



Coming Soon! The Traveling Rhubarb Circus

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Working on the Canal in Power Town

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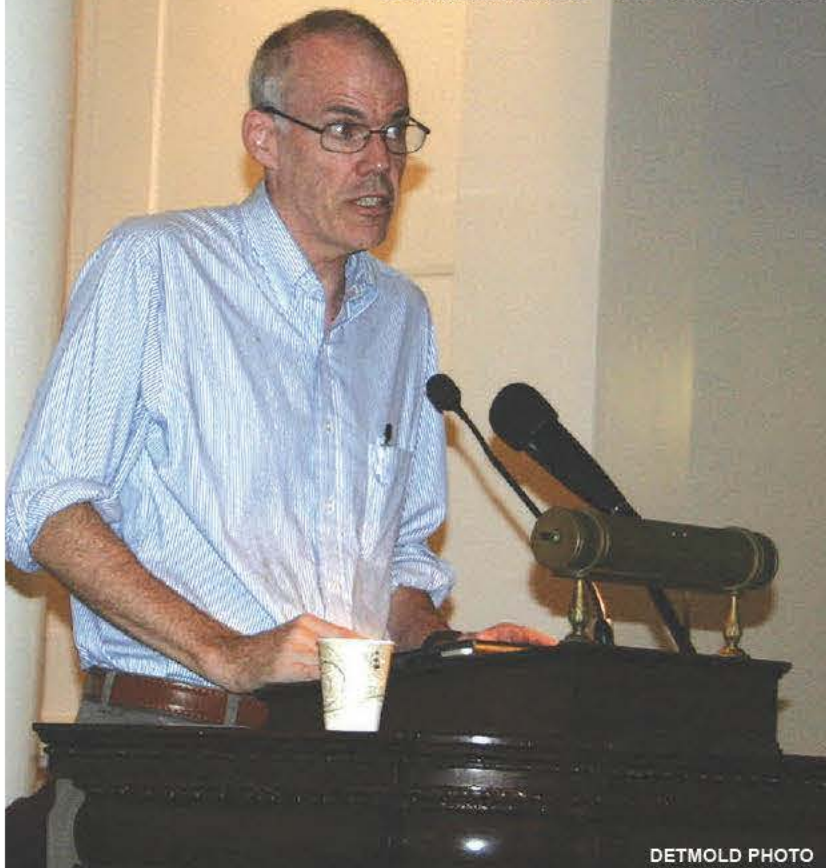
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

McKibben Heats Up the Climate Debate



DETMOLD PHOTO

Bill McKibben called for the Five Colleges to divest from fossil fuel companies.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

AMHERST - The Amherst College presidents looked down disapprovingly from the safe remove of their larger than life portraits on the walls of Johnson Chapel as the overflow crowd of climate activists and fellow travelers warmed up the air conditioned hall for the man of the hour, Bill McKibben, there to deliver the gospel of divestment from the fossil fuel industry for the Five College community and beyond.

Friday's Immanuel Grace Lecture was the second in a series meant to offer "fresh intellectual and theological perspectives on contemporary issues and seeking to move beyond polarized debates," and, with a nod toward Martin Luther King's *Letter from*

a Birmingham Jail was titled: "Jail Notes: the Fight for the Planet Starts to Quicken."

McKibben, author of the seminal work on climate change, 1989's *The End of Nature* made no noticeable attempt to invoke theological perspectives on global warming except to call on his sponsors, the Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Grace Church of Amherst to join with local colleges and universities in divesting any holdings they may have in fossil fuel companies. And, other than beginning and ending his lecture with a paean to the rapid melting of polar ice, he seemed disinclined to move beyond polarized debate.

Or rather, McKibben seemed see **CLIMATE** page 6

Montague to Establish New Industrial Park



The proposed Green Industrial Park off Turnpike Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Montague took a giant step forward toward developing a second industrial park on Monday, as a special town meeting approved priority permitting status for 85 acres of developable land the town owns off Turnpike Road.

Thirty-four of those acres had been previously permitted by the state Department of Environmental Protection as a potential landfill site, an increasingly rare designation in Massachusetts. The town paid upwards of \$400,000 over the course of several years in predevelopment and permitting for the landfill, but town meeting and ultimately the voters of the town as a whole weighed in at various points to block a solid waste landfill off Turnpike Road, and when the selectboard sought propos-

als from private developers to bury incinerator ash or contaminated soils there, the sole bidder did not come up with a proposal that met the town's requirements.

That was in 2005. Since then, the town has moved in the direction of developing the site for other purposes, first as a solar farm, and now as a "Green industrial park," with an alternative energy component.

It is that project, with its potential to create 500 jobs and more than half a million in new property tax revenue for the town over a two to three decade buildout, that town meeting endorsed unanimously on Monday night.

Town planner Walter Ramsey told the selectboard the week before that developing the site as an industrial park would effectively put to rest the

prospect of ever building new landfill there.

In proposing the plan to town meeting, Ramsey promised a traffic plan would be forthcoming as part of the predevelopment work, the next step to establishing a new industrial park, with room for 21 building lots of three – five acres each, as well as a site for solar arrays, a walking trail along a perennial stream, and the potential for nearby Judd Wire to expand its facility.

Ramsey said the transfer station now located on Sandy Lane, to the rear of Judd Wire, would be moved to another location in town, perhaps near the safety complex, if the industrial park is built as proposed.

"Importantly, the site is not 'priority habitat,'" for endangered species, see **INDUSTRIAL** page 4

Lora Hodges Takes the Helm at Northeast Foundation for Children



PHOTO © JEFF WOODWARD

Dr. Lora Hodges is the new executive director of the Northeast Foundation for Children on Avenue A.

BY SHIRA HILLEL

TURNERS FALLS - There's somebody new in town, heading a big national organization with 40 office workers on Avenue A. In July, Dr. Lora Hodges became the executive director of the Northeast Foundation for Children,

(NEFC), the developer of the Responsive Classroom approach to elementary education. Hodges took over for Roxann Kriete, who retired as the NEFC executive director at the end of 2011 after 26 years.

NEFC is a local home-

grown success story. The organization started small, in an empty school building in Greenfield. Today its reach has extended nationwide, and it is an anchor institution in the revitalization of downtown Turners, occupying the top two floors in the renovated Colle Opera House building, plus an additional two story building renovated for half a million dollars off of 2nd Street, which the organization now uses for workshops and trainings.

Established in 1981 by six public elementary school teachers who envisioned blending academic, social and emotional learning throughout the school day, NEFC opened the Greenfield Center School as an experimental laboratory school where they developed a teaching paradigm and methodology they called the Responsive Classroom. That method of elementary learning has become enormously influential and is now being used in schools across the country.

The NEFC believes it is important for kids to collaborate with each other and represent themselves. Their classroom practices include morning meeting, where kids and teachers start the day by sitting together in a circle. The

foundation emphasizes and teaches positive teacher language, with the goal of creating a safe and respectful environment in the classroom, to build community.

Working with their teachers, kids create classroom rules in common and thus, work to take care of themselves, each other, and their environment. The model aims to make children feel heard, respected and included. NEFC believes this approach helps with classroom management and discipline practices and, by laying the groundwork for school community, is crucial in proactive bullying prevention as well.

"My vision for a high-quality elementary education is one that provides developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant instruction to all children in a manner that fully engages and stimulates academic, social, and emotional learning and growth. Its daily activities should inspire imagination, teach cooperation, foster idea sharing, measure and improve learning, value students as individuals, and reflect and honor its community by including parental voice and points of view," said Hodges in a phone interview earlier this month.

The foundation organizes

professional development for teachers, runs workshops and trainings in schools around the country and offers professional development materials. NEFC has published and distributed numerous books designed to guide educators. Now, Responsive Classroom teaching practices are deeply embedded in schools across the country, as well as in the Virgin Islands, and Winnipeg, Canada.

After a national search, Hodges relocated to Western Massachusetts from North Carolina to take the top position at NEFC. She comes from a family of educators and brings over two decades of experience as an educational leader at the school and district level. Hodges has served as an associate superintendent and as a principal in several schools in North Carolina. She began her career as a high school English teacher, holds a Masters in school administration and a Doctorate in educational leadership.

"As my educational beliefs became more mature, my goals became more mission based," she said. "I have always chosen to engage in work that reflects my commitment as a friend and champion of students, teachers, schools and schooling. I

believe the opportunity to serve as executive director of NEFC will give me the opportunity to continue to do just that."

Hodges' family legacy is one of education. She is the third of four generations of educators. Her grandmother and mother were teachers, as is her daughter. "Education is my birthright and my skill set," she said.

While discussing the challenges of taking on a new position, Hodges said, overall, "It's been a smooth transition. I'm lucky to have a supportive staff and board. I didn't just select them; they selected me."

She explained, "The mission [of NEFC] remains the same: to provide the best professional development to educators and allow children the highest quality education."

Hodges graciously summarized, "I look forward to supporting and improving effective teaching for learning, working with the passionate and creative Responsive Classroom community of educators, and enjoying all the new experiences that I will have living in Western Massachusetts."

Welcome to town, Dr. Hodges.

PETS OF THE WEEK

2 Fur 1



Zoey



Smoke

We are Zoey and Smoke, a female and male bonded feline pair in need of a home. If we were human kids, we'd come home with straight A's on our report cards every time! Consider our feline report card: Affectionate – check! Playful – check! Love people of all ages – check! Adore other cats (especially each other) – check! We are two fur one, which means you can adopt us, the dynamic duo, for the price of one! For more info on adopting us, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or email: info@dpvhs.org.

Psychic Fair

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a Psychic Fair on Saturday, September 29th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Lake Pleasant post office. For more info, contact the TNSA website, www.thenational-spiritualallianceinc.org

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reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to

The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

An Evening with Starhawk

On Friday, September 21st at 7 p.m., MCTV's video of Starhawk's presentation at the 1st Congregational Church in Montague, in April, 2011 will be shown at the Wendell Library.

