



A Big Check for Gill Energy Conservation

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Little Free Library Expands

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 44

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

Leverett to Revisit Cell Tower Bylaw

BY DAVID DETMOLD – Representatives of the town's ad hoc cell tower committee met with the selectboard on Tuesday, August 28th, to try to improve communication in advance of a planned town meeting on October 9th, where a less restrictive cell tower bylaw will once again be the topic of discussion.

Annual town meeting failed by three votes to gain a two thirds majority to approve a new cell tower bylaw in spring that would have loosened restrictions that presently make it extremely unlikely that a commercial cell tower company would ever locate a tower in Leverett.

The current bylaw allows for cell towers only in one of Leverett's three small, low lying commercial zones. The planning board proposed a less restrictive bylaw last winter that would have permitted cell towers by special permit, and with defined setbacks from residences, schools, and conservation areas, anywhere in town.

Following the failure of the planning board's proposed bylaw in spring, the selectboard appointed a committee to look into the issue of possible health effects linked to cell tower transmissions, and to reconsider the recommended setbacks.

But all three members of the selectboard have also stated on a number of occasions that the intent of the board is to bring the same

bylaw that went down to narrow defeat in spring back before a special town meeting this fall, whether or not the ad hoc committee comes to consensus on recommended amendments.

Hearing of this, Nancy Grossman, call fire fighter, and Chuck Dauchy, an environmental engineer in town, reserved space on the selectboard agenda last week to open up the lines of communication with the selectboard, and to report their committee is close to reaching consensus on recommendations for an amended bylaw.

"We're this close," said Grossman, holding her thumb and index finger an inch apart.

The committee is made up of appointees from the factions that supported and opposed the bylaw when it came before town meeting in spring.

Grossman was disturbed by reports and emails that said the selectboard was planning to bring "the exact same bylaw with no changes," back to town meeting in October.

"That's been our intent," replied chair Rich Brazeau. "We're not opposed to some friendly amendments from the floor."

Dauchy said, "I think our committee has come up with some things that are important. One is setbacks. The board cannot consider environmental concerns in sitting," due to preemption in federal law. But Dauchy

see CELL TOWER pg 5

Locke Hill Radio Tower on Selectboard Agenda

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
WENDELL - The future of a 200-foot tall former radio tower on Locke Hill Road remains up in the air this week. Once part of the federal government's communication network for nuclear war preparedness, the tower has been out of use since advances in satellite technology rendered it obsolete. Ownership of the structure has passed from AT&T to American Tower; that company would now like to use the tower to offer internet relay capability for local homes. But a packed meeting on August 29th forced the selectboard to reschedule a hearing on the tower until later this month.

Over 15 townspeople came to the Wendell selectboard office last Wednesday to weigh in on the future of the Locke Hill Road tower. The room was so full the board moved the hearing across the hall to a larger meeting room to accommodate everyone. But after the move more people entered.

The tower, built in 1957, has long been a lightning rod for citizen complaint as an eyesore; when AT&T Wireless proposed locating cell phone transmitters on top of the tower in 2004, citizens packed hearings before the zoning board of appeals, mainly to express opposition to that plan.

In 2008, building inspec-

tor Phil Delorey ordered the unused structure to be taken down (although Delorey was not responsive to repeated calls from the *Montague Reporter* earlier this year seeking a copy of that order).

At the August 29th meeting,

Brandon Ruotolo, representing American Tower, pitched an offer to partner with the town in ownership of the tower.

Selectboard member Dan Keller asked why the town would want to do that. Ruotolo said the town could profit from any revenue the tower generated from future users. He said American Tower would

work to bring in carriers, and had already brought Access Plus Country Roads to look at the tower and assess the possibility of expanding their wireless internet coverage to houses in that neighborhood. The wireless signal that presently reaches a limited area in the center of town is

now sent from Springfield to Mount Grace, and relayed back from there to the Wendell library

and police station.

see RADIO TOWER page 5

Sawmill River Restoration to Begin



The Sawmill River flows by the Book Mill in Montague Center

BY DEBORAH SHRIVER

GREENFIELD - The Franklin Conservation District will begin construction to restore a portion of the Sawmill River in Montague this week. The work will last approximately a month.

The Conservation District has finalized a contract with SumCo Eco-Contracting, LLC of Salem to do the river restoration.

Over more than 30 years, the Sawmill River has been plagued by problems that have damaged roads, farmland and private property and threatened bridge safety. This restoration will help reduce erosion and sediment loads and improve water quality and habitat for fish and other wildlife.

The restoration will install rock cross vanes, root wads and log vanes to create a more natural stream channel and allow water to flow into its

flood plain. The North Leverett Road project site is on land owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

The project is being financed with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection under a grant to the Franklin Conservation District.

The Franklin Conservation District is a publicly chartered, non-profit organization whose mission is to work with landowners, organizations and government agencies to protect and restore the soil, water, forests, wildlife and other natural resources of Franklin County.

For more information, contact Franklin Conservation District at: 413-665-8142 or debbieshriver@gmail.com.

Sewer Rates to Rise in Riverside

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - The 114 sewer users of the Riverside Water District in Gill will be facing a stiff jump in user fees this fiscal year, if projections presented by Gill town administrative assistant Ray Purington hold up in the months ahead.

Purington told the Gill selectboard on August 27th that sewer rates would have to increase by almost 70%, from about 8 cents per cubic foot, the present rate, to about 13.5 cents a cubic foot, in order to keep the town's sewer fund from going broke by fiscal year 2014.

After looking over Purington's extensive charts and graphs detailing water and sewer usage in gallons per day and the costs of disposing the sewage, pumped through a pipe beneath Barton Cove to Montague, compared to the revenue raised from sewer users bills, the board agreed rates would have to rise to keep the sewer fund solvent. But the board would like to soften the blow by raising the rates perhaps 3 cents per cubic foot this year, and delay the additional 2.5 cent hike until the following year, if that additional step still seems prudent.

No one at the meeting could offer a clear estimate of what the price hike might mean in terms of a dollar amount to the average user.

Selectboard member John Ward said the term "average user" does not really fit such a small district,

where quarterly bills can range from \$30 per quarter for homes that conserve heavily to more than \$150 a quarter for larger users. But simple math indicates large users could see their bills rise by as much as \$100 a quarter, if the full 5.5 cent hike recommended by Purington is eventually implemented.

The board, which doubles as the town's sewer commissioners for the water district, serving Riverside, the Stoughton Place senior housing complex and a few homes on Main Road heading up toward Mountain Road, will hold a hearing on the impending price hike on Tuesday, October 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. at town hall. Warnings of the price hike and the hearing will be included in quarterly sewer bills, due to be mailed out next week.

Purington said the sewer fund began to dip in FY'09, when the balance dropped by about \$6,000 to just over \$100,000. Three years later, the fund is now at a balance of about \$57,468, Purington said, and may head towards negative numbers in two years if no action is taken.

Purington charted a steady decline in annual water usage in the district, dropping from about 20,000 gallons per day in the fall of 2005 to about 13,000 gallons a day this summer. But, counterintuitively, the amount of sewage being pumped daily across the cove to Montague has risen over the same

time period, by about 2,000 gallons a day.

Purington blamed a faulty back flow check valve, allowing sewage to back up by gravity towards Gill and then get pumped again across the cove, for part of this apparent increase. That check valve was repaired this spring, and the sewage flow has since dropped from a steep peak of more than 30,000 gallons a day last December to about 23,000 gallons a day this summer.

But the rest of the discrepancy between the amount of water the district uses and the amount of sewage it pumps across to Montague Purington attributed to the problem of inflow and infiltration into the approximately 35-year old district's sewer pipes. In other words, despite the fact that the 114 sewer users are conserving more water year by year, the district as a whole is pumping more sewage, and paying more for Montague to treat it, because groundwater is flowing into leaks in the pipes.

Montague has not raised the rates it charges Gill to treat Riverside sewage for the last four years.

In order to pay for a study of the inflow and infiltration problem, which could cost as much as \$60,000, Purington advised the board to first fix the deficit problem between district costs and revenues by hiking the sewer rates,

see SEWER page 6

PET OF THE WEEK

Big Goofy Guy



Handsome

My name is Handsome; I'm a four-year-old male lab/bloodhound mix in need of a home. I'm a big goofy guy looking to be your one and only!

I need a home with no other animals so I can have all the attention. I was found and brought to the adoption center by some kind people who wanted me to get the care I need. They brought me a present: a tag that says "Handsome, inside and out." And I am!

I have food allergies and need to be on a special diet to keep me looking and feeling my best. I am already feeling so much better. I love going for walks, playing with toys, and lounging around with my family!

If I sound like the dog for you, please come visit me!

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

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

Monthly Science Fiction Movie Series Presents: "Minority Report"

The Wendell Free Library will present "Minority Report" on Saturday, September 15th at 7:30p m. Admission is free.

This futuristic sci-fi movie, directed by Steven Spielberg with perfect visual effects, tells a fun and intelligent action story (based on a Philip K. Dick novel) and features a great ensemble cast (including Tom Cruise and Colin Farrell).

In the year 2054 A.D. crime is virtually eliminated from Washington D.C. thanks to an elite law enforcing squad "Precrime."

They use three gifted humans, called "Pre-Cogs," with special powers to see into the future and predict crimes beforehand. John Anderton (Cruise) heads "Precrime" and steadfastly believes in the system's flawlessness. However, one day the Pre-Cogs predict that Anderton himself will commit a murder in the next 36 hours. Worse, Anderton doesn't even know the victim.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call 978-544-3559.

MILLERS FALLS LIBRARY

Music and Movement is Moving

The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will be held at the Millers Falls Library on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. from September through December.

Children and their parents or

caregivers are invited to participate. The programs are free and no registration is required. The series is supported by special funding from the Town of Montague. For more information, call 413-863-3214.

Leverett Community Tag Sale Benefit

The Leverett Property Tax Relief Committee is sponsoring a tag sale on Friday, September 7th and Saturday, September 8th, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 127 Long Plain Road (Rt. 63) in Leverett.

All proceeds will go to benefit the Senior and Disabled Property Tax Relief Fund.

Volunteers are needed to:

Donate saleable items in good condition - please price accordingly; Price, sort and set up merchandise; Place signs; Work at sale on Saturday and Sunday; Clean up, repack, and haul to local non-profit thrift stores at sale's end on Sunday; Lend tables for display.

For more info, call Fenna Lee Bonsignore at: 413-548-9446.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. What happens to you if you eat more than one apple a day?

This question may have been intended to be humorous, but there is a serious answer to it. Believe it or not, there is a three-apple-a-day diet, which I'll get to later. But, first, let's discuss a single apple a day.

We have to go back in time to Wales to find the origins of the saying "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

The earliest known record of the maxim is in an 1866 edition of *Notes and Queries* magazine, which printed a Pembrokehire proverb: "Eat an apple on going to bed, and you'll keep the doctor from earning his bread."

A number of variations were heard around the turn of the 20th century. In 1913, there's a record

in Rustic Speech and Folk-lore of the first known mention of the version we use now: "Ait a happle avore gwain to bed, An' you'll make the doctor beg his bread," or as the more popular version runs: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

Apples have many healthful qualities, but they don't keep the doctor away. A better rhyme today would be: "You'll hit a wall if you want a house call."

So what's in an apple that makes it so good for you?

- Vitamin C, which boosts the immune system.
- Pectin, a fiber that lowers blood pressure and bad LDL cholesterol.
- Boron, a nutrient that is good for the bones and brain.
- Quercetin, a nutrient that may work against cancer and Alzheimer's disease.
- Phytonutrients, compounds that can reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and asthma.

Researchers in the Netherlands found that eating apples is associated with a lower risk of stroke.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Apples are Good for You – Eat Three a Day

They don't know why, but the anti-stroke effect may be from the pectin that lowers blood pressure, and the quercetin that may have anti-inflammatory properties.

Apples help you fight obesity. They fill you up. They have lots of fiber and require that you spend time chewing. The natural sweeteners in apples level your blood-sugar and help avoid cravings.

The Three-Apple-A-Day Plan is a diet that instructs you to eat an apple 15 minutes before every meal because the fiber in apples makes you feel full and the sweetness satisfies cravings.

Apples are brain food. Apples are now thought to keep your brain sharp as you age because they boost the production of a chemical that transmits messages between nerve cells.

Apples are good for fighting tooth decay, too, because they clean your teeth when you eat them.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – September 10th - 14th

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. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. Fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 413-863-9357. Voice message may be left when the center is not open.

