

BY LEE WICKS MONTAGUE CENTER -

For years, since the old foot- up." bridge collapsed in a winter storm, people have walked or skied or snowshoed in the wildlife management area at the end of North Street in Montague Center, and been stopped at the Sawmill River. All that will change in the next few weeks when a new bridge will bring people to the fields and woodland walks on the other side.

The new bridge is the culmination of a community effort begun last spring by Montague Center resident Josh Goldman. This week he said, "Over 50 people donated a total of nearly \$6,000. We're officially done with fundraising for the bridge,

but if additional gifts come in we'll use them for clean

The fundraising committee was comprised of Josh Goldman, Leigh Rae, Harry Miller, Ferd Wulkan, Chris Mason and Mark Lattanzi. On Sunday, in an email message to this committee and other interested residents, Wulkan wrote, "The bridge is under construction at long last! Getting the final approval took quite a bit longer than expected due to the inevitable logistical complications, but it's really happening now - the contractors got the project started this Saturday; the utility poles should be installed Tuesday; the decking and railing will follow later this

week. Thanks to each of you for helping make this happen. It was remarkable how many members of our community pitched in to raise the substantial amount of money needed! And special thanks to Josh Goldman for coordinating this project.

about future events - perhaps an official opening, a clean-up party, plans for mowing (we may still need to raise more money for alone in opposing the motions this), and who knows what made by John Reynolds to else.

will be enjoying access to neighborhood business zone, comes back for site plan the 'other side' of the con- for a change in lot size requireservation area in your own ments to allow 22 apartments special way very soon!"

rental housing, the Montague zoning board of appeals on Wednesday voted 4-1 to give Greenfield developer Mark Zaccheo the green light to move the project forward.

After half an hour of internal deliberation among the board, the packed meeting room fell silent as zoning "We'll keep you posted board chair Ernest Brown announced, "I'm going to say those magic words. We're going to vote."

Vice chair John Burek was allow Zaccheo to permission

discuss drainage issues. He must also gain approval from the planning board before he can go forward with his plans, since 28% of the lot will be paved for parking, in an area of town that lies within a wetlands protection district. And the zoning board has only signed off on the conceptual plans Zaccheo has presented they will have a second crack at them under a more detailed site plan review still to come.

But as Zaccheo commented repeatedly, the zoning board has already gone over "90 to 95%" of what they will have "I'm sure each of you for multi-family use in a to consider when the plan

feasible from a zoning standpoint.

The overall opposition of the neighborhood to the project appears unabated, however, and more than one lawyer from the village center raised issues that could plausibly be construed as laying groundwork for an appeal of the ZBA's decision.

Variances should not be granted lightly," said attorney and former selectboard member Sam Lovejoy, "or for a self-created hardship."

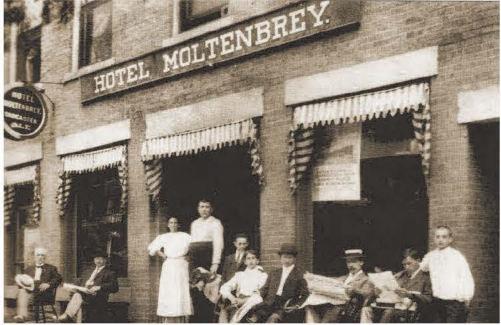
Lovejoy contended that Zaccheo's purported financial need to put 22 apartments some smaller than 700 square feet - into the former school building in order to make the numbers work was the only hardship that needed to be see MONTAGUE pg 3

On Tuesday morning the see BRIDGE page 3

in a lot of less than 3 acres, with about an acre in wetlands, and, crucially, to grant a

review, and though they conditioned the special permits and variance on resolving a number of outstanding issues, including placement of dump-

FURBISHING THE AVENUE The Hotel Moltenbrey: 1903-1975



Owner Gottlieb Moltenbrey stands beside chambermaid Rose Schmitt, surrounded by boarders, in front of the Hotel Moltenbrey lobby on 3rd Street in Turners Falls, in this vintage photo from the early 1900s.

Hundreds of people attended recent talks sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture, with the research of town administrator Frank Abbondanzio detailing the local bistory of French Canadian, Polish, Irish and German immigrants to Turners Falls. Following up on those Tales and Legends of Turners Falls, John Furbish presents the following forensic history of one of the famous boarding houses that let rooms to the immigrants as they arrived in town to work the mills and factories along the Power Canal - the Hotel Moltenbrey.

BY JOHN FURBISH TURNERS FALLS Gottlieb Moltenbrey was born in 1858 in Weilheim (Upper Bavaria), Germany, to Matthias and Anna Mertz Moltenbrey. In 1880, he married Anna Singley (born in Germany in 1861), and they immigrated to the US the same year, ending up in Turners Falls where the Moltenbreys had a girl, Amelia, and five boys: George, Gottlieb Jr., Frederic, William, and Albert.

The 1900 US federal census lists "saloonkeeper" Gottlieb as living in his own house (free from mortgage) with his wife of 20 years and their six children. Daughter Amelia, then 15, was already a weaver in a cotton mill, and the four youngest boys were all "at school," although nothing was specified about 17 year old George.

the "Order of the Sons of made objects, many from old Hermann," a mutual benefit factories, and some of it, such see MOLTENBREY pg 6 as cutlery molds from Lunt McNamara and Erin MacLean



Customers check out the merchandise at Loot's anniversary party.

BY LEE WICKS

to

TURNERS FALLS - So many people gathered on Friday evening, October 12th celebrate the one-year anniversary of Loot, the eclectic downtown Turners Falls shop, it was hard to set foot in the door. Good news for a new business starting up in a difficult economy!

The Avenue A store offers Gottlieb was very active in an assortment of found and

Silversmiths, reflects the industrial history of our area. Old matchbooks from long gone motels, cans of government-issue water, heavy work tables, long benches, old swivel stools, rings made from antique buttons, and more treasures inspire design ideas and art projects. It is a terrific place to browse. It's where one would go to furnish a loft with soaring ceilings and exposed brick walls.

The owners, John could not be more pleased with their new business and the location they chose. In the following interview, MacLean offered some information about their respective backgrounds, what drew them to Turners Falls, and their hopes for the future.

Is this your first business venture?

John was in television production for 14 years and has been buying and selling antiques as a hobby for 25 years. He started doing it full time: Brimfield antique shows, a warehouse in Turners Falls and then finally the store.

My first business venture was 13 years ago as owner and publisher of an art magazine in Boston called artsMEDIA. I learned a lot from that experience! It was a labor of love and I believe it taught me what not to do in running a business. I realized the importance of writing a business plan. John and I took the business planning class with Amy Shapiro at the CDC in Greenfield and that was tremendously helpful in keeping us on track.

Where did you live before coming to Turners Falls?

John lived in Fitchburg for 18 years, and we lived there together for a year before relocating to Turners Falls. Prior to Fitchburg, I lived in

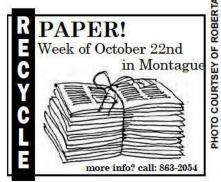
see LOOT page 5

PETS OF THE WEEK Snuggly Girl



Sophie

My name is Sophie and I'm a 3 year old spayed female pitbull terrier mix. I am a snuggly girl, I love to lie on the couch with my family and go for a couple of nice walks a day. I would also be up for hiking. I need to be an only pet with kids age 12 and up. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.



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<u>PUMPKIN FEST</u> Friend to Friend

BY NICOLE LETOURNEAU TURNERS FALLS - Support from friends and family can make all the difference when you or someone you love is going through a medical crisis or dealing with an illness. Meals, groceries, rides, comfort items and house cleaning can help lift the burden. And, sometimes, the best medicine during a time of need is quick, financial help with no strings attached. These are a few of the ways A Friend to Friend, a newly-formed, all-volunteer group of citizens, aims to help

local families. A Friend to Friend, which has been helping several western Massachusetts families over the past several months, will make its public debut at Pumpkin Fest in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 20th. Pumpkin Fest, free and open to the public, will be held from 3 - 9 p m. on Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls. A Friend to Friend is a budding, soon-to-be nonprofit organization recently formed to help friends in our community who have had to stop working because of a

hospitalization or new medical diag-

Stop by the A Friend to Friend booth at Pumpkin Fest this Saturday to learn more about us and see how you can help us help local families. There will be a

donation can, raffles for several baskets of items and gift certificates, creative activities for children, face painting, and goodies and gifts for sale.

For more info or to donate, visit our website: afriendtofriend.com. Or check us out on Facebook by searching A Friend to Friend.



Friends and family gathered at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on October 11th to celebrate Mrs. Allan Adie's birthday. "Angie" (seated second from left) has been a receptionist and active volunteer at the senior center for over 20 years.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - *Q*: *I* love southern cooking and *I* was wondering what you thought about it from a geezer health standpoint.

Every time I've traveled south, I've been struck by the food many southerners eat. Lots of fat, salt, sugar and other harmful foods in great quantities.

I remember trying to get a Kaiser roll in a neighborhood grocery in North Carolina. The best I could do was a Moon Pie, a chocolate-covered pastry made with two round graham cracker cookies and marshmallow filling in the center. I also recall my first dish of Smithfield Ham ordered in a Virginia restaurant. I thought I was a deer at a salt lick. I sent it back with a befuddled waiter. My dining experiences in the South always made me wonder why all hushpuppy-popping southerners were not on the ground clutching their chests. For those who've never

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Report from the Stroke Belt hushpuppy (I love them), fer strokes each year. Of these, five

popped a hushpuppy (I love them), you should know that they are finger-shaped dumplings of commeal deep-fried and traditionally served with fried catfish.

In the years I've been writing my senior health column, I've run across an expression I would like to share with y'all. In medical literature, the southeast quadrant of the United States is known as the Stroke Belt. The message is clear: If you eat a traditional southern diet, you go south and die.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) examined age-adjusted stroke mortality rates by state. Eleven States had stroke death rates that were more than 10 percent higher than the U.S. average.

includes Stroke Belt The Arkansas, Georgia. Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Scientists have also identified a region they call the Stroke Buckle, which includes the coastal plains of the Carolinas and Georgia. People in the stroke buckle are even more likely than those in the stroke belt to have fatal strokes, researchers say. Cerebrovascular disease or stroke is a leading cause of death. According to the World Health Organization, 15 million people suf-

FACES & PLACES



Energy committee members Cynthia Thomas-Kimmel, Brooke Thomas, Portia Weiskel, and Shirley Thomas stand in front of one of Leverett's newly installed Green Community signs, at the Mitchell Farm on Teawaddle Hill Road, with Brushy Mountain in the background.

<u>CONCERT SERIES</u> Inspired by Caring

BY ANNA VIADERO FLORENCE - Heather Craig knows the power of caregiving first hand. She supported her husband Neil "Skip" McManus through dementia and end of life in their Florence home. She was grateful the support community for organizations provided. Craig is creating a concert series to raise funds that will be available through local agencies to home caregivers of persons with dementia in Hampshire and Franklin counties. Franklin County Home Care, Highland Valley Elder Services and the Northampton Council on Aging are the three agencies that will distribute funds through their caregiver grants programs.

