



Hallowe'en Thrills with Skeleton Crew Theater

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Jenny Roberts King Ready for the next snowstorm

Page 5

LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 5

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 25, 2012

THE BLIZZARD OF 2012 REMEMBERED



Brooke Thomas and Scarecrow, after the storm had passed.

**BY BROOKE THOMAS
LONG HILL ROAD,
LEVERETT** – The climate
is changing.

Last year, on June 1st, a tornado ripped through Springfield, pulling off roofs and steeples, toppling trees helter skelter, and sending violent winds up the Connecticut Valley.

Then, on the afternoon of October 29th, as children and parents were preparing their Hallowe'en costumes to be witches, goblins, pirates and princesses, they experienced the beginning of what would become the Great Hallowe'en Blizzard.

Down came the snow, thickening by the hour until neighbors' homes faded and became invisible. The snow

fell wet, clinging to anything it touched: telephone wires, fences, and branches, especially those still in leaf.

The birches bent first under the weight, and apple boughs drooped down to the ground for support. The inflexible oaks and maples groaned under the load, and large hemlocks on Long Hill snapped ten feet off the ground, hurling tons of snow and greenery to the forest floor.

By midnight, without a let-up in the storm, I grew concerned for the fate of our fruit trees and the beautiful red Japanese maple that shades us in the summer. Grabbing a 20-foot hook pole from the barn, I started shak-

see **BLIZZARD** page 3

Window Hours to be
Cut in Half at Erving
P.O. Under USPS Plan

Lake Pleasant, Wendell
Depot Would Be Open Just
Two Hours a Day

BY DAVID DETMOLD – The Erving post office will see its weekday retail hours cut in half, while the Wendell Depot and Lake Pleasant post offices will have their weekday retail hours reduced to just two under a plan being put forward by the U.S. Postal Service.

The new hours are still subject to review, and would not take effect until after the first of the year. But as Carissa Surprise, manager of post office operations for the 010-013 zip code area, which includes the four counties of Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin, told about six Erving residents who showed up to a public informational meeting in the post office lobby on Tuesday, "We are reviewing rural post offices, looking at minimizing retail hours to fit the amount of customers coming in, rather than closing them."

Under the so-called POST plan, 38 post offices in Surprise's district would lose retail hours, while access to post office lobbies would generally be unchanged or expanded. Postal officials are considering the possibility of allowing public access to the lobby in Erving, for example, 24 hours a day, for residents to be able to check their post office boxes. Also, Saturday window hours would remain unchanged.

Dennis Wonsey, who lives nearby, wanted to know why the USPS doesn't simply abandon Saturday home delivery,

see **PO** page 12

PUMPKINFEST III: THE CROWDS KEEP COMING!



The population of Montague doubled on Saturday for the third annual Pumpkinfest!

BY JEFF SINGLETON – I was at Woodstock in 1969 and the Newport Folk Festival in 1965 when Bob Dylan "went electric." Not to mention dozens of assorted "be-ins" on the Cambridge Common and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco circa 1968. I seriously overdosed on that stuff and thus now tend to avoid big crowds of people having fun.

Yet when the editors of the *Montague Reporter* asked me to cover the third annual Turners Falls Pumpkinfest I thought, "no big deal. What's a few hundred people looking at pumpkins and eating fried dough?"

Well, all I can say is, "My goodness gracious" (to quote former secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld). There were literally thousands of people walking around (or attempting to walk around) Avenue A in Turners on

Saturday, October 20th on a late, warm fall afternoon. And, yes, there was plenty of fried dough, but you could also eat Pad Thai, warm home-made apple crisp, and even a very affordable hamburger. You could drink a micro-beer in the age-restricted beer pen, or play pumpkin bowling and pumpkin golf with the kids.

Being on duty as an official *Montague Reporter* correspondent I opted for the pumpkin games. It turns out that pumpkin bowling becomes a challenge as the day advances. According to the enthusiastic volunteer on duty (the games were organized by the Greenfield Savings Bank), the small pumpkins that serve as bowling balls tend to lose their shape as the hours pass. That didn't seem to matter in my case, as I rolled a perfect strike on the first try!

Eager to further impress the

various five-year-olds in the audience, I turned to pumpkin golf. This sport consisted of a medium-range putt with a golf ball targeted to a pumpkin's mouth. The putt was perfect in my humble opinion, but somehow bounced off the raised lip and chin of the pumpkin. It didn't seem fair, but I took it in stride as yet another bad golfing experience.

So why is the Pumpkinfest so wildly popular?

I asked Michael Nelson, event organizer *par excellence*. Is there some sort of unknown social-psychological pumpkin thing in the Valley that needs to be researched?

Nelson is the Montague resident who has organized the event for the past three years, when he is not busy putting together outsized Spring Parades on the Hill. He seemed a bit perplexed by the

see **PUMPKINFEST** pg 6

Take Back Our Lives



Hand-painted T-shirts from abuse survivors hung from clotheslines in Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls on Thursday as part of the Take Back Our Lives event sponsored by NELCWIT.

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
TURNERS FALLS** – People gathered in the late afternoon sun on the green before the band shell in Peskeompskut Park on Thursday, October 18th to honor victims and survivors of domestic violence and pledge their continued efforts to end violence against women in our communities.

The event was organized by the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT), headquartered in Greenfield, with partners in Turners Falls and throughout the region.

Long clotheslines of hand-painted T-shirts offering testimony from victims of abuse hung waving in the breeze across the common. The ceremonies were both moving and uplifting, creating an atmosphere of support that allowed those gathered to share intimate stories of tragedy and great individual challenge. A lantern lighting ceremony accompanied the reading of the names of those who have died so far this year in Massachusetts as a result of domestic violence.

Jessie, who works as a

domestic violence and sexual assault prevention educator at NELCWIT, introduced the ceremony, saying, "Domestic violence is a serious and very preventable public health problem. The lives lost serve to remind us that domestic violence is a huge issue that demands more attention."

While she read the names, volunteers held large paper lanterns, lighting their wicks, causing them to fill with hot air, rise and float high above the park. Twelve lanterns were released in all, one for each

see **LIVES** page 12

FURBISHING THE AVENUE

THE BLACK COW: A BURGER BAR

**BY JOHN FURBISH
TURNERS FALLS** – The Black Cow Burger Bar – the first of its kind in Turners Falls – is coming to 125 Avenue A, former home of Equi's Candy Store. The Black Cow is named after the Angus breed of delicious beef, and it will offer a mouthwatering variety of burgers and full-course meals. There will also be shakes and standard beverages on offer, along with beer and chilled wine for diners 21 and over.

After five months of painstaking renovation, proprietor Pam Tierney says her new eatery should be ready to open its doors sometime in November. (Stay tuned.)

The tone of the new restaurant starts outside and above the front door with the old Equi's sign, now handsomely repainted with a portrait of a black-and-white cow that has a touch of green on its horns, along with green lettering. The interior space continues the black and white color theme on the walls and fixtures, along with green for the booths.

The booths can hold up to 16 diners, the tables and chairs another 16, while ten more can take seats on stools at the bar.



Pam Tierney is readying the Black Cow Burger Bar to open in November

The entrance and rest rooms are handicapped-accessible.

At first, the restaurant will be open for sit-down dining, but soon enough there will be take-out for all sorts of meals, along with "bark candies" and "turtles" and hefty, hearty pounds of brown and white chocolate. Equi's Candy Store may be gone, but clearly not

forgotten in the Black Cow's offerings.

The Black Cow *décor* continues with the menu, which is also black and white with a touch of green. Some people will want to go into the Black Cow just to grab a soda or snack in order to study the delicacies on the menu at their

see **BLACK COW** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Down but not Out



Domino

My name is Domino, a two-year-old male cat, and my name fits me well 'cause I've been knocked down a few times in my life. I first came to Dakin as a stray from Springfield and I've tried a couple homes since then, but I just haven't found my perfect family yet. I really do like people; I'm known for my playful and affectionate nature. I can get along just fine with other cats, but dogs make me very nervous and I'd prefer not to live with them. If you have room in your heart to give a sweet guy another chance at lasting love, please don't wait: come on in and meet me today!

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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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Halloween Party

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – There will be a Children's Halloween Party at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, 10/27 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Children of all ages

and their families are invited to attend the free party. There will be refreshments, games, prizes and arts and crafts. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. For more information, call 863-3214.

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

Upcoming Special Events

Saturday, November 3rd at 2 p.m.: Steve Verney will be at the New Salem Public Library to read from his new book, *The Best of All Possible Worlds*. For every book Steve sells he will give a donation to the Friends of the New Salem

Public Library. The Friends will also be providing refreshments for the reading.

On Sunday, October 28th at 6:30 p.m., there will be a book discussion of *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell.



Lunch is a Four-Letter Word

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – If you are about to retire, you'll have no problem finding information about finances, the technicalities of Medicare, and the ten best places to live on a fixed income. But, I've never seen a single article that mentioned lunch. Yes, lunch: the meal I could ignore when I was working.

I worked for schools where free lunch was offered. How wonderful is that? I ate shepherd's pie, macaroni and cheese, tomato soup, and chocolate pudding, and put a couple of cookies in my pocket for the walk back to my office. My work wardrobe is two sizes larger than the clothes I now wear. I don't regret a single chip or brownie, but

I do wish I hadn't developed the hot lunch habit.

My husband, who had to pack a lunch or walk around Amherst each day trying to figure out what to eat and almost always ended up with a slice of pizza, is delighted to be eating lunch at home. Me? not so much. The lunch conversation goes like this.

"Pasta? We've got pesto in the freezer." My weight-conscious husband says, "We just had pasta two nights ago."