Monday, September 10th

8:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
NO Aerobics or Chair Exercise
10:30 a.m. to Noon: Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, September 11th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
Wednesday, September 12th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, September 13th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, September 14th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

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

Monday, September 10th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

12:30 Quilting

Tuesday, September 11th

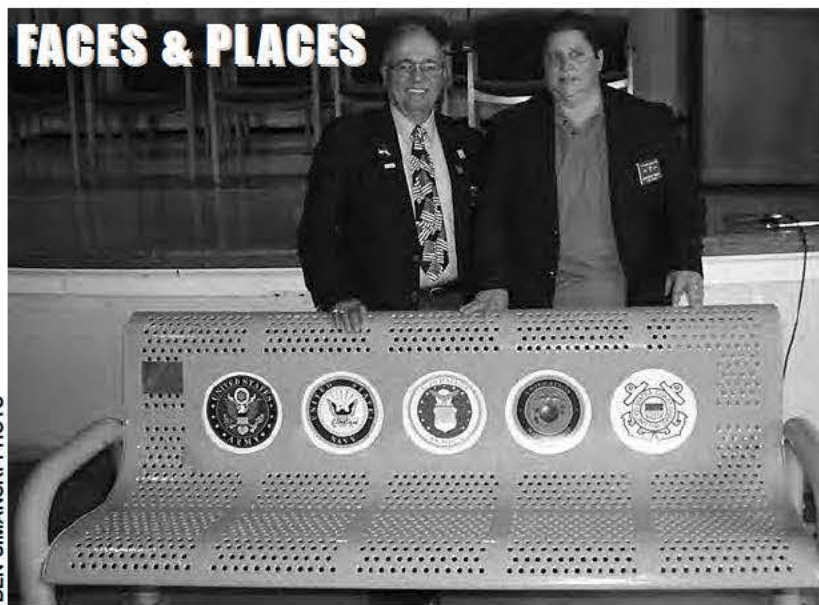
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, September 12th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:00 Bingo
Thursday, September 13th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect
12:00 p.m. Cards
Friday, September 14th
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch

LEVERETT Senior Activities

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

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

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



BEN SIMANSKI PHOTO

(L-R): Richard Falzone, Jr., past state president from the Springfield Lodge of Elks #61 and esteemed loyal knight Kathy Rimby, Montague Lodge #2521, stand behind a bench donated to the Veterans hospital in Leeds.

The Montague Elks #2521 Lodge in Turners Falls attained its per capita goal in the 2011-2012 Elk year and as a result was awarded a \$2000 gratitude grant by the Elks National Foundation to be used for a community donation.

The Leeds VA was chosen to be the recipient of this award.

On Monday, August 13th the Elks organized an ice cream social for the veterans at the Leeds VA; Rimby was in charge of the donation event. The Montague Elks donated items to go into an outdoors beautification project, including a military bench for the veterans bearing a plaque and the five service insignias.

Thanks to all of the members and non-members who made this event special as a small gesture of thanks to the veterans for all they have done, further reminding us of our Elks pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

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Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - RiverCulture hosts a series of talks on **four immigrant groups that settled in Turners Falls** during industrialization (German, French Canadian, Irish, and Polish/other Eastern European). The talks include panel discussions, music, exhibits with story boards, photos, and recordings of oral history, and will be held in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Fridays, September 7th, 21st and 28th and Thursday, September 13th. Visit www.turners-fallsriverculture.org for more details.

Leverett Congregational Church (LCC) will host a Taize service of short readings and simple repetitive songs, for a reflective, meditative service on Sunday, September 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to this free, child-friendly event. The Taize community was founded in 1940 France and embraces a tradition of peace and justice while seeking to include people, traditions, and languages worldwide. The LCC is located across from the Leverett post office. For more info, call Claudia at 413-259-1741.

The **Wendell Singers** will be gathering soon for a new season. Men, women and children ten and over are welcome to come sing in the fall season. The Wendell Singers community chorus have fun singing world music, gospel and other well-loved songs. Starting Thursday, September 20th at 7 p.m. at the Wendell senior center, the chorus, sponsored by the Wendell recreation committee will meet for ten sessions this fall. Sliding scale fee and family rates available. No auditions; all singers welcomed. For more info, contact director Morning Star Chenven at 413-422-1010 or by email morningstar210@gmail.com or call Susan Von Ranson at 978-544-3758.

The **Pioneer Valley Institute** at Greenfield Community College opens its fall season on Saturday, September 8th, with geologist Richard Little and naturalist Nancy Goodman leading a four hour hike on the southern end of Mount Tom. Hikers will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking area on Route 141 south of the Log Cabin near the Holyoke - Easthampton line. All interested should pre-register at wildeyes@rcn.com. The hike is free for current PVI members and \$5.00 for all others. Participants may become a PVI member for that same \$5.00. Little and Goodman advise participants to wear sturdy hiking

shoes and bring rain gear, a lunch and water as it is a fairly steep climb.

On Sunday, September 9th, beginning at 11:30 a.m., Pioneer Valley Institute will offer a free workshop for children and their parents at the Unitarian Meetinghouse in Bernardston. Titled "**Monarch Mania**," this one-hour workshop will introduce young children to the life cycle of butterflies, their habits and habitats, their predators and prey. The workshop leader, science teacher Rachel Roberts, will focus on the Monarch which will be migrating through our area just about now. To learn more about the program go to www.bernardstonunitarian.org. For more information on both of these events please email the Pioneer Valley Institute at pvi@gcc.mass.edu.

Looking for the special piece of jewelry and you just can't seem to find it? Why not create it yourself with Bevlynn Gallant of Gallant Silverworks. Come to Gallant's free introductory and informative workshop at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, September 8th, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about working with precious metals and unique opportunities in various venues. To register, call Linda at 413-863-4316, as seating is limited.

Three WWII vintage planes representing the "Wings for Freedom Tour" are scheduled for a visit to Orange Airport from September 17th to September 19th. This is a rare opportunity to visit, explore, and learn more about these unique and rare treasures of aviation history. Visitors are invited to explore the aircraft inside and out (\$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12). WWII veterans can tour the aircraft at no cost, and there are special rates for school groups. Rides in all three planes are also available for a fee.

Maybe that the last time a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress soared above the treetops in the North Quabbin Region was in 1945 when Captain Vincent "Bill" Purple was piloting one from Savannah, GA to England and he decided to do a flyby over his parents' house on Fish Street in Athol to wave goodbye. Soon, area residents will again hear the sounds of a vintage B-17, along with a Consolidated B-24 Liberator and North American P-51 Mustang over the treetops as the Collings Foundation brings its planes to the Orange Municipal Airport for a three-day living history event.

Connecticut River Internists are proud to host the third annual **Bruce's Run/Walk for Hospice**.

The late Dr. Bruce Van Boeckel was a key founding member and the first medical director of Hospice of Franklin County. He was also one of the original partners of Connecticut River Internists. The event will raise much needed monies to honor Dr. Bruce Van Boeckel's commitment to hospice care in Franklin County. Hospice offers many services to the Franklin County community for terminally ill patients and their families.

The run/walk will take place on Sunday, September 9th, at 9:30 a.m. at 8 Burnham Street, Montague City. Building on the success of the two previous years, three options are offered: a two-mile fun walk, a 5K run and a 10K run. The courses for all three are on the Turners Falls bike path. For more info: www.criverinternists.com/brucesrun.

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

Atlantic National Seashores will be Hit Hard by Climate Change

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Climate change is already adversely affecting seven national seashores on the Atlantic Coast, from Cape Cod to Cape Canaveral, and those impacts will dramatically worsen if heat-trapping pollution is not reduced, according to a new report from the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization (RMCO) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

The report contains the first set of maps detailing the portions of Atlantic national seashores that are low lying enough to be at real risk of being submerged by rising sea levels. Other climate change impacts outlined in the report include the loss of bridges and roads that provide access to the

seashores, breakup of barrier islands into smaller segments, extensive beach erosion, and loss of wildlife. (The full analysis is available online at www.rockymountainclimate.org/programs_15.htm.)

The RMCO/NRDC report documents that Fire Island National Seashore in New York, Assateague Island in Maryland and Virginia, Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout, both in North Carolina, and Canaveral National Seashore in Florida, all have a majority of their lands less than one meter (3.3 feet) above sea level, and therefore are at serious risk of inundation by a higher sea level. Also at risk to higher seas are particular sections of the remaining two national seashores covered in the report: Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts and Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia.

Scientists say there is a good chance that a hotter climate could push seas at least one meter higher in this century. The report notes that the Cape Cod, Fire Island, Assateague Island, and Cape Hatteras national seashores already are experiencing rates of sea-level rise well above the global average.

The seven national seashores draw a total of about 11 million visitors a year, contributing to the economy of seven states by generating more than half a billion dollars in spending and supporting nearly 8,000 jobs. An additional, immeasurable economic value of the seashores is that they contain islands, dunes, and other shoreline features that are the first line of defense protecting human populations and developments from the often devastating effects of winds and surging flood waters from hurricanes, nor'easters, and other coastal storms.

Report author Stephen Saunders, president, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization said, "Climate change is the greatest threat ever to our national park systems. These seashores certainly are among the most vulnerable areas."

Summer may be just about over...
but we're just getting started
with new classes like Cabinetmaking

Fall 2012

Community Education Workshops

Cabinetmaking: A Day in a Professional Workshop
Create Your Own 3D Game with Unity
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Indonesian (Pukulan) Kung Fu
Introduction to Blogging
Social Dance (3 styles)
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Web 2.0 for Teachers
Pathway to Aviation (2 locations)
The Digital Home Studio
What A Relief: Stone Carving
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MONTAGUE SOAP BOX Races

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The Six Stages of Climate Grief

BY DAPHNE WYSHAM

WASHINGTON DC - Now that the hottest summer on record is drawing to a close, are we any closer to admitting that climate change is upon us? If not, why not?

It might have something to do with the five stages of grief. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross identified these stages as denial, then anger, followed by bargaining, depression, and acceptance. With record drought killing our cattle and our corn, West Nile virus sweeping the country, and Arctic ice sheets melting away, it's no surprise that millions of people are responding to these frightening signs of environmental decline in stages.

Nobel Laureate Steve Running first proposed this frame for understanding the popular response to climate change in 2007. I'd like to go one step further and suggest a sixth stage: The Work.

Denial, the first stage of grief, can be quite comfortable. The U.S. media is in many ways co-dependent with the denialist camp. It rarely connects the dots between extreme weather events and climate change, making it easy to remain blissfully ignorant. Our politicians are also prolonging this denial stage by rarely uttering the term "climate change," as though the words themselves were obscene.

The second stage — anger — sums up the likes of Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh. These talk show hosts are at their most vitriolic when they attack climate scientists or advocates of fossil fuel alternatives. Their ferocity gives license to the crazies who issue death threats against climate scientists: they would rather shoot the messenger than listen to the message.

The next stage, bargaining, comes when the deniers begin to acknowledge that global temperatures are indeed rising, but claim it's due to natural causes. Or they take a stance like ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson's — admitting climate change is a major, man-made problem, but claiming that the answer is to "adapt" to it instead of changing our behavior.

Depression is a familiar state to me and my fellow climate change activists. If the truth will set you free, the truth about climate change may set you free to take antidepressants for the rest of your life. Every weather abnormality comes with a sense of dread. It's at this point that we lose people. Denial starts to look attractive.

Acceptance is the hardest stage, because what experts tell us lies ahead is so damn scary, it will make you want to hop into Rush Limbaugh's lap and stay there: We are surpassing all of scientists' worst-case scenarios by a long shot — we are now on track to an 11-degree Fahrenheit rise by the end of the century, according to the International Energy Agency. We've broken over 4,000 temperature records in the United States just this year, and scientists tell us record droughts, floods, storms, and forest fires all may become "the new normal."

We must accept this dreadful prognosis if we are to act appropriately.