Starhawk is one of the most respected voices in modern Goddess religion and earth-based spirituality. She is the author or co-author of ten books. Starhawk

brings the techniques and creative power of spirituality to political activism. She co-teaches Earth Activist Trainings that combine permaculture design, effective activism and earth-based spirituality.

Discussion will follow the film. Josh "JJ waffles" Dostis is hosting the evening.

Rare Flowering of Unusual and Unpredictable Ticking Stink Bomb at Smith Botanical Garden

NORTHAMPTON - One of the great jewels of the plant kingdom, the Titan Arum or *Amorphophallus titanum*, is about to flower for the third time in the Lyman Conservatory at the Botanic Garden of Smith College. The Titan first bloomed in 2005, and then again in 2008, and remains the only Titan Arum ever to bloom in Massachusetts.

The Titan Arum, known colloquially as the "corpse flower," is native to the lowland rainforests on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, and boasts flower stalks up to nine feet high. The plants produce a large, single dissected leaf, and over years the underground storage organ, known as a corm, grows larger.

Concert and Spiritual Workshop with Charley Thweatt

Concert and Spiritual Workshops with Charley Thweatt, September 30th and October 1st at Unity in the Pioneer Valley, 6 Arch Street, in Greenfield. Thweatt has opened for Wayne Dyer, Marianne Williamson, Deepak Chopra and Ram Dass among others. His Sunday workshop will be "I am the Wind," 12:00-2:30

Once the corm reaches a critical size, the plant may send up a flower, usually every three to five years, but it is unpredictable.

The rare bloom is short lived and expected to occur very soon in the coming week, but it is difficult to say exactly when it will be in full bloom. The Titan Arum is located in the Palm House, near the doorway leading out to the rock garden. The Lyman Conservatory on College Lane in Northampton is open to the public daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is wheelchair accessible. Check our web site, www.smith.edu/garden, and Facebook page for the latest photos and information on this ticking stink bomb, to make sure you arrive in time.

p.m. The second event on Monday October 1st, 7-9:30 p.m. will be "The Heart of a Course in Miracles" concert and workshop with music inspired by the course as well as two workshop exercises to bring alive the course principles. Thweatt's website is www.musicangel.com for more information about him.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I heard there's this goop you can get injected into your knee that can ease pain. True?*

Yes. The goop is hyaluronan, a thick lubricant and shock absorber in joint fluid. Hyaluronan injections – also called viscosupplements – are given to people with osteoarthritis.

Viscosupplementation began in Japan and Italy in 1987, in Canada in 1992, in Europe in 1995 and in the United States in 1997.

Some anatomy:

The knee is the largest joint in the body. It is made up of the thighbone (femur), shin bone (tibia) and the kneecap (patella). Surfaces of this joint are covered with cartilage, a smooth substance that cushions the bones and enables them to move easily. The lateral meniscus and medial meniscus are pads of cartilage that further cushion the joint, acting as shock absorbers between the bones.

In addition, surfaces of the knee are covered by a thin, smooth tissue

liner called the synovial membrane. This membrane releases fluid that lubricates the knee and reduces friction.

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease that primarily affects cartilage. The cartilage erodes and the synovial fluid loses its ability to lubricate the joint. This breakdown causes pain, stiffness and limited range of motion.

Hyaluronan is injected into the knee to improve lubrication and reduce the symptoms of osteoarthritis. There are several versions of hyaluronan injections for osteoarthritis in knees. These include: Euflexxa, Hyalgan, Orthovisc, Supartz, Synvisc and Nuflexxa.

Hyaluronan injections are recommended when conservative treatments – medications, physical therapy, heat and cold – aren't working. The injections produce their best results if the patient is in the early stages of osteoarthritis. Possible side effects of these injections include joint swelling and pain.

The course of treatment depends upon the drugs used. The injections are usually given weekly. Synvisc-One is a single injection viscosupplement.

In an analysis of eight hyaluronan trials involving 971 patients, outcomes in patients treated with



DETOLD PHOTO

Dangerous Intersection

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CENTER - Firefighters and Montague police responded to a two car accident at the intersection of Route 63 and North Leverett Road in Montague Center on Friday afternoon, with the first call coming in at 12:50 p.m.

Judith Rowe, 65, of Orange, stopped at the stop sign at the west entrance to the intersection in a 2007 Kia Rondo, attempted a left onto Route 63 and collided with the 2008 Honda Ridgeline traveling south, driven by William Leno, 80, of South Deerfield, causing extensive damage to both vehicles.

Baystate Ambulance responded to the scene within 10 minutes, according to Montague Center

firefighter Ralph Rau.

Montague interim police chief Chip Dodge called the intersection one of the worst in town. "The way that rise is right there by the bridge, it's horrible," said Dodge, referring to the poor visibility for drivers in Rowe's position, trying to enter traffic from the west, and unable to see more than a few dozen yards north on Route 63, where the road crosses the Sawmill River.

"It is a very dangerous intersection," said Dodge. "We have alerted the state to the problem. We have seen lots of rollovers there, cars ending up in the field with very serious damage."

So proceed with caution at the intersection of North Leverett Road and Route 63 folks, please.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Saturday Hours Resumed

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is now open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The library will remain open on Saturdays until Memorial Day weekend in May.

Monthly Saturday children's programs will resume on October

27th with the annual Children's Halloween Party.

The Carnegie Library is open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursdays 1 - 5 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 413-863-3214.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Relief for Osteoarthritis in the Knee

hyaluronan were superior to outcomes in patients treated with placebo. The most significant pain relief for most patients occurred eight to twelve weeks after the first injection.

Synvisc and Hyalgan have been shown to provide pain relief from knee osteoarthritis for up to six months. Studies have shown Supartz to provide pain relief for up to four and a half months after the fifth injection. Patients may be able to repeat the course of treatment with hyaluronan injections.

However, a recent study out of Switzerland indicates that the injections don't work. According to the researchers, the effect on pain was minimal, and the injections had no effect on functioning.

"Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest that viscosupplementation results in any relevant reduction in symptoms in patients with knee osteoarthritis," said study co-author Dr. Peter Juni, professor of clinical epidemiology at the University of Bern in Switzerland.

In addition, the research in Switzerland suggested the injections could cause gastrointestinal and cardiovascular problems and other harmful side effects.

The researchers reviewed 89 studies that compared injections with either a placebo treatment or no treat-

ment. In all, the studies involved more than 12,000 adults aged 50 to 72.

The authors pointed out several study limitations. They said the methodology of some of the studies was flawed, the overall quality was generally low, and many provided no information on safety.

Medicare and most insurance companies now cover viscosupplementation with restrictions.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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GILL-MONTAGUE

Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 413-863-9357..

Monday, September 17th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

12:00 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo

1:00 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

Tuesday, September 18th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group

Wednesday, September 19th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, September 20th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, September 21st

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.

Featured Artist of the Month: Sandy Kosterman

Monday, September 17th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

12:30 Quilting

Tuesday, September 18th

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10:00 a.m. Steve Damon - Name

that Tune

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, September 19th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10:00 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank Program

12:00 Bingo

Thursday, September 20th

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect

12:00 p.m. Cards

Friday, September 21st

9:00 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch

LEVERETT Senior Activities

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

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

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



Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – Learn about our local forests on Thursday, September 20th, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. The program will explore our culture's relationship to the natural world, and our approach to local environmental issues. Join Helen Johnson, a service forester with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, as attendees delve into the subject of **Forest Management**.

Burrito Rojo, 50 Third Street, in Turners Falls will host a Franklin County Technical School **Benefit Concert for the Drum Line** featuring Ellis Paul on Thursday, September 20th, starting at 7:00 p.m. Paul is an American singer-songwriter and a key figure in what has become known as the Boston school of songwriting, a literate, provocative and urbanly romantic folk-pop style that helped ignite the folk revival. Paul has released 17 albums and been the recipient of 14 Boston Music Awards. For information and tickets call Nadine at 413-863-9561 x124 or visit www.fcts.org

Coming off a 2011 season where the **Turners Falls High School football team** had their first winning season in over a decade, the team started the 2012 season with a bang. Ryan Wilder's two touchdowns lead Turners Falls past Palmer with a 20-0 win. Wilder rushed for 143 yards on 15 carries and two touchdowns, while John Ollari III had 40 yards rushing and 51 receiving, including a 38-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Malcolm Smith.

Next up for TFHS is an away game at Commerce High School in Springfield on Saturday, September 15th, with kick-off at 4:00 p.m.

The public is invited to witness **sunrise and sunset** on the day of the autumnal equinox among the standing stones of the UMass Amherst Sunwheel on Saturday, September 22nd at 6:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.

At the gatherings, UMass Amherst astronomer Judith Young will give presentations that include information on the seasonal positions of the Earth, sun and moon, significance of the solstices and equinoxes, phases of the moon, building the Sunwheel, and discussion of other calendar sites such as Stonehenge and Callanish in the U.K. and Chichen Itza in Mexico. Young will also explain the moon's 18.6-year cycle known as the Major Lunar Standstill and answer questions about astronomical signs of the seasons.

The UMass Amherst Sunwheel is located south of McGuirk Alumni

Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road (Amity Street) about a quarter mile west of University Drive in Amherst. Rain cancels the events. A \$3 donation is requested to help with the cost of the additional site work and future events.

Join the Peace Development Fund for a conversation about **"Local Food, Local Families"** with activists from PDF-funded organizations. The problems of urban food security, obesity and diabetes among children in our community, and how people of color and of low-economic status are disproportionately represented in these statistics, are important social and environmental justice issues.

The program will be held on Thursday, September 20th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 44 North Prospect Street in Amherst. Please email peacedevfund@gmail.com for reservations.

Local historian Ed Gregory will present a talk and slideshow on the history of the Turners Falls Barge and Power Canals as well as the development of the Gill-Montague bridge and dam. Gregory brings these huge undertakings from bygone days to life in this free event, held in the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15th. All are welcome. Seating will be limited, so please call 413-863-4316 to attend.

