to use enough of the clock so Athol wouldn't get the rock back before the half. One yard here, two yards there, a key third down conversion and at 2:52, Turners made it to the 34. They moved the ball to the 43 and 14 yards later they had first and 10 on the Raider's 46. But the 46 is still considered mid field and facing 3rd and 4th on the 40,

Coach Lapointe called a time out to stop the clock and talk to his troops. Turners got the first down to the 35 but time was slipping away. It was a race against the clock. Turners just might be able to score before time ran out but 35 yards is more than a third of the football field. And time was slipping away. Turners was able to get another first down but they began their next series with a mere 27.5 seconds left. Turners had an incomplete pass and the clock ticked to 21.1. On their next play, Turners forced the ball to the five yard line.

And time was flying. By the time they ran their next play, there was only 6.6 seconds left in the half. Turners tried a pass into the end zone but they missed and the clock moved to 2.4. Coach Lapointe called another time out and huddled with the team. It was gut check time. That was all the Indians needed. Turners scored as time ran out and they headed into the locker room leading 14-0.

Athol began the second half with wonderful field possession, their own 44 but the Powertown Defense held and

see **FOOTBALL** page B3

### Pet of the Week



### “Jacob”

Hello there. Thank you for stopping by and visiting my kennel. Well, let me tell you about me. I am a sweet boy who

just enjoys being with people and getting as much loving as I can. I love to go walking and enjoy stretching my legs.

If you are looking for a couch buddy to keep your lap warm...Then I am the boy for you. I was found as a stray and brought here to find a new home. I am so excited to begin this new adventure in my life. I can't wait to see how it ends – could you be my ending?

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

**Suggested kids age range:** 13 and up, after meeting

**Dogs:** yes, after meeting

**Cats:** Possible, No history of living with cats

**Exercise:** low

### NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

### Convenience Store Larceny

<b>Monday, 9/30</b> 8:40 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on River Street, near Millers River, on private property. Gone upon arrival.	<b>Thursday, 10/4</b> 5:15 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on East Main Street, Millers Falls for domestic disturbance. Found to be verbal only.	intoxicated female, identified and moved along.
<b>Tuesday, 10/1</b> 9 a.m. Report of injured dog in Farley area, Route 2. Dog found not to be injured, but to live in Wendell. Was returned to owner.	<b>Friday, 10/5</b> 3:15 p.m. Suspicious person at Weatherhead Apartments. Same	5:30 p.m. Dog lost from Old State Road. Located and returned.
<b>Wednesday, 10/2</b> 3:35 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with	<b>Saturday, 10/6</b> 9:27 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2 and Old State Road. Stood by for tow.	8 p.m. Larceny from convenience store. Under investigation.
	11:30 p.m. Report of two male subjects acting suspicious at Semb Drive. Located same. Found to be walking home.	10:45 a.m. Motor vehicle crash reported, Prospect Street and Route 2. Report taken.
	9:15 p.m. Report of harassment of staff at convenience store. Report taken.	2 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on High Street.

**BRIDGE** from page B1

night talk shows, joined the cast to play the father of the lead character. Foley says a big part of the film's inspiration comes from the movie's namesake, Lake Pleasant's own Bridge of Names.

Described as a romantic adventure with metaphysical twist, the story itself draws on the rich creative environment the writers found here, with characters inspired by the unique people they've met. They expressed gratitude for all the support they got from so many people here in the Valley while working on the movie.

The film will be shown once so if you want to catch it, *Bridge of Names* will be shown on Saturday, October 12 at 2 p.m. at the Academy of Music in Northampton. They hope lots of local folks will come out to meet the actors and see the film.