"Tuna?" he suggests. Cholesterol-conscious me, replies, "I don't want to eat mayonnaise after we had eggs for breakfast."

"Chicken?" We both shake our heads. We eat so much chicken we're going to start clucking one of these days. On a lucky day we have leftovers, the very same leftovers that once provided a quick and easy dinner.

If you start to sleep a bit later, walk the dogs, and eat breakfast after that, then before you turn around to plan the day, it's time for lunch, and during lunch it is only natural to discuss dinner. When deep winter comes, I fear my husband

see **RETIRE** page 5



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q: *How much water should I drink every day?*

First, water intake is a health issue that you should discuss with your doctor before deciding how much you should drink. The amount you drink is dependent upon the state of your health.

The simplest answer I could find to this very complicated question is this: If you aren't thirsty and you produce one to two quarts of light yellow urine daily — the average output for an adult — you're probably taking in enough water.

If you are concerned about your water intake, remember that you get water from more than just straight water. About 80 percent of your total water intake is from all beverages, which includes soda, coffee and beer.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

How Much Water Should I Drink

You get the remaining 20 percent from food.

The Institute of Medicine, a component of the National Academy of Sciences, advises men to consume more than three quarts of beverages daily. The IOM recommends that women consume more than two quarts of total beverages a day.

These guidelines are designed for normal health, activity and weather.

Q. *What is Dupuytren's contracture?*

At its worst, Dupuytren's Contracture can turn a hand into a claw because the fascia — the connective bands of tissue inside the palms — shrink and make the fingers curl inward. The condition, in its milder form, creates small lumps or bands. Dupuytren's Contracture isn't usually painful.

Dupuytren's is more common in older adults, men and whites from northern European background. The late president Ronald Reagan and former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher both suffered from Dupuytren's.

This condition is hereditary. And it may be linked to alcoholism, dia-



DETOLD PHOTO

Tired of all those bills? Just toss them in the front yard — like one tenant at 146 3rd Street did earlier this week!

THE WENDELL COA FILM SERIES PRESENTS A HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

"Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein"

On Sunday, October 28th, at 7:00 p.m., the Wendell Council on Aging Film Series presents: "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," free, at the Wendell Library. Wilbur Grey (Lou Costello) is chased by Count Dracula (Bela Lugosi) who wants to

transplant Chick Young's (Bud Abbott's) brain into the skull of Frankenstein's Monster. The Wolfman (Lon Chaney, Jr.) thwarts Dracula's plans, however. Even the Invisible Man makes a non-appearance in this superb horror comedy.

Wendell History Presentation

On Thursday, November 8th, at 7 p.m., at the Wendell Free Library, Pam Richardson of the Wendell historical society will give a presentation on Wendell's early history based on the notes of Thomas

Sawin, a 19th century Wendell resident who planned to write a history of the town, but died before he could do so. Supported in part by a Wendell Cultural Council grant."

MONTAGUE SENIOR CENTER

Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga classes with Jean Erlbaum will be held at the Montague Senior Center, 62 5th Street, Turners Falls, on the following Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.: October 30th; November 13th, 20th, 27th; and December 4th.

These sessions offer a good stretch and strengthening for mus-

cles, oiling for joints and fun!

People from all towns are invited and of all skill levels, including folks in wheelchairs. There is a suggested donation of \$1 for each class, pre-registration not required.

For more info, please contact Roberta Potter at (413) 863-4500. No class on November 6th.

Occasionally, persistent indigestion is caused by a problem in the way food moves through the digestive tract.

One of the best tips I have found to determine what causes occasional indigestion is keeping a diary of the foods you eat. A friend of mine tried this. By analyzing what he ate and how he reacted, he figured out that he was lactose intolerant.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

Great Falls Middle School

Students of the Week

Grade 6

Keltyn Socquet

Grade 7

Kurtis Kuenzel

Alora DeForge

Grade 8

Miguel Russel

Trick or Treat in Wendell Center
Wednesday, October 31st, 4 p.m. to 7

Come to Wendell Center on Halloween night for some Trick or Treating! The Town Hall will be open for Cider and Donuts

Trick or Treat at:
Police Station
Library
Senior Center
Town Offices
Houses around the common
Wendell Country Store
*Trick or Treating too!

New Salem (and other towns) children welcome too!
*Bring a bag of candy and park by the cemetery to share in the Trick or Treating.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – October 29th- November 2nd

GILL-MONTAGUE

Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. 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 29th

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

Tuesday, October 30th

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday, October 31st

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, November 1st

9:00 a.m. No Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, November 2nd

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 congregating 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 29th

9:00 a.m. Fitness Class
12:30 Quilting

Tuesday, October 30th

9:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Program
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, October 31st

9:00 a.m. Dance Classes
10:15 a.m. Weight Loss Group
12:00 Bingo

Thursday, November 1st

9:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect
Friday, November 2nd
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch

LEVERETT Senior Activities

- Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays, 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (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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Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – The **Annual Turners Falls Rag Shag Parade** will be held on Halloween on Wednesday, October 31st, starting with a 5 p.m. lineup at the Food City parking lot. The parade will proceed at 5:15 p.m. down Avenue A to the Discovery Center parking lot on 2nd Street, where prizes and candy will be handed out. All ages are welcome.

Local businesses and organizations will be inviting costumed youngsters into their work places with sweet rewards. Look for the bright orange pumpkins displayed in store front windows or doors as a welcome sign. Participating locations start at the town hall and continue down the Avenue to Cumberland Farms.

The **Millers River Watershed Council** will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 1st, at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol. The featured presenter is Bob Curley, president of the newly formed North Quabbin Trails Association (NQTA). Curley developed the Bearsden Renovation Project in Athol, and with NQTA has been developing the Quabbin-Monadnock (QM) Trail. Curley's presentation will focus on the initial completion of the Baquag (Millers) River Trail, an eight-mile river trail from Athol to South Royalston, and opportunities for group collaboration. The meeting is free. For more information, email council@miller-sriver.net or call (978) 248-9491.

On Sunday, October 28th, from 10 to 11 a.m., the Leverett Congregational Church welcomes Mark Hart as an "interfaith guest" who will join in conversation with pastor Lee Barstow and lead the congregation in meditation. Mark Hart is a licensed mental health counselor in private practice, the guiding teacher for the Bodhirsara Dharma Community, on the teaching staff of Insight Meditation Center of the Pioneer Valley, and a religious advisor at Amherst College. The church is located across from the Leverett post office. For more information, contact

Claudia Gere at (413) 259-1741 or Claudia@ClaudiaGere.com.

The **Farren Care Center Festival** will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, at 340 Montague City Road, in Montague City from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be over 30 vendors along with raffles, gift baskets, bake sales, a kids' corner, and a chance to win an \$80 gift certificate to 2nd Street Bakery on 4th Street in Turners Falls. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the resident fund.

Our Lady of Peace women's group will hold their annual **Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, November 3rd, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 7th Street in Turners Falls. There will be homemade crafts, a raffle table, a large variety of baked goods including homemade apple pies, homemade meat pies, attic treasures, a children's room, Christmas items, gift baskets and more.

The **Turners Falls football team** improved to a record of five wins and just two losses with a 45-6 win against Athol on October 19th. Ryan Wilder joined the 1,000-yard rushing club with a 5 touchdown and a 290 yard performance.

TFHS takes on a tough opponent at home against Mohawk High School on Friday, October 26th, with a 7 p.m. kick-off.

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

Happy Birthday,
Joann!



BLIZZARD from page 1

ing the high branches. Snow fell down onto lower branches and set off a tree-wide avalanche. The scene was surreal as the blizzard whined on, accompanied by an occasional explosive sound of cracking branches or falling trees – some close, and others on the distant hill.

Every few minutes the sky would light up into a dull, gray-blue and then flicker out. This was probably lightning above the dense snow clouds, so thick they muffled the thunder and turned it to a low growl. By 1:30 a.m. I had done as much as I could and returned to the warmth of the house.

Sometime after that the power went off, for our clock had stopped at 2:13 a.m. when we awoke.

Morning brought clear skies and a magical winter landscape: everything was blanketed with over a foot of glimmering snow. A silence prevailed: no snow plows, no cars, no bird sounds. As some neighbors ventured out to discuss their lack of electricity and the downed trees, the extent of the damage was becoming apparent.

As the morning wore on, the whine of chain saws filled the air. Camp Road was completely sealed off by fallen trees and electrical lines dangling from their poles awaiting the incautious walker. So it was when I knocked on Elaine Barkin's door, noting the doorbell didn't ring.

Elaine was in her favorite chair, in the sun, covered with a quilt. Although the room temperature had fallen to 50 degrees, she was determined to stick it out. She'd get by and at night burrow under her quilts.

I thought differently, pointing out her lack of electricity, lights, cook stove, fridge and heat, and urged her to come down to our house where we had wood heat and gas for cooking. Then the phone rang – it worked – and her trusty, reliable daughter from the Washington D.C. suburbs phoned with an evacuation plan to get Elaine to safety. Tickets on Southwest were booked and a room near the airport reserved. The only problem was there were no roads out of Leverett, and Bradley Airport was closed.

So Elaine gathered up her items of necessity and arrived on our

doorstep by the afternoon. We used our living room as her bedroom and the couch facing the fireplace as the bed. Fortunately she brought her portable radio that apprised us as to how truly devastating the storm had been, and that the resumption of power was days off.

So life with Elaine began, and what a remarkable time we had. Snow was gathered in containers and placed in the fridge to keep it cool. Melted snow provided drinking water, since the electric pump was off. A fireplace and wood stove kept us cozy, and the gas stove delivered delicious dinners by candlelight.

At some point Elaine remembered she had shrimp, a special bread, and sweet potatoes in her fridge, so we returned to her home, rescued them and ate particularly well that night.

