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YEAR 11 – NO. 43

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

Montague: Special Town Meeting Preview

By C. SAWYER-LAUCANNO

Montague town meeting members will be asked to vote on a variety of articles at a special town meeting on September 12 at 7:30 at Turners Falls High School. A preview session of the warrant articles will be held at town hall on September 10 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room.

Almost all of the articles concern appropriating money to pay for items that were not fully funded at the annual town meeting last May. According to Montague town accountant, Carolyn Olson, if all articles pass as written, \$268,979.23 would be added on to the tax levy. Long term borrowing of \$1.7 million would be appropriated to pay for the sewer repairs. There is currently \$563,092 in free cash but if Article 20 passes, this would shift \$200,000 from free cash to stabilization thus leaving \$363,092 in free cash. After deducting \$110,000 for a boiler for Sheffield School, and \$40,616 (in a funding shift) to the schools, the total left in stabilization would be \$824,895.

The Articles

Article 1 asks the town meeting members to approve \$14,070 for funding a shared Animal Control Officer.

Article 2 seeks to amend the funding source of \$750,000 from borrowing to stabilization. This sum was appropriated at an April 1, 2010 special town meeting

see MEETING page 5

Erving Picks A Chief

By KATIE NOLAN

Philip Wonkka was appointed Erving fire chief until June 30, 2014 at an emergency selectboard meeting attended by selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin and selectboard member Margaret Sullivan on September 3.

Selectmen Goodwin and Sullivan held the emergency meeting to hear the latest ruling by the state ethics commission.

Goodwin said that the ethics commission had decided that his son's interest in joining the fire department is "not immediate" and that he should simply file a statement explaining his potential conflict of interest with the town clerk and continue to act on fire department decisions.

In July, selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo had announced that the state commission ruled that he had a conflict of interest, because his son is an Erving firefighter.

Therefore, Goodwin and Sullivan set about appointing a new fire chief. Goodwin made a motion to appoint

former chief Almon "Bud" Meattey for the remainder of FY 2014. The motion died when Sullivan did not second it.

Sullivan then made a motion to appoint Philip Wonkka, saying that he had been recommended by the hiring committee, and that the other recommended candidate, Mitchell LaClaire, Sr. had withdrawn his name from consideration.

Goodwin said that he supported Meattey for chief, but would vote for Wonkka "in the best interest of the town," because the town needed a chief with full authority.

Meattey, who had been fire chief since 2008, was re-appointed in 2010 for a 3-year term that ended June 30. In June, the selectboard advertised for applicants to the chief position and appointed a fire chief selection committee.

At the July 1 selectboard meeting, many citizens spoke in support of retaining Meattey and presented a petition supporting him. At that meeting, the board appointed him as interim chief until August 31.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIP WONKKA

Wonkka currently serves as 1st Deputy Chief and Emergency Management Director.

A New Twist On The Corner

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "I've wanted a restaurant since I was a little kid," said Marion LaCoy, on the opening day of her very own ice cream parlor and cafe. The former nurse is now the proud owner of Twisters, downtown Turners' newest spot to grab a bite, prominently located in the corner storefront of the Crocker Building on Second Street and Avenue A.

Twisters came together in a whirlwind, touching down briefly on the hill -- in the former Yelena's, and Sprinkles, building on Turners Falls Road -- before an intensive renovation of the Crocker space this July and August. The theme is 1950's ("I love the olden days," said LaCoy), underlined with large black-and-white checkers and soundtracked with early rock 'n' roll. Candy costs a nickel, the staff dance the Twist, and the cones are stacked high.

For now, a seasonal permit for outdoor seating lasts through October. LaCoy envisions Twisters as a place people will hang out -- with friends, or even just to drink the Pierce Bros coffee and use the free wireless internet. For her it serves a social, and family, role: her initial staff is made up of her sister, two of her children, and two of her friends. "I was tired of working for other people," she explained. "Food was always my second pas-



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The shop occupies a historic corner.

sion.... This will let me be with my kids a little more."

In addition to ice cream, which comes in a wide variety of soft serve flavors, a more modest selection of hard ice cream and frozen yogurt, and various classic sundaes, floats and splits, Twisters serves hot dogs, homemade soup, and sandwiches: grilled panini, grinders, and wraps. The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week, though when the weather gets colder and she hires a cook, LaCoy intends to shift the schedule toward mornings and offer breakfast sandwiches.

"This building is absolutely gorgeous," marveled LaCoy. Indeed, it is a landmark, built in 1882 by the Crocker National Bank of Turners Falls, which printed money from the 1870s up until the Great Depression. Later it served as the Mechan-

see TWISTERS page 7

Neighbors Unite To Make Unity Park Playground Accessible To All

By PATRICIA PRUITT

TURNERS FALLS – Jacob Norwood, age nine, is wheelchair bound due to a rare genetic syndrome. After taking her five-year-old daughter and Jacob to the newly refurbished children's playground at Unity Park, his mom, Heather Norwood, dreamed in an email about "how amazing it would be if kids like her son could also swing in the playground with other children".

In June 2012, a group called Friend to Friend began to take shape with the express purpose of making the amazing happen. Lesley Cogswell, initially responding to another friend in his struggle with Lymphoma, has seen the Friend to Friend organization grow as well as acquire non-profit status. She has arranged her responsibilities in the group to allow her to focus on the swing project fundraising.

There are two primary styles of swings available to the wheelchair-bound. The

adaptive chair necessitates lifting the child into the swing and therefore may not serve a child who cannot hold on or otherwise support him/herself while in the swing. For that reason the group has chosen the Liberty Therapeutic swing, manufactured in Australia, which allows the child to swing while remaining in his/her wheelchair which wheels right into the enclosure of the swing. The swing costs approximately \$15,000 including shipping. There are only 12 in the United States, the nearest being in Virginia and St. Louis, Missouri. The Friend to Friend Group's kickoff fundraiser was an online auction and raised \$1,500.

Jacob Norwood had a grandfather who was, by chance, Lesley Cogswell's mailman, the late Mr. Philip Norwood. At his funeral, his family spoke of his wish to see a swing for wheelchair-bound kids at the park. In response, donors contributed \$3,000 in his memory toward the goal of

see SWING page 6

Remembering Seamus Heaney

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

DUBLIN, IRELAND – One of the greatest poets we've ever known died Friday morning, August 30, at the age of 74. The news arrived just after breakfast, in the form of an email from a mutual friend.

I was shocked and saddened and angry. I knew, since Seamus had suffered a stroke in August, 2006, that he'd been plagued by ill health. But somehow I expected he'd go on and on.

After all, he certainly lived inside my head. I carried inside of me his poems, his broad face, his smile, his generosity, his intense warmth, his mischievous eyes, his deep laugh, his effusive gestures, and the way, whenever he spoke, that open vowels glided over his tongue, then bounced for a moment before bursting into words.

Which is to say: he's not dead for me. Nor does his physical passing mean that he's not still deeply alive for those who care about poetry, who know, as Seamus knew so well, that poetry somehow helps to keep us alive and vital and in touch with our fellow beings.

He knew that life, in all its aspects, was to be embraced and never feared. He apparently felt this same way about death. His last words, sent in a text message to his wife, Marie,

just minutes before he passed away, were written in the Latin he loved so much: "Noli timere" – "don't be afraid." We won't.

Memories flood in: Seamus, reading poems and talking to our daughter's ninth-grade class about poetry and why it matters and how it matters. Seamus, elegantly dressed in a black tuxedo, raising his wine glass, then somehow missing his mouth, and pouring red wine down the front of his ruffled pink shirt. Seamus counseling a student on her poems, giving her the same advice he'd heard from his teacher, advice he memorialized in his poem "Fosterage":

...Go your own way.
Do your own work...
But to hell with overstating it:
'Don't have the veins bulging in your biro.'

We'd meet up occasionally at a place in Harvard Square that no longer exists, a very ordinary restaurant/bar called "One Potato, Two Potato." He hadn't yet won the Nobel – that would happen within a few years – but he was already quite famous, and had taken Robert Fitzgerald's place at Harvard as the Boylston Professor of Poetry.

He could have raised a glass anywhere but he liked "One Potato." It was quiet, small and decidedly unpretentious. He was neither small nor quiet but he was certainly unpretentious.

He delighted as much in conversation with a carpenter belling up to the bar as he did conversing with the literati.

He loved to tell stories about Ireland and its characters, about growing up, poor, on a potato farm. Stories not so different from the ones he told us about in his poems:

The cold smell of potato mould,
the squelch and slap
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of
an edge
Through living roots awaken
in my head.
But I've no spade to follow
men like them.

Between my finger and my
thumb
The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it.

As Auden said of Yeats: "Mad Ireland hurt you into poetry."



BEN WATKINS PHOTO

see HEANEY page 12



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The park playground, recently renovated with federal money, may soon get even better!

Pet of the Week

Socialite Pup



“Delta”

Suggested age for kids: 13 and up
Dogs: yes after meet
Cats: Possible, no previous history
Exercise: High

I'm a very sociable and friendly gal who enjoys a good belly rub. In fact, you may notice I roll on my back a lot. Sometimes it's my way of telling you I'm feeling a little anxious and other times I just enjoy a good belly rub!! I love playing fetch and retrieve with tennis balls, that is soooo fun!! I keep my kennel very clean so I was probably house-trained at some point.

I'm a Dixie dog. I came from an overcrowded southern shelter and my time was running out to find a home. I hope now that I'm here in the Northeast I will finally find that perfect home I've been dreaming about! Ask the staff at the Leverett shelter about me!

LIBRARY NEWS

Wendell: Free Movie at the Free Library

This Saturday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m., join us at the Wendell Free Library to watch “Damnation Alley,” latest in a monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies. Free Admission.

A small group of survivors at a military installation who survived World War 3 attempt to drive across the desolate wasteland to where

they hope more survivors are living. Hopefully their specially built vehicles will protect them against the freakish weather mutated plant and animal life and other dangers along the way.

There will be a short (1/2 hour) film before the movie: “Return of the Androids”, an episode of the Flash Gordon series from the 1950s.

Leverett: Read-a-Thon a Success

Thank you and congratulations to all our participants this summer! We had 42 kids and parents sign up. Our End of Summer Reading Party was held on 8/27 and we all enjoyed some yummy snacks donated by Trader Joe's. Congratulations to Isabel Hicks who won the raffle: 2 tickets to the Big E!