### Senior Center Activities

### October 14 to 18

#### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

#### ERVING

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

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

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

#### WENDELL

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

#### Monday 10/14

9 a.m Foot Clinic by appointment  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday: 10/15

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Painting Class

#### Wednesday: 10/16

10 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Sing-along with Morningstar  
12 noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m.Bingo

#### Thursday: 10/17

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi  
12 noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch

#### Monday 10/14

CLOSED - Columbus Day

#### Tuesday: 10/15

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. “Name That Tune” with Steve Damon  
12:30 Painting

#### Wednesday: 10/16

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 noon Bingo

#### Thursday, 10/17

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
12 noon Cards

#### Friday 10/18

9 a.m. Bowling

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

### Napping, Gay Parents, and Plaque



**JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION**

**By FRED CICETTI**

*Q. Is napping in the afternoon a good idea?*

No doubts about this one. Napping is a very good idea.

In a study published in *The Archives of Internal Medicine* researchers found that people who napped regularly had a 37 percent lower coronary death rate than those who never napped. The study was done on more than 23,000 Greek men and women ages 20 to 86.

The curiosity of the study's authors was piqued by low rates of heart disease in European and Latin American countries where siestas are an integral part of their lifestyles.

Another study published in *Annals of Emergency Medicine* provided evidence that nurses and doctors on night shifts perform better when they take a nap at work.

A NASA sleep study to help

astronauts function better demonstrated that 24-minute naps significantly improved alertness and performance.

*Q. Isn't having gay parents harmful to a child?*

There have been many studies demonstrating that gay parents (both male and female) are as likely as heterosexual parents to raise well-adjusted children. In addition, children of gay parents have shown no greater incidence of homosexuality.

However, children with homosexual parents often face social pressures; most of these children are able to overcome the problems associated with being in an unconventional family.

Gay parents are becoming more common. An estimated 65,500 adopted children are living with a gay parent in the United States. However, there are between 8 and 10 million children in the U.S. being raised by a gay parent. Most gay parents conceived their children in heterosexual marriages.

*Q. What exactly is plaque that collects on your teeth?*

Bacteria, mucus, and food particles in our mouths produce

a colorless film on the surfaces of teeth. This film is called “plaque.” Plaque contributes to tooth decay and gum disease. Plaque that is not removed can harden and form “tartar.”

Brushing your teeth will remove plaque but not tartar. Once tartar builds up, you need a professional cleaning, one of those fun things we all look forward to. Well, it's definitely better than gum disease.

Gum disease is common among seniors because it develops painlessly over a long period of time. Gum disease can be aggravated by ill-fitting dentures and poor diet—both of them senior problems. Symptoms include bleeding, swollen or receding gums, loose teeth, a change in your bite, and persistent bad breath or taste.

Gum disease, known officially as periodontal disease, affects about 80 percent of American adults. Periodontal disease ranges from gum inflammation (“gingivitis”) to a serious stage that causes tissue damage and tooth loss. In fact, periodontal disease is the leading cause of adult tooth loss.

*Questions? Send them to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com).*

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Misunderstanding Over Snack Food Purchase

**Monday, 9/30**  
4:54 a.m. Hitchhikers on Kells Road; advised officer that they were walking from Greenfield to Leverett.  
10:37 a.m. Vehicle reported broken into on J Street; items taken from glove compartment.  
11:18 a.m. Warrant arrest on Fifth Street.  
11:50 a.m. Report of injured raccoon trying to walk, then falling down in Winthrop Street backyard. Unable to locate.  
3:09 p.m. Complaint about dog defecating on lawn in Millers Falls. Owner spoken to.  
7:12 p.m. Hazardous driving conditions reported in construction area near Industrial Boulevard. Referred to DPW.  
9:06 p.m. Verbal warning issued to skateboarder at L Street and Seventh Street.  
**Tuesday, 10/1**  
12:26 a.m. One person taken into protective custody following a domestic dispute in Turners Falls.  
11:14 a.m. Sound of a baby crying reported behind United Arc in Turners Falls. Investigated; sound may have been a fisher cat.  
4:39 p.m. Check on suspicious vehicles parked off road near Kettle Hole Road. Owners located; were having a surprise party.  
5:45 p.m. Report of group of kids playing soccer in Park Street; as motorist approached, one did a cartwheel

