



Way Out West with the Montague Reporter

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Gardeners Companion End of Summer

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LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 46

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

Patterson's Pik-Rite Picker Picked a Pile of Pungent Pickling Peppers



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

The Pik-Rite pepper conveyor in action at Split River Farm.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL – On Monday, Donald Patterson, of Patterson Farm in Sunderland, is in the midst of harvesting two million pounds of hot peppers grown on 100 acres of land on the Split River Farm in Gill.

The farm derives its name from the land being split by the Connecticut River on whose banks the farm lies in both Northfield and Gill. Patterson owns the land in partnership with John Savage of Deerfield. However, Savage is not involved in growing or harvesting this pepper crop. The partners purchased the land from New England Power Company, together, and share its use. Patterson planted the pepper plants with a mechanical planter in June and watered them with a center pivot Zimmatic irrigation system that wends its way in a circle to water the plants.

"The drought didn't affect us since we were able to irrigate," Patterson said. The worst months of the drought, locally, were in June and July.

The Pik-Rite picker raised a cloud of dust on the alluvial soil of the Connecticut River flood plain

as Patterson's 140 horse power John Deere 4455 diesel tractor towed it around the field. The picker is powered by a 100 horse power John Deere power unit.

A Mechanical Picker Does the Work of About 20 People Working by Hand

For Patterson, dust is preferable to mud, which plugs up the picker and requires hosing off in order to continue. Though there is collateral damage to some of the peppers, a mechanical picker does the work of about 20 people picking by hand, according to Patterson.

Bryan Chyz drove the tandem axle truck alongside the picker as the conveyor loaded the peppers into the truck's hopper body. Patterson had three trucks hauling peppers to their Deerfield ware-

see PEPPERS page 7

Last Picture Show at Hallmark Gallery



Lorin Dukman, self portrait.

BY ANN FEITELSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Gallery at Hallmark, 85 Avenue A, was like a quiet pond last Friday afternoon. The flowing white curtains at the 12-foot-tall windows caught the sunlight and rippled it. The polished linoleum floor shimmered like mother-of-pearl, reflecting shafts of light from the windows. The dove gray walls hummed with light, bathed by crossing beams from hundreds of tiny track lights.

The work of 11 students graduating from the Hallmark Institute of Photography comprise the current exhibit, "Eleven," which, alas, is the last Hallmark will hold at the gallery. The new president of the Hallmark Institute of Photography, Deb Carson, who did not return phone calls for comment, will not be renewing the lease this fall.

The gallery will be open for a few more weekends, Fridays through Sundays, from 1-5 p.m., through October 28th. If you go some afternoon, you will find it serene.

Exhibit openings in the past have drawn as many as 450 people. Over the past five and a half years, the space, once known as The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, has hosted exhibits of the work of world famous photographers, local luminaries, and the hundreds of students who come from all over the country to study at HIP for an intense ten month training in professional photography.

Hallmark instructor David Turner was at the gallery last Friday, and explained that for the exhibit, students chose three favorite photographs from their assignments, and installed the

show themselves.

The assignments run a wide gamut of challenges, from the mundane to the complex, designed to acquaint students with the bread-and-butter of professional photography, but also to give them an opportunity to develop new ideas. Everyone does a pet portrait; everyone does a teen on location for high-school yearbooks; everyone does a couple on location, to commemorate engagements. "On location" means out there in the real world, with real lighting, as opposed to in a studio, an artificial, controlled setting. Students are also asked to recreate the messy world inside the studio, to make a diorama, an "environmental still-life;" one student recreated the woods with tree-trunk, moss, rock and animal skull.

see HALLMARK page 8

Polonia in Turners Falls

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH – The Great Hall at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls was packed with enthusiastic people of Polish descent last Thursday. In order to report on this gathering without being charged with a conflict of interest as a Pole, or a Polishman, I am happy to be able to dodge the bullet: the United States Army classified my nationality as Austro-Hungarian Russian, there being no such country as Poland when my parents were born. (Polonia is Latin for Poland, and is also used in reference to a Polish colony, or to Polish emigrants.)

"The Polish night was a consensus of ideas," said Lisa Davol, director of Turners Falls RiverCulture as she welcomed the crowd. "Frank Abbondanzio was largely responsible for the content."

Montague town manager Abbondanzio credits the select-board's administrative secretary Wendy Bogusz for being a great help in scanning pictures he'd collected, and for working to put together the memorabilia on display at the Great Hall to accompany the RiverCulture sponsored presentation, second in a series called Tales and Legends of Turners Falls.

Many others helped. Walter Kurtyka baked Polish cookies; lemon crescents as well as other shapes, including confectionery sugar covered cookie balls with walnut centers. Stas Radosz, director of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms

College in Chicopee, began the program by giving an overview of the history of immigration to the United States.

"It came in three waves," Radosz related. "The first was 'for bread,' meaning there was poverty among the lower classes. That was the Great Polish Emigration in 1831-1870."

Upon the death of a Polish farmer, farmland was divided up amongst heirs so that after a few generations, increasingly smaller strips of land did not make farming feasible for family members. Land was cheap in America, and there was plenty of it. So the immigrants came.