If you still have your reading logs and/or donations (\$), please come see us in the library to collect your prizes and certificate. So far we have raised \$156.50. Congratulations to the Owen Family (Emily,

Matthews, and James) for raising the most money. Thank you!

Also coming at the Leverett library:

Compost Creatures: The Decomposer Food Web slide presentation by Dan Dindal September 24 at 7 p.m. Dindal, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus at SUNY in Syracuse NY, will present slides and information on the important decomposer organisms that help to transform plant and animal debris into soil, organic matter and humus.

“Scarecrow in the Park”: Artists, Craftspeople Sought for Bernardston Event

Bernardston Kiwanis is expanding its Scarecrow in the Park event, making it a two-day happening featuring the work of local artists, craftspeople, and food purveyors, as well as the multitude of handcrafted scarecrows from individuals, businesses, and organizations on display in Cushman Park

in Bernardston Center.

In an effort to present an event that offers quality artwork and handcrafted items, the organizers of Scarecrow in the Park are seeking artists in a wide variety of mediums. There will also be live music and other forms of entertainment throughout the weekend

of October 26 and 27, 2013.

The booth fee for the two-day weekend is extremely reasonable at \$35 for a 10' by 10' booth space, and \$60 for a 10' by 20' one.

It is expected that artists will commit to the whole weekend, which will give everyone who visits

Cushman Park the chance to enjoy all of the offerings.

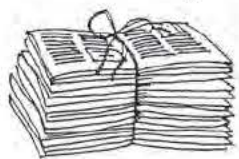
The grounds are beautiful and level, and conducive to foot traffic. This event is always a destination, and now it will be even more so.

All proceeds from this event go to the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of September 9
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION
By FRED CICETTI

Our last column was about dry eyes. Today, we go over some treatments for the condition.

Tears are necessary for overall eye health and clear vision. Dry eyes are common in people older than 50. A lack of tears is more common among women, especially after menopause.

The treatment for dry eyes depends upon the cause.

First, physicians have to deter-

mine if a disease is the underlying cause. Then the disease is treated.

If a medicine you're taking for another condition is causing dry eye, your doctor may recommend switching to a different drug.

If contact lenses are giving you dry eye, your eye care practitioner may recommend another type of lens, or reducing the number of hours you wear your lenses.

There are procedures by eyecare professionals to plug the drainage holes at the inner corners of the eyelids where tears drain from the eye into the nose. Lacrimal plugs, also called punctal plugs, can be inserted temporarily or permanently. In some cases, a simple surgery, called punctal cautery, is recommended to permanently close the drainage holes.

If other methods do not give

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Dry Eye Treatment

you adequate dry eye relief, your ophthalmologist may suggest that you use a prescription medication. One such medication, cyclosporine, works by stimulating tear production.

Steroid eyedrops may also be used, but are generally not recommended for long-term treatment. Other treatment options may include ointments, gels and inserts.

Omega fatty acids may help relieve dry eyes symptoms. Omega fatty acids are available in foods and in supplements. Always talk to your doctor before taking any food supplements.

A new study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Cornea* showed that *HydroEye*, a nutritional supplement containing omega fatty acids, improved dry-eye symptoms. The study, which evaluated 38

post-menopausal women with tear dysfunction in both eyes, was conducted by two world-renowned dry-eye researchers: Stephen Pflugfelder, MD and John Sheppard, MD.

“Prior to this study,” said Dr. Pflugfelder, “clinical evidence showing that nutritional supplements were beneficial in treating dry eye was scarce. However, within three months, the group treated with HydroEye showed statistically significant improvements in irritation symptoms of dry eye, and no progression of ocular surface inflammation or corneal irregularity. The placebo group's dry eye symptoms actually worsened over the six-month testing period.”

Questions? Send them to
fred@healthygeezers.com.

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PHONE (413) 863-8666

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Call us or contact

subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

with any questions.

Senior Center Activities – September 9 to 13

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

Monday 9/9

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday: 9/10

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Lunch

12 p.m. TRIAD Picnic

Wednesday 9/11

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 9/12

9 Tai Chi

10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

12 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 9/13

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

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

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

Monday 9/9

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12 p.m. movie

Tuesday 9/10

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 9/11

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 9/12

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

12 p.m. Cards

Friday 9/13

9 a.m. Bowling

11:30 Out-to-Lunch

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (first class free).

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

WENDELL

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



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Lucia Russek-Clegg of Bernardston takes her first spin without training wheels on her new bike along the Canalside bike path across from Unity Park in Turners Falls. Her mom, Angel Russek, lends a guiding hand.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

The 165th Annual **Franklin County Fair** will be held at the Franklin County Fairgrounds from September 5-8. Gates are open Thursday at 3 p.m. (midway opens at 4 p.m.); on Friday from noon (midway opens at 4 p.m.); on Saturday from 8 a.m. (midway opens at 11); and on Sunday from 8 a.m. (midway opens at 11).

Ann Forcier leads two **experiential writing workshops**, with the history and beauty of the Quabbin Reservoir inspiring participants' imaginations. The first workshop meets Saturday, September 7th at Gate 35; the second meets Saturday, September 14 at Gate 40. Both workshops begin at 10 a.m. and are free of charge. Hikes are limited to 12 people. For more information, or to register leave a message for Ann Forcier at (978) 544-2652, x1. The hike is sponsored by the Swift River Valley Historical Society. For the September 7 hike, to reach Gate 35, follow Old North Dana Road off Route 122 in New Salem. The beach is a half mile in. Expect to leave about 2 p.m. For the September 14 hike, Gate 40 is off of Route 32A, Hardwick Road in Petersham. This gate opens to a 2.5 mile hike along Old Dana Road to the Dana Common. This is one of the best routes for observing old cellar holes and stone walls.

In advance of The Putnam Fiddle Contest in late September the volunteers at the Greenfield Energy Park and Greenfield Recreation Department are planning a **Park Clean**

Up & Refresh Bee on September 7 & 8 from 8 a.m. to noon. Residents from all parts of Franklin County are encouraged to join together in this effort to beautify the Energy Park, Miles Street, Greenfield.

GSB is proud to present Jackie Herzig, the owner of The Face and Eye, who will bring her artistic and **elaborate face painting**, glitter tattoos and temporary Colorini tattoos, to mention a few, for your viewing pleasure on Saturday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to noon. Despite Herzig's incredibly busy fall schedule with local fairs, County Old Home Days and private functions, she has graciously volunteered her valuable time to bring her passion to the Turners Falls Branch of GSB. Light snacks will be provided and to reserve a spot please call Christina or Kerri at (413) 863-4316.

September is when the **Monarch Butterfly** starts its 2,500 mile migration to central Mexico. Join Jennifer Uncles on Saturday, September 7 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area and learn about this amazing butterfly. Participants begin indoors with hands-on activities and stations, then venture outside in search of migrating monarchs. If our luck holds, you will catch and tag a monarch, as part of the national citizen science program, Monarch Watch. Join staff to learn about the monarch's life cycle, challenges they face on their journey, how the tagging helps scientists learn more about these butterflies, and what

you can do to help. In case of rain, please attend the indoor session. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960. This event is free and open to all ages.

Join Great Falls Discovery staff and friends for an **artist reception** on Saturday, September 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall to welcome watercolor artist Diane Nevinsmith, and to view her inspiring watercolor exhibit. Refreshments will be served.

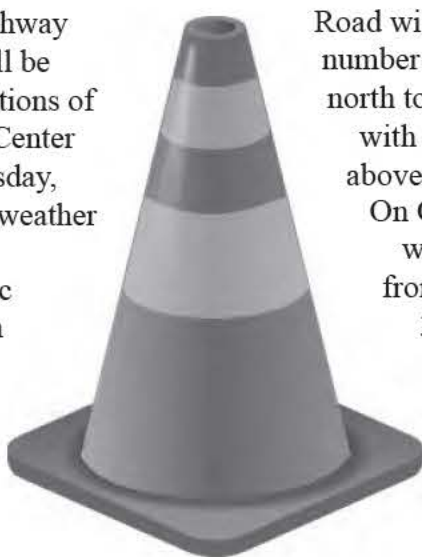
Protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting prepared for emergencies! On Thursday, Sept 12, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Montague and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Turners Falls are hosting **Let's Make a Plan (LMap)**: a free 90-minute community education workshop designed to teach you how to prepare yourself and your family for emergencies. The workshop is intended to meet the needs of older adults, families, children, people with mobility issues and other health concerns, etc. You will leave the workshop having started your emergency plan, with additional resources for continuing the preparation process, and--for free, as supplies last--items necessary to start your own emergency preparedness kit. Class will be held at First Congregational Church, 4 North St., Montague. Register at letsmakeaplansept12.eventbrite.com or with Lindsey Britt, Regional Preparedness Planner, (413) 774-3167 x136 and lbritt@frcog.org.

The **Turners Falls High School** football team opens the 2013 season with an away game on Friday, September 13, at Belchertown. TFHS looks to duplicate, if not improve on their 2012 appearance in the Western Mass Division 3 Superbowl. Kick-off time has been moved to 5 p.m.

Gill Roads to Close for Resurfacing on September 12

The Gill Highway Department will be resurfacing portions of Mountain and Center Roads on Thursday, September 12, weather permitting.

Expect traffic delays between 6:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The work zone on Mountain



Road will begin at house number 97 and continue north to the intersection with Main Road (just above the fire station). On Center Road, the work zone will be from house number 39 (Doug's Auto Body) west to the intersection with West Gill Road.

The Turners Falls Water Department

located within the Town of Montague
is accepting applications for the full-time position of
Clerk/Collector.

Applicant must have good basic math comprehension, proficiency in MS Word and Excel and be sufficiently familiar with common computer programs. Accounting background and knowledge of billing software highly recommended. Applicants should possess skills in written and oral communications, customer service and the ability to work in a small office environment with frequent interruptions and distractions. Must be bondable.

Applicants should submit a resume with two references along with an employment application no later than **September 20, 2013 at 4 p.m.**

Application forms are available at the Water Department office at 226 Millers Falls Rd, Turners Falls, Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or online at www.turnersfallswater.com.