into the roadway. Spoke to involved parties.  
**Wednesday, 10/2**  
9:14 a.m. Trespassing complaint at Highland Apartments; owner of dog that was subject of recent dog hearing, along with mother and new dog, trespassed from premises.  
11:48 a.m. Loose pit bull reported to have killed a neighbor's chickens on Gunn Road; second such incident. Owner spoken to.  
5:00 p.m. Bus driver reported witnessing dangerous vehicle operation daily at Lake Pleasant Road and Federal Street. Officer identified vehicle, spoke to operator.  
7:50 p.m. Report of possible drug activity on Fourth Street. Investigated.  
**Thursday, 10/3**  
8:18 a.m. Small fawn struck and killed near airport.  
12:00 p.m. Report of dog in West Chestnut Hill Road neighborhood repeatedly getting loose and killing chickens. Referred to animal control officer.  
2:30 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Summons issued.  
2:49 p.m. Report of grey/blue Nissan pickup following a fourteen year old female into the Patch and asking if she wanted to smoke some "weed." Vehicle left upon her rejection.  
**Friday, 10/4**  
8:54 a.m. Tractor trailer unit

observed via traffic camera to be having difficulty navigating turn onto Gill-Montague Bridge. Shelburne Control advised.  
3:29 p.m. Two horses grazing on side of Taylor Hill Road reported as possible traffic hazard. Upon arrival at scene, owner was retrieving horses.  
4:05 p.m. Report of fraudulent and abusive phone calls/voicemails from individual claiming to be a "special agent from the Food and Drug Administration." Services rendered.  
9:36 p.m. Shirtless male observed walking on Montague City Road. Responding officer advised that subject became hot during his walk, so he took his shirt off.  
**Saturday, 10/5**  
1:26 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with speeding in violation of a special regulation; operating under the influence of liquor; operating to endanger; having no inspection sticker; seven counts of drug possession (Classes A, B, C, and E) with intent to distribute; and one count of possession of a Class B drug.  
4:22 p.m. Two rings reported stolen from residence on Hillside Road. Investigated.  
9:31 p.m. Report of male causing disturbance in F.L. Roberts parking lot after clerk refused to sell him alcohol due to insufficient ID. Subject gone upon arrival.

11:56 p.m. Caller reported that bay window had just been smashed in at Wentworth Avenue residence. Investigated.  
**Sunday, 10/6**  
4:11 a.m. Clerk at F.L. Roberts reported that a male had taken several items from the store without paying for them. Suspect located on Third Street and found to be in possession of a Gatorade, streusel coffee cakes, a pickle, and unknown other items. Subject had left money on store counter. Amount determined to be more than enough to cover purchase of items. Clerk scanned items; subject received change and was sent on way.  
5:16 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license; using a motor vehicle without authority; operating to endanger; failure to stop at a stop sign; marked lanes violation; failure to wear a seat belt; and assault with a dangerous weapon.  
1:51 p.m. Vehicle window reported smashed in on Avenue A; unsure if items missing. Report taken.  
2:37 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Bridge Street. Peace restored.  
3:06 p.m. Large, rain-induced pothole identified at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard. DPW advised.  
5:38 p.m. Shoplifting at Family Dollar. Investigated.

**FOOTBALL** from pg. B1  
on fourth down, they punted. Turners started their first series of the half, deep in their own end, on their own 18. They too were forced to punt when they faced 4th and 13 from their own 35. And then the Raiders came alive. Athol started from their own 37 and drove down the field. Six plays later, Athol had a first and 10 at the Blue 31. And it was gut check time once again. Athol's first pass of the series was knocked down by Melvin Moreno. The second was intercepted by Malcolm Smith who was tackled at the Blue 20.

Neither team put up any points in the third quarter but 10 seconds into the fourth, Turners completed a 55 yard pass to Athol's 8 yard line. But Athol didn't give up. On first down, they knocked the Tribe back 7 yards. On second down they only allowed one yard. And on 3rd and 14, Turners only managed to move the ball back to the ten. It was now 4th and goal from the 10 and it was gut check time once again. And the Boys in Blue did what they needed to do. Malcolm Smith found an open Brody Markol and with six minutes, thirty left, the Tribe led 22 - 0.