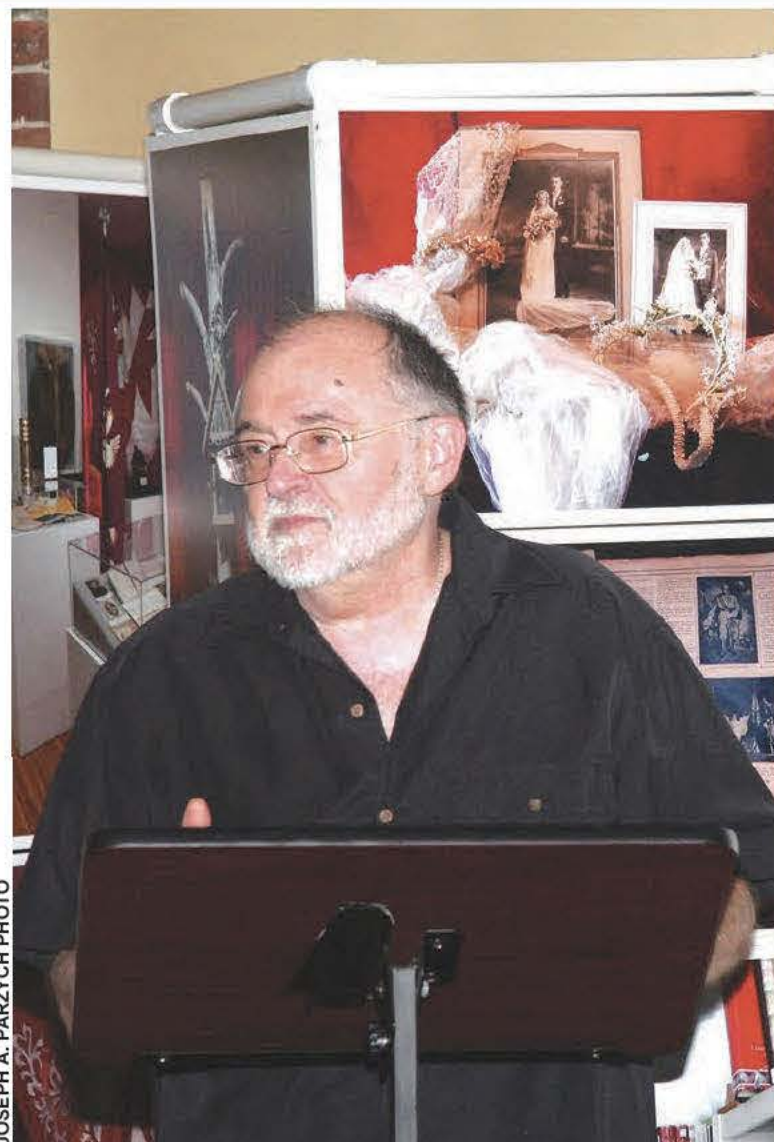
Polish families were often poor. They often pooled their money to enable one family member to immigrate to America. The emigrant would find work and send money back home to Poland for others to follow. The cost for passage in steerage was only about \$10, but they needed a few more dollars to get settled in the U.S. Immigrants seldom had as much as \$25, as listed in ships' manifests in records on microfilm available at the Silvio Conte Records Center in Pittsfield. At one time, emigrant's records were listed alphabetically by first name only. Now sanity has prevailed; records are listed by last name, and better yet, can be accessed by computer.

There was also forced immigration when Prussian Poles had their land confiscated by the German

government. Former owners were put on ships bound for the United States, and were required to work off the price of passage as indentured servants in America. Skibiski, the Onion King in Sunderland was one of them.

For those living in the Russian sector of Poland there was the danger of being conscripted into the Russian Army at age 18 to serve until 25. Individuals, or even entire families, risked being sent to Siberia to cut logs for export, or to build prison barracks. They were treated as prisoners, though they had committed no crime. My grandfather, Joseph Parzych, spent nearly three years in Siberia, starving and worked half to death simply because he was a carpenter. A question once common in Poland: "Have you been to Siberia?" Answer: "Not yet."

The second wave of immigration to America came after WWII when Polish soldiers, who had fought for their country in the British Army, could not go back home because Poland had been handed over to Russia at by the Allies at Yalta. Former Polish soldiers faced a hostile environment in Russian-dominated Poland, where Polish officers often were shot because Russia perceived them as a possible danger. Poland also suffered economically and chafed under Soviet rule. Poles fled to the States from England and from Poland itself. The Soviets allowed only one person from a family to immigrate to the United



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Stas Radosz at the podium in the Great Hall last Friday telling tales about Polish immigration to another overflow audience at the Tales and Legends of Turners series

States for fear of losing too many people. The Soviets also collectivized Polish farms in an unsuccessful attempt to increase food

production. Landless Poles set out for America as best they could.

The third wave, according to see POLONIA page 7

PETS OF THE WEEK Mellow Mix



Niketa

I'm Niketa, a 12 year old female husky/akita mix. I'm a senior petizen, I won't deny it. But a senior dog comes with a lot of perks.

For starters, I'm very low key. I like to nap A LOT. I do enjoy my walks as well and love to be outside in the fresh air and sunshine.

I was housetrained in my previous home but I will have an accident if I'm left home alone for a very long time. Just a bit hard to hold it super long nowadays. I don't mind other dogs as long as they're mellow like myself. No cats please. I haven't had much experience with young children so I prefer a home with adults or teens instead. If you have room in your home and heart for an older dog like me, ask the staff to bring me on out so you can meet me in person.

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

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY "Alice in Wonderland"

The Wendell COA Film Series will present the movie *Alice in Wonderland* on Sunday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Director Tim Burton brings his unique take on the classic Lewis Carroll story to the big screen. In this version, Alice (Mia Wasikowska) is 19 years old and is facing an arranged marriage. She escapes down a rabbit-hole into the fantasy realm of Wonderland (or "Underland") where she experiences strange ordeals and encounters peculiar characters, including the vaporous Cheshire Cat (voiced by Stephen Fry), the maddest Mad

Hatter you've ever seen (Johnny Depp) and the sadistic Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter). Anne Hathaway, Alan Rickman, Matt Lucas and Crispin Glover co-star in this inventive, Golden Globe-nominated adaptation (2010, PG). The event is free.

"Even Disney and a PG rating can't bury Burton's subversive wit. Like Carroll, he's a master at dressing up psychic wounds in fantasy. If you're looking for the trippy bounce of Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit" with its wisdom in the shrooms, it can be found. Like Alice, you just have to dig for it." - Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

WENDELL EVENT NEWS

Community Pot Luck and Singalong

A community potluck and singalong led by Morning Star will take place on Friday, September 21st 6:00 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall.