Turners Falls High School will conduct ceremonies in the theater to induct eight individuals into its **Hall of Fame** at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 27th. The Hall of Fame committee, chaired by Larry Cadran, '49, has nominated the following candidates for induction during this second annual event. The list includes: Arthur Burke, superintendent; Earl Lorden, athletic director; Louis Bush, Sr. 1929; Mildred Zayac, 1943; Julia Sivik Samoriski, 1943; Thomas Shanahan, 1947; Paul Bourdeau, 1948; and Anna Wilson Garbiel, 1970. The primary purpose of the Hall of Fame is to promote student motivation towards higher goals. Individuals can be nominated by anyone; include backup information for the HoF Committee. For more information please call Larry Cadran at 978-458-1177.

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

Dunkin Donuts Comes to Erving!

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH – Dunkin Donuts opened in Erving and the world has not come to an end. The sun shone brightly as cars entered and exited the long disputed drive through, causing no visible traffic problem of any kind. Kevin Gray of Northfield began construction in April and had the building completed by July 30th.

"The Dunkin Donuts part is up and running," French King Entertainment Center owner Erik Semb said. "We've got a full liquor license and we're just waiting for the state to get the paperwork done and get it to us so we can finish up stocking the adjoining convenience store. The coolers are all ready for beer and the shelves are ready to be stocked with wine and liquor. The state is dragging their feet with the lottery, too; they waived the training since we're already selling lottery tickets at the bowling alley [next door], but the permit hasn't come yet."

While Erik's dad, Ralph Semb, owns the building and will operate the convenience store, Dunkin Donuts franchise holder, John Nadeau of Leominster leases the donut shop part of the building. He operates 16 or more Dunkin Donuts outlets, according to Semb.



Erik Semb

Gill-Montague Preschool Program Expands

BY ANNE HARDING – Kathleen Adams is the principal of the Gill Elementary School and the director of the early education programs for the Gill-Montague School District – a daunting double bill made more difficult by the on-going bridge reconstruction project between the two member towns of the district. Recently, the district hired Kevin Cousineau as the assistant principal of the early childhood program to ensure a consistent administrative presence at the early childhood level.

Adams will hold an open house at the Discovery Preschool, a new addition to the district preschool program located in the Great Falls Middle School, tonight, Thursday, September 13th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. There are still openings for parents who want to investigate the preschool options available in the district.

Adams notes there is a long standing preschool program housed at the Hillcrest campus that moved

from half day to full day programs a few years ago. This change met the needs of some families but not others, so the district began offering half day options again.

The Discovery Preschool Program, a morning program with 14 students enrolled, moved to GFMS this year to encompass a lab school for the Child Development Program at Turners Falls High School. Led by teacher Shanda O'Keefe and paraprofessional Teresa Prevett, the Discover Preschool employs the "Tools of the Mind" curriculum, which evolved from the learning philosophy of psychologist Lev Vygotsky.

Vygotsky believed that learning is best achieved when the student has gained mastery of fundamental social and emotional skills. This curriculum operates under the assumption that students don't learn well if they are routinely subjected to situations beyond their emotional comfort level or ones that don't spur their enthusiasm to learn. Teachers are trained to assess the developmental level of the student in order to plan an appropriate level of support to facilitate learning and the gain of independent learning skills. O'Keefe has been practicing this type of program for four years, and Prevett has recently completed the training to become endorsed in the program.

Adams is particularly excited with the new program in the middle school - with new equipment and contemporary furnishings the space

is a treat for teachers and students alike. More exciting is the melding of the Child Development Program at the high school with the Discovery Program for preschoolers. The teacher-to-student ration is very good in all the district's preschool programs, but the addition of enthusiastic high school students will allow a 1:1 ratio at times. The benefit for preschoolers is terrific, and in addition the high school students gain the wisdom of a seasoned teacher in the practice of the "Tools of the Mind." Adams has also applied for a grant to cover the costs of preschool appropriate playground equipment.

For information on the district's preschool's programs, contact the Hillcrest administrative office at 413-863-9326. The program operates on a sliding scale set by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with a maximum fee of \$18 per half day.



Ethan Damkoebler – enthusiastically awaiting his first day of preschool.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by
Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Photography

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Radioactive Ties

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

AUSTIN, TX - Not only does corporate political money shout, scream, bellow, and bay in our elections, but afterwards it quietly slips into the back rooms of power to talk softly about payback.

Meet Exelon Corporation, America's biggest electric utility, owner of our country's largest array of nuclear power plants, and among the largest donors to Barack Obama's political career. One Exelon board member alone has raised more than \$500,000 for Obama and is tight enough with him to get into the occasional presidential basketball game. Also, Obama's top political operative, David Axelrod, has been an Exelon consultant. Overall, Chicago-based Exelon is so connected that it boasts of being "the president's utility."

This is a story of how corporate cash buys long-term relationships that then produce quiet access to the inner chambers of government, resulting in corporate favors.

Last year, for example, the EPA was developing a new rule affecting how nuclear plants use water. Exelon executives and lobbyists

got extraordinary access to top White House officials — far more meetings and at a higher level than other utilities got, and certainly more attention than environmental groups received. Then in March 2011, just days after Exelon lobbyists met with their Oval Office buddies, the EPA official in charge of drafting the rule was called to the White House and instructed to rewrite major sections to fit Exelon's needs. Since then, Obama's regulatory review office has held eight meetings on the proposal, and Exelon was at four of them — again more than any other interest.

This is not the slam-bam, Jack Abramoff-style of crass money corruption, but a sort of soft political pornography — a subtler, even genteel ethical degeneration. But soft is not better — whether corporate political money shouts or whispers, it still corrupts.

Jim Hightower is the editor of the populist newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown.

This editorial was distributed via OtherWords (OtherWords.org).

100 Years Later Rip van Winkle Awakes

"Yaaaawwnnn... I remember... when I fell asleep... the call letters for WAMC were just starting..."



CLAUDIA WELLS ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciating Joe

Joe Parzych! What fun to read his articles. Always educational, especially about machinery, and increasingly humorous, too, as he lets his sense of irony unfold. The

piece on the bridge abutments (MR 10 #44 - *Be Prepared*) and his editorial on GDF-Suez Northfield Mountain's pumped storage (*Silt Continues to Pile Up*

at Northfield Mountain) are particularly good examples.

Keep 'em coming!

— Peter d'Errico
Leverett

No Peace in the Middle East

We send our advisors and warplanes to free the Libyan people and are repaid with the death of our ambassador and three of his aides.

In Egypt, the Muslim

Brotherhood is upset with a movie made in a free country and storms our embassy.

When are we going to realize there will never be peace in the Middle East? The history of that

region tells us it will never happen. Bring our troops home and protect our southern borders.

— Dave Yez
Monmouth, IL

GUEST EDITORIAL

Deny Developer's Permits for Montague Center School

I'd like to address 'the elephant in the room' regarding the current proposal to develop the former Montague Center School into a 22 unit apartment building. Zoning board members may acknowledge amongst themselves, but for the residents of Montague Center and the general public, they cover with a drape the costs for upkeep of Montague Center School building, the series of expedient and myopic decisions that led to its closing and the attempt by those responsible to erase those errors of judgment with a series of wrong-headed and spiteful decisions the result of which sits on their agenda as a request for special permits and a variance.

At the August 22nd meeting, ZBA board chair Ernest Brown kindly admonished residents that many of our concerns do not address the issues that are the purview of the ZBA. I submit that the expense of the building's

upkeep and pressure to put the former school back on the tax rolls is also not within the purview of the board.

The ZBA board's responsibility is stated clearly in the zoning by-laws' purpose: "...to promote the welfare of the residents of the Town of Montague; to conserve the value of land and buildings; to encourage the appropriate use of land throughout the town; to preserve and increase its amenities; ..."

Now, I'll note the developer is not a resident of Montague; the property values of School Street abutters shall suffer should a 22 unit apartment appear overnight; doubling the population of the School Street neighborhood is anything but "appropriate use"; the amenities of the quiet, friendly, neighborhood would be severely diminished.

But there is more at stake here. There is a culture in Montague

Center that is framed and highlighted by its designation as an "Historic District". The residents and culture of Montague Center are guided and inspired by the wisdom and design of the past. Homes were restored with loving care. Preservation is a hallmark. The Olive Street developer wants to impress upon Montague Center a stainless-steel mindset and modernist culture.

It is my sincere wish that the zoning board of appeals hear the voices of unanimous protest by School Street residents. Honor your true responsibilities as stated in the bylaws' purpose and deny the special permits and variance requests to the Olive Street developers.

Then we can all move forward and encourage an appropriate use for the former Montague Center School.

— Elliot Tarry
Montague Center

from INDUSTRIAL page 1 said Ramsey, "which is why we are not looking at expanding the Airport Industrial Park on the Montague Plains.

Ramsey said the Franklin Regional Council of Governments backs the plan as a top regional priority, since there only remains "a two to four year supply of developable industrial land in Franklin County."

He said at present half the approximately 2000 jobs in Montague are in manufacturing facilities, primarily metal fabrication, plastics and food production. "This is our bread and butter," said Ramsey, of the potential to expand the industrial sector in Montague. "Montague has the lowest land prices in the region."

Ramsey noted all the businesses in the nearly full industrial park by the airport had relocated there from within the region; Montague is not likely to attract major employers from outside Western Massachusetts, but rather would help small or medium sized existing businesses grow in a well designed, attractively priced industrial park.

Ramsey said developing the

industrial park would cost at least \$1.7 million for a first phase, with the price tag topping \$2.2 million by completion. He said, "The town will seek 100% financing for the build out," from MassWorks, the state's infrastructure development agency, and from the federal government's Economic Development Administration, and the land would eventually market at between \$18,000 and \$25,000 an acre, a competitive price, Ramsey said.