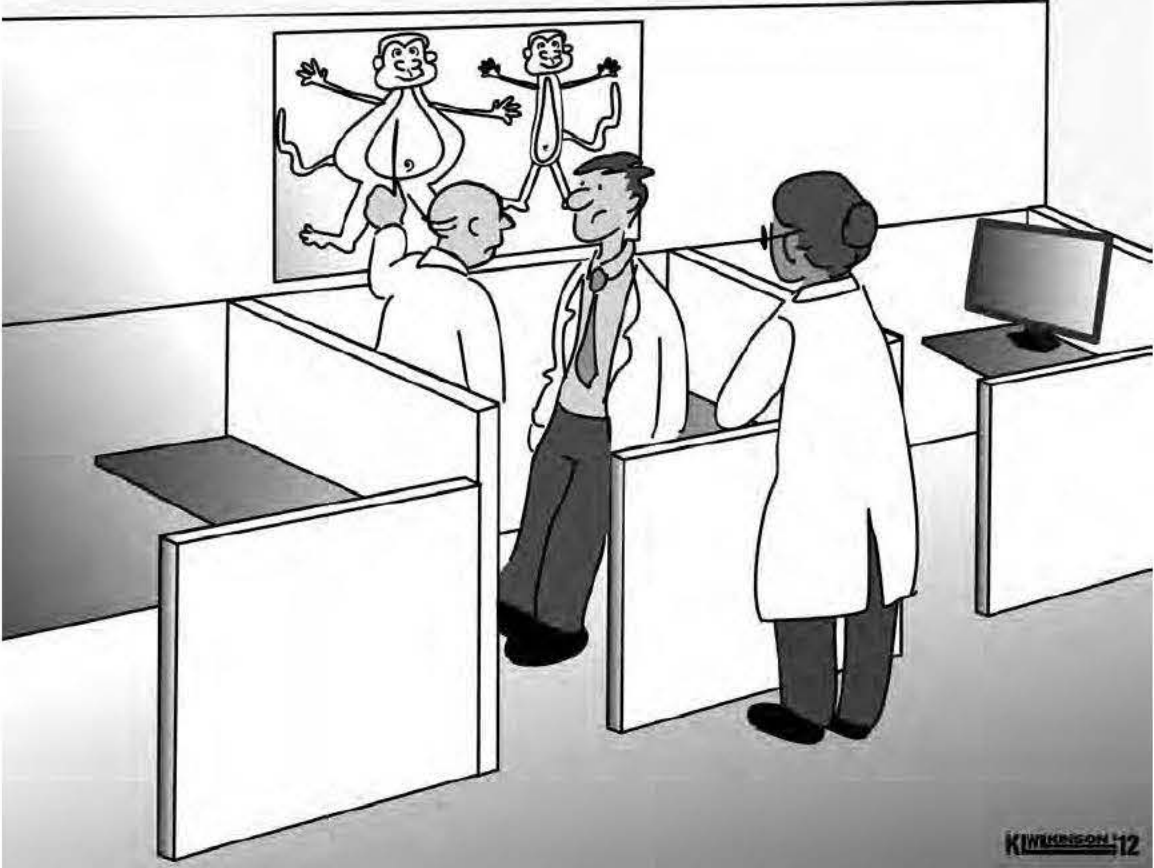
But acceptance does not mean that all is lost.

After years of working through these stages, I've discovered a new sixth stage: doing The Work. This means taking courage from each other as we look this monster in the eye and fight side-by-side in the battle of a lifetime. Systemic change — not just light-bulb change — is what's required now. This must include everything from replacing the GDP as an outdated measure of progress to getting schools to teach climate science and arm the next generation with the facts.

Together, we can get a glimpse, beyond despair, of a world of transformation and rebirth that is possible if we're courageous enough to fight for it. After all, our planet will eventually restore itself to a state of equilibrium — we just have to make sure humankind is around to witness it.

Daphne Wysham is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. This article was distributed via OtherWords (OtherWords.org)

SURE, A LOW-CALORIE DIET DOESN'T SEEM TO HELP THE POOR MONKEYS LIVE ANY LONGER... BUT THEN AGAIN WE HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO TEST FOR THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF LIVING IN A CAGE.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Setting the Record Straight

I want to set the record straight about a story that appeared in the last issue of the Montague Reporter (Notes from the Leverett Selectboard: Bias in Highway Interview Discussed).

At no time did I ask Jennifer Roberts King a question as obnoxious as the one quoted in the August 23rd Reporter. During the interview with Jennifer, after adding to her list of work experiences and speaking in high regard about her storm preparedness and work ethic, I used myself and co-snowfighter Will Stratford as an example and made a comparison between a responsible and irresponsible place to be in the event of an approaching snow

storm. No question was asked, no accusation was made. I thought it was quite clear that I was advocating for her. Somewhere, though, there was an "unfortunate" misunderstanding. I wish clarification was asked for, but it wasn't. In the days following the interview process, I was commended by another member of the hiring committee for advocating on behalf of Jennifer. This assures me that my statements were easily understood, as I intended them to be. Under no circumstance did I mean to offend Jennifer. We've been friends for 30 years, and it's just absurd to think otherwise.

As for David Detmold, who

wrote the story, he speaks as though he was at the selectboard meeting on August 14th. But unfortunately, he wasn't, and he missed a lot of information. For example, the first line of uncomfortable or inappropriate questions that Jennifer was asked by another member of the hiring committee. Might this have been why town counsel was present that night? Or the accusations of a conflict of interest due to nepotism from work hired out this spring? For those of us who expect the whole story, this article was far from it.

— Silas Ball
Leverett

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Boston may be nice but the first order of business is at home in the office.

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for Clerk of Courts: I believe that Sue Emond with her background as the assistant Clerk of Courts is the right choice. With so few people in that office, every one there must be able to do the work.

Last: Vote today.

— Patricia A. Allen
Montague

GUEST EDITORIAL

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - The old bugaboo of silt accumulating in the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro facility's upper reservoir (as well as in the river, visible as sand bars in Barton Cove) has reared its ugly head again. GDF-Suez First Light is in a tough spot and it could get tougher as federally relicensing for Northfield Mountain approaches in 2018, with public hearings beginning next year.

With no snow melt to speak of, and dry weather predominating since spring, the Connecticut River is low, at times too low to launch a boat at the Gill boat ramp during emergencies. Forecasters say drought conditions may become the new normal.

There have been changes at the pumped hydro facility since it went online in 1972. The Northfield Mountain designed as a "1,000 megawatt peaking plant" to generate electricity during hours of peak demand is no more. It is no longer a

peaking plant, and through creative accounting, it is no longer one 1,000 megawatt plant, but four plants, with each generator designated as a separate plant. Two of the four generators are now upgraded to generate 280 megawatts; two still operate at the old output of 250 megawatts.

Land owners on the Connecticut River are still seeing their river banks wash into the river. GDF-Suez and their subsidiary FirstLight Power blame boat wakes for the riverbank erosion, to say nothing of waves caused by kayaks and fish leaping to catch mosquitoes.

But silt is still getting pumped up into the upper reservoir, and that poses a big problem, as it did for the utility in 2010, when silt clogged the intake tunnel leading to a massive cleanup effort, one fatality, a reprimand for dumping silt in the river from the Environmental Protection Agency, and a cessation of operations from May to

November. Now, silt washed into the river from river banks as the river is pumped backwards by the huge turbines at Northfield Mountain is once again piling up in the upper reservoir, accumulating in Barton Cove, and has even formed a sand bar above the Turners Falls Dam, where reeds are visibly proliferating.

While Connecticut River banks in the Vernon, VT area show few signs of the extensive erosion in the Northfield-Gill area, or further downstream in the Northampton area, FirstLight spokesman Chuck Burnham steadfastly maintains stream bank erosion is caused by boat wakes.

After the tunnel plugging debacle, FirstLight deposited silt, dredged out of the river and removed from the tunnel, in a limited area of dry land within the limits of containment of the upper reservoir. But disposing of silt that is

once again accumulating in the upper reservoir poses a problem — actually, several problems. The EPA does not want it dumped back into the river. The silt is contaminated with a variety of contaminants, heavy metals and possibly radioactive isotopes. Selling or even giving away silt originating from the river would be considered "mining" the river, for which First Light would need a mining permit.

Reached by phone, Burnham said he had not heard anything about a plan to build a new lower reservoir at Northfield Mountain, instead of using the river itself as the facility's lower reservoir. Burnham said the reason silt had plugged the intake tunnel in 2010 was that Northfield Mountain had not flushed the upper reservoir for several years, which seems to indicate that flushing silt into the river was not a new practice, although it is something the EPA clearly frowns upon.

When asked what First Light

planned to do with accumulated silt presently in the upper reservoir, since silt dredged back out of the river and trucked up the mountain for deposit has now taken up most of the available land above the high waterline inside the reservoir walls, Burnham said, "I'll have to make some phone calls and get back to you."

Despite Burnham's statement that he knew of no such plan, a new lower reservoir built on land separated from the river is indeed a plan the company has under active consideration in advance of relicensing, according to one source within the company who wishes to remain anonymous for reasons of job security. With concrete or rock walls, similar to the walls containing the upper reservoir, the silt problem would largely be solved. In order to preserve as much "fall" as possible, the landlocked reservoir would need to be located at the lowest possible elevation, perhaps below First Light's Solar Farm, on Split River Farm land or the Fuller Farm land.

In meetings with Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Mason Phelps of Wendell had proposed a landlocked lower reservoir during, or even before, the original construction at Northfield Mountain began.

"A landlocked or buffered lower reservoir makes a lot of sense," Andrea Donlon, river steward for the Connecticut River Watershed Council, said this week. "It would see SILT page 5

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The New England Governors Conference Turns Violent



Protesters and police at the 36th Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Provinces in Burlington, VT this summer.

BY MARK HUDYMA

BURLINGTON, VT - There were explosions, comrades dropping left and right, and the din of screams everywhere. Police waded through the crowd with batons, German shepherds, and rubber bullets. All of this activity in the street was watched by governors and premiers of the eastern United States and Canada at the New England Governors conference, held in Burlington, VT on July 29th and 30th.

The protest was organized in response to plans for the Trailbreaker Pipeline plan to bring tar sands oil through Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Those protesting the conference believe the pipeline would be harmful to the sensitive ecosystems of New England, and that a spill, which is more likely with heavier tar sands oil, could devastate the environments it passes through, including Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, and the Connecticut River.

But despite vocal opposition see **CONFERENCE** page 6

WiredWest Survey an Essential Next Step to Bring High Speed Internet to Wendell

BY NAN RIEBSCHLAEGE

As an essential next step on the long and winding road to last mile high speed fiber optic connectivity in Wendell, and other underserved communities that have been waiting in the wilderness for the day high speed internet finally becomes available to all residents, survey forms for WiredWest have been mailed out to every household in town with the latest newsletter from the selectboard.

The survey forms will gauge people's interest in signing up for high speed internet, telephone, and television/video services when WiredWest is available to our homes. So far, 22.5% of Wendell residents have responded. Of 439 households, 99 have responded, all interested in internet, 64 in digital telephone, and 65 in television/video services.

Wendell was one of 22 towns that signed the corporation papers to create the WiredWest Communications Cooperative Corporation on August 12th, 2011. The first steps in this process were two town meeting votes by written ballot that approved the creation of a Municipal Lighting Plant (MLP) under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164. This statute was originally intended for the creation of electric utilities by towns but was expanded to include telecommunications. As of now, 39 underserved towns in Western and Central Mass have joined the cooperative.

Wendell's MLP is called Wired

Wendell; and Robbie Leppzer is the manager, as well being the town's representative to the WiredWest board of directors.

The information from the survey will be of extreme importance when WiredWest seeks financing for last mile high speed internet connections in member communities. The survey will demonstrate to lenders the level of interest in using the service in WiredWest towns. Another piece needed for financing is the engineering study currently being conducted. When all of these pieces are in place, WiredWest can obtain the financing needed to begin the process of stringing fiber optics to residences and businesses in member towns - the "last mile" of internet connectivity.

Currently the central buildings in towns are being wired by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), completing the "middle mile" network to connect each of 123 underserved Western and Central Massachusetts towns to the internet. WiredWest will offer services to these town buildings including internet, telephone, and broadcasting.

Wendell residents are encouraged to fill out and turn in the survey. Paper forms are available and can be dropped off at the library. There is an easy to complete online form at wired-west.net. For more information on last mile connectivity coming to Wendell, contact nanc@sustaincommunity.org or 978-544-2741.

SILT from page 4

reduce most of the river bank erosion, which would benefit river bank landowners. And it would benefit the pumped storage facility by reducing the amount of silt pumped up to their upper reservoir. It would certainly help fish by reducing silting of the river water. And fish would not have a strong current to fight during spawning. Having the river filled with silt and reversing the flow of the river during pumping confuses fish who [instinctively] swim upstream to spawn. Raising and lowering the river eight feet on a daily basis not only erodes river banks but fish spawn in shallow tributaries. With

river height fluctuating eight feet daily, at high water periods it floods tributaries, then leaves fish eggs to dry out during low water."

Chuck Burnham, spokesman for First Light, denied the company had any plans to build a buffered lower reservoir when I called him back after I had not heard from him again by press time. "There are no plans for construction of a new lower reservoir at this time."