The first concert is scheduled for

million die. You are at risk for a

stroke if you have high blood pres-

sure, smoke cigarettes or are obese.

to the national pattern, African-

American men and women in the

Stroke Belt have higher death rates

than white men and women. White

men and women in the Stroke Belt

also have higher stroke death rates

than their counterparts in other

regions of the country. Thus, the

higher death rates in the Stroke Belt

cannot be attributed solely to the

higher proportion of African

researchers found that southerners

also are more likely to experience a

decline in mental processes such as

memory and orientation.

In a large national study,

Americans.

The NHLBI reports that: Similar

Performers will include Green Street Brew, High Definition, Mount Holyoke V8s, Smith Smiffenpoofs, Strike a Chord, and Williams Octet. Tickets are now available at the Northampton Box Office (in person

November 17th at 7 p m. in John M.

Greene Hall at Smith College.

Northampton Box Office (in person and online), Food for Thought Books in Amherst, and the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield.

Sponsors are still needed for this event. People can sponsor at many levels from event founder to in kind donations. Program advertising is also available starting at \$25.

For more specific info on sponsorship levels and advertising please contact Craig at heathersrc@gmail.com or 413-320-9814.

less than half the picture," said Dr. George Howard, professor of biostatistics at the university, and a principal investigator of the study. "Something else is happening. It could be exposure to allergens in the home, it could be micronutrients in drinking water or it could be other factors considered non-traditional because they don't fall into the list of nine factors commonly used to predict stroke risk."

Another study found that eating fried fish - a staple in the Stroke Belt - may contribute to the higher rate of fatal strokes. Research indicates that frying fish diminishes the benefits of the omega-3 fatty acids in fish. Studies have demonstrated these acids reduce the risk of stroke.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezer.com.

local gossip, news & business listings



The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday. (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.) PHONE (413)863-8666 reporter@montaguema.net Postmaster: Send address changes to The Montague Reporter 58 4th Street Turners Falls, MA 01376 Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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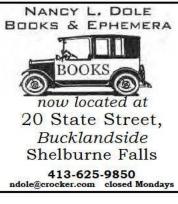
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Some experts believe memory problems and other mental issues could be related to the same underlying risk factors for stroke lifestyles that contribute to high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and obesity.

A recent study by researchers at the University of Alabama underscored the fact that science isn't positive why the Stroke Belt has so many strokes.

"We found geographic and racial differences are useful in predicting stroke risk, but they only explain





SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - October 22nd- 26th

GILL-MONTAGUE

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

Monday, October 22nd

10:00 a m. Aerobics
10:45 a m. Chair Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo
1:00 p.m. No Knitting Circle
Tuesday, October 23rd
10:30 a m. Chair Yoga
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, October 24th
10:00 a m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. Flu Clinic
9:30 a.m. Monthly Health

12:00 p.m. Lunch 12:45 p.m. Bingo **Thursday, October 25th** 9:00 a m. Tai Chi 12:00 p.m. Lunch 1:00 p.m. Pitch **Friday, October 26th** 10:00 a.m. Aerobics 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise 1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 413-423-3308, for meal information and reservations. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, and find out when will be the next blood pressure clinic. Monday, October 22nd 9:00 a m. Fitness Class 12:30 Quilting

Tuesday, October 23rd 9:00 a.m Aerobics 10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Program 12:30 p m Painting Wednesday, October 24th 9:00 a.m. Dance Classes 10:15 a.m. Weight Loss Group 12:00 Bingo Thursday, October 25th 9:00 a.m. Aerobics 10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect Friday, October 26th 9:00 a.m. Bowling 11:30 a m. Out to Lunch

LEVERETT Senior Activities

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

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

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

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



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COMPILED BY DON CLEGG -Danny ("Mr. Mulch") Botkin offers an introduction to some typical as well as unusual uses of mulch on a small, diversified, four-season, permaculture-influenced Laughing Dog Farm on Sunday, October 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. in Gill. Botkin's love affair with mulch includes uses as a growing medium, soil protector, soil amendment, even a landscaping medium.

The class includes an introductory mulch talk, as well as a hands-onmulch demonstration component with question and answer opportunities. Farm lunch and tour are offered at the end of the workshop. Class size is limited to 15, reserve your space by calling 413-863-8696 or visit www.laughingdogfarm.com.

On Monday, October 29th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm., the Safe and Green Campaign is organizing a dinner and forum at the Congregational Church on Main Street in Brattleboro to prepare for the upcoming hearings before the Vermont Public Service Board on Entergy Vermont Yankee's request for a 20-year operating license extension. The Public Service Board will determine whether the state of Vermont shall issue a certificate of public good to allow Vermont Yankee to continue operating for another 20 years. Western Massachusetts residents are welcome to come testify at the public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, November 7th, at 7:00 pm. at the Vernon Elementary School; speakers

at the October 29th forum will cover points relevant to public testimony at the PSB hearing. For more info: safeandgreencampaign.org.

The Wendellites Crazy Diamond play the awesome music of Pink Floyd on Saturday, October 27th, starting at 4:00 p.m. at Camp Keewanee, off Conway Street in Greenfield. This exciting Halloween fundraiser supports the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, Food Bank of Western Mass, Blue Star Equiculture, and Camp Kee-Wanee. For directions and info visit www.campkeewanee.org.

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, 16 Federal Street, in Greenfield is again offering a free Sunday yoga class for a limited time this fall. As a thank you for the generous support from the community, new owner Susan Peck is revitalizing this free offering to welcome back supporters, showcase the talented community yoga teachers and welcome new friends to the studio.

Faced with closing its doors this summer, dedicated students and teachers decided to take over management of the studio with its beautiful light-filled space and convenient downtown location. New and experienced students are welcome to visit the studio and receive a gift of health and well being. The free class will run from 4:00 to 5:00 p m. each Sunday through December 16th. For more info about the studio visit: www.community-yoga.com

On Saturday evening, October 27th, Friends of Schell Bridge will

MONTAGUE from page 1

alleviated by granting a variance on the minimum size of the apartments.

"The petitioner has created a situation of self-hardship," Lovejoy continued. "I don't know how the ZBA is going to get around the court cases," that have ruled against selfcreated hardship as a ground for issuing zoning variances.

Lovejoy added, "The 700 square foot rule has been in force for decades. The ZBA supported it. The planning board supported it. Town meeting supported it, by a two thirds vote. It's the policy of the town."

Lovejoy said if the ZBA had allowed a variance from the 700 foot minimum requirement in order to permit Zaccheo to put in, say, a 650 square foot apartment, that might pass muster as an acceptable varivariance, to allow it. In terms of the proposed develop-

ment's impact on the character of the neighborhood, Lovejoy said, "If you drove from one end of School Street to the other, and from one end of Station Road to the other, and threw in Newton Street, you would count only 18 units of housing." Zaccheo's plan would more than double the number of dwelling units in that neighborhood, he said.

"We're talking shoeboxes here," he continued. "Is that the decision Montague wants? You're going to destabilize Montague Center; it's an atrocious idea, and it's going to lower property values."

Zaccheo, who said he plans to spend \$1 - \$2 million redeveloping the now empty school building, defended his proposal by saying he was trying to make his plan work within the brick and concrete confines of a pre-existing building. And while some apartments would need to be smaller than zoning allows in order to fit into the spaces that exist in that structure, the average size of

host a fall auction showcasing over 60 items, goods and services from local businesses, while also raising money to be used toward efforts to rehabilitate Schell Bridge. The auction venue at Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, Northfield will be filled with community spirit, homecooked food, and good humor. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a \$10 soup supper. Diners will choose from a variety of homemade soups, breads, salad and desserts. Auction bidding starts at 7:00 pm. with Michael Humphries as auctioneer. Beer and wine will be available. For further info or to donate an item to be auctioned, contact Barbara at 413-498-5931 or email brichardson0928@comcast net.

Lake Pleasant will be holding a whole village yard sale on Sunday, October 21st, from 8:00 a m. to 1:00 p m. at the Scalpers Lodge, on Lake Pleasant Road. Super yummy baked goods will be auctioned, as well as some cool items. If you have stuff you'd like to contribute to the tag sale bring them to the Scalpers Lodge on Saturday, October 20th in the morning. All proceeds benefit the Lake Pleasant Village Association and the village of Lake Pleasant. For more info call Deborah at 413-367-0186 or visit LPVA on Facebook.

Ryan Wilder scored four rushing touchdowns to help his Turners Falls High School football team blank Frontier Regional by a score of 34-0 on Saturday, October 13th. This was no ordinary win for Turners Falls. The last time they defeated the Red Hawks, Bill Clinton was president and Turners Falls head coach Chris Lapointe was the team's starting quarterback. "It feels great," Lapointe said of Turners first victory over Frontier since 1998. "It means a lot to compete with a team like this and get a win."

the apartments would be 837 square feet, he contended.

Richard Dingman, an abutter on School Street, said Zaccheo was intending to market the project based in part on its sylvan setting. But he said given the size of the project, "It would be unfortunate to destroy the sylvan setting by overdevelopment. It would be like paving paradise to put up a parking lot."

Speaking of the parking lot, building inspector David Jensen said Zaccheo's most recent plan still lacked about three parking spaces to meet minimum requirements.

Former selectboard member

MCTV Survey Responses Detailed

BY CINDY TARAIL

MONTAGUE - MCTV surveyed postal patrons in the town of Montague as well as Montague Reporter subscribers to learn about respondents' cable access, community television viewing habits and wants, and interest in producing shows. Four thousand surveys were printed by Adams Direct Mail, which kindly offered a non-profit discount. Three thousand were mailed at the non-profit rate to Montague postal patrons and 1,000 were inserted by Don Clegg in the Montague Reporter for Montague subscribers for a small fee. The return rate was about 4%.

Over half of the survey respondents watch MCTV Channel 17, and of those, 11% watch three times per week, 15% watch twice per week and 24% watch once or less per week. The most watched programs include selectboard and town meetings and local events.

<u>Carnegie Library News</u> Hallowe'en Party

TURNERS FALLS - There will be a childrens Hallowe'en Party at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, October 27th from 10:30 a.m. noon. Children of all ages and their families are invited to attend the free party, with refreshments, games, prizes and arts and crafts. For more info: 863-3214.

The huge win improved the TFHS to a 4 win and 2 loss record for the season; the victory was an away game at Frontier. TFHS plays at home next against Athol on Friday, October 19th, with kickoff at 7:00 p m. Go Blue! Send local briefs to reporter-

local@montaguema.net.

Allen Ross recalled a hearing before the zoning board years ago on another project that needed additional parking to make it work in Montague Center, when Ross redeveloped the Montague Mill complex over the objections of some abutters. Ross said most people in the village would now agree the Book Mill and adjoining shops and restaurants is an asset to Montague Center. He spoke in favor of Zaccheo's plan to redevelop the former Montague Center School.

"The town will gain," said Ross, "though some people will lose."

MOLO CUPAL

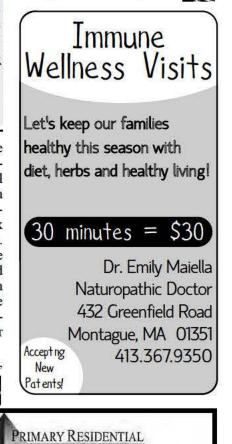
Asked what kinds of programs they would like to watch on MCTV, most respondents selected local news and local history, while nearly half would choose outdoor programs, and about a third would be interested in school sports and events, a third in how-to shows and a third in issue based or political programs.