Starting from their own 30 and down by three touchdowns, Athol could have given up but they didn't. Even at 3rd and 15 from their own 25, they got the first down. And with nothing to lose, they went for it on 4th and 9 and got another first. All the way

to the Blue 35 yard line. Turners defense, which hasn't let up a point in seven quarters didn't give up either. Smith intercepted the ball once again and Turners took over with 3:53 left in the game. When the offense failed to get a first down, Athol took over at the 47 yard line. And with 48.3 seconds left in the game, Athol finally scored.  
"We need to play a full forty minutes." coach Lapointe said after the game. "I'm happy with the win but I'm not satisfied."

Turners offense and defense each had balanced attacks. Malcolm Smith had 128 yards in the air, throwing to four different targets and notched two more passing touchdowns. Four players carried the ball, averaging almost five yards per carry and Trent Bourbeau once again broke the century mark with 114 yards on the ground. Five players scored points. Melvin Moreno, Brody Markol and Malcolm Smith had touchdowns. Jalen Sanders and Trent Bourbeau each added two point conversions. On the other side of the ball, Melvin Moreno, and Trevor Mankowsky each had two deflected passes, Trent Bourbeau recovered a fumble and Malcolm Smith had two key interceptions.

Turners Falls is a team flirting with greatness. But they can only play one game at a time and if they are to continue their perfect record, they need to stay consistent.



SEEDS from page A1

level. "The seeds will become adapted to Wendell," piped up Sharon Gensler, longtime Wendell resident and Outreach Program Coordinator for the Northeast Organic Farming Association. "Every year we'll be saving Wendell seeds - seeds that love Wendell soil and Wendell air."  
Mason held the workshop in her driveway. Surrounded by towering pines, she showed how to pollinate, grow, extract, and save seeds from beans, peas, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, and herbs such as basil, dill, echinacea, and cilantro.  
She also provided the crowd with detailed seed-saving techniques and offered to help people individually when the time came to pollinate their plants. "I'm more

than willing to come to your garden and help," she said, an offer repeated in her handouts along with her email address.  
Not only did Mason let her vegetables and herbs go to seed to be preserved for the library and demonstration at the workshop, she developed personal relationships with them. "This is Ed," she told the crowd as she caressed a massive orange pickling cucumber. "It's an Edmonton cucumber, so we call him 'Ed.'"  
Wearing a black hoodie with "Indian Pride" emblazoned on the back, Mason spoke of "the spiritual aspect" of gardening as she held Ed. "People have no idea how loving and intelligent plants are. They caress you as you walk by them in the garden. They put their scent out to you."

"Can you smell that?" said Renshaw as she sliced the cucumber to expose the seeds. Many in the crowd sniffed the air, smiling, and nodded assent.  
Ever in motion, Mason gave her presentation and answered questions while she sliced open fruit, filled jars with seeds and water, rubbed seeds off of herb stalks, and walked among the crowd encouraging people to sample dill and cilantro seeds.  
Mason's zeal was infectious. When she held up a butternut squash, someone asked, "What's that one's name?"  
"This is Babs," Mason replied, setting the squash on the cutting board.  
While some had come from as far as Brattleboro, most workshop participants were Wendellites, ea-

ger to pitch in to make the library a success and preserve the genetic diversity of food in their community.  
Recent Wendell transplant Em Jollie, volunteered on the spot to do the artwork for the seed packets, and Betsy Ames, chair of the Wendell Local Food Security Project, explained why the group enthusiastically got behind Mason.  
"Our committee unanimously accepted Gail's proposal because she had a vision of restoring the biodiversity and sovereignty of our seed supply," said Ames. "Seeds are expensive, and with companies like Monsanto... the seed supply is contaminated by genetic modifications and infusion of pesticide. Having control of our seed supply is fundamental to having control of our food supply."  
In fact, Mason came up with the