When questioned about the eventual disposition of accumulated silt at the upper reservoir, Burnham said, "We won't wait as long to draw down the reservoir, this time, so as to not have the problem we had last time." When

asked when the next anticipated drawdown would occur, Burnham said, "We do it at five or ten year intervals."

A ten year interval was blamed for the drawdown debacle last time.

"Where will you put the silt, since there isn't very much room left by the upper reservoir?"

"We are looking for another place for it, up there," Burnham said without elaborating.



RADIO TOWER from pg 1

American Tower is seeking a variance that would allow the company to leave the disused tower standing.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser questioned whether the company is just trying to avoid the expense of dismantling the tower.

In response to his question, Ruotolo said an internet relay on the tower would add coverage to 12 to 15 homes.

He said American Tower had corresponded with the town about the proposal, but selectboard Chair Christine Heard said that communication had not reached selectboard members until the meeting of August 29th.

With this information coming all at once, and concerned that time would not permit the selectboard to hear from everyone present in the room, Heard said the selectboard would hold a special meeting on this issue, not at one of their regular Wednesday meetings, but on an alternate week, likely September 19th.

Pat Smith from the Franklin Council of Governments (FRCOG) met the board earlier in the meeting to describe the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the intention of getting the town to sign up for the program. Only 14 towns in Massachusetts are not signed up already, four of them in Franklin County: Shutesbury, Leyden, Rowe and Wendell. Leyden and Shutesbury are in the process of joining. Joining begins with approval by a two thirds vote of town meeting of a town bylaw that regulates building in a hundred year floodplain, more accu-



rately the area with a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year. The mapping of floodplains is broad and open to question, and in Wendell includes only the areas around the Millers River and Whetstone Brook.

Banks are beginning to require flood insurance for a mortgage, and the chief advantage for homeowners if the town becomes a member is a lower flood insurance price, an average of \$900 a year for a home, as opposed to several thousand dollars.

Smith said more information is available at floodsmart.gov.

Municipal aggregation of electricity moved forward with a public hearing in Boston on August 1st. Under this program, in Wendell, homeowners will be subscribed automatically to the Hampshire Council of Government's aggregate electricity purchasing unless they opt out, and will usually save on the monthly electric bill.

The town itself has been part of a similar program for municipal electricity, and has saved money every year compared to standard billing, though not every single month.

The next step is for each town to approve the new arrangement, and the selectboard voted to do that.

Conservation commissioner Charles Smith handed board members a letter requesting they appoint Ruth Mazurka to the committee. Heard said she was aware of another very qualified person interested in that opening, and asked Aldrich to go to the commission meeting and ask if they would be willing to wait for another two weeks before the appointment is made.

Later in the meeting, conservation

commission member Mary Thomas asked the board to act right away to appoint Mazurka. The selectboard did so, noting the other candidate could become an associate member.

Aldrich reported the state legislature passed and the governor signed special legislation to allow Union 28 towns to pay school employee benefits at the same rate they pay other employees. Town benefit levels within the union for health insurance varies from 50% in Leverett to 85% in Erving.

The board received a letter complaining of the dogs on the common during Old Home Day, and the mess they left. Several dogs were there, but there was no fighting or altercation, and all were leashed, obeying the law.

Keller suggested the board make an official announcement that dog owners are responsible for picking up after their pets on public property.

Sharon Wachslar sent the selectboard a letter saying the town hall is not a good shelter for people with multiple chemical sensitivity. During long term electric outages she and others were at risk, without heat or water, and not willing to take shelter at the town hall with its chemicals.

It took several days for the police department to reach her with a generator, to keep her comfortable in her home.

Pooser suggested that neighborhood captains could be proactive in the future and identify people who cannot use the town hall, and help the police get to those homes with one of the eight generators the police department has for that purpose.



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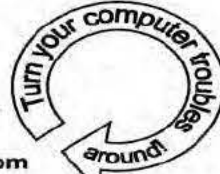
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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Five Hundred Jobs Envisioned at Turnpike Road Industrial Park

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The selectboard, meeting on the Wednesday following the Labor Day holiday, approved a \$40,000 contract with an Ashfield consulting group to design a vision plan for downtown livability to guide future development in Turners Falls, and approved for priority development 183 acres of town owned land off Turnpike Road (the former town landfill and adjoining parcels to the rear of Judd Wire) for a planned Green industrial park, where as many as 500 jobs could eventually be created, once the park reaches maximum buildout.

Also on Wednesday, the board heard an update on the permanent police chief hiring process from town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who said a private company named BadgeQuest would conduct a police chief assessment center in Montague on October 5th, pending approval by the town meeting of spending \$6,600 for that purpose.

The assessment center exam, which within Civil Service guidelines allows communities to select chiefs instead of relying on a written exam, should allow a permanent police chief candidate to emerge from among the interested applicants within the police department by the end of October, Abbondanzio said.

Town planner Walter Ramsey told the selectboard a \$40,000 grant had been made available to the town of Montague by the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments, from funding that originated from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development, to come up with a vision plan for downtown livability in Turners Falls. After going out to bid and winnowing through five applicants, a selection committee including Ramsey and RiverCulture director Lisa Davol tapped the firm of Dodson and Flinker, of Ashfield, to come up with the vision plan, in association with an advisory committee of interested local citizens. The first meeting of that advisory committee will take place on Tuesday, September 11th, at 4:30 p.m. in town hall; for more information call the town planner at 863-3200, extension 207.

The vision plan will focus on five priorities: the creation of a new master plan for downtown to promote livability and mobility; streetscape, parking and pedestrian improvements; projects, policies and action strategies to promote livability and sense of place; a market strategy for reducing vacancies and fostering redevelopment; and redevelop-

ment strategies for five key downtown properties. Those properties are the Strathmore Mill, Ste. Anne's Church, the Railroad Salvage Mill, the former Cumberland Farms Building; and the back lot of town hall.

As to the plan for a new Green industrial park on town owned land behind Judd Wire off Turnpike Road, Ramsey said the selectboard's approval of priority permitting status for the property would be the first step in getting the project off the drawing board. The board gave their approval. The next step would be the added approval of priority status for permitting the acreage from the upcoming special town meeting on Monday, September 10th.

Ramsey said priority permitting of the land would put Montague in line for needed state grant funding to develop the parcel, which also has the strong support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, "because there's such a shortage of developable land in the county." Ramsey said when the new industrial park is fully developed, it could provide a home for companies providing as many as 500 jobs, and \$573,000 in annual tax revenue for the town.

Ramsey said no traffic study had yet been done on the proposed Turnpike Road industrial park. Some of the land is currently permitted for a landfill; if developed as an industrial park, the option of utilizing that state permit for a future landfill, obtained at considerable cost to the town decades ago, would be effectively eliminated.

Sally Pick updated the selectboard on the status of the Solarize Montague program, which presently has seven homeowners under contract for new photovoltaic systems totalling 25 kilowatts of photovoltaic. Having reached this level of support, the town as a whole has now reached the second pricing tier for photovoltaics (PV) installed under the competitive state program. Had the town not reached a total of 25 kilowatts of new contracted PV systems by the program deadline of September 30th, 2012, the price per watt installed would have been \$5.00, for each customer. At 25 kilowatts townwide, the price now drops to \$4.55 per watt for each customer, Pick said.

Solarize Montague's installer, Northeast Solar of Hatfield, estimates at least 45 more kilowatts of newly installed PV are likely to be contracted by the deadline, driving the cost per watt for each customer in town down to \$4.75, a considerable sav-

ings for all who sign up between now and September 30th. Pick said about 170 Montague residents have requested site visits from Northeast Solar, so the potential is there for even deeper savings for all who enter the program.

Pick said Solarize Montague will have a booth at the Soapbox Derby on Sunday, September 16th in Unity Park (derby starts at noon, and will run for no more than three, OK, maybe four hours max this year). Additional information sessions on Solarize Montague program will take place Tuesday, September 18th at the community room of the Turnpike Road safety complex from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and at the Greenfield Savings Bank community room on Saturday, September 22nd from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information on the program, call Pick at 413-559-7257.

The special town meeting on Monday at the Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m. will feature 14 articles, including one to expend \$160,000 from the sewer enterprise fund to keep sewer rates level for another year. Also on the warrant are articles to finance the installation of a fourth dewatering zone on the sewage treatment plant's recently installed Fournier press, which should lead to staffing efficiencies at the treatment plant, and an article to spend \$15,000 to purchase a new cruiser for the police chief, or interim police chief, who is currently relying on a 1998 Ford Taurus with 140,000 miles, a hole in its catalytic converter, and a \$5,000 repair estimate for that and a host of other problems.

Town meeting will also be asked to spend \$35,000 in addition to \$130,000 previously appropriated to clean up an asbestos laden debris pile, all that remains of Building #11 at the Strathmore Mill, destroyed by arson fire.

CONFERENCE from pg 5

from many in New England states, the plan moves forward.

The major event of the protest was a "Human Oil Spill," where hundreds of protesters, dressed in black, marched to the Hilton Hotel, where the conference was being held, and laid their bodies down on the pavement, representing an oil spill.

That marked the end of the official demonstration, and many protesters then left the area. Word soon began to spread of a second action. A group of organizers had obtained the schedule for the conference, and planned to blockade the hotel as conference delegates attempted to

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Numbers Still Lacking in Ambulance Plan

BY KATIE NOLAN - Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin is "not happy" with a draft "statement of purpose" for the Erving/Northfield shared ambulance service committee.

On August 27th, Goodwin told the selectboard the statement from Northfield emergency medical services (EMS) manager Mark Fortier failed to reference investment and revenue as aspects of the proposed joint town ambulance service.

"It's a business opportunity that the towns can

engage in," said Goodwin. Noting that Erving already has ambulance service from Northfield EMS, Baystate Health Service, and Orange fire department, he said, "If ROI [return on investment] is not a criterion for success, we don't want it."

For several months, the selectboard has been considering a joint venture with the Northfield EMS, in which Erving would help Northfield EMS pay for a new ambulance. Currently, Northfield EMS and Baystate provide ambulance services to the western portion of Erving and the

Orange fire department covers the eastern portion of Erving.

According to selectboard members, a shared ambulance with Northfield would benefit Erving both from better quality and availability of ambulance services and a revenue stream from charges to people using the ambulance service.

The board asked assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard to contact Northfield town administrator Tom Hutchinson to ask whether Northfield's goals for the proposed shared service

see ERVING page 7

SEWER from page 1

which have also remained flat for a number of years.

Purington said grants could be available to repair sewer pipes, once an I&I study is completed.

Purington did not favor turning to a revolving account maintained by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which has about \$42,000 remaining, to help pay for an I&I study, since the board had authorized spending more than \$60,000 to repair the Riverside water district last year from that same fund. That fund, which derives from repayed

Community Development Block Grant funded loans, is otherwise intended to provide additional zero interest loans for housing rehab to low and moderate income homeowners throughout town, unless the selectboard votes to spend the funds for other allowed purposes, such as infrastructure improvement and planning, once a targeted neighborhood has been determined to be majority low or moderate income, as Riverside has recently been determined to be.

But Purington, speaking as a citizen of Gill rather than administrative assistant, indicated it would appear unfair to the rest of town to continue spending down the revolving housing rehab loan fund for infrastructure in just one area of town.

With the sewer fund so low, and grants for I&I studies unavailable, the town has few options to even study the problem of inflow and infiltration in the Riverside sewers, and the imbalance between sewer bills and operating costs for the sewer system will continue if rates remain flat.

In the last two years, sewer bills have brought in about \$50,000 annually, while operating costs for the district have run closer to \$79,000.

In other news, the selectboard accepted the resignation of Joanne Flagg from the conservation commission, and put out a plea for other citizens to come forward to fill the vacancies on the commission, and other town boards.

Board chair Ann Banash said, "If we don't have people volunteering we're going to have a very hard time doing business. Most of these [boards and commissions] don't take a lot of time on a monthly basis. Give back to your town."

For the Gill energy commission, Claire Chang and Janet Masucci outlined proposals for spending the \$139,000 state grant the town recently received for being designated a Green Community. The commission would like to pay for an energy audit of the Slate Library, town hall and the Riverside building, which should cost about \$10,000, Chang said. Then the commission would like to see the town hall ceil-

ing and walls insulated, and insulation, boiler replacement and window inserts at the Riverside building, at least.

The commission would also like to see some of the money spent on anti-idling devices for town police cruisers, which turn cruisers on road details back on automatically before the battery begins to run too low to keep the flashing lights on. Bike racks for various locations in town are also on the commission's shopping list, along with a townwide energy conservation campaign.