He noted that the cost of capping the old burn dump, an obligation the town has already set aside \$200,000 to help pay for, will wind up costing upwards of half a million dollars. That cost has not been figured into the estimate of building the industrial park, although the old burn dump sits right in the middle of the proposed industrial park.

Now that town meeting has approved special permitting status for the future industrial park, Montague will receive priority consideration for grant funding for the project from the state and federal government, Ramsey said in a follow up interview. Green components,

such as covenants to insure tenants use low impact design and incorporate bio-retention areas and sustainable parking lot design should help get grants and attract developers, Ramsey added.

He explained the town will retain all local permitting authority, but will commit to ruling up or down on a prospective developer's permitting within 180 days of application. Ramsey said he hopes to bring the subdivision design application for the new industrial park to the planning board next year; at that point concerns about the impact of traffic and development at the proposed industrial park will have a chance to be heard. A traffic plan will be part of a required environmental impact study.

Ramsey said Sandy Lane would be the only feasible point of access to the proposed park. In a final buildout phase, a loop road returning traffic to intersect with Turnpike Road further west is part of the plan.

In other business, town meeting approved \$17,000 for a used fuel efficient vehicle for the interim see INDUSTRIAL pg 5

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Photo: Lauren Froese

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Agreement Struck on Cell Tower Bylaw

BY DAVID DETMOLD - After hearing recommendations from a nine member ad hoc cell tower committee, the Leverett planning board, meeting in joint session with the selectboard on Wednesday night, agreed to revise their proposed cell tower bylaw by extending setback requirements for cell towers in Leverett to 1650 feet from any dwelling or habitable building (including schools, stores, and municipal buildings). Repeaters not placed on a cell tower will be required to have a 100 foot setback from abutters. Language prohibiting cell towers in endangered species habitat or within set distances from historic or archeological sites was struck from the bylaw as being overly restrictive - the laws governing endangered species habitat, and historic or archeologi-

cal sites are already on the books, and may allow cell tower siting within proximity of those areas with review by the proper state agencies or authorities. Setbacks shall be measured from the base of the proposed cell tower, rather than from the border of the property line of a proposed cell tower parcel.

With these changes, broad agreement appeared to have been reached between critics of the proposed cell tower bylaw, who saw the proposal as too lax on where cell towers could be located in town, without due regard for possible health effects or the perception of health effects from living or working in close proximity to cell towers, and bylaw proponents, who hope to encourage a cell tower company to site one or more transmission towers in Leverett, where

cell phone coverage is spotty at best, or nonexistent in many parts of town.

A public hearing will soon be scheduled on the revised cell tower bylaw, which is likely to appear on the warrant of a special town meeting on October 9th, at 7 p.m., at the Leverett Elementary School.

Robert Hallock, a professor of physics at UMass and a committee member, had proposed a formula by which the setback requirements for siting cell towers could be determined, based on a 1650 setback for an average 60 watt tower, allowing for longer setbacks for more powerful towers, shorter setbacks for less powerful towers and repeaters.

Hallock and other committee members said this innovative approach synthesized the results of

see LEVERETT page 8

INDUSTRIAL from page 4

police chief (defined under the Green Communities Act as combined mileage of 18 miles per gallon for a utility vehicle, or 29 miles per gallon for a two-wheel drive vehicle), \$4,500 for an extension to the backstop to keep foul balls from landing on car windshields at Eagle Automotive across the street from the Unity Park ball field, and spending \$160,000 from the sewer enterprise fund to keep sewer rates flat for a fourth year in a row.

Sewer Rates

Wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley told the meeting the \$429,000 currently in retained sewer earnings is the highest level he has seen in that fund since he began working for the town decades ago. Despite that, Trombley said sewer rates are not too high, even though efficiencies in the plant's treatment process and the addition of a new dewatering press for processing sludge have reduced operating costs at the plant in recent years.

Town meeting also approved spending \$60,000 from sewer retained earnings to install a fourth dewatering zone on the newly installed Fournier press, which Trombley earlier told the selectboard should result in a 30% reduction in staff time devoted to the sludge dewatering process.

Assistant assessor Barbara Miller received town meeting approval of negotiations between her office and First Light GFD/Suez that have resulted in an informal agreement to reduce the town's valuation of First Light property in Montague by \$2 million for the coming fiscal year.

Miller explained First Light had demanded an \$11 million reduction in their assessment, and Miller, not willing to spend \$22,000 on a new appraisal of their property in advance of FY'14, when she is mandated to pay for an appraisal anyway as part of a triennial revaluation, struck an informal agreement to knock \$2 mil-

lion off the company's \$75.5 million valuation instead. Miller said this would shave about \$46,000 off the company's tax bill for the coming year. She said there was no guarantee that a new appraisal would have come in at the higher valuation, and the town might have had to hire a lawyer to defend a contested valuation in court if the informal agreement had not been approved.

Town meeting also backed an agreement whereby the Turners Falls Fire Department will reimburse the town for \$2,190 to increase the police dispatchers' salaries by 50 cents an hour for FY'13, in recognition of the fact that police dispatchers answer some calls for the fire department.

Interim police chief Chip Dodge told town meeting he had recently lost a qualified night dispatcher, who left the town's employ to take a dispatching job nearby for \$1.75 an hour more than he was earning in Montague. That is a familiar story, as the Montague police department has acted as a training facility for years for dispatchers to move on to other area dispatch centers where they receive higher pay, Dodge said.

Despite the fact only two candidates - Dodge and acting sergeant Chris LaPointe - have emerged to take the police chief assessment center exam, after Chris Williams removed his name from the running, town meeting voted to spend \$6,600 to contract with BadgeQuest to conduct that exam in the coming weeks. The outcome should guide the town in picking a new permanent chief, under Civil Service rules.

Precinct 2's David Jensen criticized the town for leaving the police chief position in Civil Service, although selectboard member Pat Allen reminded town meeting that ten years ago, during a battle between the selectboard and then police chief Pat O'Brien, an attempt to take the police chief position out of Civil Service was soundly rejected

by town meeting, 65 to 18.

Strathmore Mill

Town meeting agreed to spend an additional \$35,000, on top of the \$130,000 previously allocated, to remove an asbestos tainted 900-ton debris pile left over from the 2007 arson fire that destroyed Building #10 at the Strathmore Mill. Town planner Ramsey told town meeting that bids to remove the pile, perform minor repairs, and install a fence at the site had come in higher than anticipated due to rising fuel and disposal costs.

But he said if the town did not act now, it was in danger of forfeiting a \$200,000 grant from the EPA to assist with the removal of the debris.

Precinct 4's Dave Thompson reminded town meeting that Montague had already invested \$300,000 in roof and sprinkler repairs at the abandoned mill complex, in addition to the moneys being sought to remove the debris from the arson fire.

"Year after year you keep coming back for more money. You ought to just leave it and let it fall down. It's useless," said Thompson, who tried and failed to pass a measure to ban the town from spending more money at the Strathmore at a previous town meeting.

Ramsey called the debris pile a

major obstacle to redevelopment at the mill complex; and abutters David Hobbs from Swift River Hydro and Charlie Blanker from Southworth Paper urged the town to proceed with removing the debris this fall, since it affects their property rights as taxpayers and employers in town.

Town meeting agreed to spend the money and have the debris removed.

In a follow-up interview, Ramsey said the town is working on a title search and study of access points to the mill. But he said the expiration of a 99 year covenant on the structurally deficient pedestrian bridge to Strathmore from Canal Street has relieved owner First Light Power of the legal responsibility to maintain that structure.

He said First Light has warned Southworth Paper, which uses the pedestrian bridge as a girder to hang a sewer pipe that is critical to that company's ongoing operations, that it may remove the bridge. He added that First Light has not made a financial offer to upgrade the pedestrian bridge as part of a negotiation to turn the deed of the bridge over to the town, which would leave the town in the position of owning a bridge with a substantial price tag for renovation.

By all accounts, once the debris pile is removed, pedestrian access, parking, and vehicular access to the Strathmore will be the next major stumbling blocks to be removed before the 244,482-square foot, 1871 vintage mill can be successfully redeveloped. Nonetheless, Ramsey told town meeting his office is 'pre-screening' pitches from two potential developers interested in locating artist live/work space at the Strathmore, with perhaps performance space and educational components as part of their proposals.

After town manager Frank Abbondanzio explained that the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation board of directors lacks insurance to protect them from lawsuits stemming from decisions the quasi-public agency makes as it pursues the redevelopment of properties like the former Cumberland Farms building on Avenue A, town meeting approved spending \$1,500 to purchase insurance for the board. Abbondanzio said the EDIC "may see an expanded role in Strathmore and the industrial park," in years to come.

Wanted: Finance Committee Members

A motion to change the size and quorum required for the nine member town finance committee to hold meetings founded on the shoals of parliamentary procedure, as town moderator Ray Godin ruled the motion out of order on the grounds that only an annual town meeting can consider a change to the town's bylaws.

The finance committee has sometimes had trouble reaching a quorum, which is defined in the bylaw as a majority of the nine members - requiring five to be present to conduct business. Finance chair John Hanold said never in his tenure has the committee had a full complement of nine members, and for a time it has only had four members, making it impossible to hold meetings. Now, the committee has five members, and the motion would have changed the bylaw requiring a committee "consisting of nine residents," to one "consisting of at least five residents," with a quorum consisting of "a majority of those then in office."

But town clerk Deb Bourbeau insisted the bylaw could be amended at any regular meeting of town meeting, including a special town meeting. The day after the meeting, Bourbeau called the state attorney general's office and received confirmation of her reading of the bylaw - too late to influence the moderator's ruling.

For the record, the town clerk said the town's bylaws stipulate:

"These by-laws shall not be altered or amended except at a regular town meeting held for that purpose, and the warrant for said meeting shall specify the proposed amendment or alteration."