Whether breakfast or dinner, we told stories to each other, chuckling over how life had treated us. Elaine is full to the brim with information, so there was never a dull moment. We learned how as a young girl she had been driven to the Met in a limo once a month to hear the current opera, how she attended camp on Lake Sebago in Maine, dated handsome young men in Provincetown, took her son to a renowned orthopedist in Germany, and so on.

By Day 4, while Amherst basked in electricity, Leverett was still in the dark. The town, however, had set up an emergency center in the elementary school where some slept over and many more came to eat dinners.

Word went out that Les Allen, a former cook, had secured a huge roast beef from Stop and Shop and was preparing it for the last supper served at the school. So we loaded into the car and joined the congregation of townspeople, all too eager to see other faces and share their version of hardship.

By Day 6, power was returning to Long Hill Road, and although we had no lights they could be seen next to Elaine's house. So, in a celebratory mood, Elaine took us out to dinner to her favorite restaurant. On our return, filled with enthusiasm that she could return home the next day, we stopped by her house to turn up the heat and turn on the lights.

Well, that was a disaster. As we flicked the switches, lights would either give off a faint blue light or become incredibly intense and blow out. Having done this four or five times, we turned off the breaker switch and walked out into the dark. Apparently the 110-volt line to the house was severed and it was receiving 220 volts through all the outlets. This, of course, blew out anything electrical that did not have a breaker switch: TV, fridge, toaster, dryer, and the thermostat – no heat.

The whole saga ended after ten days, and Elaine was finally reunited with her beloved home. Once again, throughout the ordeal, in a situation that would have cracked most mortals under 98 years old, she laughed it off. Well, she did get a bit imperious with the phone and heating companies, once or five times. Her daughter Amy eventually was able to fly in and took charge of replacing the blown out items, and peace was restored.

That's the saga of the Great Hallowe'en Blizzard of 2011 and the indefatigable good spirit of Elaine Barkin of Leverett's Long Hill Road. Happy Birthday Elaine, and don't let 100 years get in your way!

– With love and admiration,
Brooke and Shirley Thomas



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Annual Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar

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August, 2002

Supremely High Stakes

BY MARGE BAKER

WASHINGTON D.C. – The rights of working families across America hang in the balance this Election Day. The future of laws protecting working people – our right to safe working conditions, to organize, and to sue employers who have discriminated against us – will depend on who we elect.

But when it comes to workers' rights, some of the most influential government officials we'll be voting for are ones whose names don't actually appear on the ballot. Either Barack Obama or Mitt Romney will nominate Supreme Court justices – as many as three – over the next four years.

Those men and women, serving lifetime appointments, have a profound impact on our nation's laws for a generation. Ronald Reagan's administration ended a quarter century ago, but two of the Supreme Court justices he nominated, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy, continue to form the core of a 5-4 majority that consistently twists the law to favor big corporations over the rights of individuals.

That 5-4 majority could be reversed if Obama has a chance to name our next Supreme Court justices. He's already put Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan on the Court, and they are exactly the kind of judges we need on the nation's highest court. Both of them have a clear commitment to our rights under the Constitution, and a deep understanding of the impact of the law on the daily lives of Americans.

In contrast, Mitt Romney has said he would nominate justices like Scalia and his fellow pro-corporate justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, and John Roberts. In case after case, they have confounded logic, ignored or overruled precedent, and ignored the plain meaning of laws in order to rule in favor of the powerful and against ordinary Americans, especially workers.

It was Romney's model justices

who notoriously told Lilly Ledbetter – and every other woman who discovered her employer had for years been illegally paying her less than her male counterparts – that they couldn't sue for compensation for all those years of discrimination. These are the same justices who tossed out a nationwide class-action discrimination lawsuit on behalf of 1.5 million women employees of Walmart who had shown they were victims of systemic illegal discrimination.

They misinterpreted language in the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to make it harder for victims of discrimination to win in court, giving it a different meaning from identical language in the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

But perhaps the most astonishing of their 5-4 rulings against working people came earlier this year, in a case called *Knox v. SEIU*. Romney's model justices made up a rule that makes it much harder for public sector unions to raise the dues they need to effectively advocate on behalf of workers – and they did so even though neither party in the case even asked them to consider the issue.

Every American deserves their day in court. That is part of the American ideal of justice, and it is embedded in our Constitution. But that "day in court" becomes nothing more than a charade if the judge rules against you on the basis of something you never even had a chance to argue.

Over the next 20-30 years, the Supreme Court will decide numerous cases involving the rights of workers. These cases will affect working Americans all over the country. If Mitt Romney has a chance to put his stamp on the Court, it will be bad news for working people long after he leaves office.

Marge Baker is the executive vice president of People for the American Way. This article first appeared in OtherWords.org.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Question for the Gardener's Companion

Thanks for your helpful gardening advice. Several months ago, you mentioned using hydrogen peroxide to clean soil of tomato blight spores. I need to know how to proceed, as it's

time to do it.

Should the peroxide be diluted with water? In what proportions? Would it be better to leave the cleaned soil exposed or covered with mulch?

I am anxious to hear from you, can't wait to read all about it in the *Reporter*.

– Doe Brousseau
Wendell

The Gardener Responds: Dealing with Tomato Blight

This writer asks about treatments for tomato blight.

Unfortunately, while this beautiful fruit is often easily grown, tomatoes are also prey to many kinds of disease. Tomato blight, *P. infestans*, appeared in New England gardens in 2009 causing widespread crop loss. This airborne disease is the same one which caused the great Potato Famine in Ireland.

Tomato blight is characterized by concentric circles or lesions on the leaf. It is highly contagious, although some gardeners have reported success using a fungicide applied direct-

ly to the plant when symptoms first appear. Generally, however, infected plants throughout the plot should be pulled and destroyed. In future seasons, tomatoes should not be planted in the same spot again, although it can be used for non-vining, unsusceptible plants.

Some years ago we tried hydrogen peroxide to treat Fusarium wilt. This is a soil borne fungus characterized by the dramatic collapse of otherwise healthy plants. The fungus grows in the conducting vessels of the plant and effectively blocks the absorption of water.

We applied generous amounts of full-strength hydrogen peroxide, covered the area with black plastic, and let the soil bake for an entire season. Since then we have successfully grown tomatoes in this plot.

Good luck to this gardener!

– Leslie Brown
Montague City

Leslie Brown writes the Gardener's Companion column in the Montague Reporter. Send your gardening questions to her care of the Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or reporter@montaguema.net.

Honor the Memory of George McGovern: Vote for Peace

George McGovern, to me, represents the high point of the Democratic Party, and the sanity of peace and justice. His loss to Nixon, rather than being viewed as a step toward a peace-inclined United States, was taken by the political kingmakers as practically a total repudiation of pacifism and idealism in electoral politics, despite the continued bloody quagmire of Vietnam.

By this mentality, a policy that fails in one election is shunned pretty much from that time forward, regardless of its merit. Yet McGovern stands tall in history, Nixon doesn't.

As I think about it, there's a disturbing parallel as we focus on the race between Obama and Romney today: both of them hold out the threat of war with, for example, Iran.

Our own Jill Stein (Green-Rainbow Party) is the George McGovern of this election, the one who would lead toward the 'sane' asylum. There's really no plausible reason in Massachusetts, which is going to go for Obama anyway, not to vote for Jill Stein.

– Jonathan von Ranson
Wendell

WORD on the AVENUE

After the last presidential debate, here is what your neighbors had to say the next day.



Troy Santerre, Millers Falls

Obama won last night. He's better spoken, and he doesn't interrupt all the time like Romney. I'm voting for Obama, and the debate didn't change my mind.



Lina Roberge, Montague

I did watch it. I'm for Obama and I think he did well. I like the way he speaks. I like the things he says.



John Suhl, Greenfield

I saw it. Neither of them won this one – the other two were all Romney.



Donna Scopa, Turners Falls

I saw it and Obama won. I don't feel Romney lost badly, but Obama had some better points and Romney was at a disadvantage on foreign affairs since he has no experience.



Sandy Facto, Turners Falls

Obama won. He has done a lot more than people think. I'll take him anytime. The other one will really hurt us – the poor and middle class. He's already talking about decreasing taxes on the rich and raising taxes for the rest of us.



Mason Bourbeau, Gill, with daughter, Madison Virginia

I saw it, and I don't think America won. I love this country; it's the greatest in the world, but there's no one human being who can make the kind of change we need. We need a superhero. We need to call in Superman at this point.

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PUMPKINFEST from pg 1

question, but agreed with the premise.

The first year, "we were absolutely floored by the number of people," he told me. "It took my breath away." Nelson emphasized advertising and the large number of vendors. "People put it on their calendar a year in advance."