In response to communication from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation district superintendent Al Stegemann, the Gill selectboard agreed to send a letter to the DOT commissioner requesting an expedited construction schedule for wrapping up the multi-year, \$40 million renovation of the Gill-Montague bridge, as well as the renovation of the Fall River bridge on Route 2.

"The sooner we get those two bridges done, the better for everyone," said Banash, who credited a recent meeting of Riverside business owners and representative Denise Andrews with alerting Stegemann to the plight of local businesses during the now three year old renovation project of the main artery between Gill and Montague. The project is not scheduled for completion until 2014.



leave aboard five coach buses.

The buses were allowed to enter the driveway, and took several minutes for the delegates to board. The protesters countered by forming a line across the driveway, leaving the buses no way out but through the crowd.

Several uniformed officers standing in the driveway. There were scuffles with the crowd, as many protesters were pushed and the police informed the crowd they would all be arrested if they did not get out of the way. The initial small group of police was augmented by around 25 more officers in riot gear, armed with paintball guns, riot shotguns, and batons.

The first bus of delegates

slowly drove towards the protesters before coming to a stop, and the line of police moved forward. There were explosions and screams, and the stinging smell of pepper spray hung in the air. A voice shouted "Medic!" It was over in seconds. The blockade was broken, and the first bus, filled with delegates, governors, and lobbyists slowly rolled by.

The blockade reformed, and the crowd broke into song, "Amazing Grace" ringing off the concrete walls. The rest of the buses approached, and the phalanx of police again advanced. The blockade was smaller, with some wounded, and some having fled. More explosions, and the buses passed through again.

Having gotten their message across, the crowd marched back to the Unitarian Church, nursing their wounds, with emotions ranging from fear to the adrenaline of confrontation. At the church were delegations from the Abenaki and Innu First Nations, who discussed the plight of indigenous people in the region.

Six protesters had been hurt, with pepper balls (pellets filled with pepper spray), sting pellets (plastic pellets launched from a shotgun), and pepper spray. None were arrested. The police department released a statement affirming the actions the officers.

Mark Hudyma is a recent graduate of Turners Falls High.



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Repaving (part of) Mountain Road



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Mike Curtis of Lane Construction smoothing out the fresh pavement on Mountain Road last month.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - Roller operator Mike Curtis waited at the intersection of Mountain Road and Main in Gill last month for blacktop to set up enough so he could roll out the pavement. Gill highway super

Mickey LaClaire contracted with Lane Construction of Northfield to pave Mountain Road up to Renee Stone's house. Lane also paved a swale by the side of the road to keep surface water from flooding the house at the corner of Mountain

Road and Main Road, an area reputed to contain unusual Native burials (but that's another story).

Lane paved the road for \$6 a ton less than the cost of blacktop purchased at the plant, according to LaClaire.

ERVING from page 6

include an appraisal of its potential return on investment.

In a related development, the board received a letter from the Orange fire department exploring the possibility of expanding its ambulance coverage for Erving.

Goodwin commented that perhaps Erving should "put out an RFP [request for proposals] to different towns that have ambulance services. We have money that we want to invest."

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo submitted his resignation as fire department 1st lieutenant, effective immediately, citing the conflict between his work on the selectboard and as a fire department member. In his resignation letter, Klepadlo said over time he has found it increasingly difficult to separate the two positions.

The selectboard voted to commend police officer James Loynd for his extra efforts in an internet crimes against children (ICAC) investigation. According to the selectboard, Loynd's action helped get a perpetrator off the streets.

The board voted to approve \$250 to remove the handicap access elevator from the Pleasant Street former school building, which houses the offices of School Union 28. Inspectors had determined the elevator was not repairable.

Library director Barbara Friedman wrote to the selectboard asking them to consider moving the library from its present location on Moore Street to the Pleasant Street building, if that building becomes available. Currently, the Union 28 central

office rents the second floor of the three-story building. Noting the board's earlier vote to remove the building's elevator, Klepadlo remarked, "That means putting in an elevator." Klepadlo, speaking of the proposal to expand the library from its current location, said there is "less and less in print." Goodwin added, "You need less space to house electronic media."

Emergency management department (EMD) director Luke Hartnett asked about the possibility of putting an EMD office at the Pleasant Street building in the future and said that the recreation commission might want to use space there as well.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said for EMD, a better office space would be "at the senior center, where there's a generator."

Goodwin said the town should develop a long-term plan for the former school building on Pleasant Street "before anyone moves there."

The selectboard decided to table a decision about accepting a grant for an emergency traffic control trailer and a "manhole buddy" used to open manholes until after a meeting of town department heads on August 30th. The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) grant of \$5,000 for the trailer would require an additional \$2398.03 expenditure from the town.

Goodwin asked why the town was considering buying equipment that was not already part of the town's capital plan. Klepadlo asked emergency manager Hartnett to discuss with other

department heads how often the equipment might be used and come up with a cost/benefit analysis.

The selectboard voted to accept a \$45,000 contract with Tighe & Bond for oversight of the demolition project at the former Usher Plant. A pre-construction meeting for that project will be held on September 5th at 10 a.m.

The selectboard members, acting in their capacity as water commissioners, voted to accept a new fee schedule for water fees and charges. The administrative charge per billing period, the shut-off, turn on, and initial turn on fees will all be raised from \$30.00 to \$40.00 under the new regulations.

The selectboard approved, contingent on a vote by the library trustees, hiring Jean Daley of Wendell and Marion Overgaard of Erving for six hours a week each to replace a 12-hour per week employee who resigned.

The board appointed Jay Butynski as a part-time police officer. Sullivan said Butynski is from Springfield and works part-time for the Greenfield police department.

The board accepted the resignation of Donald Mayhew from the zoning board of appeals.

The selectboard ended open session and went into executive session "for the purpose of considering the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health and/or the discipline, dismissal of, or hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual" and to review criminal offender record information (CORI) reports.



Little Free Library Expands to Montague Center

Just to let people know, we now have a newly rebuilt Little Free Library on Avenue A in Turners Falls, right where the old one was (destroyed by arson), right in front of Nina's Nook. The new little library was built with the generosity of Dennis Parrott and Nina Rossi.

As an added bonus, because some kind folks from Maine built us another one, we've also decided to open a "branch" little library in Montague Center. It's on Center Street, just past house #41, on the north side of the street.

Take a stroll out and visit these new additions, available for all book lovers in town! We want to thank the following people for their kindness and hard work in making these a reality: Dennis Parrott, Peter Masi, Gretchen Witman, Anna Greene, and the kind people from Maine who used to live in the Pioneer Valley - John Sidik, Dennis Sidik, Jean English, and Gabe Benzie.

We have painted the new "libraries" and they are now open for business. Your donations are



MORAN PHOTO

Following its destruction by arson earlier this summer, the Little Free Library on Avenue A has been rebuilt, and has been joined by this new branch library on Center Street in Montague Center

very welcome - please no old textbooks, but children's picture books are always appreciated! Thanks, and enjoy the Little Free Libraries - they are here for all of us.

- Jeri Moran, Montague Center

- Nina Rossi, Turners Falls

Out of the Way Athol - Foray to Tully Lake

An outing to explore the southern end of Tully Lake as part of the 'Out-of-the-Way Athol' series will be held on Saturday, September 15th, from 9-11 a.m., meeting at the Tully Dam overlook parking lot on Athol Road, Royalston (Route. 32)

will be led by naturalists Lula Field and Christine Beckert Long; sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club. One focus of this visit will be a search for asters and goldenrods (and other fall bloomers), with tips on how to tell them apart.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Trespassing at Usher Mill

Tuesday, 8/21

5:45 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with traffic stop at Main Street.
7:55 p.m. Alarm at State Road residence. All OK.
8:15 p.m. Domestic disturbance called in from Pratt Street; found to be in Millers Falls; assisted Montague police with multi-subject domestic disturbance there.
9:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with traffic stop on Route 63.
10:15 p.m. Assisted Montague police with accident on Millers Falls Road. Vehicle fled scene; located same.
Wednesday, 8/22
7:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic dispute on Turners Falls Road.
Thursday, 8/23
4:30 a.m. Medical emergency on Warner Street,

assistance rendered.

9:20 a.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on French King Highway.
12:58 p.m. Domestic disturbance on North Street.
4:55 p.m. Accident at East Main and High Street; report taken.
5:05 p.m. Dog struck by vehicle on North Street; assisted same.
8:00 p.m. Suspicious persons and trespass at Usher Mill complex. Subjects advised about trespassing.
8:30 p.m. Assisted Gill police with domestic on Center Road.

Friday, 8/24

Arrested [redacted] for violation of an abuse prevention order, Pratt St.
Saturday, 8/25
5:08 a.m. Suspicious person on French King Bridge, taken to Baystate Franklin Medical by Baystate Health

Ambulance.

11:45 a.m. Medical emergency on East

Prospect Street, assisted same; transported by BHA.

2:00 p.m. Report taken on mail fraud.

6:40 p.m. Assisted Gill police with alarm on French King Highway, all secure.

10:50 p.m. Assisted BHA with medical emergency on East Prospect Street.

Sunday, 8/26

3:05 p.m. Suspicious package found in river by Farley Flats. Investigated.

Monday, 8/27

10:30 p.m. Subject into station to report possible attempt to gain access to subject's Facebook account.

Tuesday, 8/28

5:05 p.m. Disturbance on Pratt Street. Arrested [redacted] for disturbing the peace and resisting arrest. Criminal citation issued to [redacted] for disturbing the peace.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Dog Bite on West Street

Wednesday, 7/11

6:15 p.m. Montague Rd. resident reported several books taken from mail box.

Thursday, 7/12

9:05 a.m. Domestic problem at Lockes Village Rd. residence—all OK on arrival.

Friday, 7/17

Medical emergency at a Farley Rd. residence—Orange ambulance transported.

Tuesday, 7/24

7:33 a.m. Report of tree on wires (burning) on

New Salem Rd. National Grid notified.

Wednesday, 8/03

11:45 p.m. MV accident in center near Library-No injuries except to deer.

Thursday, 8/19

9:00 p.m. Report of single gunshot on Stone Rd.—checked area and neighbors—all OK. Unable to located source of gunshot.

Friday, 8/20

10:00 a.m. Stone Rd. resident to station to report ATV's on her property last night.

Monday, 8/23

10:08 a.m. Orange resident called to report a Wendell resident backed into his Harley motorcycle damaging front fender three days ago.

Tuesday, 8/24

4:00 p.m. Unwanted person at Country Store—responded and moved same along.

Monday, 9/03

12.28 p.m. Athol Hospital called to report a Verizon worker was bitten by dog on West St.

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Montague Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

BY JOHN FURBISH

The Montague Cultural Council has set an October 15th postmark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants to support cultural activities in town.

According to council treasurer Jeri Bannister, cultural grants can be used to support a variety of artistic

projects and activities in Montague Center, Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, and Montague City - including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

The Montague Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local cultur-

al councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth, the largest such grassroots cultural funding network in the nation. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Montague Cultural Council will distribute about \$3,870 in grants. Previously funded projects include: The Marble Collection, high school multi-media magazine of the arts; the musical Godspell; the drama Radium Girls; and a series of performances by musicians aged 12 to 80 in the Montague Community

Band. For specific guidelines and complete info on the Montague Cultural Council, contact treasurer Jeri Bannister at jbannister@crocker.com. Application forms and more info about the local cultural council program are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp.

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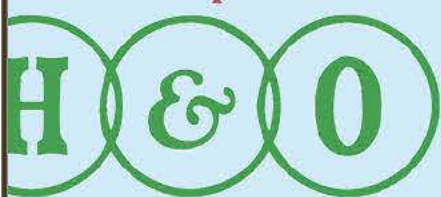
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The owners of the Rendezvous celebrate their fifth anniversary, Friday, August 31st, with a packed house. (Left- right) Chris Janke, Mark Wisniewski, Jaime Berger and Emily Brewster. High five, folks!

DETMOID PHOTO



Stephen Broll (clarinet), Anna Wetberby (viola) and Laura Botkin (flute) performed a chamber music concert at the gazebo on Wendell common on Saturday, September 1st. Approximately 30 people sat on the lawn, picnicked, and enjoyed a great concert as the sun set behind the performers, giving them a special glow. The trio will be performing again the 3rd annual Greenfield Art's Eclectic on Saturday September 8th, at approximately 6:20 p.m. at the Energy Park.

DVORA COHEN PHOTO

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A Sighting in Ireland



Nancy Holmes sends this picture of her sister Mary (Maidy) and her husband Jerry reading the Montague Reporter in Dingle, Ireland. Jerry teaches at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT and takes a group of students over to Ireland for week-long sessions in Irish culture, history and language. To find out more about local Irish lore, attend Turners Falls Tales and Legends at the Discovery Center on Friday, September 28th at 6:30 p.m.