Informed of the dispute, the state attorney general's office stated, "A regular town meeting is any lawfully, duly convened town meeting. There are no limitations in the state statutes to amend a bylaw at only an annual town meeting," Bourbeau said.

And for future reference, the attorney general further stated the town cannot deny the right of citizens to call a special town meeting to amend bylaws by a citizen's petition.

MB

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Two Cars Totaled on Route 63 at Juggler Meadow

Thursday, 8/2

4:02 p.m. Long Hill Road resident complaint of violation of Harassment Prevention Order. Report taken.

Friday, 8/10

11:35 a.m. Reported car breaking and entering on Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Report taken.

2:52 p.m. Burglar alarm at Leverett Elementary School. Contactor's mistake.

10:15 a.m. Lift assist medical at a Dudleyville Road residence. Services rendered.

Sunday, 8/12

2:00 p.m. Out of control teen at a Teawaddle Hill Road residence. Officer responded to assist and restored peace.

Friday, 8/17

10:28 a.m. Officer assist for a lost tractor-trailer unit. Escorted same to Rt. 63.

1:59 p.m. Burglar alarm at an Amherst Road residence. Accidental.

Sunday, 8/19

11:40 a.m. Depot Road resident reported mailbox destroyed by hit and run motor vehicle. Report taken.

Monday, 8/20

8:39 p.m. Officer checked three suspicious males in the Peace Pagoda parking lot. No problems; sent them on.

Tuesday, 8/21

3:37 p.m. Medical at a Long Plain Road residence. Subject transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital by Amherst fire department ambulance.

5:32 p.m. Montague Road resident complained of motor vehicle screeching tires and burning rubber in front of their residence. Vehicle gone upon arrival.

Wednesday, 8/29

7:53 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Juggler Meadow Road and Long Plain Road.

attempted to pass a line of vehicles traveling southbound on Rt. 63. struck a vehicle driven by

as was attempting to turn left onto Juggler Meadow Road.

and a juvenile passenger transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital with minor injuries.

cited for speeding and failure to use care in passing. Both vehicles totaled and towed by Ernie's Towing.

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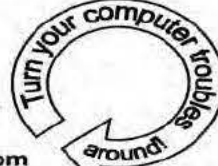
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GUEST EDITORIAL Of Clams, Mudpuppies, and Silt in the Canal

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

TURNES FALLS - The drained power canal in Turners Falls was a busy place on Monday, September 10th. While Davenport Construction workers hauled gravel with earth haulers to build a road down into the canal with an excavator, Franklin County Fabricators were busy repairing the canal gates at Cabot Generator Station #2. Knowles Construction of Gorham, ME, had a crew erecting scaffolding to begin repairs to a big crack in the concrete wall on the east side of the canal, next to the bike path.

Underfoot was a volunteer group in the role of benevolent beings led by Beth Bazler, recreation director at Northfield Mountain, slopping through the mud to rescue mud puppies, fish, American eels, lamprey and other aquatic life. Thousands of rescued beings were transported in a water tank and released into the Connecticut River, confused, but with renewed faith in a higher power, which they witnessed with their own eyes. Other less fortunate mud puppies and fish left to dry out as the canal drained down for a week of annual maintenance suffocated and died with their

faith destroyed. Such is life.

Along with an abundance of abandoned tires and a shopping cart or two, there was also an abundance of clams in the mud, most of whom may have escaped death by burrowing deeper into the mud. Clams are edible, and their ancestors were a once a source of food for Native Americans. Eels and lampreys are also edible, along with carp, suckers, perch, small mouthed bass, herring and a variety of other fish, including short nosed sturgeon, none of which were found in the drained canal.

Mud puppies are salamanders with gills. They need to be submerged in water in order to breathe. Historically, they are not native to this area, according to Bazler, and may have been introduced by UMass students, for reasons which are now obscure.

The reason for building a road down into the canal, Bazler said, is to provide access for front end loaders and other equipment to move thick banks of silt - about 20 feet thick in places. Bazler could not say what the eventual disposition of the silt would be.

On Wednesday, John Howard,

manager of the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro station, said the company "is just removing accumulated logs and debris from in front of the [canal] gates. There may be a little silt accompanying it. They are stockpiling it in a 'bone-yard' with other logs and debris, next to the parking area at the beginning of Migratory Way. When it dries out, Davenport will truck it to their yard as they've done in the past."



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Volunteers help to transport aquatic creatures from the drawn down power canal to the Connecticut River earlier this week.

LEVERETT from page 5

research the committee had conducted into dozens of published studies on the possible health impacts of cell tower radiation and surveys of real estate agents about the perception of buyers that living in certain proximity to cell towers decreases property values, in an approach they said would provide the town with maximum protection of property values and the flexibility to allow cell towers to be sited in areas of town prohibited by Leverett's current bylaw, which limits cell tower construction to three small low lying commercial zones.

But the planning board rejected the committee's approach in favor of setting a fixed minimum setback requirement of 1650 feet (the planning board's original proposal had called for a 600 foot setback from residences), and recognizing the discretion of the zoning board to grant or withhold special permits for cell towers on a case by case basis.

"The formula practically screams health concerns, to me," said planning board member Ken Kahn, who worried the new bylaw would therefore be indefensible in court should a cell tower company challenge it.

The federal government pre-empts local governments from impeding the siting of cell towers to provide adequate local coverage based solely on health concerns.

The committee arrived at a proposed setback distance of 1650 feet by a calculation of the distance at which the radiation from an average cell tower of 60 watts would be

indistinguishable from background radiation. The committee stressed that the mere perception of health impacts, which could depress property values in a community, was an adequate basis for establishing a more stringent setback requirement than the planning board had originally proposed.

Leverett's annual town meeting narrowly defeated the planning board's proposed bylaw in spring, and the selectboard has since vowed to bring the proposal back to a special town meeting as soon as possible, in part to respond to emergency responders who find it difficult to communicate in emergencies without mobile cell phones.

On Tuesday, the selectboard had a very light agenda, which included setting up a six person hiring committee to hire another truck driver laborer for the highway department, after Kyle Wetherbee resigned. The selectboard in its entirety will serve on that hiring committee, along with Gordon Fretwell, Christine Nelson, and highway superintendent Will Stratford. The selectboard indicated a standard approach to hiring new town employees would now be the watchword in town, after a dispute arose about gender bias in the last round of interviews for a highway truck driver laborer position. The board made sure the hiring committee consisted of both men and women.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford returned to fulltime work this week, following a protracted medical leave.

She told the selectboard, "I'm so good!" after a successful stem cell transplant cured the condition that had been ailing her.



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JEANNE WEINTRAUB PHOTO

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER - For more years that anyone can remember the Gerard family had a rhubarb patch on Union Street in Montague Center. Neighbors were always invited to pick what they could use. The new owners have kindly continued that tradition and inadvertently helped name a circus.

On a warm summer afternoon four years ago a small group of kids decided to put on a show. They were not as sophisticated then as they are now, but there was stilt walking, and juggling, and some tumbling. They pulled their props behind them in a little red wagon, along with the rhubarb they'd picked that day, and they set up on the village common.

Lucia Mason, who is 13 years old now and the director for the troop's upcoming performance said, "We passed a hat and earned \$13.00." They named themselves The Travelling Rhubarb Circus.

Today the Traveling Rhubarb Circus is ready to show the community what they have learned over the years. Next week, performers from 5 to 14 years of age will put on a show, complete with lights and music, in a barn at 2 North Street in Montague Center. Performance times are on Saturday, September 22nd at 3 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, September 23rd at 3 p.m. Advance tickets are available at the Mini Mart in Montague Center, \$5 adults/\$3 kids 12 and under, and for seniors. If you can't get to the Montague Mini Mart, you can call 367-9923, or email lucia-bryn@yahoo.com to reserve your tickets at the door. The performance, named SNAP, is described as, "an amazing journey over the ocean floor using trapeze, aerial fabric, gymnastics and more."

Lucia and Bella Lattanzi have been taking classes at NECCA (New England Center for Circus Arts), and they taught their friends the skills

learned there. Lucia said, "Teaching wasn't hard, really. I trust myself and also trust that people won't do something if they are uncomfortable with it."

According to Lucia's mother, Jeanne Weintraub, there has never been a time when Lucia was not comfortable with heights. "She wanted to climb from the minute she had her hands in the air."

Over the years, new members have joined the circus, and some have dropped out. The current membership consists of Lucia Mason, Nya Saunders, April Weintraub, Celia Bales, Bella Lattanzi, Ivysong Muller, Miette Muller who doesn't perform but manages all publicity and creates print materials, Emilio Levins, and Gray, Alex and Solena Davidson-Carol. Jackson Blaine, actor and former Montague resident will be making a special guest appearance in the production.

It is amazing to see what lots of

practice, a few yards of silk, a trapeze and a certain degree of fearlessness can produce. At a recent rehearsal these kids swung, balanced, and bent their bodies into gravity defying poses, while others practiced tumbling or juggling as all the elements of the show came together. They are sophisticated critics. Some members of the circus are assigned to act as the audience during the rehearsal, and they take this role seriously, commenting on costume choices, props and technique.

The upcoming performance has been in rehearsal for three months, with long sessions on Sunday afternoons. This is a kid-directed project all the way from performance to publicity posters created by Miette Muller, but evidence of adult care is also evident. Chris Mason went to a workshop and learned how to make a trapeze. Mark Lattanzi found some lights for the performance. Jeanne

Weintraub has taken photos and helped circulate posters. The mattresses below the trapeze also speak to adult caution, necessary for these fearless flyers.

Money from the show will be going to the Circus Fund to buy more equipment. Donations will be accepted. The flyer says, "But leave that to the end of the show when you've decided that the show was amazing."

There's no telling where the Traveling Rhubarb Circus might journey, but they have already come far from that first impromptu show on the common, and the little red wagon is nowhere in sight. Get your tickets early. Park around the common if you are driving, and look for the sign at the end of the driveway that leads to the barn. The "daring, agile, and amazing, Traveling Rhubarb Circus Performers" hope to see you there!