idea for the library after attending a Wendell Energy Committee food meeting.  
"After moving here and hearing everyone saying they want to be a self-sustaining town, I wanted to contribute," she explained.  
"Since food and gardening and seeds have always been my interest, and I knew the importance of seed saving, I wanted to do something that would preserve safe, nutritious food for my children and grandchildren.  
"In my culture, we look at the next seven generations. These seeds will be here for my grandson and for his grandchildren, too."  
Readers interested in participating in the Seed Saving Library can reach Gail Mason at rushingwaters56@yahoo.com.



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WEST from page B1

The fire broke out in a wooden building, now known to us as the currently controversial Powers Block, which housed the Hawley Pharmacy when many of us were young. Since most of the downtown was made of wood, the fire spread quickly to engulf the majority of businesses and homes in the village.

The alarm was sounded at 10:15 p.m. from the bell of the Congregational Church by John Bane, but the only water supply for fighting the fire was the Millers River. With only the hand pump fire-wagons available, there was little to be done to control the flames.

By the morning of October 31, the following buildings and homes had been burned to the ground: Amidon's carpenter shop, Partridge's drug-gist shop, Sears' grocery, Dr. Cook's office, Moran's house and two barns, the post office building owned by a Mr. King and occupied by Mrs. E.M. Ward, King's livery stable, the Congregational Church, a block owned by Millers Falls Tool company, Stratton's grocery, Jenks and Mooney Dry Goods, O'Keefe's Hotel plus two barns, O'Keefe's meat market, Mrs. Shea's millinery store, William Mayhew's barber shop, Cook's general store, and L.D. Elmer's news room. All in all, more than 15 business offices and stores were destroyed.

Greenfield had been asked for help in fighting the fire and they responded with a hand engine drawn over the Montague Plains by horses. Northampton was also called upon, and they responded with steam fire engine that arrived too late. But the first

on the scene were the stalwart boys from the old Franklin Engine Company Number 2 of Erving.

The booklet entitled "History of Franklin Engine Company No. 2" was printed in April of 1904 when the all-volunteer Company retired from active duty. Great grandfather Judah Smith, a founding member of the company, had carefully put this booklet away in an upstairs drawer, where I could find it a hundred years later, to help me write this story.

In the year of 1882, citizens living at the Millers Falls end of Erving "were desirous of organizing a fire company". A company had previously existed, composed of citizens from both the Erving and Montague sides of Millers Falls, but the Erving-side residents wanted a company of their own. So on May 13, 1882, they called the first meeting of Franklin Engine Company No. 2 of Erving.

They went on to fight many fires over the next two decades. These conflagrations included alarms in Gordon Backus' blacksmith shop, W.J. Phelps' grist mill, the destruction of the "New London" covered bridge over the Millers in 1887, Rugg's rake shop and the Great Fire of 1895. The Company's historian wrote of the aftermath of the destruction of downtown Millers Falls:

"A more desolate, woe-begone place ( the next morning) was hard to find, even the very citizens seemed to have forgotten who they were, or where they were at...but inside of a few days Millers Falls rose Phoenix-like from the flames..."

Even in those days, how-

ever, technology was changing fast, and by 1904, a system of hydrants and new steam engine pumps replaced the obsolete man-drawn hand pump fire wagons.

The men of Franklin Engine Company No. 2 retired, but not before holding their Thirteenth Annual Grand Concert and Ball on April 8, 1904, days before they sent their faithful old pump wagon off to be forgotten in some dusty barn.

The Firemen's Ball was held in Amidon Hall in Millers Falls, with dancing from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. The dance card and program were carefully preserved by Judah along with the booklet of the history of Engine Company No. 2.

To be sure, the firefighters, their wives and friends high-stepped and promenaded until the sun came up that day. According to the program, they danced to the two step, schottisches, contradance quadrilles, lancers, Hull's Victory, the Caprice, the Portland Fancy, and the Gallop!