My theory is that this is an extremely family-friendly event that does not break the bank. Good food at very affordable prices; games for the kids; and even a beer for mom or dad. And there is something left in your pocket at the end. Families are always on the lookout for this sort of thing. It gets you away from the television set. One family can consist of four or more individuals, so there

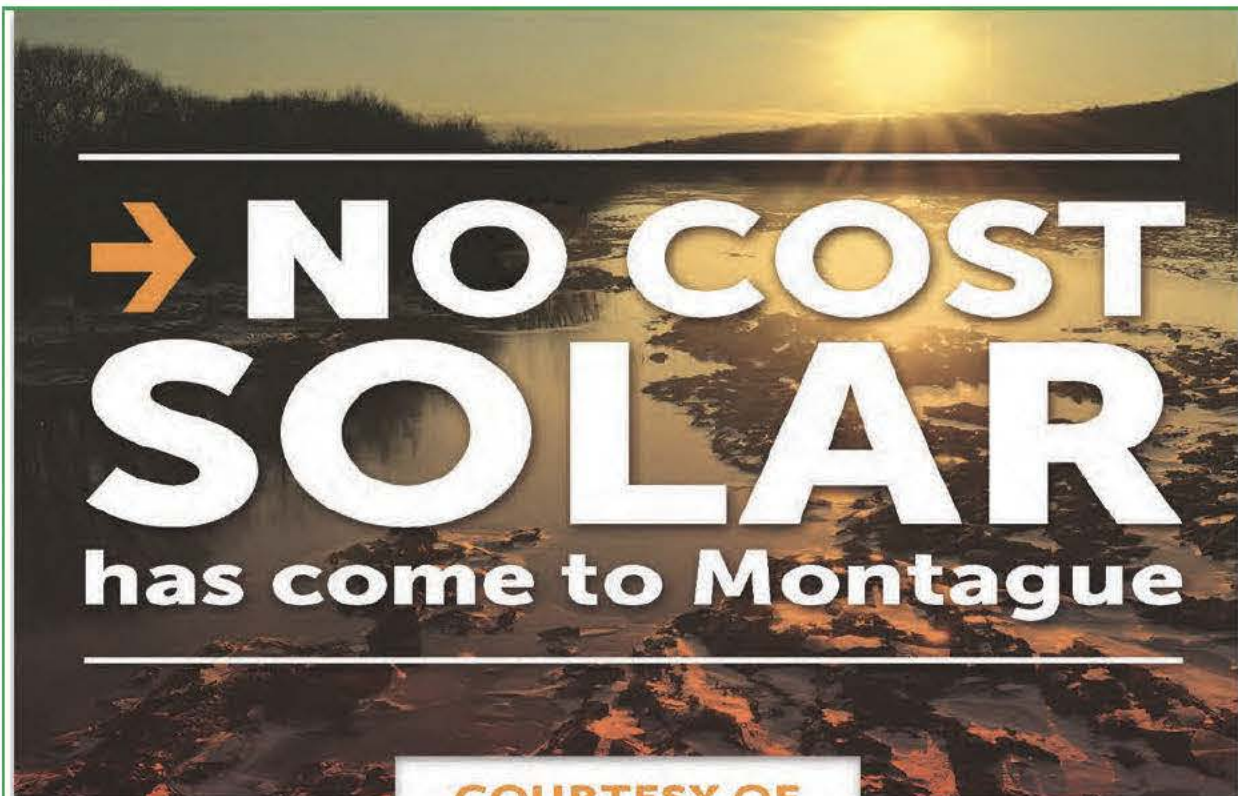
is a multiplier effect, leading to wild but not entirely implausible estimates of 10,000 people strolling down Avenue A, inspecting a few hundred very elaborately carved jack o'lanterns.

While pondering these issues, I suddenly noticed it was dark. The moon had appeared; the pumpkins glowed in the night; the crowd was rapidly evaporating.

By 10 p.m., it was all over. Nelson and his volunteer staff stayed until 2 a.m. cleaning up. "I refuse to leave until it is spotless," he said. The next morning, the vendors were gone, the pumpkins were on their way to Greenfield for composting, and Avenue A was... well, Avenue A on a Sunday morning: quiet, with a kind of lonesome beauty.



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LEVERETT from page 5

said there should be no problem in this regard since she will not be in a supervisory position at the highway department.

Brazeau told her, "If you ever think a situation might be a conflict of interest, talk to Will."

Roberts King will start in her new job, at \$15.50 an hour, as soon as the results of a physical exam are available.

Thom Masterton, a North Leverett Road resident who is dealing with the issue of hearing loss, has for the past year been working with the selectboard to determine what type of assisted listening devices would best serve the town to make public meetings at the town hall, library and elementary school accessible for residents with impaired hearing. After testing numerous devices and technologies, the board seems close to settling on a method where microphones will capture the sound of people speaking at public meetings and transmit it to an amplifier, which will allow hard of hearing residents to pick up the amplified discussion through wireless headphones.

While the selectboard is still trying to determine the best microphones to use for the new system, the board hopes the assisted-listening devices will be in place soon at those three locations, along with instructions to all town boards on how to use them.

"I have a very emotional attachment to this issue," said Masterton. "This issue means complete isolation for me."

He urged the selectboard to work harder to get the systems in place,

and town boards trained to use them, in a timely fashion.

Administrative assessor Steve Schmidt came before the board for a tax classification hearing. Unsurprisingly, the board decided to keep a single tax rate for residential and commercial uses in town.

Schmidt said Leverett property taxpayers are 96% residential. He said, "We're projecting a tax rate of \$18.67," per thousand dollars of valuation, up 5% or 90 cents from last year's rate of \$17.77 per thousand.

Schmidt said the increase was due to the town's budgetary need for more tax revenue.

He added, "There has been essentially no change in [property] values."

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue must sign off on the tax rate before the town can mail out tax bills, but Schmidt said he foresaw no holdup in that happening soon.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis expressed satisfaction with work recently performed by Montague Center machinist Ted Armand, who cleaned and repaired the mechanism of the town's single, hand-cranked ballot box, putting it in good working order just in time for the national and state elections coming up on November 6th.

While residents will be hanging on results with bated breath that night to hear which major candidate ekes out a victory in town – Barack Obama or Jill Stein – and to find out what role third-party dark horse Mitt Romney will play in that contest, at least there is no fear of hanging ballots, or hanging chads, gumming up the works in Leverett.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

More Clubs, and a New Nurse

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – Members of the Gill-Montague school committee approved a job description and rate of pay for club advisors for new after-school clubs on Tuesday, as requested by Turners Falls High School principal Patricia Gardner. The vote, approved unanimously, supports five new clubs, with a generic job description that will be adapted for individual positions for club advisors.

Joyce Phillips, school committee chair, recommended the pay be the same as other club advisors currently employed by the district, at an annual rate of \$720 for this school year. Interim superintendent Mark Prince suggested combining the Ultimate Frisbee and Outing Club under one advisor, but Emily Monosson, addressing the school committee, said she felt these two clubs require different skill sets.

Prince addressed the matter of budget choices to fund the addi-

tional clubs. He expects this to be decided as soon as Gardner, who has been out sick, returns. Parent Stacy Langknecht asked when the school can expect the process to move forward. She and Monosson, both members of the school council, expressed a strong desire to get the clubs up and running as soon as possible.

Prince said that as soon as the funding decisions are made, the jobs descriptions will be posted. The clubs approved are Culture through Cooking, Ultimate Frisbee, Glee, Outing and Dance Team.

Prince presented a request to the school committee for additional nursing staff. There are four nurses currently working at the school district. Prince said he felt this was not sufficient. Two of the nurses cover Turners Falls High School, Great Falls Middle School and Gill Elementary School. One nurse works full-time at the high school, and the other splits her time between the middle school and Gill Elementary. Since the

middle school and high school share one building, the district hoped this amount of nursing coverage would be adequate. But Prince said in talking to the nursing staff and seeing how busy the nurses are, he has concluded at least another part-time nurse is needed. Prince believes the district should proceed to hire full-time nurses in every school in the district in next year's budget. The school committee approved his request unanimously.

Special education director Walter Solzak presented a proposal to the school committee for a new teaching position addressing the needs of language based learning disabled students. He said there are three students currently enrolled in the district who require these services. Solzak said developing a program within the district to address the needs of these students would avoid out-of-district placements that could potentially cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 per student. He said the closest location for such programs at this time is in

Westfield.

The district has had a policy of trying to maintain good special education programs within the district, because this helps students stay connected with their school community and saves the district money in out of district placement costs.

Solzak said the program would be highly structured and aimed at young children who exhibit deficits in oral expression and reading comprehension, and difficulty with verbal expression of new ideas. He recommends starting students early, between 2nd and 5th grades, to improve their ability to succeed academically as they mature. Solzak said the new in-district program could possibly be expanded to students in surrounding districts.

In the discussion that followed, amid the support expressed for Solzak's proposal, concern was expressed by some members. Sandra Brown of Gill raised a question of the cost of hiring another teacher. She said she was concerned they would not be able to afford an additional nurse, a priority for her. She also pointed out the district does not have a program for gifted and talented students, and said the district should serve all students.

Michael Langknecht, of Montague, said he felt he needed more information on the costs of the program, but that he was generally supportive of the idea. Jane Oakes of Gill

said she was in favor of the program, and liked that it would help keep students in the district, in the community where they now attend school. She called it "very forward thinking."

A motion was brought for the school committee to vote on the proposal, but after the discussion they agreed to table the matter and bring it back for a vote at the next school committee meeting on November 13th.

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to submit original poems. Please email: reporter-poems@montaguema.net for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

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Gill-Montague Announces Recipients of John and Abigail Adams Scholarships

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – The Gill-Montague Regional School District has announced the names of students in the Class of 2013 who have been awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Recipients become eligible for the scholarship based on their high academic achievement on MCAS tests.

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. Massachusetts public high school students become eligible for the scholarship when they score at the Advanced and Proficient levels on grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, and have combined scores that place them in the top 25% of students in the graduating class in their district.

The winners are: Alyssa Adams, Shawn Englehardt, Summer Forest-Bulley, Marjorie Gallagher, Alexander Interlande, Troy Langknecht, Brendan LeDoyt, Brandon Lenois, Jonathan Marguet, Brooke Martineau, Timothy Meyer, Garrett Reipold, Christian Sawicki, Olivia Tardie, Nala Vaughn, Tyler Whipple, Ryan Wilder, and Isabelle Zantoulidis.