Please submit replies to:
Kenneth G. Morin, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners
Turners Falls Water Department
226 Millers Falls Rd
Turners Falls, MA 01376-1605

Montague Water Pollution Control Facility WPCF Laborer Needed

Full time position, 40 hrs. / week, involves overtime, rotating weekends and holiday coverage. General tasks involve the maintenance & repair of equipment, buildings & grounds. Aid and assist the operating staff in the operation of the Water Pollution Control Facility. Working around and exposure to raw sewage and various process waste stream is involved. Entry into confined space is required. A full job description is available upon request.

A completed application and resume must be delivered to the WPCF no later than 2:00 p.m. on 13 September 2013.

Contact the Montague WPCF at 34 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA 01351-9522 or at (413) 773-8865.

The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Strengthening Families: Parent Cafe Series

GREENFIELD – The Parent Cafes will be held Wednesdays, October 2, 9, and 16 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Academy of Early Learning. They are open to all parents and guardians in Franklin County and the focus is on families with young children. Dinner and childcare are provided. The Cafes are sponsored by the Franklin County Early Childhood Mental Health Roundtable - group of parents and professionals dedicated to strengthening families.

Parent Cafes are a unique way for parents to learn about raising children who will thrive, and also learn how to take care of themselves when faced with all of life's challenges. Being a great parent is part natural and part learned. Parents talk about all the aspects of parenting and gather support from each other as they face the challenges of raising children. The Café-like environment that is

provided for parents offers a time for parents to talk with each other about their own questions and not just listen to a speaker. The table discussions are guided by a table host.

Families eat dinner together and then the children are cared for by experienced adults while the parents meet and sip coffee in the Café environment.

Parents must attend all 3 sessions since discussion topics build from one session to the next. Part of the value of the Cafes is parents making connections and building a support network. There will be a food gift card for all parents after the third session.

To register: call Gretchen at 774-1000 x2080 or e-mail gemond@wmtcinfo.org. (Limit 25 parents). Call now. For additional information you may also contact Judith Weinthal at 548-9869 or jweinthal@wildblue.net.

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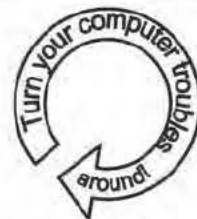
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August, 2002

Entergy: Don't Scrimp on Decommissioning VY!

We were thrilled to receive the news last Tuesday that Entergy has decided to close Vermont Yankee as of the end of the fourth quarter in 2014. We are, however, concerned for the 623 employees who currently have good jobs at the Vernon plant.

Good jobs in our neck of the woods are increasingly hard to come by, and by all accounts those who were employed by Entergy received well above-average pay and decent benefits. Of the 623 people employed by Vermont Yankee, 238 live in Vermont, 210 live in New Hampshire, and 167 live in Massachusetts, according to an August 2012 Entergy filing with the Vermont Public Service Board.

We share the views of Vermont's governor, Peter Shumlin, who stated last week that his "heart goes out to the hardworking employees and their families." We also agree with his other statement: "This is the right decision for Vermont, and it's the right decision for Vermont's energy future."

Entergy has said that they intend to follow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's SAFTOR plan for shutting down the plant. This essentially means that the plant will be sealed and left, perhaps, for many years, until some of the radioactivity dies down and a trust fund established for its decommissioning grows.

While the SAFTOR method is acceptable to the NRC, it is not a terribly desirable solution as it allows Entergy to do the minimum to ensure the NRC's idea of basic safety, and then walk away. Mothballing the facility also prevents any short-term reuse of the grounds, thus also prohibiting any reestablishment in the near future of a job-producing industry on the Vernon site.

At the very least, Entergy should transfer immediately the spent nuclear waste, currently stored in pools, to dry casks while the plant is still operating. This way these costs would be incurred now – within the operating budget – rather than applied to the extremely meager decommissioning fund.

According to Entergy, the amount required to meet the NRC minimum for decommissioning is \$566 million. The Vermont Yankee decommissioning trust had a balance of approximately \$582 million as of July 31, 2013, excluding the \$40 million guarantee by Entergy Corporation to satisfy

NRC requirements following the 2009 review of financial assurance levels.

Filings with the NRC for planned shutdown activities will determine whether any other financial assurance may be required and will specifically address funding for spent fuel management, which will be required until the federal government takes possession of the fuel and removes it from the site, per its current obligations.

The New York Times reports that the fund exceeded the NRC's minimum requirement, but that the real cost of the decommissioning had not yet been established. That neither Entergy nor the NRC has yet determined what the real cost will be is worrisome.

We fear that Entergy will do the minimum required, thus leaving the plant mothballed and fuel rods on site.

A complete decommissioning, such as that followed by Yankee Atomic when they closed the Rowe facility, would be a much better solution. It would also allow a great many workers to keep their jobs during the process. To be sure, neither continual nor full employment will be possible, but a proper decommissioning would help some workers to make a transition.

The Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies, in a report issued last week, proposed a number of possibilities to reduce the impact that the closure will have on the regional economy. They called for the creation of a Special Economic Development Zone, as well as redirecting tax revenues produced by the power plant directly into the local economy. They also declared their support for immediate decommissioning, rather than placing the plant in SAFTOR for up to 60 years, which could delay reuse of the site for up to 80 years.

Clearly, the states also need to be very pro-active in retraining and helping VY employees find gainful employment in other sectors.

It took 16 years for Rowe to shut down completely. But Yankee Atomic did the right thing and fully deconstructed the plant. Today, the site is bucolic.

Entergy is proposing a much faster and much less-effective closure. We feel Vermont and neighboring states should keep the pressure on Entergy and the NRC to decommission the plant fully. Safety is at stake. So are jobs.

ESSAY: WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION.

NO TWEETS!!!

BACK TO SCHOOL

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Letters to the Editors

Conflicts of Interest

Egypt, Somalia, Burma, Sudan, Bahrain, The Republic of Congo, Chechnya, Indonesia, Colombia, Nigeria. These are just a few of the world's nations where today, military conflicts and civil unrest result in crimes against humanity in the most horrific and unthinkable ways.

So what makes Syria demand so much of our attention today, as did all the other countries we have brought democracy to, from Libya to Kosovo and before? What determines this country's selection of specific outrage, and what is the goal of our actions?

To many it seems obvious that the USA is locked in a game of geopolitical supremacy with the only winners being the military industrial complex and the gaggle of private enterprises that gain windfalls in the process. The losers are of course you and me, tax-payers, but more

importantly the citizens of those countries we choose to bomb whose lives are marginalized or lost.

We claim that gassing one's own population is morally corrupt and unthinkable in a civilized society, and I agree! That is very true! Using chemical weapons on anyone, be it our neighbors or anyone else is abhorrent and shows a basic lack of common decency. Whomever was responsible for this terrible use of banned weaponry should be condemned. But is the U.S.A. in a position to claim the high ground here?

Remember, we are the ones who most recently attacked Iraq and others with depleted uranium, white phosphorus, cluster bombs, and all those really cool experimental weapons that we like to test that cause as much human suffering as possible. And let's also not forget that we were allies with Saddam Hussein in

our proxy war with Iran and looked the other way when he gassed the Kurds in 1988.

Given that we have no international or moral authority to bomb Syria, nor will it lead to a cessation of violence in that country and will likely have the opposite effect, does this government feel it wise to use military force just so we can look strong to the rest of the world?

It seems more likely that this action will act to reinforce the rest of the world's perception that the U.S.A is still the world's bully and self-proclaimed police, and purveyor of some kind of twisted democracy. On August 28, 2013, our country should be focused on Dr. Martin Luther King's message of peace and equality, not war and profits.

— Tom Spiro
Worthington, MA

GMRSRD Committee Vote: Our Reasoning

On August 13 the Gill-Montague School Committee approved a new three-year contract for teachers by a vote of six to three. We voted "no," and would like to explain why.

First, the contract, forty-seven pages long, was handed to the school committee in a brief "executive session" and we were asked to approve it on the spot. A request to hold off ratification for one meeting so members could have time to read the document was rejected. We believe this was highly inappropriate.

Secondly, the crucial wage and benefit portion of the agreement, the largest part of school district expenditures, was not estimated for

affordability. That is, the cost of the agreement was not measured against potential revenues for the three year period. Earlier in the process the school committee had agreed to do this but abruptly the discussions stopped, no meetings were called and we were handed a contract with no estimates of the impact on the budget.

Our estimates suggest that wage and benefit increases could well be nearly double projected revenue increases for Fiscal Year 2015 and will consume nearly all our revenue increases in the following year. We welcomed other estimates from committee members who might dis-

agree but none were forthcoming.

We are not arguing that teachers do not deserve these raises. We think they do. But wage increases not in line with projected revenues will produce either layoffs, cuts in other educational services or unaffordable town assessments.

The school committee has an oversight role to play in sorting out these choices to insure that the best interests of the students and the District are served. In this case it failed to live up to its responsibilities.

— Sandy Brown, Gill
Marge Levenson, Lake Pleasant
Jeff Singleton, Montague Center

Keep Montague-to-Amherst Bus Service!

GUEST EDITORIAL

By JEFF SINGLETON

Recently *The Reporter* carried an article about proposed changes in the bus routes of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority. We think the FRTA has some very good ideas here, but eliminating direct service from Montague to Amherst is not

one of them. This would end public transportation from Montague to the largest employer in the region, the University of Massachusetts. There are also significant numbers of students who attend UMass and the other "Five Colleges" living here.

FRTA officials claim the current Montague to Amherst line is too expensive and the ridership is low. But the FRTA has, to a large degree created this situation itself. For some reason the current route costs \$3 one way and \$6 for a round trip, double the price of the other comparable routes in the system (for example to Northampton and to Athol now Orange). This is unaffordable and reduces ridership.

The FRTA also claims that with only two routes per day to Amherst "there is little room for expansion." Again this is a poor argument: it is the FRTA's decision to limit the number of routes to Amherst, as compared with six trips to Northampton and seven to Athol-Orange.

FRTA is proposing as an "alternative," a bus (four times a day)

from the transit center in Greenfield to Greenfield Community College and then express to South Deerfield. There, riders would connect to a Pioneer Valley Transit Authority bus to Amherst. They say GCC students want more timely services to Amherst.

This may well be true, but the proposal leaves out Montague residents, who would be required to transfer twice and travel to GCC before going to Amherst.

There is currently an "alternative" being proposed that would run the GCC bus through Turners Falls and Montague Center down Route 47 to Sunderland Center, where riders could catch a much more frequent FRTA bus to Amherst. This would increase access for GCC students and keep Montague in the loop, increase the number of trips, lower the fare and increase ridership.