Some survey respondents asked about children's programs. Later this fall, look for SNAP!, a video recorded by Janet Masucci and Mik Muller, featuring the recent homegrown circus show by the youth Traveling Rhubarb Circus of Montague Center. Also playing: the Really Great Cinderella, produced by young Atticus and Enzo Belmonte of Turners Falls.

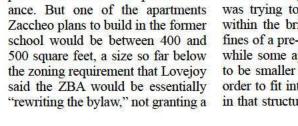
Upcoming: MCTV will cover the 2nd Franklin District House of Representatives Candidates Debate at the French King Bowling Center on Friday, October 26th at 7 p.m.

BRIDGE from page 1

contractors donned hip waders in order to work in the river, running deep and strong since Monday's heavy rain, and a back-hoe dumped earth and tamped it down where people will access the bridge. The project is very weather dependent. It is hard to say exactly when the project will be complete. It does seem more than likely that people will be able to walk off the excess of Thanksgiving dinners using all the wildlife management area this year.

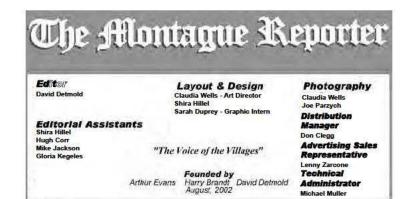


MORTGAGE, INC.









Rope-a-Dope Revives the Hope

HEMPSTEAD, NY - President Obama owned Governor Romney in their second debate on issues of foreign policy, women, immigration, and the 47 percent moderated by Candy Crowley on Tuesday. He even leveled a fatal blow regarding Benghazi.

Don't get me wrong: Mitt was no wimp, and Obama was no progressive, but Obama had the better plans, the better attacks, and the better handle on the truth than Romney.

Obama strongly called out the funny math of Romney's claims that he can lower taxes across the board and not raise the deficit. Mitt's only defense was: "Of course my numbers add up. I am Mitt Romney."

He may convince Ann with that response, but such a defense does little to engender confidence in the rest of us.

Obama was aggressive on jobs, touting his added five million jobs and his support of high-wage, good jobs over winning the global race to the bottom. Obama hit Romney over the head repeatedly with his tax-cutting record, while maintaining his position that the wealthy must pay more.

By contrast, Romney was evasive and inauthentic. He tried to get away with answering a question about equal pay for women with a strange explanation about asking women's groups to find qualified women for his Massachusetts cabinet. Mitt said that women could be hired if only employers would figure out that they also need time to cook for their families. Pay? Isn't the gratification these women gain from putting some Hamburger Helper into the bellies of their families pay enough?

In an equally evasive and puzzling response, Romney blamed single mothers and a failed federal sting operation in Mexico for assault weapon violence in the U.S.

Then came the knockout blow, something like this: "The president took two weeks to call the attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya a terrorist attack." "Governor Romney, I called it a terrorist attack the very next day." "No, Mr. President, you most certainly did not." "Candy, tell him ... I did, didn't I?" "Uh...yes, Governor, the president did say that. He is right. You are wrong."

Boom.

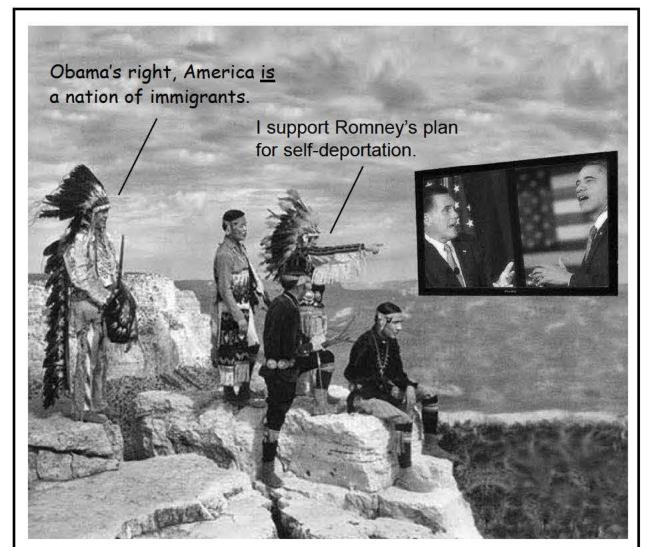
Obama, for all his aggressiveness and better policy positions than Romney on jobs, taxes, women's health and economic issues, and immigration, failed on the question of energy and the kind of revenue raising we need to get on track to be the kind of country we want to be.

The incumbent almost channeled Sarah Palin with refrains of 'Drill Baby Drill'. He agreed with Romney that the corporate tax rate is too high, and he again missed the opportunity to tell the truth that Social Security, Medicare and social programs don't need fixing, reforming, and slashing to reduce our deficit.

I still want to see Obama lead on the direct creation of jobs, and taxing financial speculation, dividends, and interest. I want to see him stand up and tell the truth: With the right priorities, we can spend far less on the military, close corporate tax loopholes, and fund a transformative shift to an economically and environmentally sound energy policy. I want to see him lead on real costcontrol in a universal Medicare-for-All health plan.

I want more than just a rope-adope surprise and a knockout punch. I want to hear the words: "America is not broke, we just have our priorities wrong". Then, I will be able to cheer a victory as something that is a victory for all of us, not just for a candidate's campaign.

Karen Dolan is an Institute for Policy Studies fellow. This article first appeared in Other Words (www.otherwords.org).



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO MONTAGE

A Plan for the Democratic Party

BY DAVID ELLIOT

WASHINGTON, DC - Until the votes are cast and counted, no one, no matter how smart or well-connected, can predict with certainty the outcome of the 2012 elections. And yet, Democrats and some Republicans are already forecasting that president Barack Obama will win re-election, and Democrats will maintain control of the Senate and pick up new House seats.

Elections are important. They represent the pinnacle of democracy. But what comes after this election might be even more important. Beginning with the lame-duck Congress that will return to Washington the week after the election, our leaders will start making the most fundamental and consequential decisions about budgets, taxes, and the role of government in our society that they have made in generations.

Some call it the "fiscal cliff." Others call it "taxmageddon." Whatever the label, Congress and

the president will decide many things: the future of the Bush tax cuts, whether to extend the payroll tax holiday for millions of Americans, and whether to avoid scheduled cuts in spending that would radically pare all sorts of domestic programs. Key things are at stake, such as protecting our water and air, and food assistance for hungry Americans.

As these deliberations unfold, we must adhere to three priorities:

First, we must end the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest two percent of Americans. This will provide revenue that can be used to strengthen education, create jobs. improve our roads and bridges and help the millions of Americans who are struggling to get by in today's sluggish economy.

Second, we must protect our nation's safety net. Americans count on programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to be there when we need them, and we can't afford to see them cut. In House majority leader Eric Cantor's district alone, there are 153,000 people who benefit from Medicare or Medicaid, according to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Third, Congress must invest in America — and this means creating jobs. The best place to start would be to pass Obama's jobs package. But if a divided Congress can't bring itself to do that, it must pursue other options.

If Democrats win big this November, they'll have the political capital to achieve these three priorities.

The question is whether or not they'll seize this opportunity to get America back on the right track.

David Elliot is the communications director for USAction, (www.usaction.org) a federation of 22 state affiliates that organize for a more just America. This article was distributed via OtherWords (www.otherwords.org).

NOTES FROM THE GILL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Gill Puts a Little Aside for a Rainy Day

BY DAVID DETMOLD - About two dozen Gill residents made it to the start of a 6:00 p.m. special town meeting on Monday, and within half an hour, as the size of the crowd roughly doubled, they had worked their way to the end of a nine article warrant, passing all the items on the agenda unanimously except the first, a proposal to set up a separate revolving loan fund for the town's recycling receipts from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. At the urging of the selectboard, voters passed over that item, which would have established a fund with an initial installment of about \$11,000. (State tax counsel had advised against setting up a revolving fund from recycling fees in the middle of a fiscal year.)

Later, voters opted to put \$3,321 that had been set aside to pay the town's annual assessment to the Solid Waste District into the town's stabilization fund instead, along

with \$4754 from taxation. (The town's annual assessment can come right out of the \$11,000 in Gill recycling fees the district still retains.)

It was the final motion, to build up the town's stabilization fund from \$133,002 to \$141,077, that gave rise to the most debate, when Jeffrey Kocsis raised his hand and asked why the town was insisting on taxing right up to the levy limit, if all that was planned for the extra money was to put it into the stabilization account.

Selectboard chair Ann Banash said, "We are allowed by law to raise our taxes by 21/2% a year, and in the past the selectboard, finance committee and town meeting have all agreed to raise taxes to the levy limit. That's what we have done."

Banash said the major town departments have kept to level funded budgets for the last three years. "We can't cut anymore," she said.

token, I can't take it anymore." He recommended increasing taxes by only 1% or 11/2% this year, because of the tough economy. "I could use the extra percent in my own bank account, quite frankly," he said.

Banash said holding taxes down as Kocsis recommended would result in only about a dime's worth of savings to an individual taxpayer like him, but taxing to the levy limit would allow the town to put an additional \$4,000 away for emergencies.

Town administrative assistant Purington Ray said the Massachusetts Department of Revenue recommends cities and towns keep at least 5% of their annual budget in their stabilization accounts - which for Gill would translate to saving at least \$150,000 toward unexpected or emergency spending.

Finance committee members stressed that was only a minimum

Kocsis responded, "By the same level of stabilization funding, and Banash said the town had not achieved that level of savings in many years.

> Valeria Smith said she appreciated the selectboard's approach of level funding the departments for another year, and saving the little left over beneath the levy limit.

> "They could have divvied it up to the departments, but I commend them for not doing that. I can afford the ten cents now to have a little more in store for an emergency."

> At the end of that discussion, the measure passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

> In other business, voters approved spending \$400 to help the cemetery commission pay for mowing, \$90 to achieve equity in cost of living raises for the tax collector and town clerk, \$3,000 to augment the tree and forestry account, \$928 to place the library director and assistant library director on the appropriate step on the

town's wage scale (these two positions had been inexplicably left off the employee wage scale for years) and \$1,905 to allow the Slate Library to respond to popular demand and open four more hours a week, on Wednesday afternoons.

As the meeting opened, recently elected town moderator John Zywna asked the voters, "if you would," to join him in pledging allegiance to the American flag. Finance committee member Claire Chang rose immediately after the pledge to say, "I protest."

Grumbles were heard in the audience.

Zywna said he had specified that voters were being asked to join in the pledge only if they wished to do so. He added, "I see the town of Gill and the voters of Gill represent that flag, and the flag represents the people of Gill."

Chang continued, "The problem is it includes the words, 'under God,' and that's Christian. I am not a Christian."

From the floor, the grumbling grew louder, interspersed with murmurs of, "Who cares?"

Later in the meeting, Banash commented, "New moderator, new procedures."