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Sand in the Well

BY KATIE NOLAN - “We have a sandy well,” senior center architect John Catlin told the Erving selectboard on Monday night, September 10th. Catlin said there have been “six months of issues” with the well that supplies geothermal ground water for heating and cooling the one-year old building. The water filtration system has been continually clogged by sandy sediment, causing water leaks and other problems with the system. Catlin said he general contractor, MCM USA, had not been supportive in addressing the problem.

Catlin told the board the upper bedrock the geothermal well’s borehole passes through is sandy sedimentary rock. For the first 30 feet of bedrock, the 1,500-foot well pipe is surrounded by grout (“casing”), then continues deeper without casing. He said it is possible that water is coming in to the uncased section, and “eroding the sandstone wall” and releasing sand into the pumped water. Other possible causes he suggested included “bad drilling” or “an act of Mother Nature”.

Catlin recommended the

town buy a Lakos centrifugal separator to take out the sandy sediment before the ground water goes through the water filters. He said the town could use the contractor retainage money to buy and install the separator. The retainage money is about \$11,000, withheld from payments to MCM until the town agrees the building has been completed to its satisfaction.

Catlin also suggested the town notify Western Surety, the bonding company that insured MCM’s performance on the project, to inform them MCM has not completed the work in accordance with its contract with the town. Catlin said the town should document any additional costs incurred due to the pump and filtration system problems. “Any costs you may have incurred are on the table.”

The selectboard asked town administrator Tom Sharp to draft a letter to Western Surety, to be sent this week. In the draft, still subject to revision, the town states MCM has “failed to perform” and that costs associated with completing the geothermal system were the responsibility

of MCM or Western Surety.

In other business, Sharp said the Usher Plant pre-construction meeting was held on September 5th, with contractors, Tighe and Bond engineers, public works director Paul Prest, and Sharp present. Sharp reported the contractors will present a cleanup plan to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection within three weeks, and begin work after receiving approval from the DEP.

The selectboard accepted the resignation of Greg Greuling as library trustee and signed a business license for Phillip Waldron as a building and remodeling contractor.

The selectboard closed the open session at 7:30 p.m. and entered into executive session to discuss strategies with respect to litigation with attorney Donna MacNicol, and “for the purpose of considering the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health and/or the discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual...”. The executive session ended around 10 p.m.

amount it would take to purchase a Green vehicle – possibly \$20,000 – from that grant.

Selectboard chair Ann Banash said, “I would love to be the first town in Franklin County to get a hybrid [police vehicle]. I don’t know if there’s a vehicle out there ready for front line police work in Gill.”

Banash said the hybrid vehicle would have to be able to accommodate a computer, police equipment, have an adequate trunk and wide enough doors for an officer with belt and gear to get in and out of easily, and for a suspect or prisoner to be loaded into the back; the back seat would also need to be washable.

Banash said chief David Hastings is also researching hybrid vehicles, and is open to the prospect of going Green.

Once the town purchases a new cruiser, the oldest of the three police department cruisers will become a utility vehicle to be shared with the highway and fire department, Banash said.

laying the deceased’s remains in the ground without embalming fluid or vaults, the entire commission expressed opposition to the concept. Stevens said she had checked in with a representative of a local funeral home, who told her Green burials were a disaster, because the graves would eventually collapse, rendering the burial ground unsightly and unsafe to walk in.

But selectboard member John Ward said Green burials represent a disaster for funeral homes, because they would deprive them of their prime source of revenue.

Stevens said it was the commission’s understanding that Massachusetts law requires the use of a vault for all burials. But as fate would have it, board of health and selectboard member Randy Crochier walked in late to the meeting at the moment, as if on cue, and said there was no such state law requiring the use of burial vaults.

Crochier said, “It’s to be filed under ‘the World’s Greatest Excuses,’ because we’ve always done it this way.”

have a problem with graves collapsing. There is a certain way you have to dig the graves and mound the dirt to avoid that sort of thing.”

The Gill cemetery commission hoped the town would consider donating the parcel known as the Boyle property, comprising about three acres between Center Road and Main Road, bordered on the south by Lyons Hill Road, for a new cemetery. Banash suggested the commissioners arrange an informal walkthrough of the property with a representative of the conservation commission, to see where the delineation for wetlands would fall, and how much land would be available for plots. Though the land had originally been deeded to the town for use for an elementary school, that restriction has expired, the board said. A few years ago, town meeting refused to declare that land surplus, reserving it for some future town use.

Klein said, if it were dedicated as a town cemetery, the land would still be “open to the public.”

The town is looking forward to the annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival and Farmers Market at the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2 this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the selectboard granted a public gathering permit for that event. Organizer Claire Chang said there would be jugglers, fresh baked apple pie, iron forging, homemade soup from the Gill Tavern, arts and crafts vendors galore, famous French fries from the fire department, and musical acts including Joe Graveline, Jeff Martel, Eveline MacDougall, and the irresistible soothing soft rock sounds of the 70s from Erving’s own Shag.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Approves New Cruiser, Town Hall Roof

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Voters in Gill weighed in on two local debt exclusion propositions – to fund a new police cruiser and a new roof at town hall – at the same time as they cast votes in the state primary on September 6th.

Both questions were approved, although the town hall roof passed by a much wider margin – 246 to 45 than the police cruiser, which passed 175 – 115.

Town administrative secretary Ray Purington said town meeting in June had already approved dollar amounts for the time proposals: \$33,000

for the new cruiser and \$73,000 for a new metal roof for town hall. Five thousand dollars for the town hall roof is coming from another source. So, in total, taxpayers are now on the hook to pay off \$101,000 over the next three years for the two capital purchases.

The selectboard urged Purington to get the bid specifications ready as quickly as possible for the town hall roof, so the new roof could be installed before the dead of winter. Heavy rains have caused leaks in the old asphalt roof, and there are missing

ceiling tiles above the selectboard’s table in the upstairs meeting hall to prove it.

Meanwhile, energy commission member Tupper Brown has been busily researching available alternatives for hybrid vehicles that might be suitable for Gill’s new cruiser. Gill has recently received a check for \$139,000 from the state for being designated a Green community, and energy commission members Claire Chang and Pam Lester told the board on September 10th they would be inclined to provide bridge financing for the added

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Report of Mountain Lion; Motor Vehicle Crash on Route 2

Wednesday, 9/5

1:20 p.m. Criminal complaint issued on Route 2 to [redacted], for unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle and revoked registration.

Thursday, 9/6

10:50 a.m. Report of motor vehicle crash at East Prospect Street. Report taken.

2:10 p.m. Report of mountain lion crossing Northfield Road near school. Animal gone upon arrival.

Friday, 9/7

8:15 a.m. Assisted Orange ambulance with medical emergency on Route 2, west of Erving Center.

9:11 a.m. Report of erratic operation on Route 2 at French King bridge. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 9/8

4:00 a.m. Report of intoxicated male at the bowling alley parking lot. Subject was given ride by friend. Gone upon arrival.

10:30 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with a dispute at a residence on Millers Falls Road.

12:00 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2, Farley Flats. Assisted on scene with Massachusetts State Police.

3:00 p.m. Assisted ambulance with medical emergency on West Main Street.

11:35 p.m. Assisted on scene with medical emergency on Lillian’s Way.

Sunday, 9/9

1:00 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Farley Flats. Not a hazard.

4:15 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Warner Street. Report taken.

8:00 p.m. Found property left at station. Owner identified and property returned.

Monday, 9/10

8:35 p.m. Assisted Gill police with domestic dispute at Chappell Drive.

8:35 p.m. Tractor trailer pulled line down on River Road. Found to be old cable wire. Company to be advised.

9:05 p.m. Call of disturbance in area of Pratt Street. Reporting party advised male and female subjects arguing, yelling and walking toward Lester Street. Subjects located. Found verbal argument only. Spoke with both.

Cemetery Plots

Carrie Stevens, Anne Marie Klein, and Pat Haigis, the three members of the Gill cemetery commission, came before the selectboard to request a donation of land for a new cemetery, as the town is quickly running short of burial plots.

Klein said there were only 38 spaces for burials remaining in the West Gill Cemetery, near the golf course on West Gill Road; 18 in the North Cemetery up beyond Upinngil on Main Road, and six in the Center Cemetery near the Slate Library. With about seven or eight burials each year, on average, the town is due to run into a bit of a jam over final resting spots before the decade expires.

When Stevens suggested the possibility that a new cemetery could allow room for an above ground columbarium, for crematory urns, the other two members reacted negatively. Klein said the commission had not reached agreement on the idea of above ground storage of crematory ashes.

Asked how the commission felt about the possibility that a new cemetery would allow so-called Green burials, characterized by

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CLIMATE from page 1

impatient of any further debate on the topic of global warming. Instead, he exhorted his audience to head straight for the picket lines, deans' office anterooms, and county jails in defense of a planet simmering in exhaust fumes, flambéed in desertification and drought, and barreling headlong to an uncertain end in an oil fueled juggernaut of climate alteration and environmental havoc.

"We've raised the temperature one degree Fahrenheit so far. That's enough to melt the Arctic ice. But we'll see the temperature rise four or five degrees more unless we reduce carbon usage far more than any government is currently talking about, now. Each degree rise should cut grain yields about 10%. Try to imagine a planet with 20% or 30% less calories than we have now," McKibben suggested, and this time he was not talking about calories of heat. "Our window for affecting that is slim, and closing."