Come have fun learning an eclectic mix of simple songs with your community! Bring food to share and your own place setting.

Join the Wendell Singers Chorus for their fall session. Open to residents of any community. Song

selections include an eclectic mix of world music, gospel, and folk. No auditions and no experience necessary. Rehearsals are mostly on Thursday nights. The open sessions are on Thursday, September 20th and Sunday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m. at Wendell Senior Center. Call 413-422-1010 or email morningstar210@gmail.com for more information.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Friday Morning Story Hour

The Slate Library in the center of Gill is up and running with its Friday morning story hour with lots of new stories and craft projects for fall.

Please join us every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the little library for popcorn, company and fun on

the alphabet rug!

Beginning September 21st, we'll read some brand new books including Mo Willems' "*Gollidilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*," "*Tyler makes Pancakes*" and "*Foxy*" by Emma Dodd.

Youth Soccer Shoot

The Montague Elks will hold its annual Soccer Shoot program for youth on Saturday, September 22th, at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The event is free. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, call Steve Dacyczyn, Esteemed Leading Knight, at 413-834-0610 or Joe St. Peter, Past Exalted Ruler, at 413-863-4125.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Do feet get larger as you age?

Feet get bigger over decades of pounding. Some people over the age of 40 can gain half a shoe size every ten years.

Feet flatten out because their supporting tendons and ligaments lose their elasticity. As the tendon along the length of the sole elongates, the arch lowers. Another reason feet enlarge is that the force of your weight thins the fat pads cushioning the bottom of the feet.

Not all older people notice the reality that their feet have been getting bigger. A recent study of senior patients at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospital found that three quarters

of them were wearing shoes that were too small.

Q. Is *Clostridium difficile* common? My husband got it in the hospital.

Clostridium difficile, which is often called C. diff or C. difficile, has become one of the most common infections in hospitals.

C. diff can produce two virulent toxins that attack the lining of the intestine. In the United States, C. diff causes over 5,000 deaths annually.

C. diff is what is called a "healthcare-associated infection," which means that it is one you pick up in a hospital or similar facility, such as a nursing home. About one in five hospital patients get C. diff, but only about one in three of these suffer symptoms. C. diff isn't just an institutional threat; it can be contracted elsewhere as well.

The bacteria are eliminated in feces and then spread by infected people who don't wash their hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – September 24th - 28th

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 24th

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

Tuesday, September 25th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday, September 26th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, September 27th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, September 28th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

Monday, September 24th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:30 Quilting



DETOLD PHOTO

Dada Soapbox Derby Daredevil John Landino proudly displays his winning trophy for the Most Funniest entry in this year's Montague Soapbox Races. Landino was racing a cart sponsored by the Montague Reporter and SuperFunnyStuff.com. The trophy is the handiwork of Rebecca Beauregard.

WENDELL GILL CULTURAL COUNCILS Seek Funding Proposals

Both the Wendell and Gill cultural councils are welcoming grant applications for the FY'13 funding cycle. Cultural council grants support a wide variety of artistic projects and activities in their communities, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies and performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs are due by October 15th, 2012, as a postmark deadline. In Wendell, mail to Phyllis Lawrence, chair, at Box 81 Wendell 01379. In Gill, mail to the Gill Town Hall, Main Road, Gill, 01354.

Application forms are also available online at www.masscultural-council.org for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community; local artists are encouraged to explore that site for help with the grant writing process.

These local cultural councils are part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and

towns in the Commonwealth. This the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council was able to level fund the Local Cultural Council Program because the legislature approved a roughly \$328,000 increase in the MCC's overall state appropriation for FY13 compared to FY12. This helped to offset the funding cuts from the National Endowment for the Arts and private sources to MCC's budget. The increased state funding thus ensured MCC could avoid another year of cuts to grant programs for nonprofit cultural organizations, local cultural councils, schools, and artists.

This year, the Wendell Cultural Council; the Gill Council will each distribute about \$3,870 in grants.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

My Feet Don't Fit My Shoes

C. diff can cause diarrhea with ten or more watery bowel movements daily. C. diff can also produce severe colon inflammations including fatal colitis.

Q. What are varicose veins?

Varicose veins are twisted and enlarged veins that bulge in legs, but they can appear in other places as well. Varicose veins are more common in legs because veins from the groin to the ankles endure the most pressure of any veins in the body.

Varicose veins affect half of people over the age 50. Women get varicose veins more often than men.

Spider veins, which are named for the spider webs they resemble, are like varicose veins, but they're smaller. Hemorrhoids are anal varicose veins.

Aging is a major cause of varicose veins. As we get older, our veins stretch and the valves in them weaken. These valves keep the blood flowing toward the heart. If the valves malfunction, blood backs up in the veins and

engorges them.

Bulging veins can be painful, but, for most, they are just ugly nuisances. There are many options available to treat them, including lasers, injections, heat and surgery.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezer.com.

RECYCLE PAPER!
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more info? call: 863-2054

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARON ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - No joke! First Congregational Church of Montague will be playfully seeking to answer this question of **"Which Came First the Chicken or the Egg?"** at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 23rd, with a live chicken and an egg. This is "Rally Day Sunday," a day when the church welcomes back the children (young and old) from their summer vacations. All are welcome to attend, and for more information please contact Rev. Barbara Turner Delisle at 413-949-3391.

Saving dollars is something everyone has an interest in along with preserving and protecting our precious environment. Find out some information on how you can do both. Come hear the **Community Solar Coaches** and learn how to get started on Saturday, September 22nd, starting at 10:30 a.m. in the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Solarize Montague is available in the villages of Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Montague City, Lake Pleasant and Montague Center. For seating reservations, please call Linda at 413-863-4316. Light refreshments will be served.