Opponents of eliminating the Montague-Amherst bus without an alternative have collected 150 signatures on a petition. We would like to add our voice to that sentiment.

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MEETING from page 1

for infrastructure improvements for Montague Town Buildings. The article asks for an additional \$33,188.23 for the same purpose.

In order to help pay for some of the articles coming up, Article 3 asks for approval to rescind the \$716,811.77 unused balance of Article 9 of the April 1, 2010 Special Town Meeting and to rescind the unused borrowing authority of \$750,000.

Articles 4 and 5 are designed to increase the salaries of elected and appointed town personnel. Article 4 seeks to amend Article 5 of the May 4, 2013 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the annual salary of the Town Clerk to \$61,879.56 and increasing the annual salary of the Treasurer/Tax Collector to \$64,379.93. Article 5 seeks, as a result of a recent collective bargaining agreement, to amend Article 6 of the May 4, 2013 Annual Town Meeting by changing the wage ranges for the following non-union

employees. The new ranges proposed for appointed officials are: town administrator 11: 84,048 - 103,436; town accountant 54,648 - 66,926; chief of police 76,407-94,032; DPW superintendent 69,461- 85,484; director of health: 54,648 - 66,926; library director 54,648 - 66,926; WPCF superintendent: 69,461 - 85,484; selectmen's secretary (hourly) \$20.31- \$25.00

The next several articles seek to fund the collective bargaining agreements that resulted in the higher salaries for town employees. Article 6 asks for \$43,320 for the purpose of funding the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Police Officers for Fiscal Year 2014, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2013. Article 7 asks for \$17,962 for funding the Pay and Classification Study for non-union employees for Fiscal Year 2014 with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2013. Article 8 seeks \$55,550 for fund-

ing the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement with the Town of Montague Employee Association for Fiscal Year 2014, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2013. Article 9 wants town meeting to approve \$23,420 for funding the collective bargaining agreement with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 for Fiscal Year 2014, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2013. Article 10 seeks approval to increase the FY 2014 Debt to \$18,015.

The next few articles are all related to the WPCF. Article 11 asks members to provide \$8,729.40 for paying prior year bills of the WPCF. Article 12 asks for \$120,000 to be appropriated from the WPCF retained earnings account to help reduce FY 2014 sewer rates. This would leave \$29,494.29 in the WPCF retained earnings account. But sewer users shouldn't count on much relief. Article 13 looks for \$81,926.31 for funding the deficit

created by the FY 2013 operating cost for emergency repairs to the sanitary sewer collection system on Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard. Article 14 seeks \$800,000 for funding emergency repairs to the sanitary sewer collection system on Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard. Article 15 is looking for \$1,000,000 for the purpose of funding the replacement of sanitary sewer collection lines located on Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road. The money for Articles 14 and 15 would be borrowed. And since all of this costs money, Article 16 asks members to raise the FY2014 WPCF operating budget by \$80,000.

Article 17 only asks members to appropriate \$1,991 to pay the town's prior year bills. Article 18 seeks \$31,220 for increasing the FY2014 DPW budget to pay for an additional Groundskeeper position.

Article 19 asks the town to pay a court-ordered judgment of \$3,600 to Richard Conley in connection

with his occupancy of town property located at 33 Bridge Street and 26 East Main Street. Article 20 wants town meeting to increase the town stabilization fund by \$200,000. Article 21 is for an appropriation of \$860 for paying the Turners Falls Fire District taxes and interest for 25 Sixth Street.

Still reading? Good. Article 22 seeks to change the funding source for Article 12 of the May 4, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated the sum of \$7,965,557 to fund the Fiscal Year 2014 Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment, from "with \$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash, \$40,616 to be raised from Town Stabilization and \$7,999,941 to be raised from Taxation" to "with \$125,000 to be raised from Free Cash, and \$7,840,557 to be raised from Taxation." Finally, Article 23 seeks \$110,000 to repair or replace a boiler at the Sheffield School.

It looks to be a long night.



Notes from the Desk of the Managing Editor

By MIKE JACKSON

Hi!

Much has changed in the last year here at the Montague Reporter, as many readers have observed. We felt it would be good to report on goings-on behind the scenes. Consider this column an occasional window into our inner workings, like a port-hole, perhaps offering insights beyond our regular weekly emissions. Sometimes they install such windows in cows, I'm told..

The future of mass communication, as it comes into focus, appears to be in the delivery of a seamlessly integrated stream of paid content to its users, often with a tone of a robot nanny compromising with a child on the question of vegetable-finishings: "We will let you read this article you already agree with, if you first click here to agree to watch an advertisement."

Oddly it looks as if the telephone, rather than the printing press, won out as a venue for this delivery, which may make surviving historians view newspapers merely as clumsy, papery telephone also-rans. Like the Neanderthals, the two technologies coexisted, perhaps briefly and scandalously interbred, and left no trace but red hair, which according to *National Geographic* will also disappear over the next century.

Journalism, once one of the great professions, threatens to become a hobby of the idle rich, a phase people go through, one style of content production among many. For as the

speed, quantity and availability of information has increased, our ability to determine its value – verifying facts, weighing ethics, sheltering reporters from the influence of advertisers, paying people for all that work – has not, so far, kept up.

The *Montague Reporter* is unlike most other newspapers. For one thing, we have not yet folded and do not secretly plan to do so. Of course, everything is just a little different here in Franklin County. Here we were starting an independent, grassroots newspaper in 2002. Here we have put out 500 issues, erring on the side of the hyperlocal, probing, information-rich, cranky, eccentric, beloved and personal. Here we plan to keep going.

It has worked for us because the newspaper is physical, and therefore tied to our place. When we bring the papers around, we hear the next week's news. Our reporters are local residents who people approach with story tips. We are at our strongest when the newspaper itself is a tool, not just for providing an informational service from our office into your homes, lunch counters and breakrooms – which increasingly could be accomplished with a website – but for linking an actual web of hundreds of people together face to face every week.

Economically speaking, here is a rough idea of our current working formula:

1. We take in roughly half of our money from advertisers, 30% from store sales, new and renewing subscribers, and a fifth from donations,



177 Avenue A: That's us behind the rhododendron.

including that extra money people add onto their subscription payment when they can.

2. We spend roughly a quarter on printing, a quarter on distribution, a quarter on stipends, a quarter in royalties to writers, and a quarter on overhead, for a total of 5 quarters,

which is why we must fundraise.

3. The majority of the effort that goes into each week's issue is done by volunteers.

In the last year there has been a bit of a changing of the guard, or of the residents. Our founding editor, David Detmold, has become a senior writer. His old position has been split in a few directions: editor-in-chief, assistant editor, and "managing" editor, which is my current job. We are hoping to spread other parts of the organization's work around more widely, so there are opportunities for learning and involvement on all levels here.

If anyone wants to try their hand at news reporting, sports writing, art and music criticism, general opinionating, photography, cartooning, layout, ad design, ad sales, money-laundering, newspaper delivery, police log tabulation, proofreading, office cleaning, pep talking, or just plain hanging out and talking about local issues, we are serious about being "by, of and for" the local community, and we'd love to hear what you have to offer, or what you want to learn.

Students, especially, might want

to consider getting involved. Newspapers are a fast-growing industry – get in on the ground floor! More seriously, every one of these skills is transferable, and it's great to see the fruit of your labor every week. Wherever you are coming from, we can talk to your teachers, professors, or community service supervisors about involvement for credit.

We have relied all along on the grace, patience and leadership of the local business community for advertising. If your business, committee or organization has an advertising budget, please consider making the investment in keeping community journalism alive here. If you are planning an event that takes in money, think about buying an ad rather than asking for a listing. Our rates are very reasonable. Embarrass a family member with a birthday announcement. The business cards you see on the bottom of the page are our sponsors, many of them perennial. Spend money locally when you can, and when you do, recognize and remember these names.

Lastly, we have exciting news: this month we moved into a new, ground-floor office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls. It's a great, sunny spot, across the street from the post office. We'll be hosting an open house during this month's Third Thursday downtown event, on the evening of September 19, so come on by; we'll probably have cheese out or some other goodies. We are calling for donations of books, candy bars, cash, faux fur coats, and houseplants, all of which are vital to our weekly functioning.

We've got another 500 issues to put out!

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Liberty Therapeutic Swing

SWING from page 1

goal of purchasing a therapeutic swing. Some donations such as Gladys Deveneau's for \$25.00 came because as Gladys put it... "Birthday money is better spent on things other than oneself." And a child selling lemonade donated \$107 to the cause.

In addition, the Montague Elks Lodge #2521 contributed \$2000. Second Street Baking Company helped the group to sell cookies and lemonade outside the café on a sweltering July day. They also gave 10% of the day's sales to the swing project fund. The end result was \$1011; in other words, one heck of a lot of lemonade and cookies.

The Friend to Friend Group has enlisted the support of the Montague Parks and Recreation Commission, and its Director Jon Dobosz, as well

as of the Montague Board of Selectmen. Jon Dobosz had this to say: "There are very few communities that can offer this kind of amenity and it presents a unique opportunity for our community. It will add to the specialness of Unity Park, making it even more special."

Jake's on Avenue A will host the next fundraiser on September 12, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. There will be a 50-50 raffle, a lobster raffle, among others.

Readers can check out the inspirational Friend to Friend website: www.afriendtofriend.com.

Donations may be made online at www.gofundme.com/3dtit4, or by check to Friend to Friend Accessible Swing project, in care of Linda Ackerman at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.



Dear Clio,



Dear Clio,

Help! I've lost my best friend. By that, I mean my daughter. I'm a single mom. I've raised my daughter alone since her dad walked out on us when she was two. My daughter's now 15, and suddenly she is avoiding me. We used to always do things together; now she just wants to hang with her friends. We always had a really honest relationship but now she's not opening up to me at all.

She doesn't have a boyfriend but she has lots of guyfriends who she hangs out with at the mall. She's still doing well in school, and as far as I know isn't drinking or smoking or using drugs. But she just doesn't communicate any more, and spends as much time as she can when she is at home in her room, usually with headphones on or her cell phone glued to her ear.

If I ask her a question, she just replies really vaguely. If I ask her if she wants to go the movies or something with me, she almost finds an excuse not to. I don't think I've changed on her but she sure has changed on me.