Sign Me Up! \$20 for half year subscription \$25 out-of-area subscribers The Montague Reporter 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376			U.S. Casua in Afghanis
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Montague Reporter



No-Cost Option for Solar PV

BY SALLY PICK - If you think buying solar photovoltaics (PV) is out of your reach and financing is not an option, there is a zero cost plan available to Montague residents. The power purchase contract (PPC) option, often referred to as a lease, provides an opportunity to produce discounted Green power at your home and participate in the Solarize Montague program's discounts before the October 31st deadline

With a PPC, you get no cost installation, no maintenance costs, a lower electricity bill, and power from the sun. There is a three step review of the site and PPC client, to see if they qualify. First, an overview of the site using computerized Google Earth and Pictometry programs. Second, a credit check of the customer. And third, a site visit to verify the home has sufficient sun exposure and meets other site criteria. If all three conditions are met, the customer will be provided with a PPC overview and a contract to review, and will need to sign the PPC agreement by October 31st, to be counted in the discounts provided by the Solarize Montague program. If a system needs to be ground mounted, additional costs will apply.

By getting a power purchase contract, you will see reduced electric bills on the power produced by your PV system. All participants of Solarize Montague, whether leasing or buying PV (this includes buying

down for everyone who signs a contract during the program. At the current Tier 3 pricing, leased systems will have an electric rate 11% lower than the rate offered at the beginning of the program for Tier 1 pricing, which began below current Western Mass Electric Company rates. No matter when you sign a contract, everyone gets the same final pricing based on the tier at which Montague wraps up the program. If enough systems contract to take the town to Tier 4 prices, PPC electric rates drop 14% from Tier 1 prices and purchased systems get a 10% discount off the Tier 1 prices.

with financing), help bring the price

For more Solarize Montague information or to arrange for a free site visit, contact the program's solar installer, NorthEast Solar, at 413-247-6045 (info@northeastsolar.biz), or contact me, Sally Pick, the community solar coach, at 413-559-7257 (MontagueEnergyCommittee.@gm ail.com). Solarize Montague will have a table at Pumpkinfest. General information about Solarize Montague, and links to other resources and to NE Solar are on the website: program's www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague. October 31st is the final deadline to sign a contract, so sign up now for a free site visit to explore clean energy for your home.

Solarize Mass is a partnership between the town of Montague, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, the Department of Energy Resources, and the selected installer, Northeast Solar Design Associates of Hadley.

LOOT from page 1

Cambridge, then Brooklyn, NY and then the Catskills.

Where did you get the idea for the store?

John and I wanted to collaborate on a project together. Loot seemed a natural extension of what we were already doing. John had been in the

antique business for years. He learned it from his mother who was also an antique dealer. John loves finding stuff and he is genuinely interested in people as well as the

My background is in art and design. I love displaying and arranging objects, but I also enjoy organiz-

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Vandalism Around Town Tuesday, 10/09 8:14 a.m. Vandalism report- at Avenue A, Turners Monday, 10/15 ed at Sheffield School on Falls. Crocker Avenue in Turners Friday, 10/12 Falls. Wednesday, 10/10 8:32 a.m. Larceny reported

Falls. 10:37 a.m. Burglary reported at 24 Second treet

5:13 p.m. Larceny reported Falls. 2:21 a.m. , arrested and Avenue C in Turners charged with domestic assault and battery at L

Street.

5.02 pr

5:06 p.m. Larceny reported and investigated at Scotty's Convenience Store at 66 Unity Street, Turners Falls.

Vandalism

5:40 p.m. arrested and charged with assault and batwith a dan

Wrapping up a Messy School Renovation

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett selectboard met following the special town meeting last week, on Tuesday October 9th, and covered a brief agenda involving the wrap up of the school window project, establishment of a fire department study committee, and the coming of high speed broadband for town residents.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico recalled, "We dealt with continuing pieces left over from the school building project. We're still trying to track down everything involved with change orders, and which of these we believe are the responsibility of the architect."

Due to the requirements of the state's Green Repair program, which provided 50% matching funds for the town's \$564,249 energy saving improvement project at the elementary school, Leverett entered unwillingly into a contract with Boston architect DiMarinisi and Wolfe to oversee the school renovation. From the outset, the selectboard expressed a preference for working with local professionals, but the only architects on the state list were from eastern Massachusetts.

In the upshot, the town felt poorly served by DiMarinisi and Wolfe, primarily because the architect failed, according to the selectboard and building project manager Brian LaRoche, to note that the windows being replaced in some cases were structural elements of the building, supporting the top plate and the roof. When these windows were removed,

ing and grouping items together in a way that gives them new meaning.

We both were really drawn to Turners Falls. It felt like the right place to open our business and we are so happy that we chose to not only live here but also run our business here. The town and community have been supportive and welcoming from the beginning.

Where do you find all your great loot?

John has been doing it so long he just knows what to look for - mostly factories, barns, garages, tag sales and referrals.

How much time do you use searching treasures versus running the store?

John spends his time finding treasures and I run the store. Sometimes there is a crossover. I will work at the warehouse and he will work at the store so we can each be aware of what is going on in both locations. We also do three Brimfield antique shows between May and September, so that adds another element to acquiring inventory and dividing our time.

the roof line sagged several inches, leading to expensive delays and workarounds.

Now, the board intends to pursue the architect, in court if necessary, to cover those cost overruns.

"We've sent a formal notice disputing the change orders as being due only to his mistakes," said "We have started the d'Errico. process."

Meanwhile, rain water is leaking in a few of the new windows, in some of the school offices, said d'Errico, and the cause of that leak has yet to be determined.

Looking ahead, the board has decided to establish a study committee to look at the long term needs of the fire department, in view of the fact that chief John Moruzzi is approaching mandatory retirement age in a few years. "We want to look at succession and other issues that might come up with the department." said d'Errico. He mentioned the idea of possibly sharing a fire chief with a neighboring town, such Shutesbury, when the day eventually comes for Moruzzi to retire.

The board is continuing to work with North Leverett resident Thom Masterton to determine the best approach for installing hearing assistance devices in town meeting rooms, so citizens who are hard of hearing will be more easily able to participate in public discussions. A number of different technological approaches have already been explored, but no consensus has yet been reached on the best type of hearing assistance device to install at the town hall, library meeting room, and elementary school gym where town meetings are held.

The town has received more than a dozen inquiries in response to a request for information from companies that might be interested in performing the buildout and maintenance of the town's high speed fiber system for internet connectivity. Town meeting approved borrowing up to \$3.6 million to string 'last mile' fiber to the door of every resident and business in town that would like to receive that service. D'Errico said the town is still looking into the possibility of defraying some of that cost through grants or loans; property taxes will pay off the bond over time, and users will pay into a fund to maintain the system.

D'Errico said a build and maintenance contract should be finalized by the end of the year; the town is on target to complete the project by 2014.

Finally, in a move designed not to supplant the role of the finance committee, but to provide both the selectboard and finance committee with the advantage of one-time analysis from independent experts - such as accountants or budgert analysts who may live in town, the board intends to set up an ad hoc budget advisory committee. The notes from the selectboard meeting reflect a wish for the school committee to once again "be conservative with the budget."

gratifying experience.

Has anything surprised you?

I am most surprised by how quickly inventory moves in and out of the store. Loot is a constant work in progress. It seems just when you 'get it right,' some key items sell and it's as if you are back at square one. Some days I feel like Sisyphus. But I am never bored because there is always something to do.

John said, I am always surprised by all the new faces we see every week. It seems like an endless supply of new customers. People seem to find us and meeting those people is a lot of fun. I enjoy observing customers discover clever ways to reuse things in the store.

Are your customers local or do people travel from afar?

We have many regulars who come into the store, and they are both local and from further away. We have had many customers from Northampton, Vermont, New Hampshire, Boston, and New York. Prior to opening Loot, we already had a customer base as a result of selling for years at Brimfield and those customers - from California, New York, Ohio as well as Japan now visit our shop as well. Any plans for change or innovation the coming year?

An art show that accompanied the store's first anniversary party celebrated local artists Steve Cahill and Cathe Janke in a show titled, 'Separated by Birth'. The art will be on display until December 18th. Those who could not get close enough to view it on Friday night should go back for a closer look.

Cahill and Janke have done a number of projects together including remodeling a bathroom at the Rendezvous. Selecting them for this special occasion was a natural choice for the owners, since both artists also work at the store. Cahill said, "I am very familiar with her work and she with mine. Her work with softer fabric and glitter and feathers and my work with stone, slate and metal carries the feel of the store itself. I came up with the show's name, 'Separated by Birth,' because the way we work together always seems to complement each others' work. I once said we were cosmically linked before we were born into separate families ... It stuck." In small communities, relationships are everything. Loot is fostering relationships among artists, nurturing relationships with customers, and adding to the vitality of downtown. That's a lot to accomplish in a year and an inspiration for others thinking of locating a business in Turners Falls.

history of each piece that he finds.

Turners Falls. 3:11 p.m. Larceny reported Third Street, Turners Falls. 4:23 p.m. taken

911 call to Fifth Street, Turners Falls. Thursday, 10/11

weapon at Second Street, Turners Falls. arrested on Tuesday, 10/16 warrant on Unity Street. Sunday, 10/14 6:47 a.m. Burglary reported 1:21 a.m. Burglary reported and investigated at Eagle at the Scalpers Lodge on Automotive at 147 Second into protective custody after Lake Pleasant Road, Lake Street, Turners Falls. Pleasant. 11:17 a.m.

2:50 p.m. Assault reported reported at **Vladish** Avenue A, Turners Avenue, Turners Falls.

How's the first year been?

The first year has been wonderful. Every day we learn something new about how we can grow and become better at what we do. It has been a tremendous amount of work but overall it has been a positive and

We are going to continue to try and find great Loot.



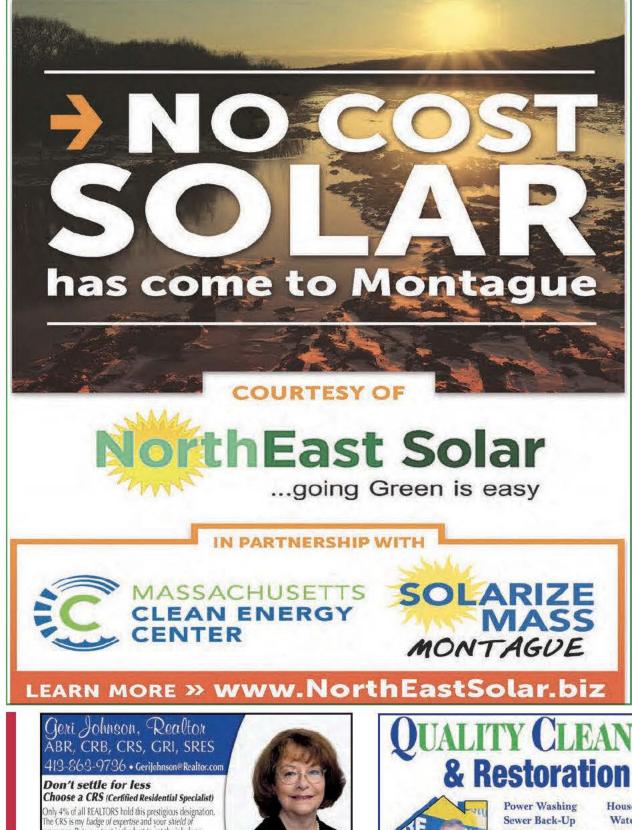
MOLTENBREY from pg 1

society for German-Americans; he was mentioned in the *Boston Globe* in 1897, 1905, and 1907 as attending conventions from Turners Falls' Columbia Lodge, or for getting elected as a "deputy grand bardo."