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BY SHIRA HILLEL
MONTAGUE – Energy efficiency isn't just important for homes; it's important for farms too! On Wednesday, August 15th, about a dozen local residents turned out for an informational meeting on energy conservation for farms held at the community room of the Montague safety complex. The panel discussion was organized jointly by the agricultural commission and the Montague energy committee.

Participants in the panel discussion included Donna Francis of the agricultural commission, Elizabeth Youngblood, project coordinator for Solarize Montague, a Mass Clean Energy program, Annanda Treat, project coordinator for the state solar hot water program, Sally Pick, community solar coach for the Montague energy committee, Greg Garrison of Northeast Solar, the solar installer working with Solarize Montague, and Jess Cook of the Massachusetts farm energy program, an informational resource center based in Amherst that aims to link area farms with funding and energy efficiency resources.

The meeting intended, as Cook said, to show area farmers that "there are people out there who are here to help."

Right now, there are national and state incentives to increase energy efficiency. While there are a few USDA grants and other programs available for farmers, the meeting mostly focused on state solar energy programs. Massachusetts has subsidized governmental programs to help with the initial investment of thousands of dollars required to transition to solar energy.

According to Pick, Massachusetts has some of the highest gas costs due to the natural gas infrastructure in the state, but also has excellent solar access.

Solarize Massachusetts runs a rebate program, the goal of which is to lessen the cost to individuals of going solar. The rebate program focuses on smaller-scale systems, mostly residential, producing below 15 kW. The excess electricity harnessed by individuals goes back into

the grid in exchange for credits that offset electricity bills (for times when consumers draw electricity from the grid – for instance, at night). The solar electricity produced during sunlight hours acts like "money in the bank" according to Pick.

Seventeen communities throughout the state were selected to be part of the Solarize Mass program; Montague was one of them. The Montague energy committee applied for the program to drop costs of going solar for their residents, and to become a greener community.

Pick explained the more people who sign up for the program, the more the price drops for everyone. A tier level system works out how much the price will go down, according to the total solar kW produced in the community. Volunteers from the town are working on citizen outreach to spread the word.

"It doesn't have to be a hot day, just sunny," Pick reminded the audience.

There are also tax benefits to going solar. One advantage of being part of a green community is that while the newly solar property is assessed at a higher value, the owner is exempt from property taxes for a number of years.

Northeast Solar is the partnering solar installer working with Solarize Montague. Northeast Solar installs both small residential systems and larger farm systems too.

An advantage to working with a single installer is that they can buy equipment in bulk, and thus are able to offer discounted rates to the community.

Garrison, who is a Montague resident, discussed the importance for farms to stabilize the cost of energy long term for them to be able to build any sort of business plan.

He explained many of the details of the installation process. Garrison said people can size the system they choose based on what they can afford, and said the systems Northeast Solar installs have about a 30-year life span.

Garrison answered technical questions about how to solarize multiple buildings on a farm, and

addressed issues like how to reach a barn in the middle of nowhere. He explained his company begins with a structural assessment to see if the building can hold the weight of a PV system on its roof. When calculating, they have to figure in about "2 ½ feet of snow and ice and wind" he noted.

There are other organizations involved in the program. Greenfield Savings Bank offers a home equity loan for a reasonable rate. There is also a leasing option, where a person can lease a PV system rather than own it, but still benefit from the electricity credits and a smaller electric bill.

Treat introduced the Commonwealth solar hot water program, which is a separate program that promotes solar thermal technology.

Treat explained solar thermal heating technology is different from solar PV technology that creates electricity. Solar thermal is a simpler system that runs a fluid through the collector and then loops back to the building's hot water tank or radiant floor heating. It's essentially a "black garden hose in the sun," Garrison summarized.

Running a hot water system on solar energy is much cheaper than using electricity or oil. There is a rebate program for the solar hot water program as well that covers over 50% of the cost of installation. Solar hot water needs a backup system. Treat explained, especially during the winter. Otherwise, "if snow falls on the system, you may run out of hot water," she added.

Pick pointed out that when a community saves money through sustainable energy, there is more available money to spend locally in the community. Thus, the entire community is enriched.

The deadline to sign a contract is September 30th. It is a good idea to schedule an assessment ahead of time to allow time to review the contract.

To learn more, contact: MontagueEnergyCommittee@gmail.com or 413-559-7257.

Late Summer Lobster Wars

BY LESLIE BROWN
MAINE – The Maine lobstering industry is in trouble again, but this time what were once just local skirmishes have developed into international conflict.

As the Gulf of Maine has been over-fished and certain species have dwindled, protective regulations have limited the catch, thus elevating the price of lobsters.

Two years ago, long-standing feuds (cutting lines, pulling traps) blew up when one Matinicus lobsterman was shot at by another.

This season, the catch is bountiful but the price is not.

Further, the record warm ocean temperatures have caused lobsters to shed early this year, creating a large catch of the soft shell variety. But this bonanza brought its own difficulties.

Many consumers have been conditioned to prefer the hard shelled to the soft shelled lobster variety. More importantly, soft shell lobsters are more fragile and thus have a short shelf life and do not fare as well when they are transported.

Consequently, Maine lobstermen have been hauling the glut to New Brunswick and selling at prices that undercut the local market in that province. Canadian lobstermen have dealt with the problem by attempting to blockade Maine deliveries.

Canada, too has a bumper crop of lobsters, and is used to receiving the Maine catch later, in time for freezing for the winter market.

Hence, the newest version of the lobster wars.

These issues break the pocket book of the average lobstering family. Currently the boat price for soft shell lobster is \$2 a pound. One lobsterman who tied up at the Rockland wharf brought in 274 pounds of lobsters and was paid \$590 for his catch

of the day. He spent \$240 for bait, \$165 for fuel and paid his sternman \$119.

His earnings for the day: a mere \$71.

Ironically, the typical Maine tourist who stops at an oceanside eatery for a lobster roll continues to pay the old market price of anywhere from \$13-18 dollars for this hot dog roll filled with mayoed lobster. They are not surprised, nor disappointed.

Many have not heard of the plight of the local lobstermen and count the cost of the season's market price as part of the tally of a seaside vacation.

If you are willing to drive to the dock and buy your lobster from a fisherman and take it home to cook, you can still enjoy this season's extremely low price. But the owner of the roadside lobster roll eatery is not slamming you in the pocketbook. He himself is paying the old market price of \$24 per pound for cooked, prepared lobster bits to fill your sandwich.

Sounds crazy, doesn't it?

Meanwhile, many voices speak to the need to grow the market for this spiny crustacean. There is a growing demand for lobster in China and Japan. There has always been a solid price for lobster in areas of the United States where this delicacy is not found in nature.

But the individual lobsterman can not be a research marketer. He and his cousins have already adapted to work with trap limits and increasing regulation of the catch.

He needs legislative bodies and regulators on his side, working out ways to expand the demand for what is now a glut. He also needs these forces to continue to plan for a future of both increase and decrease in the catch so that his income is a bit steadier than the levels of danger and difficulty he faces every day.

Turners Falls Tales and Legends

BY LISA DAVOL - Each week in September, Turners Falls RiverCulture will present a program about the people of Turners Falls' industrial era, through little known colorful stories from the *Turners Falls Reporter* in the late 19th century and family stories handed down through the generations. The series will focus primarily on the period between 1850 – 1950, when immigrants from Quebec, Ireland, Germany and Poland, among others, helped to build a planned industrial village in Turners Falls and communities that endure to this date.

Town administrator Frank

Abbondanzio has collected period photos and artifacts from these communities and invited residents to share their stories. Each presentation will include a display of images, period music and refreshments. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own stories and artifacts to share. Schedule: Friday 9/7 – German; Thursday 9/13 – Polish; Friday 9/21 – French Canadian; Friday 9/28 – Irish. Events start at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls; info at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org or 413-230-9910.

Political Advertisement

Vermont Yankee Meltdown: What Would We Do? Lessons from Fukushima

Ira Helfand, M.D., Co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility and Emergency Physician in Springfield, MA, returns from a conference in Japan with the latest on Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants. Join us to hear crucial information for all of us living within 50 miles of Vermont Yankee. Additional comments by Deb Katz, co-founder Citizens Awareness Network. Discussion to follow. Monday, September 24th, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Stinchfield Hall, Greenfield Community College Main Campus.

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For more information call: 413-774-3585

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Larceny Spree; Fights in Turners

Tuesday, 8/21
10:03 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Chestnut Street. Two arrests made.
9:51 p.m. Larceny at Central Street. Report taken.
Wednesday, 8/22
8:48 p.m. Report taken of breaking and entering vehicle at Turners Falls Pizza House.
Thursday, 8/23
7:28 p.m. Domestic disturbance, East Main Street, Millers Falls. Peace restored.
Friday, 8/24
8:28 a.m. Report taken of burglary/breaking and entering at Crestview Liquor in Turners Falls.
9:15 a.m. Fraud report at Scotty's Store, Turners Falls.
9:28 a.m. Summons issued for hit and run accident in the Turners Falls Rite Aid parking lot.
11:47 a.m. Report taken of burglary/breaking and entering at Central Street, Turners Falls.
Saturday, 8/25
4:14 p.m. Vandalism reported at Ivy Street, Turners Falls.

Sunday, 8/26
1:57 a.m. Police investigated burglar alarm at Millers Falls Rod and Gun.
8:35 a.m. Police respond to assault and battery report at 4th Street, Turners Falls. arrested for domestic assault and battery.
Monday, 8/27
9:55 a.m. Larceny at Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
3:55 p.m. Larceny at Avenue A, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
4:16 a.m. Services rendered in response to burglar alarm at Greenfield Road in Turners Falls.
5:07 p.m. Larceny at Avenue A, Turners Falls. Referred to officer.
6:09 p.m. Larceny at Montague City Road, Turners Falls. Report taken.
Tuesday, 8/28
11:00 a.m. Missing person at Eighth St, Turners Falls. Referred to officer.
3:09 p.m. Larceny at Park Street, Turners Falls. Referred

to officer.
4:13 p.m. Assault at 3rd Street, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
6:32 p.m. Larceny. Summons issued to of Central Street, Turners Falls, for receiving stolen property.
Wednesday, 8/29
3:14 p.m. Larceny of purse at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Referred to officer.
5:43 p.m. Fight on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Services rendered.
8:59 p.m. Fight on Fifth Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.
9:38 p.m. Fight on 4th Street, Turners Falls. taken into protective custody.
Thursday, 8/30
9:13 a.m. Report of vandalism at Park Street, Turners Falls.
3:17 p.m. Animal found dead at Park Street, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
Friday, 8/31
3:49 p.m. 911 call for larceny at Dolan and Dolan Attorneys, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
Saturday, 9/1
10:06 a.m. Report taken for burglary/breaking and entering

at Habitat for Humanity House, Turners Falls.
10:20 a.m. Vandalism reported at Hair by Phase One in Turners Falls.
Sunday, 9/2
10:11 a.m. Assault at Food City, Turners Falls. Services rendered.
9:10 p.m. Fight reported at Cumberland Farms on Montague City Road in Turners Falls.
Monday, 9/3
12:55 a.m. , was arrested and charged with suspended license and operating a motor vehicle with lights violation.
6:07 a.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering at St. Kazimierz Society in Turners Falls. Services rendered.
2:25 p.m. Services rendered for trespassing at Turners Falls skateboard park.
Tuesday, 9/4
10:06 a.m. Report taken for vandalism at Turners Falls High School.
10:56 a.m. Hit and run reported at Food City parking lot, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Turners Falls Fire Holds Info Session on Back-up Ambulance Plan

BY DAVID DETMOLD - About 30 people turned up for an informational hearing on Tuesday, September 4th about the Turners Falls Fire Department's plan to replace an aging brush truck, used for medical calls, with a used ambulance, to allow the Turners fire department to provide backup ambulance service to the town of Montague's current provider, Greenfield-based Baystate Health Ambulance.

Turners fire chief Robert Escott told the crowd his firefighters currently respond to about 600 medical calls a year, mostly in downtown Turners. And though all the Turners firefighters are trained EMTs, they are not able to transport people to the hospital in the brush truck, and, if Baystate does not have an ambulance free at the time the call comes in, must keep the caller stabilized at home until a back-up ambulance can be dispatched to Turners from either South Deerfield, Sunderland or Shelburne Falls.

If the department purchased a used ambulance, and received licensing from the state, Turners would be able to transport people to the hospital when Baystate Ambulance is not immediately available to respond to a call. And, the Turners department would be able to bill for people it transports.