I know part of this is just about growing up but it hurts and I really want to break through this barrier. So what can a mom with hurt feelings and at times even anger do?

Hurt MOM

Dear Hurt Mom,

I know a few single moms with only kids, and I am always impressed by the depth of the bond between them. You have some-

thing special that other parents don't have. I am sure that it's scary to imagine losing that closeness. I can understand how you would feel hurt, and even angry.

As you pointed out, separating from our parents is a normal part of growing up. Our kids need to separate from us in order to figure out who they are. In particular it is normal for daughters who are 14 and 15 to push their mothers away. They don't mean it as a personal rejection, but of course it is hard not to take it personally.

When my kids were babies, a friend of mine told me to remember that everything is just a phase—the good stuff and the bad stuff. For me that continued to be true when the kids were babies, children, and teenagers. They grow and change faster than we do.

I do think that you're going to have to let your daughter go, but I also think that she will come back to you pretty quickly. You have spent 15 years building a healthy relationship. Your bond is too strong to fall apart now. Your daughter is letting you know that she needs some space by acting distant and staying in her room. I think you need to give her the space. Otherwise she will feel like she needs to send a stronger message, and you will like that message even less.

Remember when she was a baby and you couldn't get any space for yourself? When you couldn't even go to the bathroom by yourself? Well, now you're getting some of that time – more of it than you want. Can you find a way to celebrate having some time for you? Is there an art class you have dreamed

of taking? Or a book you have secretly been planning to write? Maybe this is the time to overhaul the backyard or paint the bathroom.

It would be depressing to spend the rest of your life repainting bathrooms by yourself, but remember, this is just temporary. Once your daughter sees that you are busy with your own projects, she can enjoy as much time to herself as she needs without having to push you away. When she is ready to come back, she will. You have been her best friend, too.

I don't mean that you should push her away—not at all. You definitely want her to know that she is your priority. You could say, "I was thinking of going to pilates class this evening, but if you don't have plans, I'd love to go to the movies together." That way your daughter will know that you are there for her but will also know that she's free to go to the mall with her friends without feeling guilty.

Letting our teenagers go is a delicate balancing act. Your daughter needs to know that you love her, and also that you also have faith in her ability to manage by herself. After all she is becoming an adult and will need to be more independent. Once she has proven to herself that she can handle the adult world, she will be ready to be your best friend again.

You have done a great job as a parent so far. Many parents wish for the bond that you have with your daughter. So trust that your parenting instincts are good and that your relationship with your daughter is strong enough to last a lifetime.

Maybe you'll feel hurt and angry while your daughter finds her own way, but remember that it won't be this way for very long.

You are strong enough to get through it, knowing it's only a phase. Good luck!

Yours,
Clio

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sinkhole Opens Up, But Does Not Swallow Us All

Monday, 8/26

12:07 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Summons issued.
12:45 p.m. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested on three default warrants.
2:19 p.m. Following reports of vehicle theft and assault, officers searched for and located an 18-year-old Millers Falls woman, who was arrested and charged with assault and battery (domestic); possession of a Class C substance; unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; assault (domestic); and intimidating a witness.

Tuesday, 8/27

12:23 a.m. Fight reported on Fourth Street; peace

restored.

7:54 a.m. Three company vehicles reported broken into at an Avenue A business. Under investigation.

Wednesday, 8/28

11:45 a.m. Complaint of ongoing illegal dumping on South Street.
4:01 p.m. Agency vehicle vandalized on G Street. Report taken.
8:25 p.m. A Turners Falls resident reported receiving fraudulent text messages from someone claiming to be a coach at his university seeking credit card information. Advised of options.

9:55 p.m. A female was taken into protective custody following a domes-

tic disturbance in Turners Falls; released to care of family.

Thursday, 8/29

5:55 a.m. Caller reported witnessing a man steal a GPS from a vehicle in the Food City parking lot. GPS recovered near building; unable to locate suspect.
5:51 p.m. Sewage backing up into Industrial Drive business. Referred to DPW.

6:54 p.m. One person was taken into protective custody following a disturbance at the Franklin Emergency Center.
8:26 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with unlicensed opera-

tion of a motor vehicle and a lights violation.

Friday, 8/30

5:25 a.m. Report of suspicious person lurking around a Dunton Street residence. Area checked; unable to locate.

9:18 a.m. Out-of-control female reported causing a verbal disturbance near the Second Pentecostal Church on Eleventh Street. Peace restored.
9:51 a.m. Officers responded to a Turners Falls residence and mediated among parties involved in a child custody dispute. Peace restored.

4:13 p.m. Building materials reported missing/presumed stolen from an East Chestnut Hill Road

property. Report taken.

6:19 p.m. Report of people jumping into canal from Eleventh Street bridge. Parties spoken to and advised against this activity.

6:39 p.m. An unwanted person reportedly disturbing customers at the Rendezvous was located and removed.

7:02 p.m. A sinkhole several feet deep opened up in parking spaces in front of an Avenue A business. DPW responded and filled the sinkhole.

8:16 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on three default warrants.

11:25 p.m. [REDACTED] was

arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; operating to endanger; and lacking an inspection sticker.

Saturday, 8/31

2:41 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident at Route 63 and Gunn Road; no injuries. Citation issued to one operator for failure to use care in stopping.

4:32 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

6:26 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident on Third Street; no injuries. Citation issued to one operator for failure to use care.
9:04 p.m. Vehicle reported hitting the guard-

rail on First Street near Unity Park; responding officer located bumper left behind with license plate attached. 50-60 feet of guardrail damaged; significant debris left behind. After a search, suspect located and apprehended. Citation issued for marked lanes violation; operating to endanger; leaving the scene of property damage; and speeding.

Sunday, 9/1

3:27 p.m. Parties reported witnessing a friend's bike being stolen on Fourth Street the previous evening.

7:03 p.m. Theft of cash from wallet reported at Powertown Apartments.

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TWISTERS from page 1

ics Lodge of Masons. The building's fortunes traced those of the village as a whole, through several slow waves of deindustrialization. In the 1960s, the Grand Trunk Hotel across Second Street was torn down. Eventually the Crocker Building became, essentially, a rooming-house.

The long downward spiral ended in tragedy on June 26, 1997 when a fire, deliberately set in an unofficially inhabited apartment, reportedly over a drug dispute, gutted the building. The blaze killed Palden Sangpo, a refugee from Tibet who had been working at the Shady Glen while he waited for his wife and children to clear a government waiting list, and left 17 other tenants homeless. It was found that the owners, P&E Realty Trust, had deactivated the fire alarm.

The building was renovated, together with Third Street's Cutlery Block, by the Crocker-Cutlery Limited Partnership, using a \$6 million patchwork of state, local and private money, and reopened in late 2001 under the stewardship of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA). The housing authority rents out the eight residential apartments and three street-level commercial spaces.

"We're delighted to have Twisters opening up in the Crocker Building," commented FCRHRA executive director, and former town planner, Robin Sherman. "We think it'll be a good addition to the downtown."

Starting in 2002, the US Department of Fish and Wildlife operated out of the corner and Avenue A offices, with GCTV (later MCTV) on Second Street. For four a half years, Fish and Wildlife, whose involvement had helped attract in-

vestors, paid \$68,000 a year to the federal General Service Administration – not all of which went to the FCRHRA – for use of the space. They left in late 2006, citing "other budget priorities at the federal level." Later, the Hallmark School of Photography operated a small gallery in the building.

The corner space's most recent tenant, Holy Smokes BBQ Delicatessen, closed its doors in June of



Owner Marion LaCoy envisions Twisters as a prime downtown gathering spot.

2012 after two and a half years of operation. Though owners Lou and Leslie Ekus ultimately cited their need to focus time and energy on their two other businesses, Lou described the challenge posed to Holy Smokes by the four-year reconstruction of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, which began in Spring 2010, just months after they opened.

After the first year, he sensed the inconvenience of having to drive either over the White Bridge and Canada Hill, or through Millers Falls, to return home with their smoked and

cured meats was keeping customers away. "That is the worst thing downtown businesses face," said Ekus. "We made the decision not to wait it out."

But he spoke optimistically of Twisters' outlook. "They've done a fantastic job with the renovation in there. I think, once the bridge opens back up, they're going to be rock stars." By all indications, the project will finish next spring, at which time two-way traffic will resume.

With the opening of the ice cream parlor, the building's three street-level storefronts are occupied. Next door on Avenue A, The Third Place runs a structured afternoon program for at-risk youth. MCTV's office remains on Second Street, though the organization has been spearheading a drive to renovate the small building still known by many as the "Cumberland Farms building," owned by the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Commission, which stands on the site of the former Grand Trunk.

But that move is far from a done deal, and for the moment, FCRHRA has a full house downstairs. "We have not been given notice by MCTV," Sherman said, adding, "They've been good tenants, and we've been happy to have them."

The intersection came under much discussion during community sessions of last winter's Downtown Livability Study. Drivers coming across the bridge from Route 2 – likely to increase in number once they can return over the same bridge – encounter it as a visual gateway to the village.

An inexpensive, family-friendly establishment may be exactly the anchor the building needs. And a more permanent menu sign is on its way, so be sure to visit while Flavor #34 is still **Butt Pecan!**



Patricia Gardner, former principal of TFHS, receives the plaque from Robert Miner, Sandra's husband. It will hang outside the school's theater.

9th Annual G-M Education Fund Gala Honors Sandra Miner

TURNERS FALLS – This year in addition to honoring the many benefactors of their 9th Annual Gala with "Union Jack," the Gill-Montague Education Fund Board of Directors paid special tribute to Sandra L. Miner, President of the Gill-Montague Education Fund since 2006, who passed away on October 30, 2012.

Sandy believed in life-long learning, community service and the value of enriching students' education. Her work focused on authoring two knitting books from which the proceeds benefited the NICU at Baystate Medical Center and Relay for Life. Sandy was committed to 'Supporting Excellence & Innovation in Our Schools' through her service on the GMEF, as well as her volunteering efforts through the years as a parent and grandparent.

Also recognized on the plaque are Hillside Plastics Inc., Montague Elks Lodge #2521 and The Greenfield Savings Bank in appreciation of their ongoing partnership as corporate underwriters.