On October 29th, 1903, Gottlieb Moltenbrey bought a three-story building in Turners from Sarah Kellogg for the sum of "one dollar and other valuable consideration." Located on a .139-acre parcel, the building's exterior is faced with locally produced red brick. It directly abuts the sidewalk on Avenue A and 3rd Street.

It is likely the building already held two long rows of single rooms on the upper floors. A photograph from the time suggests the hotel lobby, like today's entrance, and a bar and restaurant were located on 3rd Street in the middle and west end of the building. As today, more stairs led to the upper floors at the building's street address of 76 Avenue A, and there were also first floor commercial spaces opening on the street at 74 and 78 Avenue A.

The 1906 Manning directory for Greenfield and Turners Falls lists both the "Hotel Moltenbrey" and



"Moltenbrey, Gottlieb", as the proprietor of the Hotel Moltenbrey. Four of his children were listed by last name. Twenty-one-year-old waitress Amelia, 18-year-old night clerk Fred, and 20-year-old clerk Gottlieb, Jr. boarded at the hotel, while 23-year-old bartender George lived in a house on 3rd Street.

The 1910 US Census lists 51year -old Gottlieb as "head of the household" of 17 residing at his hotel. He and six other family members lived there: his wife Anna, son and insurance agent George, his wife Rose, and three unmarried sons, hotel clerk Frederic, William, a pianist, and 15 year old Albert. The hotel's resident chambermaid was Rose Schmitt.

In addition to the family and the maid Rose, there were nine lodgers, seven men and two women, aged 20-58, at the hotel in 1910. Reflecting the vibrant state of the local economy in attracting immigrants, the parents of most of the hotel boarders were born outside of the US. Germans headed this list with Carl Usayales and John Alber both born in Germany to German parents. Eighteen year-old Rose Schmitt was born in Massachusetts to German-born parents. A male boarder was born in Massachusetts from Bohemian (Czech) parents from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In 1911, Gottlieb and Anna vacationed for some months in Germany where they stayed with family and friends. Gottlieb Moltenbrey died at the age of 54 on November 7th, 1912, in Turners Falls, and the hotel passed to his 51 year old widow Anna, who managed it until her death.

On February 12th, 1913, the Greenfield Recorder states that Mrs. Anna Moltenbrey re-opened the dining room of the hotel, after a thorough renovation. In the Manning directories starting with 1914, she got listed under both her name and as the Hotel Moltenbrey proprietor. Younger son Albert was listed by name as a boarder in 1913-5 and hotel clerk in 1915. Youngest

son Frederic was a boarder in 1913 and 1917.

Anna was active in the Ladies Auxiliary of Hermann's Sons, and over a span of two decades got mentioned in the Greenfield Recorder several times for getting elected as an officer or delegate to conventions. She also got mentioned several times with visits to and from her professional pianist son, William. The 'Why Worry' sewing club made the news with its meetings in Anna's home in the hotel on the Avenue. where games of whist and light refreshments followed fancy needlework.

During Anna's tenure as proprietor of the hotel, a barbershop was added downstairs, and its main wall survives today (see photo). The wall was not part of the original building, or it would have had elaborate mid-Victorian carvings and woodwork. Also, plate glass of the size of the mirror was not made until the 1890s. If hotel founder Gottlieb had added this wall during his time, it probably would have had art nouveau decorations. Instead the builtin light outlet and the wall itself suggest it was built after Gottlieb's death.

In any event, the "Moltenbrey Barber Shop" at 41 3rd Street (run by oldest son George, who had been listed as an insurance agent as late as 1925) was listed in the 1930-31 Manning directory.

The 1930 Census lists Anna Moltenbrey as the 69 year old head of a household of 25 (21 males and 4 females) at the Moltenbrey Hotel. Since there were about a dozen rooms for each upper floor, it seems the hotel was mainly a "residential hotel." Anna's 45-year-old daughter Amelia, her 50-year-old insurance agent husband Joseph Sulda and their two children, 19-year-old son Francis and 17-year-old Elena also resided there. Resident staff included 42-year-old Casper March (born in Massachusetts from parents both born in Germany) who was the hotel janitor, and John McDonough who

see MOLTENBREY page 7



Leverett Harvest Fest

The sun shone, the leaves were in their full glory, and the playground of the Leverett Elementary School was filled with residents of all ages enjoying the chance to mingle, browse the booths, and support the elementary school at the annual Harvest Festival on Saturday.



Jill Horton-Lyons of Winterberry Farm demonstrated her herding dog's skills

providing

upper floors.

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town

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Decorating cookies at the first grade table

MOLTENBREY from pg 6

was a hotel clerk.

The two staff and 18 other boarders included five in their twenties, six in their 40s, five in their 60s, and one 89-year-old. Ten of the 20 total boarders included people with German ancestry, some Polish and one Czech. Nine boarders worked in Turners Falls mills and shops, three on building bridges, two for the street department, one in a coal office, one on the railroad, one in a barbershop, and one was a real estate agent.

A family gathering at the hotel to celebrate Anna's birthday made the local news in a January 1935 Recorder. Anna's final listing as the owner of the Hotel Moltenbrey was in the 1936 Manning directory, but she had died at the age of 74 in Turners Falls on November 24th, 1935.

In that year, Leon Robichaud was listed as the proprietor of a restaurant and bar in the hotel spaces, while Joseph Kliska ran the establishment in 1936. Gottlieb and Anna's daughter, 50-year-old Amelia Moltenbrey Sulda took over the management of the hotel after her mother's death.

In 1937, a deed transferred ownership to "Hotel Moltenbrey, Inc.", which was a group of ten relatives. Listed as first owner on the deed was daughter Amelia, while son Gottlieb and his wife Jessie were numbers two and three. George and his wife Rose were numbers four and five on the new deed.

Amelia Sulda's family had lived

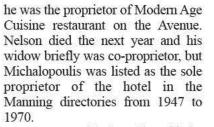
both the manager of the hotel and proprietor of Murphy's. She was listed as hotel proprietor starting with the 1937 Manning directory, and continuing through 1943.

The 1940 Census gave widow Amelia Sulda as the head of a household of 18 people (15 males and 3 females) living at the hotel. Her 54year-old widower brother George Moltenbrey was a tenant as well, and 16 other lodgers ranged in age from 19 to 79. The majority of the lodgers were in their 30s and 50s.

Immigration seems to have been much less of a factor at that time. Nine of the 16 boarders were born in Massachusetts, four more in other states and three in Canada. Fourteen of the 18 total had lived there from at least 1935 on. Eight worked in mills, three as laborers on flood control projects, and George was then a timekeeper for the government. Also there were a restaurant cook, an upholsterer in a furniture store, and a glue room worker in a rod and reel shop.

Not much is known about the final three decades of the hotel, after it stopped being a family business. In the early 1940s, management of the hotel seems to have passed to Gottlieb, Jr. (1886-1943). After he died, his widow Jessie could not keep up the business, and Hotel Moltenbrey, Inc. sold the building business to Michael and Michalopoulis and Nick Nelson.

Nelson was born in Greece in 1894 and immigrated to the US in



In 1969, Michalopoulis sold the building and business to the Hampden County Register of Deeds John P. Lynch and his wife (both of Springfield). The Montague selectboard issued a lodginghouse license to Mrs. Beverly Lynch, effective January 1st, 1970, and from 1971-4, she was listed in the Manning directories as the proprietor of the Hotel Moltenbrey. In December of 1973, Mrs. Lynch petitioned the selectboard to open a bar in the lobby of the building. The board rejected her application, saying there were enough bars and taverns in town, and this action seems to have dealt a deathblow to the Hotel Moltenbrey.

Mrs. Edna Baird was listed as the proprietor in 1975, but the hotel was no longer listed in the Manning directories from 1976 on, and the erstwhile Hotel Moltenbrey, once a thriving family business, became a characterless boarding house, the scene of at least one fire, and multiple code violations, until it was purchased and provided with a multimillion dollar renovation by an offshoot of the Franklin County Regional Housing and

Redevelopment Authority in 2005. Taking advantage of historic and low



FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS:

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Lydia Peterson sold sea glass at one booth

FALL YARD

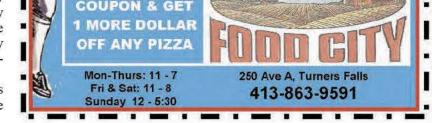
CLEAN UP

in the Moltenbrey Hotel through the early 1930s. In 1934 and 1935, the Manning directories had son Francis Sulda as a resident of the hotel and a clerk in Murphy's Shoe Shop at 78 Avenue A. In 1936 after Anna's death, Amelia Sulda was listed as

1912. He was listed in the 1930 Census, as a single boarder with a family in Turners Falls, and the proprietor of a restaurant. He was mentioned in the Greenfield Recorder as getting restaurant licenses in the early 1930s. When buying the hotel,

income tax credits, Moltenbrey Apartments Limited restored the building to its historical integrity while addressing modern accessibility requirements.

The Moltenbrey currently offers two commercial storefronts and the



BRING IN THIS



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD Paulin Questions Special Legislation on U-28 Benefits

BY KATIE NOLAN Retired Union 28 business manager Charles Paulin told the selectboard that recent special legislation passed to end disagreements between U-28 towns about funding health insurance benefits "is written rather narrowly. I don't see where you can change where the lead town is."

Paulin's retirement benefits were immediately at issue when the five towns and four school districts that make up U-28 first began meeting more than a year ago to challenge the status quo by which Erving, with generous employee benefits and the most students enrolled in a U-28 school, sets the level at which all five towns compensate central office employees' health and retirement benefits.

Those meetings led to a unanimous push among the towns and school districts of Leverett, Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell and Erving to pass special legislation to regularize central office employee benefits, so that each town could pay a benefit level equal to that by which they compensate their own town employees.

Paulin insisted, But "Erving would still be the lead town that determines the benefits. I don't think this legislation allows you to override that.'

In order to protest paying more in benefits to Union 28 central office employees and retirees than to its own town employees, the town of Leverett has recently begun withholding its share of U28 insurance costs.

The special legislation, Chapter 206 of 2012 session laws, passed by the state legislature in August, states that the five U-28 towns may "enter into agreements to fund benefits for employees and retirees of the superintendency union in amounts proportionate to the benefits offered by each town to municipal employees and retirees."

According to Paulin, the special legislation does not exempt U-28 from complying with Chapter 32B, section 7a of Massachusetts General Laws, which allows only one benefit rate for any governmental unit.

selectboard However, members of other U-28 towns have read this same section of 32B as validating their position that they would be violating Chapter 32B by paying more in benefits for U-28 central office employees than they pay for their own employees.