The Burlington, VT **Friends Meeting** is calling all friends to worship together to witness to our love and hope for the healing of the Earth at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 23rd, at the main gate of Vermont Yankee in Vernon, VT. Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust invites the public to its annual meeting on Saturday, September 22nd. The meeting will be at **Red Fire Farm**, 172 Meadow Street, in Montague from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The featured speaker, **Congressman Jim McGovern**, will represent 18 of the towns in the Mount Grace region when congressional redistricting takes effect at the turn of the year. Currently serving his eighth term in Congress, McGovern is a minority whip and is a member of the house agricultural committee.

Leverett Congregational Church (LCC) will have a thought-provoking sermon on Sunday, September 23rd, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. An LCC parishioner will present the moving and universal message, **"Why is it so**

much easier to give than receive?" written by pastor emeritus Fred Wilson.

The Senior Symposia Program at GCC kicks-off its fall 2012 session with a symposium entitled **"Occupy Lawrence - The Great Textile Strike of 1912,"** to be held at the GCC Downtown Center, 270 Main Street, in Greenfield, on Thursday, September 27th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This performance piece celebrates the 100th anniversary of the event now known as the Bread & Roses Strike. Combining historical narrative, power point images, and songs, Karen Brandow and Charlie King bring the strike alive while presenting a faithful historical account of a landmark event in American labor history.

Join in on a **community potluck** followed by a singalong led by Morning Star on Friday, September 21st, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Wendell town hall. Bring food to share and your own place setting. Then have fun learning and singing along to an eclectic mixture of songs.

Join the **Wendell Singers Chorus** for their fall session. Have fun singing with and for your community. Open to residents of any community. Song selections include an eclectic mix of world music, gospel, and folk. No auditions, no experience necessary and rehearsals are mostly on Thursday evenings. Call 413-422-1010 or email morningstar210@gmail.com for more info.

Franklin County Home Care is hosting quarterly gatherings for elders in the **LGBTIQA community** (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intersex, questioning and allies). The event will be a breakfast happening on Thursday, September 27th in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. For more info contact Roseann Martoccia at rmartoccia@fchcc.org, or call 773-5555, x 2266.

What's wrong with American taxes? Richard Witty, CPA, will present a progressive view on the American tax system on Monday, September 24th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Greenfield Public Library community room.

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

World Traveler Comes Home to Rest

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GREAT FALLS - The scattering of the late Alfred Verrier's ashes at Unity Park on Saturday afternoon, September 15th, was the result of a concerted effort led by Verrier's best friend, Donald Girard. The Turners Falls police cooperated by cordoning off First Street. A contingent from the Marine League fired a volley of shots from M-I Garand rifles as part of the ceremony.

"Al wanted his ashes scattered in the river by Unity Park because that was his favorite place to play," Girard said. "We'll scatter some opposite the park utility building and the rest further up, off of the Red Bridge abutment."

Girard played taps in a touching tribute to Al, our friend and fellow classmate, who had graduated Turners Falls High School with us in 1948.

"Everyone was very cooperative, and I'd like to publicly express my gratitude to town officials for giving permission to scatter Al Verrier's ashes at Unity Park, and for the Montague police for closing the street to traffic," Girard said, noting that one of the Montague police officers is also a Marine veteran.

Verrier joined up after attending Boston University. While in the Marines, he met a girl from Millers Falls in Italy, who spoke glowingly of the Foreign Service. Verrier didn't learn her name but heeded her words. After leaving the Marines, he joined the U.S. Department of State as a diplomatic courier. A lover of history and geography who had won a histo-



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Rosita Verrier, Alfred's wife, scatters her husband's ashes off of the Red Bridge Abutment at Unity Park according to Alfred Verrier's wishes. Her daughters, Jackie Verrier-Copp and Nicole Crain support their mother, Rosita Verrier as she bends to scatter her husband's ashes, according to his wishes.

ry award in high school, Verrier was thrilled to travel the world and get paid to do it.

A diplomatic pouch isn't just a briefcase chained to a courier's wrist as seen in movies. The pouches can weigh thousands of pounds, but still must be guarded during special handling at airports until they reach their destination.

Verrier's first post as courier was in Cairo in 1956. In his next seven years as courier, he traveled one and a half million miles from that office. In his extensive travels, he met Rosita Gianovich in Australia. They were married in the Panama Canal Zone in 1965. A daughter of Chinese and Italian parents, Rosita is fluent in eight languages. Together, they have

four daughters; Monique, Nicole, Jacqueline and Michele, and eight grandchildren.

Verrier's promotion to supervisor curtailed his extensive travels. In 1978 he was promoted to Chief of Diplomatic Courier Service; later upgraded to Director. In 1988, he was promoted, yet again, to Senior of Foreign Service, which is equal to a military general.

When Verrier worked with Ambassador George H. W. Bush in Beijing to improve diplomatic operations, they developed a lasting friendship. Al's mother, who ran Marie's Yarn Shop on Avenue A in Turners Falls, knitted stockings for all the Bush grandchildren. Barbara

see HOME page 6

Volunteers Needed to Join Massive River Cleanup

GREENFIELD - On Saturday, September 29th, thousands of volunteers in four states will fan out to clean up trash and debris along the Connecticut River and its tributaries in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Connecticut River Watershed Council's (CRWC) 16th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup is not only a very important event for the cleanliness and health of the Connecticut River and its tributaries, but is also a wonderful neighborhood event for families and community groups throughout the watershed.

"It's not too late to join one of over 50 registered groups by going to our website, www.ctriver.org," said Jacqueline Talbot, CRWC's cleanup coordinator. "If you don't find a group in your area accepting new cleanup volunteers or want to go out on your own, just download our trash tally form and let us know what you picked up."

For the past 15 years, the Watershed Council has organized thousands of adult and child volunteers who have removed more than 707 tons of refuse from along waterways in four states during the biggest

single-day river cleanup in New England. CRWC fields a variety of trash site suggestions, coordinates the work of individual groups and supplies them with bags and gloves.

Questions may be directed to cleanup@ctriver.org or 860-704-0057.