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," wrote Martin Luther King in April of 1963, in his famous epistle from a Birmingham jail cell, as he rallied his fellow clergy and countrymen against the brutal oppression of the Jim Crow South. But for McKibben — jailed for three days in Washington DC during last year's protest over the planned 1600-mile Keystone XL pipeline, which would allow America, like some thirst crazed mammoth diving into the shimmering oasis of the La Brea Tar Pits, to suck freely from the second largest pool of untapped carbon on the

planet in the tar sands of Alberta — the injustice of global warming stems from the greed of a few wealthy Americans, like the Koch Brothers, or Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson. It is the injustice of a corporate controlled America that is throwing the Earth's climate so grievously off balance, McKibben said, and the brutal effects of our orgy of oil burning is having a lopsided impact on the poorest peoples on Earth — millions of Bangladeshis flooded regularly from their land, nations of Africans south of the Sahel starving in a baked wilderness of dust, islanders of the Pacific facing exodus as their ancestral homes are gradually submerged beneath rising ocean waves — peoples who have the smallest carbon footprints, and the least responsibility for creating the climate chaos that is ruining their lives.

Exxon Mobil's Tillerson, who reported a second quarter company profit of \$15.9 billion in July, acknowledged global warming as real and manmade a month earlier, but he called it "an engineering problem," with "engineering solutions."

"If we need to move our crop production areas, we will," McKibben cited Tillerson, from widely reported remarks to the Council for Foreign Relations in New York in June.

McKibben said "crop production areas" are more commonly referred to as farms by most of us and asked, "Where are we going to move them? Up to the melting tundra?"

McKibben drew sustained applause when he countered global

warming is not "an engineering problem. It's a greed problem."

Four years ago, trying to move the debate on climate change out of the academies, board rooms and conference committees where it has been stuck for decades, McKibben founded a grassroots advocacy network called 350.org, which now counts affiliates in every country of the globe except for North Korea. The organization called for a day of global protest in October of 2009, with more than 5,200 demonstrations taking place in 181 countries around the world. CNN called that the most widespread day of political activity in the planet's history.

But to McKibben, that is clearly not enough. "I can say with some confidence that we're losing the fight, badly and quickly — losing it because, most of all, we remain in denial about the peril that human civilization is in," McKibben wrote in a widely circulated article in *Rolling Stone* in July.

McKibben took the name of his organization from the upper limit of carbon in the atmosphere beyond which NASA scientist James Hansen posits a global climate tipping point would be reached. "Hansen told us in 2007, 350 parts per million of carbon is the most you can have in the atmosphere if you want a climate similar to that in which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted. The level is now 395 parts per million, and rising at a rate of two parts per million per year," he told his Amherst audience on Friday.

McKibben said as of this month, "Half the polar ice cap is missing.

The amount of sea ice has been plummeting all summer, and it's continued in a kind of free fall."

And as carbon sinks into the ocean, "The ocean is about 30% more acid than 40 years ago," with consequent impacts on coral reefs and the ocean's food chain. "That's an amazing scale of change we've been able to enact."

The first eight months of 2012 have set a new benchmark as the hottest on record. McKibben warned, "Warm air holds more water than cold; it loads the dice for drought and flood. Deluges are not just happening far away to poor people...." Now, more and more, they are happening to us.

McKibben, a resident of Middlebury, VT, recalled Vermont governor Peter Shumlin speaking in the aftermath of last year's Tropical Storm Irene, which knocked out roads and bridges and flooded homes, farms and businesses across his state a year ago. Shumlin said, "I didn't run to be governor of a tropical country."

Vermont recorded its first ever death from equine encephalitis last week, another of the predicted side effects of what McKibben derisively referred to as the "mosquito ranching exercise" of global warming.

McKibben said Americans, who constitute about 4% of the world's population, should no longer consider themselves immune from the cascading impacts of global warming, to which they have contributed about one quarter of the total global warming gasses accumulated in the atmosphere since the dawn of the Industrial Age.

McKibben said in past decades, about 1% of the Earth's land mass might experience drought anomalies in a given year, but now that figure has grown to 10% of the Earth's land mass. Expect to see more summer droughts like the one that burned croplands across the Plains this year, he warned. And the rise in crop prices that will result will lead to social instability and starvation across the Third World, if not closer to home.

McKibben said the nations of the world gathered at the "spectacular failure," of the Copenhagen climate conference in 2009 at least managed to agree on one thing: if we raise the globe's temperature two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) it will have disastrous

effects. The conference also agreed to the calculations of scientists who predicted it would take the burning of 565 gigatons of additional carbon by 2050 to raise the Earth's temperature those two degrees.

But McKibben said the nations of the Earth and the fossil fuel corporations that hold a majority stake in many of them already have five times that amount of carbon waiting for the furnace in proven, extractable coal, oil and gas reserves.

"It is not going to be enough," to solve the climate crisis by opposing one pipeline at a time, McKibben said. "We've got to demand the fossil fuel industry pay a price for the carbon they pour into the atmosphere. Nobody else gets to pour their waste into the environment for free."

He wrapped up his speech appealing to the idealism of students in the Five College Community, and urging their elders to reclaim the activism of their youth in a broad based movement for divestment from fossil fuel companies, to press for an immediate change in the world's energy diet from carbon based fuels to alternative technologies.

"This is a deeply moral issue. The poorest people of the Earth, who've done the least to create the problem, are suffering the most. All future generations are being inundated by the problem so a tiny one percent coterie can continue making more money than anyone can imagine. It is time for it to stop."

"We need to raise the price of carbon in the atmosphere, so solar and wind can gain a foothold. We need to get up every day and figure out how to change the odds, with no guarantee of victory. That's the work we are called to do."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG Drug Activity Reported in Riverside

Wednesday, 8/29

10:05 a.m. Residence on West Gill Road believed someone was in the house. Searched home. No one located.

11:55 a.m. Suspicious activity called in by neighbor of residence on South Cross Road. Subjects on scene had permission.

1:00 p.m. Restraining order issued to party on Boyle Road 10:00 a.m. Assisted Erving police department with assault and battery domestic situation.

Thursday, 8/30

9:40 a.m. Assisted resident with firearms issue from Munns Ferry Road.

10:30 a.m. Main Road resident

complained of fireworks being used on the weekends from the River Road area.

Friday, 8/31

8:15 p.m. Animal complaint of cows in the roadway near Mount Hermon.

8:45 p.m. Report of a subject headed for the French King Bridge to jump. No one located.

11:55 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle located on north side of Green River Power Sports. Checked OK.

Monday, 9/3

4:20 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with suicidal / domestic situation.

Tuesday, 9/4

8:30 a.m. Assisted resident on

Boyle Road with school bus issue.

6:30 p.m. Animal complaint on Center Road.

7:31 p.m. Elderly couple, residents of Tisbury, lost at Mobil station. Brought to local motel.

Wednesday, 9/5

7:10 a.m. Tree reported in roadway on South Cross Road. Police removed same.

10:30 a.m. Runaway teenager from Main Road reported. Located same in Athol area.

Thursday, 9/6

10:55 a.m. Restraining order issued for subject on West Gill Road.

12:45 p.m. Missing dog reported from Center Road area.

2:30 p.m. Police information filed regarding selling of illegal drugs in Riverside area.

Friday, 9/7

11:00 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police department with traffic hazard on Route 10.

3:15 p.m. Assisted resident of River Road with fingerprinting situation.

4:00 p.m. Cows in roadway in area of Main Road and Lyons Hill.

8:20 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police department with alarm.

Saturday, 9/8

3:15 p.m. Dog bite on Walnut Street.

8:45 p.m. Reported barrel placed in travel lane on Gill Montague Bridge. Removed same.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part III

Montague 2017

BY ELOISE MICHEAL - Brigid delivers a letter from Diana. Diana writes she has seen Jason and knows all is well with me. She writes she would love to leave the bank and join me or even Jason. I think she means it.

Maybe Jason has inspired two of us to start helping people rather than helping Case Pearman make more money. Maybe Jason does this wherever he goes. That is his life's work. I wonder whether I should have gone with him to help spread the

message and help with strikes to weaken the corporate powers. I convince myself, though, that there is work to do here, as well, feeding people and finding ways to be less dependent on the corporations.

Besides, I have to admit to myself, my soul needs this. I need to be rooted and to see life through my own eyes — not through screens and windows.

I watch a pack of children run by, some chasing, some being chased, smiling while they run as hard as

their little legs can carry them. An older child lets a younger one get away then tags someone his own size, laughing. The child he tagged laughs, too, then starts chasing him. Yes, there is something here I want for myself, something that will make my life complete.

The day after the letter arrives, the FBI agents show up. I take this as confirmation that they have been spying on my conversations with Diana. They tell me they know the doppelganger is in Europe with Jason. "We found out too late that you were in D.C.," Agent Walsh explains.

Notice of Informational Meeting

Town of Montague

The Town of Montague Planning Board will hold an informational meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 6:31 P.M. in the Second Floor Conference Room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. The purpose of this annual meeting is to amend and update the Town of Montague's Community Development Strategy (CDS). Local citizens are requested to attend and discuss the draft Community Development Strategy. The document is available for review at the Montague Planning Office at the Town Hall and on the town's website. The Town wishes to encourage local citizens to attend the informational meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity.

Board of Selectmen
Town of Montague
Agenda Posted: 9.11.2011

"I wasn't in D.C.," I say, telling the truth but hoping they won't believe it.

"We think you were. It would be better for you not to return to the States," the agent warns me. "And if you get into any trouble in Europe, we'll soon know about it."

They get into their car soon after and drive away. I stand and watch them go along the unpaved driveway. Dave appears by my side and takes my hand. "Everything OK?" he asks.

"Yeah," I say, "everything's gonna be fine now. They think the doppelganger is in Europe."

The car turns left onto the main road and then disappears. I don't expect to see the agents again.

"Well, good," Dave says. "Now, if you're not too busy, I'm wondering whether you still want to learn how to install solar panels?"

"Yeah, definitely!"

"OK, 'cause Alisha and I are ready. Don't know how long this weather will hold." There has been cold rain for a week — even a dusting of snow last night. I spent the money I had left to buy solar panels for the farm. It seemed like something good should come from all the work I did for Case Pearman. We want to get the solar panels installed before winter, which seems ready to begin any day.