On Monday, Erving selectboard member Margaret Sullivan told Paulin, "My understanding is that Chapter 206 allows each town to pay U28 employees according to its own rate."

Paulin replied, "I believe the language of what you have allows towns to determine how to apportion costs. It did not cover the necessary points."

Sullivan said of the legislation, "I believe it does the trick." Paulin told the Erving selectboard that, so far, he has discussed his position on the special legislation only with the Leverett town administrator and with his attorney. Erving town administrator Tom Sharp said Erving town counsel Donna MacNicol does not agree with Paulin's reading of the special legislation.

The selectboard will continue to review a draft agreement between the U-28 towns for funding employee and retiree benefits under the Chapter 206 legislation.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the furor over the former business manager's benefit package, the towns of Shutesbury and Leverett have formed regionalization study committees to explore the possibility of leaving U-28 and joining in a new K-12 region with Pelham and Amherst.

In a parallel move in Erving, at the August 13th special town meeting, school

regionalization planning committee member Beth Lux forming a larger committee to school review potential regionalization options. Lux said at that meeting that Erving was under pressure from Leverett and Shutesbury to come up with options. But at the October 1st selectboard meeting, Sharp said MacNicol had recommended continuing with the current three-member regionalization committee hearing earlier this month that established by town meeting they would rather get the bad in accordance with state law.

ed to the selectboard that she rate hike this year, followed by had researched the original another one next year. regionalization subcommittee, which existed from 1993 to additional \$30,000 a year in 1997. Boyden said the earlier revenue (if divided equally regionalization committee among users, that would equal consisted of only three members, but had working subcommittees with additional not all users contribute equally members. Boyden commented that the current regionalization committee "do not feel the urgency" to develop a regionalization plan for Erving.

Klepadlo said the selectboard made to conserve water use has no authority over the elected school committee, or over moderator-appointed the regionalization committee. problem, independent of how But he said he intended to go much each of the residents of to the October 16th school committee meeting. "It's our tem. That I&I problem certainintent to guide them in the ly contributes to the fact that direction they need to go," and Riverside has historically gen-"suggest to them that they erated about 1.6 gallons of appoint five to seven subcom- sewage for each gallon of mittee members," to work on water consumed, an imbalance regionalization options for Erving students.

The selectboard and finance committee met jointly to consider a draft warrant for a proposed October 29th special town meeting. In order to allow the required two-week posting period, the warrant needed to be finalized that very night. Both the selectboard and the finance committee complained of the limited time to consider the proposed articles, which included see ERVING page 10

Sewer Rates Rise by Over 50% in Riverside **BY DAVID DETMOLD** -The 114 sewer users in the Riverside water district will see their sewer rates rise by asked the town to consider more than 50% this year, following a vote of the selectboard on October 9th. The rates, which have been

set for several years at 8.5 cents per cubic foot of sewer flow, will now rise to 13.5 cents a cubic foot. The board had contemplated making the rate hike in stages over two years, but heard from a handful of sewer users at a public news in their bills all at once, Jacqueline Boyden report- rather than deal with a partial

The board hopes to raise an an extra \$263 a year in their sewer bills - though of course to the sewer system) to plug a growing gap between revenues and expenses for the small district. The board acknowledges the efforts Selectboard chair Eugene many district sewer users have over the years, but is also aware that the district has a large inflow and infiltration the district use the sewer syswhich has led to the sharply declining balance in the sewer fund.

Selectboard chair Ann Banash said if the town can afford to study, locate the sources of, and remediate some of the I&I problem in the coming years, it is possible sewer rates could be lowered again in the future. But for now, the rate hike is necessary to balance the sewer district's budget.

'We're watching it now, approximately \$90,000 in and we didn't for a long time," said Banash.

A letter will go out with the next quarterly sewer bill advising Riverside residents of the rate hike, and giving simple tips for reducing inflow, particularly regarding the placement of sump pumps, which can drive up the district's overall sewer bill from Montague for treating storm runoff if they feed into the sewer lines rather than the storm drains.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

In other news, the selectboard considered the town's future involvement in a newly formed, eight town, cooperative public health service, sponsored by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Gill, along with the towns of Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, Buckland, Deerfield and Conway have all contracted to participate in the first year of the new regional health district, funded with a one-year start up grant from the state. Those towns were promised they would see no increase in expenditure for public health services such as food safety inspections, perc tests, housing inspection, flu shot clinics and the like. Many of those services have traditionally been provided in small towns by volunteer boards; the regional health district would supplement local boards of health with a professional public health nurse and inspectors.

Although there has been no added cost this year for Gill to receive these services, including the first in recent memory town hall flu shot clinic before the special town meeting on Monday, October 15th, board of health and selectboard member Randy Crochier said the town's projected bill for next year might rise.

"The way the budget is right now it's a substantial increase for Gill's numbers," said Crochier, who said he has been working for 20 years to get a regional public health district organized in Franklin County.

Crochier maintained the town has been "substantially underpaying for public health"

for years, and added, "We've been fortunate through the years we've had good people on the board willing to do things for little money. But we've also been fortunate not to have anything major come down the pike."

October 18, 2012

Crochier said the town's bill to be part of the eight town district could rise from \$8,000 to \$17,000 next year, if no additional towns join up, and if no additional sources of grant support are located.

Banash said the selectboard could not commit the town to spending additional money for membership in the district without first going to town meeting for approval.

In other matters, Banash attended a hearing in Erving recently about planned safety improvements to Route 2 in the Erving Center and Farley areas, and said improvements to the stretch of highway from the French King Bridge to Factory Hollow are now "back on the table."

The board debated whether to push ahead for roof repairs on the town hall before the onset of winter, or try to get through another season with buckets under the belfry, where windblown rain has soaked through ceiling tiles on the upper floor.

John Ward said, "So we have a belfry with no bell. I'm kind of leaning towards, 'Why do we let rain get in there at all?" Ward speculated that the historic feature was probably originally built to provide ventilation for the town hall, back when the building had only one floor.

The board decided to advertise for the replacement of the asphalt roof with a metal roof, and a new membrane roof on the belfry, to begin "as soon as weather is permitting, so as not to compromise the quality of the work and performance of the products."

The state Department of Energy Resources had no questions for the town after receiving the energy commission's proposal for spending

see GILL page 10

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE CALL 863-8666



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Water Leak Plugged on Station Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD - At long last, Montague DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron made the announcement awaited by residents of Montague Center, particularly of Station Road, who have been dealing with torn-up pavement on their driveways, sidewalks, and roadway since mid-summer when the highway department installed a new water pipe to the former Montague Center School building.

"We found the leak," Bergeron told the selectboard on Monday. "The new water line passed the water pressure test today. I want to thank my guys for staying with it until they found it."

"And many thanks to the citizens of Montague Center for putting up with this," said selectboard member Pat Allen.

Bergeron said his crew had installed a new isolation valve in the middle of the pipe earlier this month, to determine whether the problem lay on the school side or the post office side of the new pipe. They found leaking elbow joints near the connection with the main water line in front of the post office, and replaced those joints. But as of last week the pipe still leaked somewhere. Bergeron worried that he would have to dig up problem.

Then, highway foreman Richard Clough "was talking with his cat," one recent night, when he came to the sudden realization that the newly installed isolation valve itself, or rather the sleeves on both sides of it, were now the most likely source of the leak. In other words, in an attempt to find one leak, the DPW had created another. They dug up that section of pipe, tightened the sleeves, and hey, presto! The water line held pressure.

Bergeron promises a fresh coat of blacktop on the roadbed shortly, and a more thorough paving job on the street and sidewalk come spring.

In another matter concerning unwanted water, driveways and pavement in Montague Center, the board held a hearing on a complaint raised by a homeowner who claimed runoff from Taylor Hill Road had washed out his driveway this summer. Although the complainant, Peter Vichi, of 11 Taylor Hill Road, failed to show, the board held the hearing anyway, and wound up directing Bergeron to send a letter to Vichi ordering him to install a 12 inch culvert at his own expense and to pave at least

face further action from the town

Bergeron said as a condition of installing the driveway in 2004, he issue Vichi a driveway permit with the condition that he install at least a 12 inch culvert under the drive, to allow the pre-existing drainage ditch to continue down the incline of the hill. Bergeron said there is at least 50 or 60 feet between Vichi's driveway and the last storm drain up the hill, enough distance for a good amount of water to run off the road and build up in the drainage ditch. Run-off washed out the end of Vichi's driveway a couple of years ago, Bergeron said, and Vichi called the town to complain again this summer, but when Bergeron went to check the damage, he found that Vichi had not installed the culvert or paved the end of the driveway as specified in the original permit.

In a letter to the town, Vichi said he saw no point in installing "a culvert to nowhere".

Building inspector David Jensen said he had issued Vichi an occupancy permit without noticing the failure to

see MONTAGUE pg 10

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Larceny, Criminal Applications & Washing Machine Fire

Tuesday, 10/9 11:30 p.m. Call of a car Street, contacted owner, all set. Thursday, 10/11

open gate at Strachen rocks towards the houses. Street, gate secured, all set. motor vehicle lock out at Dunkin Donuts, entry gained.

4:55 p.m. Dispatched to Christina's Restaurant for larceny.

9:30 p.m. Criminal application issued to

King Highway. cation issued to

for operating a motor

vehicle with revoked license, no inspection stickdoor open on Pleasant er, French King Highway. Friday, 10/12, 8:11 p.m. Assisted Warwick Police at Laurel 12:00 a.m. Investigated Lake for juveniles throwing Saturday, 10/13 2:05 p.m. Report of 12:50 a.m. Criminal application issued to

> for marked lanes and operating a motor vehicle with a

revoked license, French 9:30 a.m. Criminal appli-

an unregistered motor vehicle, attaching plates and uninsured motor vehicle. 1:00 p.m.

> vehicle revoked registration, without insurance and suspended license. 7:40 p.m. Report of disturbance at Mountain Road Residence, verbal altercation only, report

taken. 11:00 p.m. Dorsey Road, several subjects and vehi-

ment. for operating a motor 1:20 p.m. Report of suspicious item found in yard on North Street, report taken. Monday, 10/15

calm down.

the entire street to find the the first 15 feet of his drive- BY JOSH HEINEMANN way by November 15th or For the second consecutive meeting, the Wendell selectboard faced a dog hearing on October 10th, but unlike the hearing of September 26th this one closed on a note of conciliation and accommodation, not confrontation.

The dog in question, a white shepherd mixed breed, belongs to Cindy Freeman of Locke Hill Road; dog officer Maggie Houghton opened the hearing with a list of times she had been called about Freeman's dog getting out: July 28th, August 17th, August 28th, and September 8th. The dog killed one hen belonging to neighbor Brian Jones on the first escape, two more hens and a rooster on the second, and might have done in another on a third escape if Jones had not come out and chased him away.

In addition, neighbor Phil Delorey complained the dog had been in his yard 20 times in the last month. Freeman said, unknown to her, when she thought the dog was confined to the house, he figured out how to push open a window that had been left cracked only two inches. When she thought the dog was tied outside, he broke a lead then went to Jones' yard and got after his chickens. She has replaced the lead with a stronger one, and set the window so the dog cannot push it open. The dogs now are either tied or inside. She said that she had gone to speak with Jones, but had retreated home when she was faced by his "protective" dog. Freeman said she wanted to pay for the dead birds.