Recognition tier-giving levels are the Einstein Club (\$1,000), the Michelangelo Club (\$500), The Galileo Club (\$250) and The DaVinci Club (\$100). Contributions were made as "tribute gifts" in honor of educational staff members, in honor/memory of loved ones, as class gifts, and to support the enrichment opportunities of the Gill-Montague students. As a result of the Annual Gala, the GMEF has awarded more than \$84,450 in grants to enhance learning in various fields including science, math, music, art, athletics, language and reading.

Gill Voters to Decide on Debt Exclusion Override on September 10

By **CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO**

Gill voters will be asked on September 10 to approve or disapprove a ballot question asking for a debt exclusion in order to purchase a new truck/plow/sander for the town.

The reason for the town-wide special election is that the spending is over and above the Proposition 2 1/2 tax limit. Due to DOR requirements, the binding ballot question makes no mention of a dollar amount. According to Ray Purington, Gill town administrator, the actual amount voters will be asked to approve is \$155,000.

The specific ballot question asks: "Shall the Town of Gill be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a dump truck with sander and plow and related accessories for the Highway Department?" A simple majority vote (50% plus 1) is needed for the question to pass.

At the annual town meeting members approved the purchase by more than a two-thirds majority. A

yes vote on Tuesday would allow the town to replace the oldest of the three large dump trucks – a 1990 Ford with over 8,000 hours of operation. The newest truck was purchased in 2008, and the 5-year loan will be paid off in Fiscal Year 2014 (this October).

If this question passes, the new truck will be purchased and the first payment will not be due until Fiscal Year 2015. According to Purington, using an estimated interest rate of 2%, the truck would add

approximately 23 cents to the tax rate (currently \$15.34/thousand), and cost the average single-family homeowner \$46.30 per year for five years. However, when the payoff of the current truck loan is factored in, the net increase to the Fiscal Year 2015 tax rate will be approximately 3 1/2-cents, and \$6.85 of additional property taxes for the average single-family home.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. at the Fire Station.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Library Director Calls for Letter to State Commissioners

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving Library Building Letter of Intent

At the August 26 meeting Erving library director Barbara Friedman asked the selectboard to consider signing a letter of intent to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) by September 13. Friedman explained that the letter of intent expresses the town's interest in working on the library space, but does not commit the town to any expenditure.

Friedman, accompanied by a dozen supporters, presented a slide show documenting how the 1,865-square foot library building on Moore Street is used.

She said that the crowded space can feel like a labyrinth and that, in order to shelve new books and materials, the library is constantly

discarding older material.

"The internet did not replace libraries, it enhanced them," Friedman said. She told the board that the library offers e-books and e-readers.

It has three public computers and offers internet access. The work space for two of the computers is approximately 3 feet by 6 feet and for the third computer, 3 feet by 3 feet.

According to Friedman, library programs are presented "on the floor, outdoors, wherever we can find space".

There are no story hours for children at the library due to lack of space. Instead story hours are conducted with the Northfield library, at the senior and community center, or at Erving Elementary School.

Friedman noted that there were building maintenance problems: the building has

not been painted in 6 years, lighting is poor for reading or computer work, the 50-year-old furniture is "shabby", and there are ice dams on the roof and chipmunks in the dropped ceiling.

Friedman also cited library successes. Fifty percent of Erving residents hold Erving library cards. Library use and interlibrary loan requests have increased significantly over the last few years. Erving history is documented on the library's digital treasures site. A children's room was created from a former closet.

Friedman said that the MBLC is currently offering grants to towns for designing, renovating and building libraries. Sending the letter of intent would put Erving "on the list" with MBLC.

According to Friedman, Erving can then apply for MBLC design grants to look at the current space and use

and consider three options: renovating and expanding in place, renovating an unused town building as a library, or building a new library.

"This is a good chance to bring money into Erving," Friedman said. Friedman observed that Erving would be in a good position to get an MBLC grant, because it would be a small project located in western Massachusetts, because the town has a track record of successfully overseeing the senior and community center building project, and because she has library construction experience from her past library director jobs.

The board decided to take up the letter of intent at the September 9 meeting.

Other Business

The town was offered the right of first refusal for a 2.18-acre property at 34

Northfield Road, next to the senior and community center. The selectboard decided to reconsider the property at an October meeting.

Highway, Water and Wastewater director Paul Prest informed the selectboard that the town is not eligible for a WMCO grant for purchasing LED streetlights because it is not a designated green community.

Goodwin remarked that in order to qualify as a green community, the town would be required to adopt the state "stretch" building code. "That would cost homeowners more money," he commented.

Prest also asked for selectboard input on a draft request for response for contractors for a sidewalk construction grant for the area near the senior center and elementary school.

The board accepted the resignation of Carole Ly-

man of North Street from the historical commission with regret. Carol Gregory of Northfield Road was appointed to the newly-vacant seat.

The board considered a suggestion that the town hire a fireworks display for the September 21 harvest festival in celebration of the town's 175th anniversary. Sharp was asked to get more information.

Sharp reported that three people were interested in two open seats on the council on aging.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan, who is also a council on aging member, asked the board to wait to decide on appointments until the council on aging meets and discusses the candidates.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Entergy Down; Green Energy Up in the Air

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The biggest news at the Wendell selectboard's August 28 meeting was from out of town: the announced closing of Vernon's Vermont Yankee nuclear electric generating plant. Board members were enthusiastic in their agreement that the closing was welcome news, but not yet cause for dropping vigilance.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the plant's final year and a half of operation will be a dangerous time. According to Keller, Entergy's record of inadequate maintenance, a broken contract with the state of Vermont, deceit, and an unwarranted increase in generating output does not show promise for the company's integrity as it continues to operate the plant, turns it off and decommissions it.

Indefinite storage of radioactive waste that must be kept cool in the plant's waste fuel storage pools is not a comforting thought. The federal gov-

ernment has not been able to fulfill its promise to create a permanent safe storage place, a promise made when nuclear generation of electricity was just beginning.

The good news is that after 2015 no more spent fuel will be added to those storage pools.

Energy

The Town Coordinator relayed communication from Dave Thomas, of Seaboard Solar, the company for which Wendell is hosting 8 megawatts of solar electrical generating capacity.

Seaboard has invested \$2 million in building some of that capacity, getting permits and sites for more capacity, but the state Department of Energy Resources changed net metering rules, and Thomas is uncertain what that means for the company and the project.

One new rule is that the electricity must be used on site, but whether that means in the actual building, in the

town, or what, Aldrich could not say.

The new rules probably will have an impact on the 2-megawatt project that Dan Mascroft is trying to create on private land in Wendell, and board member Jeoffrey Pooser suggested that Aldrich contact him and tell him about the changes in case he has not learned from another source.

Keller said that the board should contact state representative Denise Andrews, former representative Steve Kulik, and senator Stan Rosenberg about changing rules in the middle of a project.

Dogs

Dog officer, Maggie Houghton met the selectboard along with police chief, Ed Chase, and town clerk, Gretchen Smith to discuss the 30 Wendell dogs that have not been licensed. Chase said that some owners planned to license their dogs but just did not get to it: "A lot of good intentions."

On being reminded, sever-

al said they would do it soon. Others do not want to give their dogs the rabies vaccination that is required for a dog license.

Smith said that she has reduced the \$20 late fee to \$10 until September 30 when it will go back to \$20. Court is an option the selectboard wants to avoid, but board members agreed that a letter should go out to non-complying dog owners mentioning that possibility.

Houghton said that one of the unlicensed dogs died, and another left town with its family.

Feast

Representing Good Neighbors, Nancy Graton met the selectboard to reserve the town hall for a harvest supper Sunday afternoon, September 29. Good Neighbors will provide main courses.

Graton asked if they could move tables outside if weather is pleasant that day, and if the selectboard would waive the town hall fee, because the

event is for Wendell residents and free of charge.

The answer for both requests was "yes."

Democracy

A special town meeting is scheduled for September 25, and the board reviewed a draft of the meeting's warrant which they will have to sign and post at their next meeting.

The first three articles were passed over from the annual town meeting and are from the planning board and zoning board of appeals. Article 4 would allow a parking easement at the east edge of the town office building lot for the house just below the town land.

Article 5 would create a Wendell access committee that would give advice about accommodating people with disabilities for any construction project in or on a town building. The authors of this proposed article were clear that they want more than advisory capacity, but the

article, as board members understood it, would create an advisory group.

The selectboard can create an advisory group without a town meeting vote, but the authors were clear they wanted some authority. The article calls for three to nine members, but an official town committee must have a specific number of members so that a quorum can be recognized.

Roof

The board approved a bid of \$1,200 for repair of the slate roof on the senior center.

Education

Aldrich reported that the Orange selectboard requested a meeting of the two towns with members of the selectboards, the finance committees, and school representatives. No date was suggested yet, but Keller suggested that she respond that Wendell would be happy to participate.

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Baystate Franklin Medical Center: Nurses Vote to Settle Negotiations Through Binding Arbitration

Submitted By MNA STAFF

GREENFIELD – Nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center voted overwhelmingly on September 3 to submit their proposals to a neutral arbitrator for resolution of the contract negotiations which have been ongoing for nearly two years.

The MNA/NUU committee had submitted a comprehensive proposal at negotiations with Baystate on August 22 which included a process for resolving the negotiations by both sides submitting their proposals to an independent arbitrator for a final and binding ruling which would bring bargaining to a conclusion after 38 negotiation sessions.

Binding arbitration for the resolution of negotiations is a well-tested procedure

commonly used to resolve firefighter and police negotiations. An arbitrator takes into consideration such factors as industry standards, comparability within the profession, the employer's financial standing, along with both parties' arguments supporting their respective positions.

"We believe that our proposal is fair and reasonable, consistent with industry standards for hospital nurses in Massachusetts," said Linda Judd, the co-chair of the MNA bargaining unit and a long-time nurse on the medical unit at BFMC. "Arbitration is a tried and true process routinely used for resolving negotiations for firefighters, police, and others. We have had pickets, rallies, and a strike, and have so much support from both our commu-

nity and our elected officials. On behalf of our community we propose this as a way to bring these negotiations to a close. We are confident in the reasonableness of our position, but in any event, we are willing to live with a neutral arbitrator's ruling in order to bring negotiations to a conclusion."

Donna Stern, a nurse on the mental health unit at BFMC, and co-chair of the MNA bargaining unit, added, "Baystate has been saying for over a year that they believe their proposal is fair and consistent with industry standards. If they really believe what they have been saying to nurses and to the public, they should join us in submitting our proposals to an arbitrator for a final and binding resolution of these negotiations."