Interim Superintendent Mark Prince and Gill-Montague school committee members congratulated recipients at their meeting on Tuesday, October 23rd. A formal awards ceremony was held at Turners Falls High School on Thursday, October 25th.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Rabid Animals

Wednesday, 10/17

6:35 a.m. Suspicious activity in area of Grist Mill. Officer checked; checked out okay.

2:00 p.m. Officer requested to Main Road residence for rabid fox.

Thursday, 10/18

10:05 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Mt. Hermon Campus; same checked okay.

11:15 a.m. Larceny report filed for past breaking and entering on Lamplighter Way.

4:15 p.m. Rabid raccoon reported at residence on French King Highway.

5:50 p.m. Rabid skunk reported at residence on

Munns Ferry Road.

8:00 p.m. Responded to a sick person call from a Walnut Street residence.

Friday, 10/19

9:30 a.m. Officer requested to assist with domestic situation on Center Road.

5:15 p.m. Animal complaint on Grout Road. Animals located.

9:50 p.m. Alarm sounding at Blake Hall.

Saturday, 10/20

9:00 a.m. Officer located motor vehicle off roadway on Ben Hale Road; removed same.

11:45 a.m. Main Road resident reported annoying/harassing phone calls from a credit card

company.

3:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police department with arrest on Route 2.

Monday, 10/22

4:30 a.m. Officer responded to report of a man on the ground at the Mobil Station; same transported.

Tuesday, 10/23

8:50 a.m. Cows in the roadway on Main Road; same returned to fenced area.

3:20 p.m. Loose dog located on North Cross Road; owner located.

5:15 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with motor vehicle stop on Lester Street.

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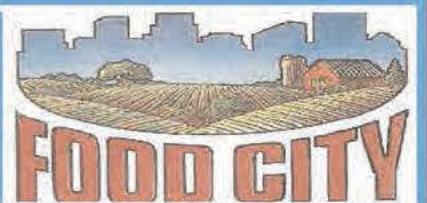
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Geothermal Problems Persist at New Senior Center

BY KATIE NOLAN – As a new heating season starts, the new senior and community center that opened last December still has problems with its geothermal heating and cooling system.

At its September 10th meeting, the selectboard decided to notify Western Surety, the bonding company that insured contractor MCM USA's performance on the project, to inform them that MCM did not complete the building project in accordance with its contract with the town.

At the October 23rd selectboard meeting, town counsel Donna MacNicol told the board Western Surety replied with "a typical surety company letter," asking for full documentation of the problem.

The board instructed town administrator Tom Sharp to provide the documentation to Western Surety. In addition, MacNicol said the town should formally terminate MCM USA and inform the surety company of this action in order to "free up the retainage."

The retainage money is about \$11,000, withheld from payments to MCM USA until the town agrees the building has been completed to its satisfaction. The retainage would then be available to help pay for fixing the geothermal system.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said some Council on Aging members were concerned about heating the building this winter if the geothermal system is not fixed.

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo replied the center has a backup propane heating system.

Sullivan reported she will meet with Union 28 superintendent Joan Wickman, director of finance and operations Michael Kociela, and treasurers from other U28 towns to work on an agree-

ment for apportioning payments for employee and retiree benefits.

Providing benefits to U28 employees and retirees has been contentious for the five U28 towns (Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell), because the current benefits package for shared U28 employees is set by the package for the "lead town," the town with the most students enrolled.

Erving, the lead town, offers more generous benefits for town employees than do other towns in U28.

Recently enacted state legislation allows the U28 towns to pay employee and retiree benefits "in amounts proportionate to the benefits offered by each town to municipal employees and retirees."

Sullivan said, "Hopefully, an agreement can be finalized," and ready for signature by the October 29th selectboard meeting.

Town clerk Richard Newton reported recent state legislation requires dog license fees to be set not by the dog's gender, but whether or not it is "intact". The state law also requires a higher fee for an intact animal.

"We are out of compliance," Newton noted.

Erving currently charges \$3 per year to license a male or spayed female dog, and \$6 for an unsplayed female. Newton estimated that it costs his office approximately \$3 to provide an annual dog license. He recommended a change to \$10 per year for an intact dog and \$5 per year for a dog that has been altered.

Newton told the board the current fees are "hard-coded" into the town bylaws and suggested changing the bylaw at the next town meeting to allow the selectboard to set dog license fees. He said this would be "good to do by December,

when the new dog tags come in."

"We have money to lend," Alan Singer, business lending director at Franklin County Community Development Corporation (CDC), told the selectboard. He encouraged the board to publicize that CDC loans are available for business start-ups and businesses interested in expansion.

Klepadlo reported he had attended the October 16th school committee meeting to recommend creating subcommittees for the school regionalization planning committee, and found the school committee agreeable to the idea.

He said a call for volunteers for regionalization subcommittee members would be publicized in the December issue of the Around Town newsletter and on the local public access cable channel.

Sullivan was selected to be the selectboard's point person for the agreement between Erving and the town of Montague on their joint use of the Ervingside wastewater treatment plant, which treats wastewater from the Montague side of Millers Falls in addition to the Erving side of Millers. Montague pays Erving based on the amount of water flow from Montague into the plant.

Sharp reported that the Montague selectboard had appointed Mark Fairbrother as their representative. Sullivan and Fairbrother will meet on November 5th.

The scheduled package store liquor license hearing requested by Erik Semb at the new convenience store on Route 2 was cancelled, because abutters had not been properly notified.

The board decided to schedule a new hearing once Semb supplies complete abutter information.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Wendell Passes Stretch Building Code, in Hope of Green Community Status

BY JOSH HEINEMANN – On Thursday, October 18th, 20 Wendell voters passed the entire special town meeting warrant in just one hour. The selectboard scheduled the town meeting in mid-October so several articles necessary for the town to apply for Massachusetts Green Community status could be passed in time for energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger to complete the state application process by the end of October.

Town moderator Kathy Becker was not available, so moderating the meeting was left to her capable deputy, Kate Nolan.

There were a few articles that did not relate to the Green Communities process.

Article One would have changed the name of the east section of Old Farley Road to Millers Road, to avoid the confusion resulting from the fact that the two ends of Old Farley Road are passable for vehicles, but the middle part of the road is not. Following amendments offered by resident Dale Kowacki, the road was renamed Blue Heron Road, and the east section of the road was defined as the section connecting to Erving's Arch Street bridge.

Article Two transferred \$1700 remaining in the Fiske Pond dam inspection account to the Fiske Pond stewardship fund. Article Three took

\$176.96 out of stabilization to pay an assessors' bill from a prior year.

The remaining articles were in preparation for the Green Communities application. Article 4 created definitions for small-scale solar installations, under 10 kilowatts, large scale installations, between 10 kilowatts and 2 megawatts and covering 10 acres or less, and extra large solar installations covering more than 10 acres and generating more than 2 megawatts.

Article 5 allowed small-scale, home size solar installations by right of ownership, and allowed large and extra large installations with a site plan review by the planning board instead of requiring a special permit, a more cumbersome process. Article 6 gave criteria for the site plan reviews required in Article 5, including setbacks, lighting, signage, safety, maintenance, wetland concerns, monitoring, reporting and decommissioning.

Article 7 added an associate member to the zoning board of appeals, to fill in when a regular member cannot serve because of absence or conflict of interest. Article 8 added an associate member to the planning board.

Article 9 established the "stretch building code" for new construction, and was the only article that drew dissenting votes. It needed a two-

thirds majority, and passed 16 to 3.

Former Belchertown selectboard member Jim Barry, now a Green Communities spokesperson for the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER), stood before the meeting and explained some of the details of the stretch code.

He said the stretch code's impact would be on new construction, especially commercial construction. Asked by finance committee member Michael Idoine how the stretch code would affect an owner builder, Barry said it would add about \$3,000 to the cost of an average home for extra inspections of insulation, and a final blow test of the whole house to find leaks.

Asked by energy committee member Betsy Ames about alternative construction methods, like straw bale, or rammed earth construction, Barry said they were not precluded, but he did not elaborate. Barry said the code to which a building must conform is the code that is in place when the building permit is taken out, and the town could set the date when the stretch code begins to take effect. At Riebschlaeger's suggestion voters accepted the stretch code, beginning July 1st 2013.

If Wendell is accepted as a Green Community, the town is eligible for energy conservation grants up to \$125,000.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Arson, Burglaries and Larcenies

Tuesday, 10/16

1:58 p.m. Burglary reported at █ Fourth Street.

5:23 p.m. Larceny investigated at █ Second Street.

6:28 p.m. Burglary investigated at █ Ripley Road.

Wednesday, 10/17

2:00 a.m. Arson reported and investigated at █ L Street.

2:51 p.m. Assault reported at Turners Falls High School.

10:26 p.m. █, arrested on warrant at the

Turners Falls Police Department.

Thursday, 10/18

11:44 a.m. Larceny reported at █ Avenue A.

1:52 p.m. Hit and run reported in the Rite Aid parking lot, 240 Avenue A.

Friday, 10/19

10:13 a.m. Burglary reported at █ Second Street.

9:05 p.m. Vandalism reported on H Street.

Saturday, 10/20

12:04 p.m. █

arrested at his home. He is charged with domestic assault and battery.

6:30 p.m. Hit and run reported at █ Third Street.

10:53 p.m. Burglary reported at █ Masonic Avenue.

Sunday, 10/21

10:22 a.m. Larceny reported at █ Vladish Avenue.

5:10 p.m. █ arrested near █ Rastallis Street. He is charged with

speeding, failure to stop for police, operating to endanger, and a marked lanes violation.

7:55 p.m. █

arrested on warrant at her home.

11:20 p.m. Hit and run reported near L and Third Streets.

Monday, 10/22

5:29 p.m. Burglary reported at █ Fifth Street.