You can be certain that they all felt pride in a job well done, but there's no doubt that there was considerable emotion at the retirement of Old Franklin Engine Company No. 2 of Erving. Their historian, J.F. Styles, composed the final ode to the company which he entitled, *The End*.

Compiled from materials of the Erving Historical Commission, and D. Brule's private collection. For more of David's writing, visit his website [ancestryplaceandrace.com](http://ancestryplaceandrace.com)



Left: Styles' poem. Fire company, pg. B1: F. Gordon, Thos. McHugh, C. Lunney, W.H. Crowley (Foreman), J. Keiley, J. Thompson, C.H. Moran, W. Smith, F.D. Driscoll, R. Curtis, Robert McLaughlin, J.F. Styles, W. Curtis, J. McLaughlin, P. McHugh, J. Donovan, W.H. Curtis, A. Butman, L.M. Davis, J. Moran, G.B. Burnham, W. Merritt, A.H. Goron, J.C. Carroll, S. Buckman, W.H. McCoy, J. Smith, J. Jeffers, G. Strachan, M. Conlon, W. Hamilton, M.W. Carroll, and E.J. Pratt.

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 9, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Doomsday for Montague?

At the selectboard meeting on Monday, word that the state is anticipating more cuts in local aid for FY'05 fell like a neutron bomb. After cutting to the bone this year, further losses will mean eliminating town employees and leaving nothing but the shells of their departments intact.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio summarized it this way: "They need to know we've reached the wall completely. The doomsday scenario is here. If we don't see some kind of increase in income tax or sales tax, we have nowhere else to go."

Permanent Home for The Brick House

On September 26, the Brick House Community Resource Center became the owner of the former MCTV building at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. Montague

Community Cable, Inc. purchased the building after its previous TV studio in the Crocker Building burned in the fire of June 1997.

Jeff Aho, president of the Brick House board, said, "This has been a dream of the Brick House for a long time. We are excited about all the possibilities..."

It is their intention to convert the old garage in the front of the firehouse to a community gallery, and a room in the rear of the first floor to a technology center. In addition, the "Hot Spot" Teen Center, currently housed at 177 Avenue A, will relocate once renovations are complete.

Erving Clerk Resigns

Bethann Kaczinski gave official notice Monday she is leaving her post as municipal clerk, which she has held for three years.

Intense discussion broke out at the special town meeting last week over how the new public safety building could be manned by Kaczinski, while she splits her time

between her administrative assistant role there and her clerk job at town hall.

Whether or not this controversy played a role in her decision is uncertain, as she cited "family obligations" as her reason for leaving town hall. She is a busy mother of three whose family is currently building a house.

Ritter Asks: Where Are The WMDs?

Former lead UN weapons inspector and US Marine Corps intelligence officer Scott Ritter was the special guest speaker at an event Tuesday night at the Frontier Regional High School in Deerfield, entitled "Disarming Realities: Lessons Learned." The event was sponsored by the Traprock Peace Center.

The self-professed Republican and warrior... contends the Bush administration lied to the public about weapons of mass destruction and alleged Iraqi ties to Al-Qaeda, exploited fears left by the September 11 attacks, and went to war without international support.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG  
A Month of Peaceful Mornings

Sunday, 9/1  
12:35 p.m. Injured party thrown from horse at Long Plain Road riding stable. Transported by personal vehicle for treatment.  
4:57 p.m. Assisted Sunderland police with a motor vehicle stop.  
Wednesday, 9/4  
6:05 p.m. Lawton Road resident found abandoned clothing behind their mailbox. Items retrieved by officer.  
Thursday, 9/5  
2:45 p.m. One-car accident on Shutesbury Road. A 46-year old Sunderland driver lost control of her car and struck a guardrail. Car was towed.  
Saturday, 9/7  
3:10 p.m. Long Plain Road resident reported items taken from his vehicle. He later notified the PD had located his items in Hadley and wanted no further involve-