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The Montague Reporter

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David Detmold

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Claudia Wells - Art Director
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Photography

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Blocking Access to the Ballot

The Republican Party claims to be the party of small government — with the obvious exceptions of denying marriage equality and reproductive rights. But there's another kind of big government the party has overwhelmingly and enthusiastically gotten behind: expensive and intrusive attempts to make it harder for Americans to vote.

A recent trio of federal court decisions in Florida, Ohio, and Texas have ripped the lid off the increasingly successful right-wing campaign to limit opportunities for low-income people, minorities, and students to vote — especially, and not coincidentally, in swing states. These decisions, from even-handed and moderate federal judges across the country, show just how far the Right has gone to use the power of government to make it even harder for traditionally disenfranchised groups to vote.

In Florida, a federal judge permanently blocked a law that had made it almost impossible for good government groups to conduct voter registration drives — which prompted groups like the venerable League of Women Voters to all but shut down operations in the state.

In Ohio, a federal court ordered the state to reopen early voting in the three days before November's election, which Republicans had attempted to shut down. Early voting on the weekend before the election was enormously successful in 2008 — especially among African Americans — and the judge found that Republicans had no legitimate reason to want it to stop.

And finally, a federal court, which is required to review changes in election policy in states and counties with a history of voting discrimination, ruled that Texas' new voter ID law couldn't go forward because it "imposes strict, unforgiving burdens on the poor and racial minori-

ties in Texas."

The effort that Republican governors and legislatures across the country have gone through in the past two years to make it more difficult for citizens to vote is truly remarkable. They have been willing to buck the law while violating the spirit of our constitutional democracy to bar groups of people from participating in it. And they've been willing to set up extra layers of government and bureaucracy — things they claim to despise — simply to keep people from the polls.

There are plenty of areas of genuine disagreement in our politics, but the right to vote shouldn't be one of them. In an interview with The Atlantic, Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights hero, said "there should be public outcry" and a "sense of righteous indignation" at what's happening to our elections.

He's right.

It's astounding that nearly 50 years after the Voting Rights Act banned racial discrimination at the polls, it's still needed as a shield against such egregious violations of its principles. And it's shocking that the self-proclaimed party of small government wants to use government power to keep people from exercising their fundamental right to vote.

Republicans claim that these new laws combat "voter fraud" — a serious criminal offense that research shows is exceedingly rare. What they really do is systematically disenfranchise millions of people by making it harder to vote. These are cynical attempts to change the rules of elections in order to win. If they work, we'll be seeing plenty more where they came from.

Marge Baker is the executive vice president of People for the American Way. This article was first distributed via OtherWords. (OtherWords.org)

Helfand to Speak at GCC

The Report from Japan: "Lessons from Fukushima" a forum headlined by Ira Helfand, M.D., co-founder of the national Physicians for Social Responsibility and emergency physician from Springfield, recently returned from conferences in Japan, will take place Monday, September 24th, at Greenfield Community College, 1 College Drive, at GCC's Stinchfield Lecture Hall from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Helfand will share information and insights on the consequences and implications of the nuclear reactor disasters at Fukushima. Deb Katz, co-founder of Citizens Awareness Network, will provide additional information regarding our local nuclear power plant, Vermont Yankee.

Although Vermont Yankee was built to last for only 40 years, in 2012 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extended its license to operate at 120% of its design capacity for an additional 20 years. The present evacuation plan is confined to ten miles surrounding the reactor, reaching south to Colrain, Leyden, Northfield, Bernardston, and Gill and a few miles into Greenfield. United States citizens in Japan were told by the American government to evacuate to at least five times that distance from Fukushima because of significant and widespread fallout and subsequent contamination of water and land.

For more info, contact Marian Kelner; 413-773-8401.

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 9/19/12

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Deaths: 2,121



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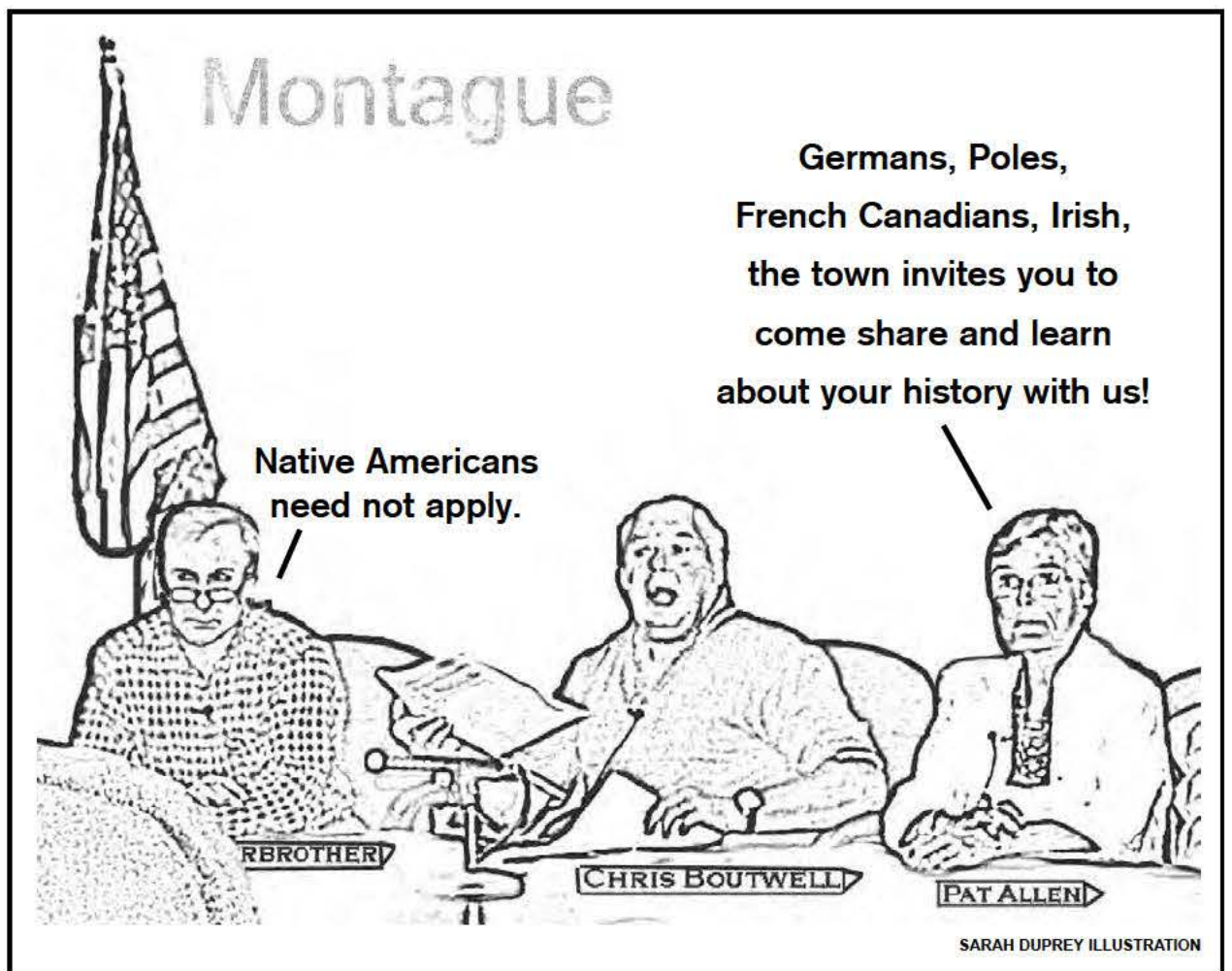
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GUEST EDITORIALS