The negotiations have been marked by rallies, pickets, a strike, and resolutions of support issued by the Massachusetts Democratic Convention, along with elected officials and residents across Franklin County. In addition, the union has filed several sets of charges with the National Labor Relations Board and upon investigation the NLRB has issued a formal complaint and scheduled a trial to begin on November 18 at the NLRB regional headquarters in Boston. Additional charges filed by the MNA are still under investigation and review by the NLRB.

Negotiations are scheduled to resume on September 25 when the nurses will hear from Baystate about the proposal to resolve negotiations through binding arbitration.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lunch Prices Rise; Labor MOU Approved; Committee Argues over Seats, Changes Meeting Time

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

School lunch prices will be going up by a small amount this school year. Jim Loynd, food services manager for the district, asked the school committee at their meeting on August 27, to approve an increase in the cost of school breakfast and lunch in order to comply with the USDA's Equity in Pricing regulations and also in recognition of rising operational costs.

He asked that they approve an increase of 25 cents for breakfast to \$1.50 for elementary school and \$1.75 for middle school and high school; and an increase for lunch of 10 cents to \$2.50 for elementary school and \$2.75 for middle school and high school. The school committee approved his request unanimously.

Under the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, school food authorities that receive federal reimbursement for free school breakfast and lunch programs are required to price their paid meals at or above the cost of preparing those meals. There should be no significant difference between the average cost of free meals and paid meals.

This is to ensure that federal reimbursement funds are not being used to make up for deficits in the overall costs of providing meals to students. This helps keep the quality of food served to all students high. At the August 27 meeting, the school committee also approved unanimously the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Joint Labor Management Committee and the Gill-Montague Education Association of tentative changes made to their agreement regarding evaluations.

This continues a process begun at the last school committee meeting where the MOU needed to be approved in time for the beginning of school but because it had not been on the agenda the school committee could not hold the vote. In the interim, Superintendent Michael Sullivan approved the MOU and the school committee brought it back to this meeting so that it could be approved by them. These changes are subject to negotiation and ratification by both parties.

There was considerable discussion over a seating plan proposed by chair, Joyce Phillips. Marge Levenson ob-

jected to the chair assigning seats: "I don't like being dictated to as to where I should sit. I'm in favor of free and open discussion and I hope we can embrace that."

Phillips explained that she was simply responding to certain school committee members who asked for a change in the seating arrangement. "I didn't see it would cause disruption and was not done out of control, politics or who votes first."

After further back and forth, Phillips proposed that they try the new arrangement for the two meetings in September. The vote was 6-2 with Levenson and Brown voting no.

Joyce Phillips next asked members for their opinions on changing the time for meetings to start. It was agreed that they should not change the day (Tuesday) as many other meetings in the two towns are held on other days and this allows members to attend each other's meetings.

The question of time has to do with both executive sessions and the length of regular school committee meetings that are held in public and broadcast on MCTV. Phillips stated that they could

not vary start times because the television viewing public would find this confusing. As it is, the previous meeting, which was held on August 13, had an executive session scheduled prior to the start of the regular meeting.

This executive session was expected to last 15 minutes but instead ran over an hour and delayed the start of the regular meeting. Phillips said while they were in executive session the viewers saw just a screen telling them to stay tuned for the meeting. The members had a wide range of opinions. They considered how difficult it is for some members to come early or stay late, and discussed consideration of those who need to attend the executive session to appear before the committee.

In the end the school committee unanimously agreed that they will change the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. and hold executive sessions after the regular meeting. All agreed to work towards limiting the length of open meetings to two hours. The next school committee meeting will be held on September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Turners Falls High School.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Larceny and Vandalism

Monday, 8/26

12:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with search for breaking & entering suspects.

4:10 p.m. Contacted FM Kuzmeskus Inc. regarding sex offender registry and buses.

5:20 p.m. Called to French King Bridge for reported possible jumper.

Tuesday, 8/27

11:50 a.m. Alarm sounding on Mount Hermon campus.

7:50 p.m. 19-year-old Mountain Road resident arrested for larceny over \$250.

Wednesday, 8/28

10:30 a.m. Recovered stolen property from Mountain Road residence. 1:20 p.m. Assisted resident with issues regarding past attempted suicide.

Thursday, 8/29

10:10 a.m. Firearms issue with French King Highway resident. 8:55 p.m. Erratic motor

vehicle operation reported on the French King Highway.

Friday, 8/30

9:45 a.m. Alarm sounding at West Gill Road residence.

5 p.m. Lost wallet located at Mobil Station.

6:45 p.m. Assisted state police with preliminary breath test on Route 91.

Sunday, 9/1

9 a.m. Assisted with disabled motor vehicle on West Gill Road.

10 a.m. Vandalism to mailboxes reported on West Gill Road.

2 p.m. Medical assistance to Boyle Road residence.

Monday, 9/2

4:55 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported on Munn's Ferry Road. Checked OK.

5:22 p.m. Court process issued to Main Road resident.

8:45 p.m. Suspicious person reported on the French King Bridge.

FESTIVAL CALLS FOR SUSTAINABILITY FILMS

Pioneer Valley– This is the last call for submissions for the Third Annual Pioneer Valley Transition Towns Film Festival. Your short film can showcase any Pioneer Valley project that has a goal of increasing the sustainability factor of food and energy production and usage, home construction, transportation, and the manufacturing of goods.


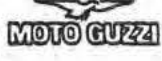
Amy Donovan, Program Director, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District says "I really wanted to get involved with the film festival this year because last year's films were really interesting and the film festival is an innovative way to share the successes we have had with composting and waste diversion here in Franklin County."

Jessica Tanner submitted one of last year's entries about The Bagshare project, which organizes several sewing circles to make reusable shopping bags out of reused materials. These bags are donated to small local stores which lend them to customers who have forgotten to bring their own bags. Ten thousand bags have been sewn and distributed.

Tanner's film was shown, along with eight others comprising the 2012 Film Festival, to a full house at the Sloan Theater at Greenfield Community College. Reflecting back on the experience, Tanner commented, "It was wonderful to hear directly from audience members who were learning about The Bagshare for the first time, wanted to get involved, and appreciated the work that had gone into producing the film. I don't get that feedback by airing a video through local media centers."

Film submissions are due by September 27. For submission guidelines, go to www.transitionnorthfieldma.org/PVTTFF or contact Scott MacPherson at GCTV, 774-4288 or Scott@gctv.org, for additional information.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on September 4, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Erving Mill's Fate Debated

The second in a series of community meetings intended to determine the fate of the Usher Mill property saw very little turnout on Wednesday. The meeting was organized and run by the Donahue Institute at UMass. Estimates of costs to refurbish the buildings range from \$1.1 to \$1.4 million. The buildings contain a large number of valuable old growth timbers that are salvageable for reuse on site or which could be sold.

Greenfield Road Fix Not Yet In Sight

...Like a tourniquet on one of Montague's major arteries, the barricaded ends of Greenfield Road stand on either side of the embankment, waiting for the day when traffic will

once again flow directly between the villages.

Town planner Robin Sherman said she was dismayed that legal issues tying up the bridge project had not been resolved. State representative Steve Kulik said, "I've always been of the opinion that Guilford [Rail] has been the source of the problems right from the start." And once legal issues are settled, funding for the \$3.6 million road project may prove harder to find.

Second Street Alley Project

Demolition was in full swing last week as the excavator for Bourgeois Demolition Co. knocked down two condemned residential buildings on Second Street and filled in their cellar holes, clearing the way for the new parking lot behind the Cutlery Block.

The plan for the brick structure left standing at 68-1/2 is to restore and renovate it for commercial use. Last

fall, Denise DiPaolo of Turners Falls and Richard Becker of Boston submitted proposals, but they either failed to meet the town's timeline or criteria. A second RFP will be issued this fall.

Editorial: Call In The UN?

Here in Franklin County, the true sorrow of the situation has come home to roost with the death of Sgt. Gregory Belanger, a South Deerfield native, killed by a roadside bomb as his convoy patrolled near Baghdad last week.

We can add nothing to the words of praise already heaped upon this young man, and the condolences offered to his family, except to say we hope his loss will hasten the day when the 150,000 other Americans are pulled out of harm's way from a land that has never posed a serious threat to our countrymen, until now. A UN-mandated peacekeeping force for Iraq is a first step in that direction.

About-Face Computer Solutions Offers Affordable, Custom Computer Service



Brian Faldasz and Veronica Phaneuf look over a computer at About-Face Computer Solutions in Turners Falls.

MBA Guest Column By HOLLY GIVENS

When her 16-year-old home-based computer service business in Montague outgrew her dining room table in 2011, Veronica Phaneuf opened a storefront on Avenue A in Turners Falls. About-Face Computer Solutions, on the corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street, is the result.

Expanding her business wouldn't have been possible without her business partner, Brian Faldasz, she said. In addition to Phaneuf and Faldasz, the staff includes Brian's son Dana Faldasz as technician. They travel as far as Hadley and Rowe to take care of customers, and provide ongoing tech support by phone and at the shop for area business clients. In addition, the store offers computers and support for home use and some items that people may need quickly, such as cables, mice, keyboards, computer cleaning supplies, flash drives, hard drives, wireless routers, and monitors. They also provide assistance in adapting computer systems to customer needs, and encourage businesses to come in to discuss their needs.

"We ask questions to help narrow down what they will do with it, and we try to tailor it to their price," said Phaneuf. For example, someone primarily sending email and using the internet will have

different needs than someone who will be using a lot of graphics. She added, "We want everyone to have a happy computer experience." Within the business, Phaneuf's favorite activity is consulting on how to use software, such as setting up accounting in Quickbooks.

"Brian and Dana basically run the place," Phaneuf said, emphasizing how important good partners are in a small business. With the transition from home-based to store front operations, the business expanded to six full workstations for repairing broken PCs and Macs. "We can work on 10-15 computers at once now," she said. In addition, Brian and Dana will visit broken computers in homes and offices, which is sometimes necessary to see all parts of the system, to make repairs. To save money, though, customers can bring their malfunctioning equipment right to the store, which is open Monday through Saturday. Among the most common issues they see are viruses and connection issues. Business often picks up after thunderstorms, too.