ment.  
Monday, 9/9  
5:20 p.m. Shutesbury PD requested assistance with a motor vehicle stop. Officer cancelled en route.  
Tuesday, 9/10  
5:39 p.m. Disturbance reported at a Montague Road residence. Verbal argument between tenants. Resolved.  
Friday, 9/13  
5:15 p.m. Shutesbury Road resident reported that someone damaged his mailbox with fireworks overnight. Report taken.  
Monday, 9/16  
4:30 p.m. Paperwork service to a Dudleyville Road resident.  
Wednesday, 9/18  
6:55 p.m. Amherst Road resident sought advice about harassing correspondence. Advised of court options.  
Friday, 9/20  
3:57 p.m. Jackson Hill Road

resident complained of almost being run off the road by a black motor vehicle. Gone upon arrival. Plate number given was incorrect.  
Tuesday, 9/24  
1:25 p.m. Montague Road resident reported overnight vandalism to his vehicle in his driveway. Report taken.  
Saturday, 9/28  
1 p.m. Old Long Plain Road resident requested assistance with banning an unwanted houseguest. No-trespass order filed and served by homeowner.  
Sunday, 9/29  
11:55 a.m. Medical emergency at a Bull Hill Road residence. Subject transported by Amherst FD.  
Monday, 9/30  
6:41 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with a motor vehicle crash on Bull Hill Road.

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## ONGOING:

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

## EVERY FRIDAY

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

ny. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

## ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Changing Coastlines*, oil paintings by Paula Tessier on display in the Great Hall



Bridge of Names premieres Saturday at the Northampton International Film Festival. Produced by Marina Goldman and features local actors. 2 p.m. at the Academy of Music.

through November 30th.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Flotsam*, photographs and collage by Trish Crapo on display through October 12.

Call for Artists: Nina's Nook is putting together the third "Sensual, Sexual, Smut" exhibit for February 2014 in Turners Falls. From mild to wild, uninhibited artwork from regional artists desired for submission by Jan 25, 2014. Contact naban@verizon.net or 413-834-8800.

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

UMass Amherst, Talk by Gar Alperovitz: *Is There An America Beyond Capitalism?* Free, 4 p.m. Gordon Hall.

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Pat & Tex LaMountain*, 7 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *RVIVR*, from Olympia, with *Shrew*, *Christian Businessmen*, and *Avedis*. Carpool, punks! \$, all ages, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin and Tommy Boynton, 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse presents *Martin Swinger* with *Stephanie Marshall* (Boxcar Lilies) opening. \$, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Ephemeral String Band and Walnut Street Band*. The *Walnut Street Band*, all female trio with angelic harmonies with an old time / bluegrass feel. Leah, Kristie, & Colby combine the sounds of guitar, banjo, and cello with their interweaving voices. The *Ephemeral Stringband* draws from several branches of traditional American music including Oldtime

and *Home Body*, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Improv Comedy with Hidden Falls and The Ha-Ha's*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Mark Nomad Band*, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *AfterGlo*, rock, 9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Triple Tribal*, Native American band singing contemporary and traditional native music in three and four part harmony. All proceeds benefit Wild Life Rescue, 8 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Mid Week Music with *Greenfield Community College Chorus*, All Souls Church, Greenfield, \$, 12:15 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiznite* with Quizmaster Alex, 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Greenfield Annual Word Festival, downtown Greenfield, 6:30 p.m. Various venues see <http://www.gawfest.org>

Greenfield Garden Cinema, *Food For Change*, new documentary about food co-op in the U.S. by filmmaker Steve Alves. Features Franklin Community Co-op history and scenes from Green Fields Market and McCusker's Market. Interviews with local folks and farmers. Premieres in Greenfield, \$, 7 p.m. Proceeds go to co-op education and scholarship funds.