But Escott repeatedly emphasized his department has no intention of using a back-up ambulance service as a way of "sneaking in the back door" to provide primary ambulance service for the town.

"I don't want to see BHA go away," said Escott. "They provide excellent paramedic service to the town."

And Escott said when the prudential committee a few years ago looked into the potential revenue stream that could be generated if the Turners fire department trained to paramedic level and purchased a new ambulance to provide primary ambulance service to the town, the committee was forced to conclude the potential call volume would not justify the expense.

"At times," Escott said, "we'll go to a medical call with our pick-up truck and BHA is tied up, and it can take 10 - 15 - 40 minutes for

a back-up ambulance to show up and transport to the hospital. We need to replace our brush truck. Why not replace it with an ambulance? Many times before that ambulance shows up, we can already have that person to the hospital."

Escott estimated the amount of money the department could bring in from back-up transports would more than cover the added expenses to his department of maintaining and equipping a used ambulance, and paying for the labor expense of "call-backs" for personnel who would be paged to come in to cover the station while the medical transport was in progress.

Escott said the only cases where the department would experience additional call-back labor expense would be when Turners is asked to provide back-up ambulance service to other towns, or Montague Center. As it is now, Turners firefighters are already called back to work when on duty personnel respond to medical calls within the district. The only other difference in terms of labor expense would be that the department would be able to bill for transporting people, somewhat offsetting the department's expenses.

Escott said on average about three of the six off duty personnel will respond to their pagers and come in to work during a call; and each of these would get paid, according to contract, for a minimum of an hour and a half of labor.

Escott pointed out that the reimbursement level for each hospital transport would be determined by the caller's insurance provider. Though the department may determine that it cost \$1000 to transport a person to Baystate Franklin Medical in Greenfield, for example, Medicaid might only reimburse \$300 for that service. Nonetheless, that would be \$300 more than the department is able to bill now.

Escott said it would probably cost the department about \$3000 in annual expense to equip and maintain a used ambulance. A used ambulance would cost about \$15,000 to purchase, as opposed to

about \$140,000 or more for a new ambulance.

But Escott along with many other speakers emphasized the main reason for Turners making the move towards providing back-up ambulance service would be to provide speedier transport and care in an emergency, not to provide revenue for the department.

"Ambulance service numbers are going crazy. People know if they call an ambulance, they get into the emergency room quicker than if they go in through the waiting room," said retired TF firefighter Jim Bartus. "Patient care is always the main thing. This is a very beneficial service to the district."

Escott reviewed average response times for different departments and BHA to Turners for medical calls in recent weeks. It took Turners, on average, 3-7 minutes to respond to a call; BHA 7-12 minutes; Deerfield 22 minutes, and Sunderland 26 minutes.

Dave Zamojski, who lives on O Street in Turners and works as an EMT for South Deerfield, said when his department gets a call to provide back-up ambulance service to Turners, he has to get in his car and drive to South Deerfield, get in the ambulance and drive back to Turners, not a model of efficient back-up transport.

Zamojski said if Turners purchases an ambulance, Turners will become the first call back-up ambulance provider for Montague Center, instead of South Deerfield.

BHA manager Bill Travis welcomed the department's plan to provide back-up ambulance service, and noted that Turners would become the first call for back-up service for the towns of Gill, Erving, and Greenfield as well. Travis said his company maintains a fleet of six ambulances in Greenfield, with the possibility of bringing additional ambulances up from Springfield, where the company maintains an additional fleet of 13 ambulances, during busy call periods.

Even so, Travis said, BHA had to call for back-up from one of the nearby municipal departments that maintain ambulance services "80 - 90 times a year."

Gill Plans Energy Conservation Campaign

BY PAM LESTER

GILL - At a state house ceremony on July 24th, Gill was one of 17 communities designated by governor Deval Patrick as a Green Community, joining the ranks of 86 previously designated cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Ray Purrington, administrative assistant for the town of Gill, attended.

Once designated as Green Communities, cities and towns become eligible for awards to fund local renewable power and energy efficiency projects that advance both municipal and state clean energy goals. Grants awarded to designated communities to date assist with an array of projects across the state, including the installation of solar panels on town office buildings, weatherization at schools and municipal buildings, installation of high-efficiency street lights, and a host of energy efficiency upgrades.

Gill's grant award is \$139,900, and Gill's energy commission will be developing a list of projects in town for the selectboard to review and submit to the state for approval and funding.

Representatives from Gill's energy commission and selectboard attended a ceremony in Amherst on August 14th at which the town was again recognized for its commitment to the goals of the Green Community program, and received the symbolic "Really Big Check" for \$139,900!

One project the commission is working on is an energy conservation education campaign aimed at

helping Gill residents reduce energy costs. The commission is encouraging households to sign up with Western Mass Saves.com to track their household energy use and help reduce Gill residential energy use by 13% in 2013!

According to Western Mass Saves statistics, Gill is 34th out of 63 communities in W Mass in reducing energy use. Check out www.westernmasssaves.com for great tips on saving your energy dollars and to sign up to get a monthly email on how well you are doing.

While you are at it, call MassSave at 866-527-7283 today to get a free energy audit, free air sealing and 75% (up to \$2000) discount on insulation for your house.

The first 100 Gill households that make a commitment to reduce energy use will receive a free lawn sign designating them as energy savers.

Look for energy commission members Claire Chang, Tupper Brown, Pam Lester and Janet Masucci around town this fall to sign up for the campaign.

Front page photo taken by Stacy Metzger, Franklin Regional Council of Governments: (left to right) Mark Sylvia, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources; John Ward, Gill selectboard; Janet Masucci, Gill energy commission; Claire Chang, Gill energy commission chair; and Richard Sullivan, secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, at the Amherst ceremony on August 14th.

Escott said, "There were 29 times last calendar year when we had back-up ambulance calls come to Turners Falls. Last week, we had four."

Joyce Morin asked, "If I have a heart attack and BHA and Turners both show up, there's not going to be a pissing match who is going to transport me?"

Escott said BHA would always provide transport when they had an ambulance available; Turners would only provide back-up.

"They're paramedics, Auntie Joyce," called out one Turners firefighter from the back of the room. "You'd want to be transported by them."

Sam Lovejoy spoke up in favor of a regional plan for providing ambulance service to the county, and worried that individual departments purchasing their own ambulances over time might wind up eating into the call volume that allows BHA maintain its private, professional ambulance service.

Escott said if the prudential committee decides to go forward with the plan, a special district meeting will be called later this fall to get voters' approval. If that hurdle is cleared, the department could have a used ambulance purchased, equipped and receive state license for transporting people to the hospital by January of 2013.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part LI

Montague 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - By the time I have moved into my room at Ferry Meadow, the nights are cold enough for a sweater. All the rooms in the house are ready. Others are moving out of their tents, as well.

One hallway has single rooms for people like Dave and me, and the other side has larger rooms for families. There's a big living room in the middle, but no kitchen. We will still have to go to the main house every time we want to eat.

There is plenty of work to do in the fields and with the animals, and I am already accustomed to the rhythms of farm life. I am in the barn one morning milking goats when Jason walks in.

"Hey!" I say, hugging him. I

am still glad to see him despite all that we have been through. "You're here in broad daylight!" I tease him.

"Well, I traveled here in the dark," he says, and I can't tell whether he is defensive or whether he is joking with me, too.

"It's good to see you," I say, to make things more comfortable between us.

He seems to relax. "Glad you think so. That's mostly why I came here, actually, to see whether you still like me."

"Really? I'm surprised you care that much."

"Why?" Now he definitely looks hurt.

"Sorry. I didn't mean it that way. It's just that you have such a busy life, and you know so many

people. I would think that you'd forget all about me."

"Then you haven't really been paying attention," Jason says. "I think about you all the time. I wonder whether you are OK, and worry that it would be my fault if you weren't."

"You don't have to worry."

"Looks like I don't," he agrees. "You're happy here?"

"Yeah!" I say. "Really happy. Much happier than I was before."

"Oh. OK. Good," he says. "I'm glad." He pauses. "If you decide you're not the farm type, though, I just wanted to let you know that you could come with me. I'm on my way to D.C. and then to Spain." He looks at me hopefully.

I don't answer, and he goes on. "I do know a lot of people, but there's no one who's there all the time, no one I can really talk to. Anyway, I don't know anyone like you anywhere. And I thought you might miss, you know, cities, trav-

eling, computers, those kinds of things."

"I don't," I say. "I so don't miss computers!"

"OK, I just thought..."

"Traveling with you sounds nice," I say, "but it's not for me. I feel like I'm doing something important here, something useful. We're feeding a lot of people who have no jobs and providing housing, too. They come here when they have nowhere else to go, and they can work in exchange for food and a place to live. We're building more rooms here, and I just donated my house in Turners Falls to the land trust. So the community's growing all the time!"

Jason studies me while I talk. "Well, I am glad that you've found the right place for yourself."

"I guess you found it for me," I say.

"I was only looking for a place where you could hide."

"Well, I'm glad that you were,

because I was miserable working for the bank."

"Of course you were," he says. "They're evil."

I laugh. Then a thought pops into my head. "Jay, if you're going to D.C., can you stop on the way in Philadelphia? To tell Diana that the doppelganger is dead? I think she should know. Don't you?"

"I haven't talked to Diana since we were all in high school."

"She'll be glad to see you," I assure him.

He looks doubtful but agrees to do what I ask.

— Continued Next Issue

Ferry Meadow Farm concludes next week.

The Montague Reporter welcomes submissions of serialized fiction from its readers. Write: reporter@montaguema.net with your proposal for our next serial!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Assisted Bernardston with Suicidal Person

Thursday, 8/9

5:20 p.m. Officer requested to check Rt 2 area in Gill for a White Van reportedly accosted a female in Orange.

5:45 p.m. Located lost dog, brought to Erving PD for owner to pick up

8:15 p.m. Arrest of subject on Rt 2 for Operating on Susp License, and two counts of Poss. of Class C narcotics

Two other subjects issued citations for Poss of Class D narcotics

Friday, 8/10

10:45 a.m. Civil issue reported on W Gill Rd regarding getting a mv from past relationship

12:30 p.m. Assisted at Rt 2 lights regarding malfunctioning of intersection lights

3:28 p.m. Life Line activation at residence on W Gill Rd, subject assisted

4:15 p.m. 911 Mis Dial at residence on W Gill Rd,

5:15 p.m. Trees on wires on Main Rd, WMCO has been notified to remove same

8:25 p.m. Medical at Stoughton Place, resident transported to FMC

11:16 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with B&E on Bald Mt Rd

Saturday, 8/11

3:05 p.m. Officer requested on GM Bridge due to safety fence being knocked over.

3:35 p.m. Domestic trespass issue on W Gill Rd, officer reported for peace keeping

8:59 p.m. Reported trespassers on Old Bridge Abutment on Riverview Dr, same moved along

10:10 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with large party on Lower Farm Rd, over 300 people

Sunday, 8/12

2:45 p.m. Assisted Erving Pd with motorcycle accident on Rt 2

Monday, 8/13

6:25 p.m. Located 2 subjects living in a mv off Pisgah Mt Rd, moved along

7:15 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a past B&E

Tuesday, 8/14

7:30 p.m. Assisted resident on S Cross Rd with Life Line Company from RI

Wednesday, 8/15

5:05 p.m. Alarm sounding from business on Rt 2, weather related

5:20 p.m. Alarm sounding from Atm machine on Mt hermon campus, weather related

Friday, 8/17

8:45 p.m. Located 2 subjects living in mv on River Rd in the fields, moved along

9:15 p.m. Checked area of Boat Club for reported fire from Montague PD, all set at boat club

11:00 p.m. Loud party reported from Barton Cove Campground, quieted all parties involved

Sunday, 8/19

5:13 p.m. Intoxicated male reported at the State Boat Ramp, officers insured party located a ride home.

11:50 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with mv stop, subjects placed under arrest

Tuesday, 8/21

10:05 a.m. Responded to French King Bridge for reported subject going to jump, subject later located in Orange

11:10 a.m. Assisted subject with issue of establishing residence in Riverside area

12:30 p.m. Dog complaint on Main Rd, dog placed in pound

Wednesday, 8/22

5:55 a.m. Deer struck on Main Rd in the area of Lyons Hills, no damage to mv

Thursday, 8/23

5:00 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with mv accident on Rt 2

8:53 p.m. Domestic Disturbance on Center Rd, one subject place under arrest

Friday, 8/24

12:05 a.m. Found wallet to party from Greenfield at Gill Mobil Station

9:15 p.m. MV towed from rest area on Rt 2, unattended

7:33 p.m. Medical on Center Rd,

subject transported

8:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with unwanted subject on Brattleboro Rd

11:50 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with domestic at Weather Head Apts

Saturday, 8/25

5:26 p.m. Subject removed from French King Bridge, taken to hospital

4:25 p.m. Found dog on South Cross Rd, returned to owner

6:40 p.m. Alarm sounding at residence on French King Hwy

Sunday, 8/26

Assisted Bernardston police department with removal of suicidal person on Merrifield Road

5:25 p.m. Reported fisherman found a "human head" in a bag in Erving, assisted state police. Turned out to be animal remains.