Representative Andrews Clarifies

Recently Reported Events

Calling Susannah Lee's orchestrated public release of a police investigation "damaging to our communities," representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange) vows to continue focusing on the important issues in the campaign for the 2nd Franklin District legislative seat, and doing her job with the highest professional standards and ethics.

"As your state representative, I was approached by a constituent with a sensitive and serious concern about the potential differential treatment of a public official regarding the purchase of drugs in our area. I did my job; I am duty bound to pass this concern onto the appropriate authority. I never made these allegations myself nor did I make a judgment; I simply passed confidential information from a constituent to the appropriate investigative official, Chief Anderson of the Athol police department, as this is a local matter.

"I know Chief Anderson and I have complete confidence in him that he has the best interests of the department and the town at heart. I trust he will resolve this matter with the highest level of professionalism.

"As an experienced manager of people for over 25 years, I know how to manage serious and sensitive matters with discretion and integrity. As a newly elected public official, I am committed to bringing those same standards to public office.

"I will not release the identity of the person who contacted me. I've been very clear about the fact that my office keeps the confidence of constituents who contact us. My job as a state representative is to make sure the concerns of constituents make it to the ears of those who are accountable to conduct an investigation and to take the appropriate actions. I have done that.

"My involvement in this matter was simply to hear the concerns of a constituent and to discreetly pass along that information to Chief Anderson. I did not release this information to the public or provide the report to the media. That police report was provided to Ms. Lee by Chief Anderson. She has known about the allegations for

Calls on Andrews to Withdraw

Despite the personal anguish and injustice Susannah Whipps Lee experienced from the allegation her political opponent, Denise Andrews, made regarding Lee's alleged purchase of cocaine and the demand that if true she be prosecuted, the greatest injustice in this debacle is to the residents of the newly redistricted 2nd Franklin District. There are 12 towns which deserve a serious vetting of the issues between viable candidates so a wise choice can be made in November.

The Democratic voters of the district made their choice on September 6th, unaware of the iceberg their party was about to encounter. Out of respect to the voting public and the overwhelming needs of the 2nd Franklin District, I respectfully request that Democratic candidate Denise Andrews withdraw from the race. Whether or not Ms. Andrews consents to this, a write-in campaign should be mounted for the runner-up in the Democratic primary, Rebecca Bialecki, the executive director of the North Quabbin Community Coalition who has ten years experience dealing with the needs of the region.

It is clear the ramifications of Andrews' allegations against Whipps Lee will continue, but the political football being played is grossly unfair to our residents. The 2nd Franklin Districts' problems are unrelated to this fiasco and deserve a serious campaign focused exclusively on their issues - not the Andrews-Whipps Lee legal battles.

- Genevieve Fraser
Orange, MA

weeks and the timing of her public statements should raise some eyebrows. She appears to have strategized on when and how to release information to cause my campaign the most damage. This is the type of behavior that people do not want in politics or from their leaders.

"I am pleased the investigation has cleared Ms. Lee of the allegations. I never wanted an issue like this to be part of this campaign. I look forward to a robust discussion with Ms. Lee about the issues that matter most to the communities we both call home."

Editor's Note: The statement above was released by Denise Andrews' office after reports surfaced in the local media earlier this month that Andrews had gone to Athol police in mid-August to look into an allegation that her Republican opponent in the race for state representative from the 2nd Franklin District, Athol selectboard chair Susanna Whipps-Lee, had purchased cocaine on August 10th and then been shielded from prosecution by the Athol police. Andrews has refused to name the source of that allegation, other than to say that source is a current employee of the Athol police department.

Andrews won the September 6th Democratic primary with 1,657 votes to Rebecca Bialecki's 1,174, James White's 471, and Genevieve Fraser's 156. Whipps-Lee went public with the news of Andrews' inquiry about her purported cocaine purchase just after the Democrats wrapped up their four way primary race.

Whipps-Lee, notified of Andrews' inquiry on August 27th, volunteered to take a drug test, and turned it in to the Athol police. The test conducted at the Athol hospital came back clean. "I don't do drugs," she said.