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, acoustic rock with Sturgis Cunningham & Klondike Kohler, 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Laurel & Hardy Film Festival*, \$, 7:30 p.m. music before the movie: *Co-op Jazz*, 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, Johnny Cash favorites and more, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Paper Hill Casket Company and Rusty Curtains*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Stringband music, early country and bluegrass and Shape Note sacred hymns. \$, 8 p.m.

The Elevens, Northampton: *Speedy Ortiz, Bunnies, Guerrilla Toss, OVATure*, and *Happy Jawbone Family Band*. Carpool, nerds! \$, 21+, 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Josh Levangie and the Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lisa Marie Ellingson & Wishbone Zoe*, 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Northampton International Film Festival: *Bridge of Names* premieres at 2 p.m. Produced by Montague resident Marina Goldman and features local actors including Court Dorsey, Jeannine Haas and Bill Dwight.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Gender Free Contra Dance* with caller Chris Riccioti. \$, 7 p.m. Bring soft-soled shoes dance shoes.

The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mal Devisa*

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JOHN FURBISH PHOTO

Two Turners Falls families learn about musical instruments from music teacher Steve Damon at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch on Avenue A on Friday, October 4. Lyn Rothenheber and her son T.J., and Brendan Walsh and his son Edward, explore wind chimes and the trumpet. Damon's website is [anaturalmusicschool.org](http://anaturalmusicschool.org).

## FACES & PLACES

What kind of food system do you want?

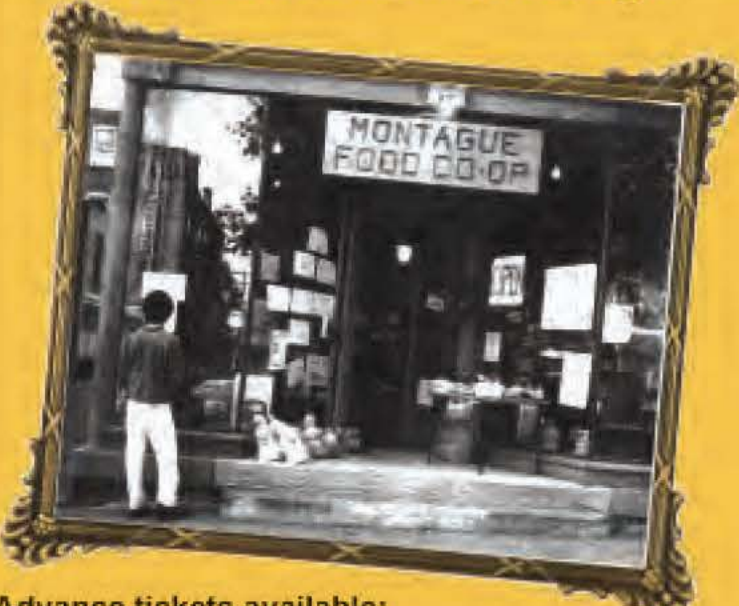
# FOOD FOR CHANGE

THE STORY OF COOPERATION IN AMERICA

Local Premier!  
**Thursday, October 17th**  
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Our co-op's history woven into the story of food co-ops in the United States.

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We've got our roots on the Ave!

**October 17, 5:30 to 8 p.m.**  
**Downtown Turners Falls**  
**TurnersFallsRiverCulture.org**

Carve a free pumpkin for Pumpkin Fest at the Turners Falls 3rd Thursday so you can show it off in Saturday's Pumpkin Fest display on Avenue A! Costume contest in front of the Shea Theater at 7:30 p.m., judged by WHAI's Bobby C. and a panel of (ahem) World Famous Celebrities, with great prizes for Best Kid Costume (\$50!) and Best Adult Costume.

**THIRD THURSDAY TURNERS FALLS**



Pumpkin carving, glow sticks, candy floss, free cake, great seasonal food and drink at our restaurants.

RiverCulture works to create a vibrant and connected Turners Falls community through innovative partnerships and cultural programming. Our work is made possible by a grant from the Adams Art Program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council along with our major sponsors (below) and individual donations.

**OCTOBER 17 - GET PUMPED FOR PUMPKINFEST!**



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