Tuesday, 10/23

7:02 a.m. Burglary reported at Unity Park Field House.

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The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:
Klondike Sound, Green Fields Market, Dr. Robert Koolkin, Montague Dental Arts, Carlin Barton, and Michael Muller

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

The Poetry Page

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.
– William Carlos Williams

Daybreak

Bitter winds lower their voice
easing the draught
to an icy caress
that cajoles and soothes my candle flame.
Though weighted down like chiseled stone,
I harken to the frigid breath
of loquacious guests
hissing through fissures
to drown feeble prayer with irreverent
chatter
and summon unwanted images down from
my rafter.
I won my last argument with the querulous
winds,
let them lean on my door and beg to come
in.
My fingers are gnarled from winter's hold
like the hard knuckled branch tap-tapping
my pane with accusation and scold.
I gaze like rheumy sphinx
at my small square of sky
where it meets the dark crest
of mountain high
and sense my eternity, soon cradled there,
between streaks of gold
and the bleeding away of dawn's crushed
rose.
O faithful companion
I've spilt barrels of wine
to now seek your forgiveness will not
straighten my spine.
My regrets meld and sink to a reptile's
crawl
still yearning for resurrection come
morning's thaw.

— Gini Brown
Berkeley, CA

You must not want to see everything.

Hope is a chemical.
A scream that can't be heard sober.
That you must be adjusted,
obliterated to discriminate
the miracle from its chains,
its ignited silence, its sorrow

taken to mud
as camouflage, or a tawny light
the color of lions
Sad enough we forbid the sale
to anyone walking naked
to reconcile the angles
wrecked in a chest.
We give in to them so they'll go away
because we're scared , holding in

Thirty odd years behind my eye,
does it admit a stink
like torture made in faraway places.
Don't we become unreadable
when we cease to remember melting
surrounds us?

Something in me wants to know -
If we believe a sun's simpling acid
mediating the weak gravity of joy
could evaporate a spit smeared deep in a face

it is one less light I want to understand.

The more we know whats in us
The more difficult it is to remain calm.

We sleep at night because we have to.

— Brian Foley
Northampton



Totem

To this day:
wood-stacked: come:
doubled over: from:
the slug: and heaven
screws:

I say: gratitude:
for the detour: I say:
gratitude:

for lights:
dark hunting: to amaze:
for: grease: set to gather:
a chance: to slip:

come: old breathe:
bored: of sighs: lure back:
the you: swung away:
upon sway: I say:

gratitude: to
rumble: a friend: say:
gratitude: to wood: ready:
for the ways: to be
not there:

— Brian Foley
Northampton

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno
design by Claudia Wells

Gothic Logic

It's on these thick gray nights that
I find myself slipping off,
Deeper and deeper into myself.
Deeper into sorrow and deeper
into the truth.

The fog assisted by drizzle hides
the world through my window.
I become dark, hypnotized by my
own heart slowing,
Softer and softer until I am lost in
that sweet buzz of nothing.

And then it's the same every time.
I look up and see all the ancient
monuments
Gray and cracked and untended.
I hear the voices of the unknown
and long for their company
But it's all away from my reach,
behind the gate... the fence
I cannot look into its design,
infinitely detailed,
a puzzle, a trap.

You can lose your way looking into
that gate, and then
The light; I can see the light...
No, it's a car passing by my
window,
Shattered into a thousand million
pieces by the drizzle.

Perhaps one step closer now,
Gothic Logic - I'm on to you.

– Joshua Puchalski
Millers Falls

The Moon

I walked up to the bright moon. A seriously good start I will never get over. I will never strip the story down to its barest language. I trust you know how peaceful it is to hear the door unlock. Finally, someone is coming for you. Then and now you can say as many words as you'd like. You can pretend like this is not a game, but then you'll be complicit in the greatest cover-up man has ever perpetrated. Perfect people are really remarkable, but I'm just moored on the moon, not one of them. If you ever think of this conversation later, don't remind me I admitted this. I will not hate anyone until I die. I'm joking in the sense that God is the worst, but be true, God. You have all my thoughts, but I have all the responsibility.

— Seth Landman
Northampton

Contributors' Notes:

Gini Brown recalls her early years in Montague from her home in Berkeley, California

Seth Landman's first book, *Sign You Were Mistaken*, will be out in 2013 from Factory Hollow Press. He lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Brian Foley is the author of several chapbooks including *Going Attractions*

(*Greying Ghost*, 2012) & *TOTEM*, which won the 2011 Equinox Chapbook Contest and is forthcoming from Fact-Simile editions. With E.B. Goodale, he runs Brave Men Press.

Joshua Puchalski lives and loves in Millers Falls with his wife Laura, who together work as owners of 2nd Street Baking Co. (on 4th street), in Turners.

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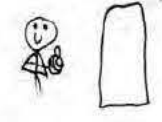
“How to Grow Garlic”

BY 2ND THROUGH 5TH GRADERS SIANAH, ETHAN, ABIGAIL, AUSTIN, SABRINA, TYLER, CADENCE, ARMANI, RICHARD, THOMAS, DALTON, FROM MONTAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SHEFFIELD FULL DAY PROGRAM'S AFTERSCHOOL TEAM GROW!


1. In the fall get a Golden Rooster Bulb and add compost if you have it.



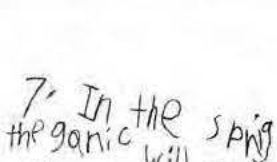
2. Break up garlic bulbs into cloves for planting.



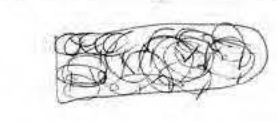
3. Plant cloves 2 or 3 inches deep with the pointy side up.




4. The garlic cloves should be 4 to 6 inches apart.



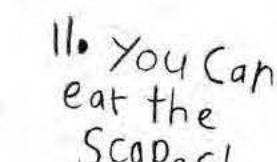
5. Sawing a path in the garden to protect the garlic from cold vs leaves straw or hay.




6. In the spring the garlic will grow.




7. Leave the mulch to keep the soil moist and keep weeds from growing.




8. You might have to move some mulch to help the plants grow through it.




9. In the summer, if the plant has a curly flower stalk (a scape) break it off so the bulb will be bigger.




10. You can eat the scapes!




11. To harvest the garlic bulbs when half of the leaves turn yellow.




12. Hang the plants in a dry shady place for 2 weeks.




13. Cut off the roots and stems.



14. Cook with the garlic!



15. Don't forget to save some to plant in the fall.





KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER
Montague's Spookily Good Solar Deal Ends on Hallowe'en

BY SALLY PICK – Don't miss out on the good deal Montague residents and businesses can get for solar photovoltaics (PV). Treat yourself to low cost PV before Solarize Montague ends on Hallowe'en. And, no more tricks from the Mass Clean Energy Center extending the deadline again: October 31st is the drop dead cutoff date to be part of this community program to bring affordable PV to our town. Honest!

Currently, prices are 5 percent below the starting prices for the Solarize Montague program, at Tier 3, with 82.4 kilowatts (kW). If enough people sign contracts before the deadline, we may reach Tier 4 prices, which are 10 percent lower for everyone getting PV through the program!

If you're ready to commit, you can bring your contract and deposit (not applicable if leasing) to Ask Solarize at the safety complex on Tuesday, October 30th, between 6:30 to 8 p.m. Or get your

final questions answered and make a decision before the program turns into a pumpkin the next day, on Hallowe'en. Everyone in Montague who has explored solar through the Solarize Montague program and who is greening their home or business through other energy saving ideas like the Mass Save program, is invited to Ask Solarize to celebrate the deeper greening of our community. We'll have Bart's ice cream and a few free Solarize t-shirts, while supplies last.

If you want to sign a contract before the deadline, contact NorthEast Solar at (413) 247-6045. For information about Solarize Montague, go to www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague, or contact me, the community solar coach, at (413) 559-7257. 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.

and all had given assurances that the MEDIC board was "fully authorized to act" in the sale of the building. "EDICs got special legislative dispensation to do Heritage Parks," said Abbondanzio – and the former Cumberland Farms building is situated on the grounds of what was first planned to be a Heritage Park, and later became the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Just this year, the state transferred ownership of the former Cumberland Farms building back to the MEDIC board, with the stipulation that an end use compatible with the Discovery Center be found for the building.

Meanwhile, the town building inspector and board of health have ordered the MEDIC board to remediate conditions, including a leaking roof, that have created mold in the interior of the building.

Selectboard member Pat Allen said Monday, "We need to go ahead and get bids in," to repair the roof at the former Cumberland Farms.

The board will discuss the matter further at their meeting on Monday, October 29th.

Looking ahead to that meeting, town planner Walter Ramsey said, "We got sidetracked with these legal issues over the last few months. We have three new board members on MEDIC, and we need to bring them up to speed. On Monday, I've scheduled and posted a joint meeting of the selectboard and MEDIC, and MCCI will be there too. I'm hoping with all the parties in the room, we'll

come together and resolve the issues before winter."

In other business, the board gave approval to a request from RiverCulture director Lisa Davol and Shop Western Mass coordinators Lynn Nichols and Don Kruger to use the soon-to-be-empty Hallmark Gallery on the first floor of the Colle Building, 85 Avenue A, to house a cooperative artisans' holiday gift shop for November and December.

"At least during the holiday season, it will give the feeling the center of downtown is vibrant and there's shopping activity going on there," commented Abbondanzio. The board approved a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act review, to be performed by River Bluff Realty, for a small section of an eight-acre parcel of land in the Airport Industrial Park, to clear the way for Atlantic Golf and Turf to build a 32,000 square foot warehouse on the last large undeveloped parcel remaining in that park. Abbondanzio said the company, which is already a tenant at the park, has offered about \$130,000 for the site, which is now in the early permitting stages.