Athol police are conducting an ongoing investigation into the matter, to attempt to determine the source of Andrews' information, but say they received no call about Whipps-Lee purchasing cocaine, nor did their narcotics officer visit Whipps-Lee's residence on the night in question. Athol police chief Timothy Anderson called Andrews' inquiry into her opponent's purported drug purchase "unfounded."

Besides Whipps-Lee and Andrews, Richard F. Shober, Jr. of Templeton, an independent, is also seeking the house seat for the 2nd Franklin District in the November election.

SAWMILL RIVER ARTS GALLERY ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Saturday, Sept. 22, 4 to 8 p.m.

Come celebrate the Sawmill River Arts Gallery's one-year anniversary! On Saturday, September 22nd from 4 to 8 p.m., we will host a party at the gallery, next door to the Book Mill in Montague. The event will feature free refreshments, demonstrations and an opportunity to meet the artists. The public is welcome!

In addition to the work of our 13 member artists, the gallery features the work of over 30 local artists and craftspeople. Paintings, cards, pottery, jewelry, hand-woven clothing, quilts, wall-hangings, felted toys, dolls, wooden bowls, photographs, art glass, ornaments and more await visitors at the gallery.

At this party, we're eager to welcome our founding members - painters Louise Minks, Kerry Stone, Lana Fiala, Christine Mero, quilter Jill Bromberg, weaver Susan Loring-Wells, fiber artist Sue Essig and potter Jaye Pope - as well as our newest members - painters Judith Seelig and Kate Spencer, weaver Kathy Litchfield, mixed-media artist Barbara Milot and jewelry-maker John Moore.

Montague Board Votes 2-1 to Support Native American Battlefield Protection Grant

Fairbrother Adamantly Opposed – Calls Proposal to Montague “Bass-Ackwards”

BY DAVID DETMOLD – Paul Robinson, former chief state archaeologist for Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, joined Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe in presenting a request to the town of Montague on Monday, September 17th, for assistance in applying for a Battlefield Preservation Grant from the National Parks Service to map and interpret the local sites associated with the King Phillips War. Chief among these sites is the Falls Fight, which took place on May 19th, 1676 at the Great Falls, and is often referred to as the second in the long series of massacres of Native Americans at the hands of colonists and their descendants, which began with the burning of the Pequot village in modern day Mystic, CT on May 26th, 1637, and continued through Wounded Knee, in South Dakota, on December 29th, 1890.

At the Falls fight, approximately 150 colonists under the command of Captain William Turner surprised at dawn a Native camp on the Gill side of the river and killed hun-

dreds, mainly old men, women and children, gathered there as refugees from the larger war sweeping across Massachusetts and Rhode Island at that time.

Robinson called the King Phillips War “a seminal war” that “cleared the way for colonial settlement” in New England and across the continent. He said only recently the National Parks Service had agreed to extend the Battlefield Protection Grant program to include Native American battle sites. A typical grant could range from \$20,000 to \$80,000, and would allow the town to hire a battlefield historian, a documentary historian, and a tribal historian, to gather oral and written accounts of the battle, map the relevant sites, and interpret them for tourists who are interested in the military history of the country.

Harris called the grant proposal “a logical extension of the May 19th, 2004 accord,” between the town of Montague and the Narragansett Indian Tribe, “established in ceremony and of the written document with the selectboard of that accord,” known as the “Document of Cooperation

and Peace.”

After town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the grant proposal would be “consistent with what we have done in the past,” referring to the selectboard’s approval of a plan for a Great Falls Cultural Park for the display and interpretation of Native American cultural history, in conjunction with the Great Falls Discovery Center, he said, “All that requires good information.”

The grant would allow the town to gather the relevant information about what happened in this area more than 336 years ago, and pull all that together along with Northfield, Deerfield, and other communities.

After some back and forth about the parameters of the grant, which if acted on favorably would be awarded in the summer of next year, selectboard member Mark Fairbrother commented, “The Battlefield Protection Program, it does sound interesting. But my first question is, ‘Why are you here?’”

“Why am I here?” repeated Robinson, taken aback.

Fairbrother continued, “I don’t think you realize where I’m going.”

Allen cut in, “We never do,

Mark.”

Fairbrother ignored that remark. “This is 2012. This is the town of Montague board of selectmen. If I’m not mistaken, the battle was in Gill. The retreat was through Greenfield and Deerfield and points south. Why aren’t you in front of Gill?”

Harris replied, “First of all, Turners acquired the name. If in fact you feel it is appropriate to expand into those other communities, we don’t have a problem with that. Historically, they are part of

the process. But we start somewhere.”

Fairbrother replied, “I still think it’s bass ackwards. Instead of expanding to those towns, as far as I can tell you should be starting in those towns and expanding over here. This is the town of Montague, 2012. You’re talking about a battle that happened in at least three other towns.”

Then, Harris said, “There have been conversations with Gill. There have been conversations with Northfield. To be

honest with you, it was Turners Falls, it was Montague that saw the need to begin to address the issue. So I was honoring those of you who had that perception that we came here first.

“If you feel it is more appropriate we start elsewhere, it’s doable,” Harris continued. “I am deeply committed to the fact that the ceremony was held here, and there was a commitment made at that time to follow through and give support to this com-

see **VOTES** page 11



DETMOOLD PHOTO
Paul Robinson, former chief state archaeologist for Rhode Island, details the proposed Great Falls Battlefield Protection Grant as (from left) Doug Harris, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell and Pat Allen look on.

GUEST EDITORIAL

BY LEE WICKS –

I have written about the proposed development of the Montague Center School twice. Last spring it seemed like a good idea. Last month when 80 people showed up for a Zoning Board meeting in which the developer requested a special multi use permit for a 22 unit apartment building, I felt less enthused, but still open-minded.

I could find some merit in dense housing that did not infringe on farmland; I like the plan for solar power, but as a reporter I also felt curious about the entire development process and how a project that began with a proposal for 15 units had morphed into 22, some tiny, and how there would ever be room for all the cars, especially because of the proximity of a wetland.