Jones said since the attacks he has had to confine his chickens, so he can no longer call their eggs free range. But he suggested there might be a way to train the dog. He also said he had the right to shoot the dog if it came molesting chickens again, but even so he would prefer to use a non lethal shot, a pellet gun. Or, as board chair Christine Heard

Escaped Dog in Fowl Play on Locke Hill Road said, "Birdshot works well."

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Board members Dan Keller and Jeoffrey Pooser said organically fed layer hens are pricey: \$25 to \$30 dollars apiece. But Freeman was ready with a checkbook and paid Jones then and there. She said the offending dog is a help at home bringing her grandson out of his shell, and she added she planned to work with dog trainer Elise McMahon to try to overcome his killing habit.

Houghton doubted that training would work, but also said McMahon was an excellent trainer.

The old state dog law is in effect until the end of October, and Keller warned that if there is another escape and killing, Freeman's dog would be ordered out of town. Under the state dog law that comes into effect in November, a dog that kills livestock is considered dangerous, and must be put down, not merely ordered out of town.

Freeman and Jones exchanged telephone numbers so they could deal with any problem that might arise, without calling on the town dog officer.

Robin Sherman from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Rehabilitation Authority met the selectboard to provide an update on how the housing authority will operate community development block grants (CDBG's) and to get the board's choice on three options. She said that because the money is federal, but it is administered by the state department of housing and community development there is twice as much paperwork, but the county housing authority takes care of most of that. Wendell is considered a community in need, and money is available for public facilities, infrastructure, social service, and housing improvements to bring an existing home up to code, or if there is a child under six years old, for lead

abatement. Housing loans are closed at the registry and payback is not required until the house changes hands. Since 2009 50% of the loan may be forgiven over 15 years on a pro rated basis, 3 1/3% per year, if the town allows it. Money that is paid back can be restricted to the town's revolving fund to be used for more loans or, after it is in the CDBG account for five years it can go into the town's general fund. Loans are normally limited to \$35,000 but at the towns discretion that amount can be increased, and in cases of extreme hardship an entire loan may be forgiven.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith said Wendell has a waiting list for the Housing rehab loans. She favored options that would increase the availability and use of the loans.

Pooser asked if there were a mechanism to change the town's choices once a decision is made, and Sherman said a change can be made easily at any time and communicated to the housing authority.

The selectboard voted to keep money in the revolving fund, to forgive 50% of a loan over a 15 year period, not to cap loans at \$35,000, and to allow forgiving a loan completely in cases of extreme hardship.

Dan Mascroft of Envirohealth met the board as a first step in getting Wendell to host a two megawatt solar generating plant on private land in town. A solar farm of that capacity would cover eight to ten acres. Dave Arsenault of Wendell Depot Road has land close to transmission lines he would be willing to turn into a solar farm.

The town has already agreed to host a solar facility with Seaboard Solar, but at the recommendation of the energy committee, the selectboard reserved the right to host in Wendell some of the

see WENDELL pg 10

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE CALL 863-8666

TNT PRODUCTIONS

1:02 p.m. Report of Arrested washing machine on fire at Warner Street residence, assisted fire depart-

> 6:35 p.m. Report of a disturbance at Pratt Street residence, verbal only, one subject left to

cles in woods with fire, advised to leave area, as they were trespassing. Sunday, 10/14 for operating 12:15 a.m. Assisted

Bernardston Police with

fight in parking lot of

Bella Notte Restaurant.



install the culvert specified in the driveway permit. But Jensen said the town had a number of alternatives to require compliance with the order to install, including issuing noncriminal citations, denying an occupancy permit for Vichi's garage, or taking the homeowner to housing court.

In an annual formality, the selectboard granted Bergeron permission to join his unionized crew in road plowing and sanding this winter, outside of his normally scheduled working hours, at a rate of \$30 an hour, and to take over pager duties should the department's foreman get exhausted by long hours during heavy storms.

In other matters, the board granted interim police chief Chip Dodge permission to hire up to four additional reserve officers, to supplement the seven he has on the roster now. Dodge said one of those seven

reserve officers is likely to get moved up to an open position on the fulltime force. Meanwhile, Dodge has one officer in training at the police academy, and two - detective Lee Laster and sergeant Richard Suchanek – out on extended medical leave, Laster for a torn Achilles tendon, Suchanek for injuries sustained subduing a suspect in the line of duty.

But crime does not rest. "We need help," Dodge told the board.

Douglas MacIntosh, assessing technician for the board of assessors, is retiring, and the board expressed their appreciation for his years of service. They also said he would not be excused from his duties at the next Montague Soapbox races, where he has become invaluable to preserving Town Hall's street cred.

The board also authorized Greenfield developer Mark Zaccheo to file a notice of intent to the conservation commission under the wetlands protection act for his plan to redevelop the Montague Center School into 22 apartments. The former school building is currently owned by the town, so the selectboard's authorization to file the notice of intent was needed before the conservation commission takes the matter up this Thursday, October 18th.

THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

The board appointed Richard Ruth, builder, to the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, filling the sixth of seven seats on that quasimunicipal commission. In his letter of interest, Ruth said, "I think our town has great potential."

Allen concurred, "We do too. We'd like to realize it a little more."

The EDIC will play a role in the development of the proposed Green industrial park off Turnpike Road.

ERVING from page 8 spending.

Several of the proposed articles were for items listed in the town's FY'13 capital improvement plan: a gear washer for fire department turnout gear, fire hole maintenance, a replacement phone system for town hall, a portable generator for water treatment plant pump stations, a computer for the recreation department, and lighting upgrades at the elementary school. Other proposed items included money for a contractor to cut and remove brush at Crescent Street, and funding to facilitate improved ambulance service.

After discussion of the items, both the selectboard and finance committee decided none of the items needed immediate funding. The boards agreed to cancel the proposed special town meeting.

Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin asked the finance committee to "take a proactive look at the capital plan."

Finance member Winniphred Stone said the finance committee needed to prioritize the capital plan items and also to develop criteria for setting those priorities. Finance member Daniel Hammock said the committee was developing a documented process for setting budgets and evaluating capital items.

Ken Elstein of the Hampshire Council of Governments presented a plan to include Erving residents and businesses in the Hampshire COG's electricity supply program. Erving's

Drivers Wanted

Must be reliable, caring, and

town buildings and the elementary school are supplied by HCOG, and, according to Elstein, the town has saved \$56,651 on municipal electric bills since 2007 as a result.

Elstein said HCOG is expanding to residential and business customers under a municipal aggregation of electricity program. With municipal aggregation, current National Grid or WMECO residential and small business customers would have power supplied by HCOG, unless they choose to opt out. Hampshire COG would go out to bid to purchase the power supply for its customer base and seek lower electricity prices. According to Elstein's brochure. HCOG is a full voting member of the New England Power Pool and can buy electricity at wholesale prices without a broker.

After aggregation, National Grid and WMECO would still be in charge of delivery services, including power line and pole maintenance. If the town accepts aggregation, residential and business customers would be notified of the change in supplier and allowed to opt out if they choose. Customers of alternate suppliers would continue with their alternate suppliers and would not be switched to HCOG.

In order for the aggregation to occur, the program must be approved

You left me in BERLIN. You missed the train in PARIS. Let us try again at the RENDEZVOUS. **Drew Paton** 1940s Hit Parade.

by town meeting, by the selectboard, and by the state Department of Public Utilities. Elstein said Hampshire COG is in the process of getting DPU approval. The selectboard told him the aggregation plan would likely be included on the warrant for the 2013 annual town meeting

The selectboard voted unanimously to sign a contract with the Franklin Regional COG Brownfields program for a \$50,000 grant and \$150,000 loan for cleanup work at the former Usher Mill, on Arch Street in Erving Center.

Boyden asked why cleanup had not started at the Usher Mill yet.

Sharp replied the contractors were awaiting Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection of approval for the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) removal plan.

Fire chief Almon "Bud" Meattey provided an update on administrative work, developing job descriptions for officers, written standard operating procedures, and forms.

The selectboard decided to set employee cost of living (COLA) increases by the December 3rd meeting, in order to allow department heads time to consider COLAs in budgeting for FY'14.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG Rabid Animals, Drinking Under Bridge

Monday, Oct 8 pus 11:30 p.m. Responded to the 5:37 p.m. Officer requested to French King Bridge for report- Chappel Drive for a ed loose dog creating a traffic Restraining Order issue

problem. 7:25 p.m. Officer requested to 1:30 p.m. Assisted Main Rd Franklin Rd residence regard-

WENDELL from page 9

ten megawatts the net metering law allows.

First, a letter of intent must be sent to Seaboard Solar, and Mascroft provided a sample he had written.

The selectboard had town coordinator Nancy Aldrich forward that letter to town counsel for review, and town counsel returned an improved letter in time for Heard to sign it and send it on to Seaboard Solar by the October 15th deadline.

Pooser said so far Seaboard Solar has only exercised three megawatts of the eight Wendell is hosting for them.

Citizen Paul Richmond entered the room and told all who were present that a vertical axis wind generator is installed and operating at the Diemand Farm. He proposed a site visit and said he would connect with people of other boards to select a day when as many people as possible can come at one time, so relevant questions can be asked and answered only once.

Aldrich said the highway department answered her request for a list of surplus property for a town auction, but no other department responded. The highway department has a used pickup truck, some cordwood and a homemade cordwood trailer. The selectboard postponed the auction until a longer list can be put together.

Keller mentioned the old leaking metal tank that was on a fire tanker until its leaks became impossible to weld anymore, along with other equipment he has seen in the fire bays of the town garage.

A special town meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18th, scheduled to expedite the town's application for Green Community

GILL from page 8

sion's proposal for spending \$139,000 of Green Community grant funding on a variety of projects, including anti-idling devices for police cruisers, bike racks for public buildings, an energy audit of town hall, the Slate Library, and the Riverside municipal building, and a public energy conservation education campaign. "Claire [Chang] did an excellent job putting that together with the other members of the commission," said administra-

business

reported domestic situation

Saturday, Oct 13

tive coordinator Ray Purington. "The contract is in the works."

No word yet on whether the town will find a hybrid police vehicle that will meet the needs of the department; the state bid for 2013 models will not be released for another month. But the energy commission has earmarked up to \$4,000 to upgrade the recently authorized police cruiser to a hybrid, should a suitable

one become available.



to center of town for com- Sunday, Oct 14

plaint of mv's parking in road- 12:30 p.m. Assisted way creating a hazard at town Bernardston PD at Bella Nolte Restaurant

6:53 p.m. Officer responded 10:15 p.m. Officer responded to Center Rd residence for to Mt Hermon for 911 mis dial

13:15 p.m. Reported bull 1230 p.m. Assisted Erving loose on North Cross Rd, offi-

status, and eligibility for the state energy conservation grants that would accompany that status. The relevant article with 21/2 pages of definitions and explanation would change the process of siting a renewable energy facility from a special permit to a site plan review. Other articles on the warrant would change the name of Old Farley Road to Miller's Road, transfer \$1,700 from the Fiske Pond dam repair account to the Fiske Pond stewardship account, and pay an assessors' \$179.96 bill of a prior year.