The board waived the building permit fee for work planned by the Lake Pleasant Village Association to repair the Bridge of Names, a nearby historic bell tower, and other village improvements.

"Lake Pleasant doesn't ask us for very much," commented Allen.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Motor Vehicle Adventures: Cars vs. Turkeys, Flat Tires, Sleeping Drivers, Locks and Tow Trucks

Tuesday, 10/16

11:30 a.m. 911 misdial from Northfield Road; confirmed no problems.

2:40 p.m. Dog complaint at Pratt Street.

Wednesday, 10/17

2:30 a.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted], for default warrant.

5:30 p.m. Officer assisted individual at Weatherheads convenience store who was locked out of a motor vehicle.

Thursday, 10/18

2:45 p.m. Dog complaint on French King Highway; advised owner to license.

4:40 p.m. Possible breaking & entering at residence on High Street. Under investiga-

tion; report taken.

9:40 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on East Main Street. Assisted to move off road-way; not a hazard.

9:45 p.m. Report of subject in dark clothing riding a bicycle on Route 2. Unable to locate.

Friday, 10/19

4:13 p.m. 911 call from a Prospect Street residence; found to be a phone problem.

Saturday, 10/20

12:00 a.m. Suspicious male subject walking in Pratt Street area. Checked on same.

3:00 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 63 north-bound. Flat tire.

3:30 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in Weatherheads parking lot. Subject taking a nap

in vehicle; all set.

5:05 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at bypass; car vs. turkey.

7:28 p.m. Report of lost hikers in Farley Ledges. Subjects located.

Sunday, 10/21

12:56 a.m. Suspicious persons at Usher Plant. Checked on same.

8:00 a.m. Report of male subject in vehicle sleeping near paper mill in bad location. Subject gone upon arrival.

5:22 p.m. Suspicious person taking pictures on North Street. Report taken.

Monday, 10/22

7:00 p.m. Parked motor vehicle towed from River Road. Was a hazard.

MONTAGUE from page 5

weather and that there will be snow on the ground. If we can get the keys in the next few weeks, and we can get Berkshire East to run a line, then I think we can still secure the building. But if they delay long enough and suddenly we have a blizzard, who knows?"

Muller added, "We've been trying for over a year and a half to get in there, and we still want to get in there. But we can only do what we can do. Hopefully the building won't collapse in the meantime."

Bodin said on Monday, "Maybe it is time for the town to do what it needs to do to fix the roof. The EDIC board is in a terrible state of flux."

Town manager Frank Abbondanzio assured Bodin that town counsel and town planner Walter Ramsey had both looked into the matter, with Ramsey contacting the official at the state Department of Housing and Community Development who oversees EDICs,

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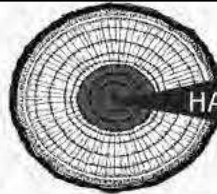
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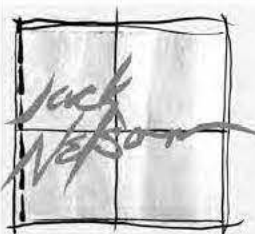


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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ALL THE TIME:

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*, 2 to 6 p.m. Last market of the season on 10/31 – 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 to 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 Falls: *Photographs by John Grabill*.

NOW through December 12th

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Separated at Birth* – paintings and installations by artists Cathie Janke and Stephen Cahill.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25th

2nd Congregational Church, Town Common Court Square, Greenfield: presentation by Occupy Franklin County. 7 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter*, jazz blues vocals, guitar, violin. 8 p.m. Free.

Montague Bookmill: *Vio/Mire*, a four-piece with cello, trombone, reed organ, synthesizer, vocals, and guitar. 8 p.m. \$.

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Hour: "Where in the Wild? Camouflaged Creatures Concealed..." and*



Tim deChristopher is a sculptor who works primarily in stone and steel. His work is deeply rooted in the tradition of architectural stonework, masonry and sculpture with a contemporary sensibility. Stories in Stone opens at the Hampden Gallery on October 28th

Revealed. This month's story, "Where in the Wild," will help us learn about some animals that are experts at hiding! Touchable artifacts, stories, games, and art! 10:30 to 11:10 a.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Bingo*. 6 to 8 p.m.

Camp Kee Wanee, 1 Health Camp Rd., Greenfield: *Skeleton Crew Theater*, outdoor event. Wear boots/sneakers and cold weather clothing. 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Rupert Wates*, singer / songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Deadman's Party* – Happy Hour Burlesque (electronica, burlesque). 9:30 p.m. \$5.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Black Diamond Band*, country & rock. 9:30 p.m.

The Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Fenibo 12-piece Afrobeat Band*. 9:30 p.m. \$

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Country Players present Rocky Horror Show*. Midnight. \$15/\$20/\$25.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27th

Visitor Center at Tavern Hall, Historic Deerfield: Demonstration of Made-by-Hand Trades of the Past: *Paper Marbling* with Regina and Dan St. John. 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum admission: \$12 adults, \$5 youth; under 6 free.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: The Metropolitan Opera presents Verdi's *Otello* live in HD. 12:55 p.m. \$24 / \$13 students.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Teaching Creatures Presents: *Live Animal Program* – *Animal Defenses!* Come meet several live animals who have evolved unique adaptations for defending themselves against predators. 1 to 2 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*. Evening Dance with caller and band. Please wear soft-soled non-street shoes to protect the wooden dance floor. Beginners welcome. 7 to 10 p.m. \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Old Town Hall, Wendell: Music: *Li'l Beedee & the Doo-Rites* to benefit the Community Network for Children. 7:30 p.m. \$6-\$15.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Allysen Gallery* (indie folk) with special guest *Anna Coogan* (Americana country roots). 7:30 p.m.

The Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *John Sheldon and Blue Streak*, unique combination of rock, jazz, blues, and Middle Eastern grooves. 8 p.m. \$10, \$15 at door.

The Shea Theater, Turners

Falls: Country Players present *Rocky Horror Show*. 8 p.m. \$15/\$20/\$25.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Halloween Costume Party*. Dedicated to Delilah, 80's pop rock & ballads. 9 p.m. to midnight.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Diamondstones Halloween!* 9:30 p.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Halloween Party with 91 North*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28th

Camp Kee Wanee, 1 Health Camp Rd, Greenfield: *Harvest Festival*. Family friendly festival to benefit the camp and local non-profits. Vendors, food, music, theater, kids activities and more. Saturday music: *Jeff Martell, Savannah and the Deliberators*, and local Wendell Pink Floyd cover band, *Crazy Diamond*. Sunday Music: *Tim Warren* from Alternate Routes, *Kevin Jones*, and *Haven't a Clue*. Festival hours: 12 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Turning Plates*, alt. classical jazz rock. 2 p.m.

Hampden Gallery, UMass, Amherst: Opening reception, *Stories Set in Stone*, Sculpture by Tim deChristopher. 2 to 4 p.m.

New Salem Public Library: book discussion, *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell. 6:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Halloween Special Movie, *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*. Wilbur Grey (Lou Costello) is chased by Count Dracula (Bela Lugosi), who wants to transplant Chick Young's (Bud Abbott's) brain into the skull of Frankenstein's Monster. The Wolfman (Lon Chaney, Jr.) thwarts Dracula's plans, however. Even the Invisible Man makes a non-appearance in the superb horror comedy. (1948, 83 minutes, PG.) 7 p.m. Free.

Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery, Brattleboro, VT: *The Sweetback Sisters*, high-energy music with deep roots in traditional American country. 7:30 p.m. \$17.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Peachy's*, Americana, blues and a touch of ragtime. 8 to 10 p.m.

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29th

Historic Deerfield Community Center, Old Deerfield: *Community Gathering for Domestic Violence Awareness Month*. Refreshments will be served. 5:30 to 8 p.m. Free.

Greenfield High School Auditorium: *Monk's Caves, Sacrificial Altars and Wandering Cells*: Archaeological Detective Work in New England. Archaeologist Dr. Ken Feder on the development of the first cities, the earliest human settlement of the New World, and the stone chambers, carved stones, and stone circles that dot our New England landscape. 7 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps*, a night of poetry & spoken word. Open Mic 7 to 8 p.m.; featured readers 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*. Sign up at 7:30 p.m. 8 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31st

Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Rag Shag Parade* down Avenue A from Food City to the Great Falls Discovery Center. 4 to 5 p.m.

The Wheelhouse, Greenfield: *Creative Networking Buzz*, Halloween Edition. 6 p.m. Free.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Spooky Show!* 9 p.m. Free.

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

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Country Players present *Rocky Horror Show*. Midnight. \$15/\$20/\$25.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* poetry reading featuring Andrea Cohen & Amanda Auchter. 7 p.m.

Gill Tavern: *Trivia Night* to benefit Vermont Citizens Action Network. 8:30 p.m.

CALL for Erotic ART SUBMISSIONS

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *"Triple S: Sensual>Sexual>Smul"* show in February 2013. Naughty, bawdy, funny – or just merely suggestive – artwork, anywhere on the continuum of erotica, is welcome. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Smaller works more likely to be chosen due to space constraints. Email jpegs to naban@verizon.net, with "SSS" in the subject line, OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls MA 01376. Include a non-refundable fee of \$10 (check to Nina's Nook or PayPal to naban@verizon.net) by Jan 20, 2013.

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HalloweenParty
(w/ costume contest!)

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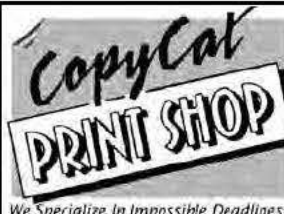
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Taste.