They pride themselves on providing service that helps their business and consumer customers better understand their computer systems. For example, Brian Faldasz recently helped a customer with her iPad. She had just checked her e-mail and something strange had come

through. Faldasz helped her change her password, and checked on the computer to make sure the new password worked. Minutes later, when they tried it on the iPad, the new passwords were rejected. It turns out that the customer's e-mails were being redirected to another account, probably to send scam e-mails to all the customer's contacts.

The person who had hijacked the email account actually changed the password after Faldasz had done so. Faldasz then moved to a secondary system—using the customer's cell phone to receive a personal identification number—to access the e-mail and change all the settings again. This time, the changes stuck. His advice? "Change your e-mail password regularly, and make sure you have another way to access the account," he said.

Phaneuf has found Montague to be business friendly. "Working with town hall has been easy. People want your business to succeed," she said. She also touted the Montague Business Association as a group that's advocating for what businesses need and bringing issues to the forefront. Phaneuf participated in developing the Association's grant program, which is designed to encourage area businesses and strengthen the community as a whole.

She is optimistic about what the future will bring. "It's working out well in Turners Falls. It's nice to be on the Avenue. Things will improve when the bridge opens, too."

This column is a regular guest feature by the Montague Business Association highlighting its members. The Montague Reporter would like to thank About Face for their regular and much-appreciated donation of services to our newspaper.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Larceny at Laurel Lake

Tuesday, 8/27

10:35 a.m. Assisted in mediating a verbal domestic disturbance at a West Main Street residence.

7 p.m. Report of a disabled motor vehicle on Semb Drive. Gone upon arrival.

Wednesday, 8/28

12:45 p.m. Assisted in mediating a verbal domestic disturbance at a River Street residence.

1:20 p.m. Advised River Street resident of town leash law.

5:45 p.m. Arrested

[REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle with a restricted license.

Thursday, 8/29

12:45 a.m. Domestic disturbance reported at a West Main Street residence. Spoke with subjects and took report of verbal altercation.

5:45 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Northfield Road.

10:50 p.m. Suspicious

person with flashlight reported at Erving Highway barn on Maple Avenue. No one found.

Friday, 8/30

2:20 p.m. Report taken regarding harassing phone calls.

Saturday, 8/31

11:05 a.m. Orange PD requested assistance with the transportation of arrested subject with medical issues. Assisted at Erving Center fire station.

11:40 a.m. Report

of larceny in Laurel Lake camping area. Under investigation.

Sunday, 9/1

7:30 a.m. Report of one-car motor vehicle crash on Gulf Road in Northfield. Assisted on scene.

Monday, 9/2

8:47 p.m. Report of male subject standing in middle of French King Bridge. Subject located and found to be sight-seeing. Moved along.

LEVERETT: GROUP TAG SALE AND FARMERS MARKET, NEXT SATURDAY

Leverett Congregational Church (LCC), Saturday, September 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or Shine. **COME TO SELL:** claim your tag sale space: 12' x 12' for \$10. Lots of room, NO reservations needed. **COME TO BUY:** antiques, collectables, toys, furniture, sporting equipment, housewares, tools, and much more. Also homemade baked goods, preserves, & homegrown produce. Proceeds to benefit Heifer International. LCC across from the Leverett Post Office.

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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleoscope*, environmental program for ages 3-6 and their adults. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., free.

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip,*

and Schultzy from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

ART SHOWS:

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

MUSEUM

EXHIBITS:

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association: Indian House, open 11 to 4:30 p.m. Weekends in Sept. to Oct 6.

Memorial Hall Museum Music Room, Deerfield. *Poetry to the Earth: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Deerfield*.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Elliot Street Café, Brattleboro: *Taking Power*: Opening reception for photo exhibit by Cate Woolner, Lionel Delevingne and David Shaw, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

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

Metropolis Wine Bar & Cocktail Lounge, Brattleboro: *SHAG*, 7 to 10 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Goodbye Solo*. 91 min. Music before the show: *Paul Crook & Carol DeLorenzo*, Celtic tunes, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

John Doe Jr. Records, Greenfield: *Laminated Apes, Tarp with Noise Nomads, Brompton Treb and Servitor*, 7 to 11:30 p.m.

Hampshire College, film show-

ing: *Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives*, followed by discussion with Rep. Ellen Story, who will talk about two GMO labeling bills she has introduced in the MA legislature and Ed Stockman, co-founder of MA Right To Know GMOs and Jack Kittredge, Policy Director, MA NOFA. Q&A. Free, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lisa Marie Ellingsen*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*, funky tonk. Free, 9:30 p.m.



Judith Black, storyteller reads: "Our Heritage to Save" Sunday, September 8, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Montague Common Hall, Montague Center.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Atlas Farm, Deerfield: *Kids' Day of Community Service*, 11 to 2 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Goodbye Solo*. 91 min. Music before the show: *Rebecca Hartka*, solo cello, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Flywheel, Northampton: *Esther Chlorine, Colorguard, Cruise Whisp*, \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffman* with special guest *Alan Williams*.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Mark Nomad Band*, dance mix of blues, funk & beyond, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Voo 6th Anniversary Party with DJ Cool Breeze*. 9:30 p.m., free.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Art Center, Leverett: *Seeds & Friends Artists Opening Reception*, 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Storyteller Judith

Black reads: *Our Heritage to Save*, the story of 17-year-old Hannah Jean Conrad and her family as they struggle with the realities of living in the Yankee occupied town of Collierville, TN in 1863. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m., free.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nick's Sweet '80s Movie Night: Flight of the Navigator*. 9 p.m., free.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora & Martha's Open Microphone*. Signup at 7:30; show at 8 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Tunes at Noon, Greenfield Community College, main campus dining commons: *Kayte Grace*, 12 to 1 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, southern string band. 8 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Memorial Hall Museum Music Room, Deerfield. *Poetry to the Earth: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Deerfield*. Lecture and book signing by *Suzanne Flynt*, 7 p.m. Exhibit preview at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Pitchfork*, \$ donation, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Gregory Douglass* with special guest *Myra Flynn*, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Community Smokes*, reggae, rock, blues, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Art Walk, Shelburne Falls, 4 to 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Zoe Sundra*, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ketch-Fyre*, 9:30 p.m.

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Savoring The Harvest

Slow Roasted Tomatoes

Use only very meaty tomatoes, sliced thickly. Put in a roasting pan and drizzle with olive oil. Add to the top some salt and chopped basil. Add to the pan cloves of unpeeled garlic. Roast at 200 degrees for 6 to 8 hours. Place on a platter and squeeze out the roasted garlic onto the tomatoes. Enjoy at room temperature as a side dish, or serve with fish or pasta.

Fresh Tomato Sauce

Chop the following: Eight or ten ripe tomatoes; one large onion, or one small onion and two leeks; one large sweet red pepper; two large cloves garlic; and ¼ cup basil.

Heat two tsp olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add the onion, leek, garlic and pepper and sauté until soft. Add the tomatoes, 2 T. prepared tomato paste, 2 t. sugar, and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer until thick. Serve over pasta or fresh vegetables or fish. This sauce can be frozen for future use.



Roasted Tomato Soup

3-½ pounds ripe tomatoes
6 cloves garlic, unpeeled
4 Tablespoons olive oil
1 large potato
1 pint vegetable stock
2 teaspoons tomato puree.

Drop tomatoes in boiling water for 1 minute to loosen the skin. Remove, cool briefly and then rub the skins off. Cut the tomatoes in half and place in a shallow pan. Drizzle 2 T. olive oil

on top and lay on garlic cloves. Roast at 375 degrees for about an hour until the edges are slightly black. While the tomatoes are roasting, peel and chop the potato, and simmer in the stock for about twenty minutes. Puree in your food processor or blender. Spoon the roasted tomatoes into the processor. Squeeze the garlic from its skin and add to the mixture along with the potato puree. Blend. Heat slowly and enjoy. Freeze some for winter eating.

HEANEY from page 1

Seamus rarely recited his own verse, but he loved to intersperse poems by others into his often circuitous commentary on just about anything or anyone: Hardy, Yeats, Ted Hughes, Robert Lowell, Wordsworth, Hopkins, Roethke, Elizabeth Bishop, Edward Thomas, Larkin, Hugh MacDiarmid and Patrick Kavanagh were, in my memory, the poets he most quoted.

And while Seamus loved to talk, he also loved to listen. He reveled in hearing the stories of others and would draw stories out of anyone in his company; he once confessed that he was an "impossible eavesdropper." He then quickly added: "But aren't all poets? Good ones, at least?"

The last time my wife, Patricia Pruitt, and I saw Seamus was in Portugal in May, 2004. Patricia and I were invited readers at an international poetry festival in Coimbra. Seamus was the guest of honor. It was a rather extraordinary event with poets from all over the world

gathering for a week to read and talk and party. Seamus was scheduled to read one evening outside of Coimbra in the village of Conimbriga, notable for its well-preserved Roman ruins.

We were bussed in and arrived just as the sun had set. The village itself consisted of only a few streets. There was a pizza joint in the center, with a few tables and garish fluorescent lights. Seamus, Patricia and I descended on the place. Since Seamus didn't speak a word of Portuguese, he asked me to ask the bartender for a bottle of Jameson's.

I told him I'd ask but didn't think we'd have much success given that we were at a pizza house in a tiny town in the middle of Portugal. "What's the back-up," I asked. "Jameson's," he said.

Miraculously, the bartender produced a bottle from under the counter. (Patricia has always figured they were primed in advance that Seamus was coming.) Over the next half hour, Seamus regaled

us with stories as he and I drank Jameson's.

We then trotted down the hill to hear Seamus read. It was a magical night. The ruins were lit with flickering lamps set between the ancient columns; above, a canopy of stars stretched across the sky. And then Seamus began to read:

... "The soul exceeds its circumstances". Yes.

History not to be granted the last word

Or the first claim ... In the end I gathered

From the display-case peat my staying powers,

Told my webbed wrists to be like silver birches,

My old uncalled hands to be young sward,

The spade-cut skin to heal, and got restored

By telling myself this.



MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD



AL MACINTYRE PHOTO

Harold (Sandy) Jensen, of Millers Falls, relaxes in the morning, reading his copy of The Montague Reporter, last month, while the tide ebbs from Long Cove, on Deer Isle, Maine. For some 30 years Sandy has been a regular summer visitor to the island, and to his own cove-side parcel, which was once a saltwater farm, still with open meadows and old apple trees throughout, and which has come to have all the appearances of a park under the stewardship of Mr. Jensen, and of certain willing company.



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