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger said other requirements for Green Community status might be met by installing a bike rack at the town office building (which this reporter would certainly make use of), and by providing special parking for hybrid vehicles at town buildings. Keller, the only town official who owns a hybrid vehicle, said he appreciates the consideration, but usually parks at the far side of the office building parking lot and walks the extra distance, allowing others to park closer. Another Green Community requirement is that the town purchase only fuel efficient vehicles for its fleet, with the exception of highway vehicles, and emergency response vehicles. But Wendell's municipally owned fleet consists only of highway and emergency response vehicles.

The Green Community policy provides for "by right" siting of solar facilities. The selectboard voted unanimously to accept that policy.

Kathleen Leonard opened the meeting by reserving the town hall for December 29th to hold a birthday party for Deva Skydancer.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ALL THE TIME: **EVERY TUESDAY**

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Avenue A, Turners Falls: Great Falls Farmers Market, 2 - 6 p.m. Last market of the season next week - don't miss it!

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

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

NOW through OCTOBER 28th

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

NOW through NOVEMBER 29th

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

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18th

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: Take



Back our Lives - candlelight vigil and march in honor of domestic violence month. 5 - 7 p.m.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Half-Shaved. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Thurs. Tommy Filiault & Friends - Acoustic Rock. 8 - 10 p.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: Quebecois Session. 8 p.m. Free. Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Jeffrey Martin - Americana folk. 8 p.m.

Great news, Shag returns to Jake's Tavern the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month! Stop by and give Avenue A, Turners Falls: them some love, try some trivia, and win a prize!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19th

Artspace Community Arts Center, Greenfield: Soup and Sass - Ellen Villani will perform starting at 6:30 p.m. She will share her thoughts on Back to School, Rip Nomney vs. Barack Obama, and Ladies Lamentations. Soup starts at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds to support Artspace's Strings for Kids violin and cello lessons program. \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: My Fair Lady. G. B. Shaw's Pygmalion turned into one of the classic stage musicals (1964). 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: Steve & Joyana Damon - Name that Tune, Broadway. 7 p.m. The Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Trine Cheile - eclectic celtic band. 7 p.m. \$. Montague Bookmill: Colin L. Orchestra. 8 p.m. \$.

Means - folk rock jazz. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band - singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and much more. 9 - 11:30 p.m.

Sloan Theater, Main Campus, Greenfield Community College: **Pioneer Valley Transition Towns** Film Festival. 10 short films about our local communities' responses to the challenges of economic instability, natural resource depletion, climate change, and inequality. 7 - 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Dub's & Frenchy's Funky Friday. 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Steel Rail - Classic Rock. 9:30 p.m.

The Wheelhouse, Greenfield: The Midwives of Death / The Poseures - an evening of unbridled rock & roll. 10 p.m. \$ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20th

Visitor Center at Hall Tavern, Historic Deerfield: Historic Trades Demonstrations: Sewing with Linda Oakley. Shoemaking with Peter Oakley. 10:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners

Falls: Raptor Encounters with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Live falcons, hawks and owls provide the lens through which we examine raptor characteristics, food webs, predator-prey relationships and the interdependence of the systems that support life. Touchable artifacts and hands-on materials round out this special experience. Limited space. Pre-register by calling 413-863-3221. 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. & 1:35 - 2:30 D.M.

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

Franklin County Pumpkin Fest -

food, beer and fun! Costumes and decorated pumpkins are encouraged. Free shuttling from Turners Falls High School and Sheffield School. For info contact event organizer at michaelnelsonmba@aol.com or 413-522-0712. 3 - 9 p.m. The Brick House, Turners Falls: Movie

Night - 6 - 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: Shakin' All Over - music and dance benefit for Casa Materna (servicing high-risk pregnant women in rural Nicaragua). 7 - 10 p.m. \$.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: My Fair Lady. G. B. Shaw's Pygmalion turned into one of the classic stage musicals (1964). 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: Dave Chalfant & students from The Academy at Charlemont perform an eclectic mix. 7 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMHERST.EDU

Internationally acclaimed composer and choreographer Meredith Monk will appear at Amberst College on Saturday, October 20th

> limited. Reserve tickets by contacting the Amherst College concert office at: 413-542-2195 or concerts@amherst.edu . 8 p.m. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Jennie McAvoy - celtic folk. 8 p.m.

The Arts Block Café, Greenfield: The Ha-Ha's Improv Comedy Show. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: Gumbo Diablo - Latin, New Orleans R&B, Roots, Rock and Reggae, 9 - 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Rockit Queer with DJ Fern - dance party. 9:30 p.m. \$.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Miles Band - classic hits. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st

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

Scalpers Lodge, Lake Pleasant: Giant Tag Sale, baked goods, refreshments, raffles. Proceeds from all sales will go to repairs for the bridge, bell and other improvements and events in Lake Pleasant. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

The Pushkin, Greenfield: Valley Classics -Going Baroque. 3 p.m. \$

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Sunday Locals - Marlene & Friends. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: John Sheldon. 8 - 10 p.m.

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

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Presidential Debate.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24th

For more information: www.brickhousecommunity.org 413-863-9576



THURS 10/18 8PM FREE HALF SHAVED (jazz)

FRI 10/19 \$ ONE BUCK Dubs & Frenchy's (& friends') Freaky Friday (loop groove)

SAT 10/20 9:30 \$3 ROCKIT QUEER (THE dance party, with DJ Fern)



CALL for Erotic ART SUBMISSIONS Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "Triple S:

Sensual Sexual Smut show in February 2013.unique and very tiny gallery.

Friday October 19th &20th at 7:30 p.m. **MY FAIR LADY**

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Music 1/2 hour before movie: Fri. Steve & Joyana Damon --- Name That **Tune-Broadway** Sat. Dave Chalfant & Students from The Academy at Charlemont — eclectic mix

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Teen Drop-In Center

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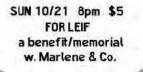
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Pamela

Buckley Recital Hall, Arms Music Center, Amherst College: Meredith Monk - composer, singer & theater artist. Seating is

Temple Israel, Greenfield: Compassionate Listening - an introductory talk by Yael Petretti. 7 p.m. Free.

Amherst Books: A Reading by fiction author Stephanie Reents. 8 p.m.

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





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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN MONTAGUE CITY - At last, a killing frost.

We are tired of moving indoors as the light drops. Still it's hard to ignore the media frenzy around yet more mosquito borne illnesses. So we have given up a great pleasure: sitting out after sunset, watching for the first stars.

The frost has taken the annuals

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Planting for (\mathcal{O}) pring

which hung from all places in the yard, but we have no regrets. For some time the sweet potato vines, petunias and impatiens have been on their last legs. I bought mums to celebrate fall, but couldn't let these once beautiful annuals go until at last they were mercifully released. They will rest in the compost and create nourishment for future plantings.

Before we put the garden to bed for the winter ahead, there is yet the pleasure of fall planting.

This month, before the heavy frosts turn the earth to iron, is the perfect time to plant bulbs both for spring flowering and for next season's garlic.

Planting garlic now allows the

roots to develop a bit before the winter cold. Because these bulbs are harvested in July, they need a head start and fall planting so they can begin their serious growth spurt as soon as the ground softens. Choose as large a head of local garlic as possible for your starters. Avoid foreign garlics like the huge, sweet elephant variety because they are not suited for our cold climate. Break as many heads as you like into individual cloves and plant, point up with four to five inches between cloves, setting the cloves at a depth of two to three inches.

Allow six to eight inches between your rows. The soil should be well nourished with compost or well-aged manure, friable and slightly damp.

Do not be concerned if green tops start to show before the ground is hard. Garlic is hardy. The only crop disappointments occur because of small seed bulbs, over dampened soil or clove over-crowding. In just a small space you can grow enough garlic to flavor next year's cooking with very little effort on the part of the gardener.

This is also a great time to seed out such early greens as spinach and lettuce. These seeds will winter over nicely and get started as soon as the ground breaks. We've often tried for a late season planting which seems to have failed, only to find early lettuce and spinach as the late winter snow disappears.

If you love flowers, the fall is also the time for planting early spring bulbs for daffodil, crocus, hyacinth and a host of other early bloomers, as well as bulbs for early summer bloomers like lilies. Choose one of the many varieties labeled for naturalizing and you will be rewarded with years of beautiful, fragrant blooms which will not trouble you for further gardening intervention. What could be better!

The shortening of the days and the hastening of the dark bring a certain sadness and regret. We miss already the song birds, the long sunlight hours and the summer's warmth. Still autumn brings its own joys: crisp, clear air which sharpens the view and the appetite, the warmth and glow of evening fires, the call of the owls at the river's edge.

We think ahead to the holidays, to special baking and decorating, and to the joys of gathering with family and friends.

Before you put your garden to bed for the season, take a little time to enjoy a little more planting for the year to come. It will lighten your soul and provide beauty for the eye and the palate before you know it.\ Happy gardening!

Dance for Casa Materna



At Casa Materna in Matagalpa.

BY LEE WICKS

100 ENTRÉES,

MONTAGUE CENTER - If you like to dance to old hits from the 50s and 60s, and enjoy the idea of combining a little social justice with your fun, don't miss the dance benefit for Casa Materna on Saturday, October 20th from 7 - 10 p.m. at the Montague Grange.

It's a biannual fundraiser for this 21 year-old non-profit organization serving high-risk pregnant women in rural Nicaragua. Casa Materna provides food, medical care, education and a safe place to stay before and after giving birth.

Casa's mission is to lower the maternal and infant mortality rate in the region. The current infant mortality rate is 22 per 1,000 births. In rural Nicaragua only 74% of births are attended by a skilled medical provider.

According to the organization's website, "In this global 'silent epidemic,' a maternal death occurs every minute of the day. In Nicaragua alone, a maternal death occurs every 38 hours." The services of Casa Materna allow expectant mothers to be close to needed medical attention which would

\$16.99 \$13.99 Salad

otherwise take hours or days to reach from their rural homes. Follow up care after birth, outreach to midwives, and educational programs for adolescents are also part of Casa's programs.

The organization's history dates back to the 1980s when, in response to a growing concern about the alarming number of rural mothers dying in their time of pregnancy, birthing or in the days after, a small group of professional women from Nicaragua, Spain, Italy and the United States requested help from the Women's Institute of Madrid, Spain to develop Casa Materna. The proposal was accepted, and in 1990, the Casa staff purchased the large home that had once served as the Cuban consulate on the outskirts of Matagalpa. The Casa doors were opened to rural mothers in October of 1991. In later years, funding has come from groups England, from Germany,

Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, making Casa Materna a vibrant symbol of international solidarity.

People here in Western Massachusetts can be part of this international effort by simply dancing the night away. The local band Shakin' All Over will supply the music. Contributions of \$10 -

POETS WANTED!

to submit original poems. Please email: reporterpoems@montaguema.net for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25word bio. Poems may also be

posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. No prior experience necessary, as a poet.

\$35 will be requested, but people are free to give what they can, said organizer and friend of Casa Materna, Karen Fogliatti. For more information, call Karen at 413-773-8303.



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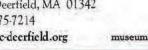
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