Monday, 8/27

12:30 p.m. Assisted Springfield police department with subject location in Gill

5:25 p.m. Child locked in motor vehicle at Barton Cove, assisted same.

Tuesday, 8/28

9:30 a.m. Assisted resident with firearms issue on Main Road

2:00 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with violation on Huckle Hill Road

7:32 p.m. Suspicious male on a bike harassing female walkers on North Cross Road, located same; investigated.

Town of Leverett

Highway Department

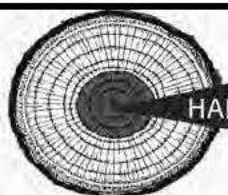
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\$16.00 per hour. Applicant also must pass a town-provided physical and drug test prior to hiring and agree to random drug tests during employment. Job description and Employment Application are available by calling Highway Superintendent, Will Stratford, (413) 548-9400 or Town Hall, (413) 548-9150. Applications are due to the Highway Superintendent, 95 Montague Rd., Leverett, MA 01054, by 9:00 a.m. September 24, 2012.

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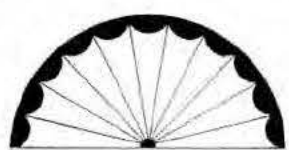
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The Millers Falls Library Club: free after school program. 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Shag*, 6 to 8 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic* with Dan, Kip & Shultzzy from Curly Fingers DuPree hosting, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

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

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

NOW through SEPTEMBER 30th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Photographs by Peter J. Crowley.

NOW through OCTOBER 6th

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

NOW through OCTOBER 28th

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

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

Downtown Greenfield: *34th Annual Franklin County Fair Parade*. Memories, Music and Magic. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*. Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen playing oldies from



I Dream Web, photograph by Peter Monroe. His exhibit, *Negatives*, will be on display at Nina's Nook through October 6th.

the 50s & 60s. 8 to 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro: Opening Reception of exhibit - *Off the Books: Three Photographers* - Medora Hebert, Robert Flynt, & Jesseca Ferguson. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. during Brattleboro Gallery Walk.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History*. The first in a series of four talks in September on four immigrant groups (French/Canadian, Irish, Polish, and German) that settled in Turners Falls during industrialization; this first talk will focus on the German immigrants. 6:30 p.m.

Johnson Chapel, Amherst College: Author Bill McKibben of 350.org gives a talk on global warming, "*Jail Notes - the Fight for the Planet Starts to Quicken*." 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *The Producers*. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: *Doug Creighton & Bob Snope*, Quebecois melodeon & guitar. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*. 7:30 p.m. - *The Roland LaPierre Band* - twangy American roots. 9:30 p.m. Free.

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: singer/songwriter *M.R. Pouloupoulos*. 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

New Salem General Store: 5th Annual *Hilltown Brewfest*, a benefit for the Wendell and New Salem Fire Departments. 12 to 5 p.m.

Great Hall, Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artist Reception*. Photographer Peter J. Crowley. 1 - 3 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Greenfield Arts Eclective and Small Press Fair* - the premier event for cultural omnivores. Live eclectic music, one act plays, literature, poetry readings, and small press fair. 2 - 9 p.m. Free.

Arts Eclective Schedule:

2:00 Ansel Appleton reads
2:20 Mystics Anonymous perform
2:50 Slate Roof Collective: *reading showcase*
3:10 "Sure Thing" by David Ives, performed by New Renaissance Players
3:30 Bright Lines perform
4:00 Christopher Janke reads
4:20 Bob Dylan song circle - Michael Metivier, Steve Koziol & Hilary Weiner, Daniel Hales, Chris Scanlon
5:00 Naugatuck River Review: *reading showcase*
5:20 Fiesta Brava perform
6:00 Neil Serven reads
6:20 Trio Playing For The Eclective
6:50 Ingrid Steblea reads
7:10 Daniel Hales, and the frost heaves. perform
7:50 Emily Arsenault reads

Frances Crowe community room, 60 Masonic Street, Northampton: Film and discussion. 9/11 anniversary screening of the documentary, *Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear, and the Selling of American Empire*. 7 p.m.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: Free Poker - Texas Hold 'Em. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ginevra & Mike's Open Mic Cabaret*. 7:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

Garden Cinema, Greenfield: *Trash* - Local artist Paul Richmond closes this indie movie with one of his rants. 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: Free outdoor movie - *Across the Universe*. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. Alcohol free event. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History* - series of four talks in September on four immigrant groups (French/Canadian, Irish, Polish, and German) that settled in Turners Falls during industrialization; this talk will focus on the Polish immigrants. 6:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 8 p.m. Free.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Open Mic*. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th

Quontout Farm, Whately: *Taste the View*. A Local harvest dinner and auction to benefit CISA. 6 - 9 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse - *Blame it on Tina* performs. Refreshments will be served. 7 - 9 p.m.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet* - classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Katie Sachs & The Mary Jane Jones*. Free.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Wormtown Music Festival*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

Congregational Church, Leverett: *Farmers Market and Tag Sale*.

Northfield Mountain: *Lighting Things Up* - a program about electricity with hands-on science and art activities connected to general concepts of electricity using batteries, bulbs, and switches to make simple circuits. To register, call 800-859-2960. 10-11 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Dinosaur Dig*. Come unearth dinosaur fossils and learn about different dinosaurs, their bones and tracks. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History* - Walking tour of the area in Turners Falls called "The Patch." Meet at the corner of Avenue A and Eleventh Street, near the canal side bike path. 2 - 4 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library: Film screening - *Minority Report*. 7:30 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Beatles for Sale*. New England's #1 Beatles tribute band! 8 - 10 p.m. \$20.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Alan Williams* - folk/pop. 8 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shakedown Street* - Grateful Dead dance party. 9 - 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint* - current & classic hits. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer dance party*.

CALL for Erotic ART SUBMISSIONS
Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "*Triple S: Sensual>Sexual>Smut*" show in February 2013. Naughty, bawdy, funny--or just merely suggestive--artwork--anywhere on the continuum of erotica--is welcome. Artists may submit up to three works for

consideration. Smaller works more likely to be chosen due to space constraints in the gallery. Last year's show was a very popular, fun event! Email jpegs to naban@verizon.net with "SSS" in subject line OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A Turners Falls MA 01376. Include contact info, brief artist statement, dimensions and prices of work, and a non-refundable fee of \$10 by 1/20/13.

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(twangy American roots)

SAT 9/8 9:30 FREE

DJ Dance Party

SUN 9/9 9pm FREE

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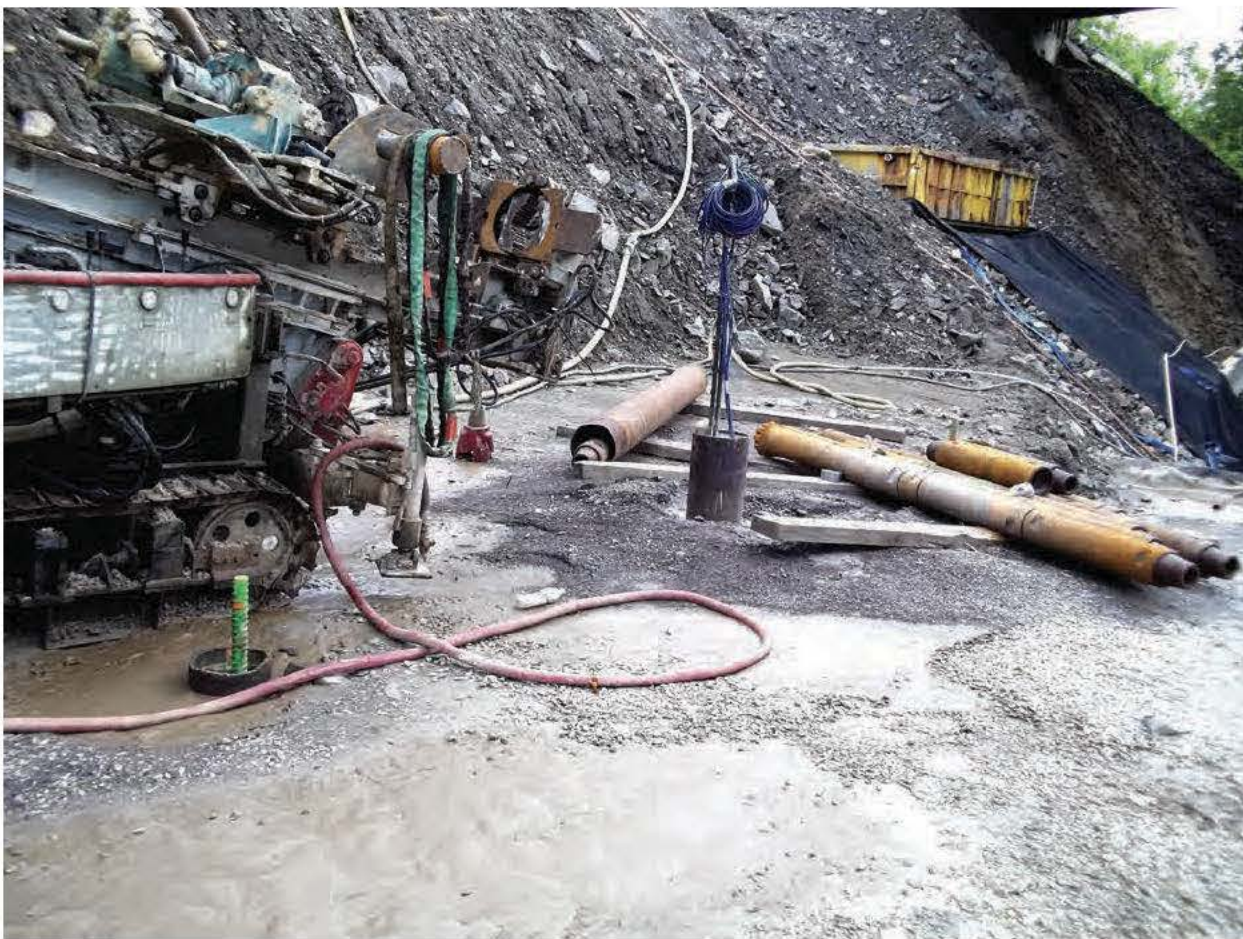
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JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTOS

Work in progress beneath the Fall River bridge on Route 2, on the boarder of Gill and Greenfield.



Ready for an earthquake, or other acts of God or bureaucracy

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - The Gill-Greenfield bridge replacement project at Route 2 in Factory Hollow is grinding along, like the mills of the gods, slowly.

Earlier, attempts to drive H pilings down to ledge next to the abutments on the bridge approaches were abandoned when the pile driver encountered too many large boulders. The new plan is to bore holes through boulders and earth down to ledge, set H beam pilings into the holes, and envelop them with concrete. That has yet to happen.

In the meantime, under the bridge, a tracked drill rig has begun boring a series of holes down to ledge for ten-inch steel casings, which will then be filled with concrete to anchor the toe of the slope, a slope that has been stable since the bridge was built in 1931.

Eventually, Northern Construction crews will pour a slab of concrete over the pipe pilings and on the slope up to the abutments, to replace rip-rap stone that has stayed in place for over 80 years without moving. The new concrete slab will be anchored at the top with huge steel nails driven into the ground.

Northern Construction has also channeled the Fall River and protected the banks to enable their crews to unearth the bridge pier footings. The contractor's crew bored holes in the footings so steel dowels can be grouted in place, in preparation for pouring a concrete collar to reinforce the pier footing.

Why are all these reinforcements being undertaken? To make the bridge earthquake-proof, though it has withstood several minor earthquakes with no sign of damage for over 80 years.

That is not to say a big earthquake, or possibly a tsunami, could not strike near the Fall River in time to come. Any boy scout can tell you it is best to be prepared.

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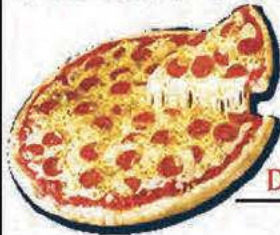
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