– On the Patio at Ristorante DiPaolo

BY SANDRA MARIE

TURNERS FALLS – Today is the Pumpkin Festival in Turners Falls. All sorts of vendors are set up displaying an assortment of goods from crafts to local restaurants selling their most popular dishes. I set out in a sweater and my fall leather boots looking for the best way to satisfy my appetite.

The heavenly smell of various ethnic foods wafts through the air as I wander around with the leaves crunching beneath my feet.

Instead of a food booth, I choose to eat at Ristorante DiPaolo, an upscale Italian restaurant in town, right in the midst of all the action.

DiPaolo's opened their doors in the spring of 2006 after a seven year process of finding and purchasing the right building. Owner Denise DiPaolo, said the building "kind of chose" her. After several attempts at trying to get another property, Denise found out that some buildings in downtown Turners were available due to non-payment in back taxes. She was able to purchase the former laundromat at 166 Avenue A for one dollar, in part because the town liked the idea of her opening a restaurant there.

My husband and I are seated on the patio, lit up with string lights, filled with comfortable furniture. A band named Fire Pond is playing in

the corner. Fire Pond is a duo that plays a mixture of musical genres. I feel very cozy here as we sit happily awaiting the arrival of our friends, and I decide to try the Pumpkin Pie Martini, the drink of the day. It is wonderful, creamy with just a slight pumpkin flavor, topped with a sprinkle of nutmeg. As the downtown is in the midst of a huge fiesta with hordes of tourists crowding the Avenue, DiPaolo is serving only appetizers today.

I order the Caribbean Dueto – grilled scallops and shrimp, seasoned with a Caribbean spice rub, and garnished with a mild spicy red pepper sauce and pineapple salsa. The presentation is awe-inspiring, almost too pretty to eat, but not quite; I am hungry. The chef has cooked the scallops to perfection, charred on the outside yet medium rare on the inside, leaving the scallops moist. I really enjoy the pineapple salsa and the red pepper sauce.

Next we try the Melanzane Parmigiano – grilled eggplant brushed with olive oil and oregano, layered in tomato sauce with a blend of mozzarella, romano, and asiago cheese. This appetizer comes out in an oval ramekin with melted cheese and herbs on top. Once through the gooey melted cheese, our taste buds are hit with the red



SANDRA MARIE PHOTO

Caribbean Dueto – Ristorante DiPaolo

sauce made with what seemed to taste like a blend of red wine, tomatoes, herbs, and a good quality olive oil.

I really take pleasure in the eggplant; it just has a total comfort food feel to it.

My friend orders the avocado salad – a whole Haas avocado,

sliced and served on a bed of greens with tomatoes. Topped with red onion and fresh cilantro, drizzled with olive oil and lime juice, the presentation of the salad is appealing.

As we try the salad, we discuss how often restaurant salads seem under-thought and rushed. This

salad is well prepared, with just the right blend of olive oil, cilantro and lime. I think the red onions are a good complement – however, a bit overpowering. I love the creaminess of the avocado with a touch of pepper to it.

Denise said on a normal day, the majority of her clientele comes from within a 50 mile radius, ranging mostly from 40 years of age and up. However, young romantics are also attracted to dine here. It is more a "special occasion" spot, where through the years DiPaolo's has even been the scene of some marriage proposals.

The service was great, our waitress was very attentive to our needs, everything was clean and all the customers seemed happy with their food. We all had a wonderful time, well satisfied in our patio oasis as the crowds of pumpkin lovers swirled happily along the Avenue. Next time, I plan to relax and enjoy the offerings from the regular menu.

PO from page 1

and put the savings towards keeping rural post offices open regular hours. Or, if retail hours have to be reduced, why not structure the reduced hours so a postmaster could work mornings at one and afternoons at another post office, to maintain a fulltime job.

Surprise said those options are actively being considered, but Congress has the final say on issues such as ending Saturday delivery, and until Congress acts, the USPS has to take steps to reduce their operating deficit.

Surprise said the postal service may come to rely more heavily on parcel deliveries, since USPS offers the lowest rates for that service.

Surprise said the USPS plan to reduce open window hours at up to 13,000 post offices nationwide is intended to save the financially struggling federal agency (which receives no taxpayer support, and has

been hit hard by the shift to electronic mail and an aggressive pension payment plan mandated by Congress) a half billion dollars in their annual operating budget.

The vast majority of Erving residents who responded to a recent USPS survey preferred reducing weekday hours to closing the post office entirely.

Ralph Semb, who owns the property in which the Erving post office is located, pointed out that the USPS still had eight years left on the lease.

His son Erik wanted to know whether the election of Mitt Romney would improve affairs for the US postal service, but Surprise declined to answer that one. "We don't have a crystal ball," she said, smiling.

Under the plan, Eileen Fellows, who currently staffs the window at the Erving post office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays - with a half hour off for lunch at 1:30 - and

from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays, said the window in Erving would only be open from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Wendell Depot would see window service reduced to 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays; Saturday hours would remain the same from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Wendell Center and Montague Center post offices are also slated to have two open window hours shaved off their current weekday schedules under the plan.

Over in Lake Pleasant, David James, who is the "officer in charge" of the post office there now that former postmaster Ron Croteau has been moved from Lake Pleasant first to Leverett and now to Colrain (former Erving postmaster Robin Driscoll took over in Leverett) said the POST plan to reduce open retail hours is intended only for post offices that do not currently have a fulltime post master.

As local post masters are shuffled around, James likened the whole exercise to a postal version of musical chairs, where, in the end, "Many will not have seats."



BLACK COW from page 1

leisure. In my survey of the menu, I thought I could make it a lunch with one of the "starters" like the goat cheese and onion tart, combined with a "side" like sweet potato fries. Or you might lunch out with an Angus steak (or even a hot dog) and a chopped apple salad.

My own strategy to begin to learn about the Black Cow would be to select a "field-tested burger" from the menu. Since my doctor wants me to avoid red meat, I have two marvelous-sounding choices: a "Sexy Salmon Burger" or a "Hawaiian Turkey Burger." (The red-meat choices are the "Cajun Burger" for those who like it spicy, and the "Power Town Burger," which reportedly helps in combating hangovers.)

Some people may find the choicest burgers at the Black Cow are the ones they can devise (and possibly name) themselves from the three meat and one vegetarian burger bases which can be embellished with a dozen sauces, and two-dozen cheeses and toppings.

The proprietor of the Black Cow is Pam Tierney, of Erving, who was born and raised in Turners Falls and graduated from Turners High. Her parents still live in Turners.

Pam learned the restaurant trade from Gary Betters at Countree Living & Dining in Erving during

the 1990s. For six years she owned and operated the Starlite Diner in Erving, where she managed 14 employees. After that she managed the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club in Turners Falls.

The old Equi's sign hangs above the door, transformed with a fresh glossy layer of black, white, and green paint. When you go inside the restaurant, one of the old candy display cases and candy shelves can still be seen, now painted black. An Equi's marble sideboard remains in the kitchen. General contractor Peter Burakiewicz of Northfield created a brand-new bar section that looks like it could have come from the store's distant past.

The 100-year-old candy store did not entirely cease to exist when the Black Cow took shape. Chocolate and other nibbles remain throughout the restaurant and will become part of the take-out offerings. "Chocolate and wine tastings" will be included in the new food scene, and given the aphrodisiac properties of each, their combination could become a big hit with young lovers (of legal drinking age) in town. Older couples too.

It seems likely that Equi's will continue to pleasantly haunt the new Black Cow, providing the latest in fashionable dining with a pleasant hint of nostalgia for the not so distant past.



LIVES from page 1

der victim in the first nine months of this year.

The names of those who have died in Massachusetts as a result of domestic violence and abuse this year are: Kristin Broderick, age 37, of Haverill, died on January 11th; Belinda Torres, age 40, of Worcester, died on February 6th; Lisa A. Stilkey, age 44, of Douglas, died February 10th; Jessica Ann Pripstein, age 39, of Easthampton, died February 20th; Jessica Rojas, age 25, of Springfield, died March 3rd; Lori Levangie, age 41, of Hopkinton, died April 9th; Kristin Pulisciano, age 38 of Burlington, died May 3rd; officer Kevin Ambrose, age 55, of Springfield, died June 4th, responding to a domestic assault; Jessica Dana, age 30, of Huntington, died June 24th; Christine Bolduc, age 51, of Worcester, died July 21st; Abigail Benway, age 7, of Oxford, died July

29th; Cecilia Yakuba, age 58, of Malden, died August 10th.

The event continued with those touched by domestic violence stepping onto the stage to light a small candle from a larger one that sat burning on a table. Some just came up, lit a candle and walked off stage. Some spoke. Several women told their stories, including the terrible details of what they had suffered through and survived.

One woman spoke of years of physical and sexual abuse as a child, followed by violent adult relationships from which she felt lucky to have finally escaped and survived. She credited the support of NEL-CWIT for helping her develop a new life. A young woman told of being sexually assaulted and the emotional devastation that followed, and expressed her gratitude for the support she had received, as she joined other survivors in taking back their lives.



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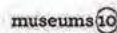
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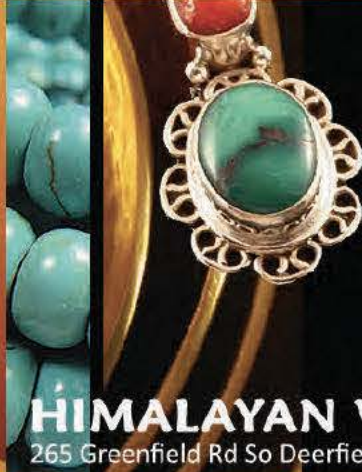
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