During the rain, almost everyone worked inside to store food for the winter. Beans are hanging everywhere. Jars of tomatoes, soup, pickles, applesauce, and peaches line the walls of several storage rooms. There is one room just filled with winter squash.

The farm has a root cellar with

hundreds of pounds of potatoes, beets, carrots, and turnips. There's corn for corn stoves in the barn, but we know it won't be enough. We will burn wood, too, this year.

We go into the main house to find tools. It's colder than outside in the sun. I shiver. "Do you have some warm sweaters and a good hat?" Dave asks. "It will be colder than you're used to, I bet."

"Yeah, I'll be fine," I say. "I'm looking forward to winter, kind of." "I'll remind you in March that you said that," Dave laughs.

We walk out into the sun again, each of us carrying tools. During the rain, most of the leaves fell from the trees that line the river. The few that cling to the branches flutter in the breeze.

Sunlight glitters on the water as it rolls past, like thousands of stars winking on and off. The rest of the landscape is rusty and dull in comparison. The sky is blue, and the sun shines through clear dry air, warming our skin. Crickets sing a slow autumn song.

The coming of winter usually feels like an ending," I explain to Dave, "but this year, it feels like a beginning."

We walk the rest of the way without talking, past the greenhouse, where salad greens will grow in the winter, to the nearby solar panels and Alisha, waiting for us to help her install the new ones.

This concludes the serial Ferry Meadow Farm.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hit and Run on 5th Street

Wednesday, 9/5

3:24 a.m. Fire alarm at Mayhew Steel Products, 199 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

11:35 a.m. Burglary reported at Woodlawn Drive, Montague.

Thursday, 9/6

11:50 a.m. [redacted] arrested on warrant on L Street in Turners Falls.

12:46 p.m. Shoplifting investigated at the Salvation Army Thrift Store, 206 Avenue A,

Turners Falls.

2:00 p.m. Hit and run reported on 5th Street in Turners Falls.

2:45 p.m. Fight reported on 4th Street at Avenue A in Turners Falls. Investigated.

3:29 p.m. [redacted] arrested on 5th Street for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating under the influence of alcohol, possession of open container, and minor in possession of alcohol.

8:38 p.m. Summons issued for destruction of property at

Griswold Street in Turners Falls.

Friday, 9/7

[redacted] arrested outside of Mark's Auto on Federal Street in Millers Falls. Charges include: speeding, operating under the influence of alcohol, and operating to endanger.

Saturday, 9/8

7:23 a.m. Larceny reported at Avenue A, Turners Falls.

10:29 a.m. Services rendered in response to burglar alarm at

Our Lady of Peace Church at 90 7th Avenue in Turners Falls. 6:20 p.m. Burglary reported at Turnpike Road in Turners Falls.

Monday, 9/10

3:00 p.m. Fraud reported at O Street in Turners Falls.

Tuesday, 9/11

3:55 a.m. [redacted] arrested near Pleasant and Mineral Roads for operating under the influence of alcohol, operating to endanger, leaving the scene of property damage, speeding, use of unauthorized motor vehicle, and a marked lanes violation.

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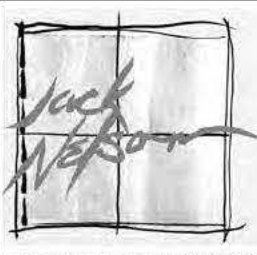
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Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope* - hands-on environmental program for children ages 3 -6 with an adult. Each topic includes a story, interactive games and activities, and crafts. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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 - 8 p.m.

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, South Wing, Room S302: *Film Society* - Come discuss and watch films. 4:30 - 7 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



The Trio Playing for the Eclective (viola, flute, clarinet) will perform at the Greenfield Arts Eclective on Sunday, September 16th at 6:20 p.m. at the Energy Park. Come check out this fun, free variety show!

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 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.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crazy Diamond* - Shelley Hines, Rai Grignonis & the band treat us to a night of "Pink Floyd." 8 - 10:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th

Quontqout 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.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hobson's Razor* - Rock, Reggae & Funk. 9 - 11:30 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*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

Old Riverside School Municipal Building, Rt. 2, Gill: *Gill Arts & Crafts Festival* - art, crafts, music, juggling, local farmers market, food and the historical museum will be open. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* DJ dance party. 9:30 p.m. \$3.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

Unity Park hill, 1st Street, Turners Falls: 2012 *Montague Soapbox Derby* - home made carts, minimum three wheels, one rider; no motors or any form of propulsion. 12 p.m.

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

Arts Eclective Schedule:

2 - 2:20 Ansel Appleton reads
2:20 - 2:50 Mystics Anonymous play
2:50 - 3:10 Slate Roof Collective: reading showcase
3:10 - 3:30 David Ives 1 act play, performed by New Renaissance Players
3:30 - 4 Bright Lines play
4 - 4:20 Christopher Janke reads
4:20 - 5 Bob Dylan song circle (Michael Metivier, Daniel Hales, Abe Loomis, Steve Koziol & Hilary Weiner)
5 - 5:30 Naugatuck River Review: reading showcase
5:30 - 6 Rebel Base play
6 - 6:20 Neil Serven reads
6:20 - 6:50 Trio Playing For The Eclective
6:50 - 7:10 Ingrid Steblea reads
7:10 - 7:50 The Frost Heaves play
7:50 - 8:10 Emily Arsenault reads
8:10 - 8:45 Krapp's Last Tape" by Samuel Beckett, performed by New Renaissance Players

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

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

Green River Swimming Area, Greenfield: *Tashlich* ceremony organized by Temple Israel to release transgressions into the water and pray for a New Year. 4 - 4:45 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Screen Freshener* - an informal screening series looking at exciting cinema, curated by Neil. 8 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *White Elephant, Yankee Trade & Bingo!* 8 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Sun Parade* - folk/rock. 7:30 p.m.

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

People's Pint, Greenfield: *Quebecois Session*, 8 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiznite*. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Forester Helen Johnson will give a talk on *Forest Management*. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Have Shaved* - jazz with Larry Klein, Jon Oltman, Seth Hoffsummer and Dave Bilodeau. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends* - acoustic rock. 8 - 10 p.m.

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

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 gallery space constraints. 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 fee of \$10 by 1/20/13.

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German Tales from Turners Falls

BY ANNE HARDING

GREAT FALLS - The Great Hall was packed on Friday, September 7th as the Great Falls Discovery Center hosted the first of four talks on the contributions of immigrant populations that shaped the village of Turners Falls during the industrial period between 1850 and 1950. Friday's topic was "German Stories" to be followed by Polish, French Canadian, and Irish stories in subsequent weeks.

Sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture and coordinated by town manager Frank Abbondanzio, the first presentation in the Tales and Legends of Turners Falls offered a wealth of historic photographs, ephemera and displays on exhibit for audience members to explore. The series promises a

similar exhibit for each program.

Veteran TFHS history teacher and local historian Vicki Valley introduced the first of several speakers to a crowd numbering about 100. Valley worked with Abbondanzio to develop the series, suggesting local families who might contribute to the four presentations. Abbondanzio has worked for the town for 30 years and remains fascinated by its diverse history.

Abbondanzio started with a brief overview of the town's industrial history in the late 1800s when Fitchburg industrial tycoon Alvah Crocker initiated his plans to harness the water power of the Connecticut River along with the "people power" of the increasing waves of European immigrants



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

Alvah Crocker looks over a crowd that swelled to 100 as the program got underway last Friday. Polish Tales from Turners tonight!

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arriving in the area. With about 30,000 horsepower available from the falls, there was much power to harness.

Crocker's economic success was hampered by the recession and depression of those times, but he still managed to lure several viable mills to his planned community. The Russell Cutlery factory was one of the movers and shakers of the time, and its relocation from Greenfield was a boon for Turners Falls. The factory actively recruited skilled German cutlery workers at a time when immigration was increasing for various reasons – avoidance of conscription during the time of chancellor Otto von Bismark, the promise of inexpensive land, and availability of jobs.

As more immigrants arrived in Turners Falls, they began to establish neighborhoods and by 1900 there were three distinct German neighborhoods in town.

Abbondanzio took the crowd through a virtual tour of downtown Turners Falls on or around July 3rd, 1884 – beginning at a 15 foot tall pile of wood that would be ground to pulp and used in an innovative new process for manufacturing paper at the Montague Paper Company. Through slides and anecdotes from the archives of the Turners Falls Reporter (the namesake of this paper) the audience could easily imagine the flavor of the times.

The German community was known for its strong work ethic, not to mention its love of beer, music and festivities. In response to a petition to halt the serving of beer by the Germans on July 4th, the editor of the paper quipped, "A German without beer is like Shakespeare without Hamlet." The virtual tour left us at the Colle Opera House, where Royal Colle took over.

Turners Falls, and in 1872 began to build the Colle Opera House. Royal Colle credits his great grandmother with bringing the project to completion after Friedrich passed away. The 1000-seat theater brought all manner of entertainment to the village, and the family managed the opera house and adjoining pharmacy for many years.

John and Jan Haigis came to town from Pennsylvania for Friday night's event. They treated the audience to stories of his great grandfather, who worked at the cutlery factory. The Haigises purchased a home on Second Street recently and spend about one week a month in town. Following family stories, the couple entertained the crowd with dulcimer music and songs from the old days.

Carolyn Stotz McLellan spoke of growing up on Third Street as a small child – in a world of tiny urban farms in an orderly and neat society. She described the use of a "neplie board" to make fresh homemade noodles – though sadly did not demonstrate its use.

Don't miss the Polish stories this evening, September 13th, French Canadian stories on the 21st, and Irish tales on the 28th, all at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Hall, 2 Avenue A. Leave yourself plenty of time to explore the exhibit space before or after the talk.

His great grandfather Friedrich Colle was a machinist or "turner" who first settled in the Petty Plain Road area of Greenfield. With his entrepreneurial wife Ana Maria he bought land in

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