So now I must confess that I have changed my mind and no longer believe this large project is suitable for the village of Montague Center. I won’t be reporting on this project again for the Montague Reporter.

I don’t like being one of those

From Open Minded to Opposed

On Proposed Redevelopment of Montague Center School

“not in my backyard” people, and I still hope that compromise is possible. But I am angry that residents were not included in the discussion much earlier. I am annoyed that the developer didn’t call a meeting at the Grange this summer to share his vision and elicit comment. And I am shocked by the difficulty of getting the information needed to make an informed decision.

The communication channels don’t work. Not for me as a retired person with extra time, and certainly not for people who head to an office each morning. The days when local papers could afford a reporter for every town are long gone. Now the schedule for the public meetings where vital municipal issues are considered is posted on the town’s website. It changes every day. Some committees post agendas well ahead of time. Others state that agendas will be posted on the Thursday prior to a meeting. How can busy people plan? If you miss a meeting, some committees post minutes in a timely manner, others don’t. Perhaps they are on

the bulletin board at town hall, but that doesn’t do much good if you work in another town or don’t drive.

MCTV records many of these meetings, so you can watch in real time on TV (if you are a Comcast customer) or on your computer, and if you don’t have a computer (which you would need in order to find out about how to watch these broadcasts) you go to the library and reserve a public computer. This makes it a lot of trouble to watch something you’re not even sure you want to see, since the agenda for the meeting was probably not posted anywhere where you could easily find it. You also cannot participate from home. You can’t raise your hand and ask a question. You can only observe.

Back to the development issue. I knew whom to call at town hall in pursuit of the original RFP for the school building and the developer’s response. I was surprised to learn the purchase price of the school was linked to the size of the investment a developer would make; thus

encouraging larger projects. I was surprised to see that in his initial response the developer asked for a lot from the town: parking spaces on the west side of the ball field, built at the town’s expense, an eight inch water line, (installed and still leaking), assurance that the building would be taxed at a residential rate rather than a commercial rate, removal of the old oil tank, five acres of land on a 25-year lease for a solar array for the building. Yikes! That seems like a lot to ask for when you’re offering \$50,000 for a building valued at \$750,000.

I sent an urgent email to town hall and was quickly assured that most of those requests had been denied. Seeking confirmation and not wanting to take more time away from the planner’s day, I set out to find the minutes of various meetings where these decisions had been made. I cannot find them. I’m not saying they aren’t there, but it is very hard for an ordinary citizen and even this reporter to find them without reading through every single set of minutes.

I have these lingering questions. If the request for on street parking was denied, I don’t understand how there will be enough parking for the proposed 22 units. Yes, I saw the developer’s plan, which puts a row of cars on the side of the building, facing straight into a neighbor’s window. Most of the side playground area is also parking in this plan, and there are just enough spots for the residents. What if someone has a party in the winter? Where will people park on this already narrow street? I am curious to know how this will function as a net-zero energy building if the developer can’t get the land he requested for an array? I think this is a for-profit business, and if Montague gives up this building it should be regarded as a commercial enterprise and taxed accordingly.

In some communities developers are required to give something back when they embark on a project of this size, some meeting space, a small park, room for day care — it varies. This developer said he has

see **REDEVELOPMENT** pg 11

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**Erving Seeks Updated Sewer Agreement with Montague**

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, the Erving selectboard held a joint meeting with the Montague selectboard, in the Montague town hall.

At issue was an ongoing dispute about whether Montague should pay capital costs for a \$5.6445 million upgrade to the Ervingside treatment plant, which handles the treatment of sewage for Millers Falls on both sides of the town line with Montague.

According to the terms of 1973 joint agreement between the towns, Montague should pay a share of capital and operating costs at the treatment plant, in proportion to the amount of flow the town of Montague contributes to the plant. As of now, according to Tom Sharp, administrative assistant for the town of Erving, Montague is actually contributing 53% of the flow to the treatment plant.

For years, the joint agreement had been gathering dust, so to speak, in the Erving town hall, as Montague continued to pay right along for its share of operating costs (it now costs about \$677,000 to run the plant annually, Sharp said). It was not until after the recent \$5.6445 million upgrade had been substantially completed, according to Sharp, that Erving dusted off

the agreement and realized that Montague had not been approached about contributing roughly half that cost.

When this \$2.3 million bill was brought up, about two years ago, the town of Montague did not react favorably, saying the town would have been able to apply for grants to help pay for a share of the cost, had they known Erving would be seeking compensation for the upgrades from Montague.

Sharp said in a follow up interview this week that the contract does stipulate "The town of Erving shall notify the town of Montague," of such things as upcoming capital costs required to run the treatment plant through a series of quarterly meetings between the two towns. He said no such meetings had been held, or called for, during his more than nine year tenure with Erving.

Montague has lately explored the possible costs and benefits of installing a forced main sewer line to pump the Millers Falls sewage up the hill to join up with the rest of Montague's sewage, which is treated in Montague City.

Sharp acknowledged in a follow up phone interview that if Montague were to follow through with those plans and treat Millers Falls sewage in town, instead of in

Ervingside, it would create additional costs for Erving, which would have to downsize its treatment plant to deal with the reduced flow.

Against that backdrop, on Monday, Erving selectboard chair Eugene Kilepadlo told the Montague board, "The last time we met, we probably got off on the wrong foot. We're dealing with an agreement that is 40 plus years old. We should renegotiate the agreement, to come up with an agreement we can both live with."

Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said, "If we're starting fresh, how do we treat the outstanding bills?"

"We didn't want to talk about that," said Kilepadlo.

"It may work itself out as we go over the agreement," said Montague selectboard member Pat Allen, who noted the longstanding ties between the two towns, which involve more than sewer lines.

The two selectboards agreed to set up a joint task force to go over the old sewer contract with a view to updating the agreement. Representatives of the selectboards and the wastewater treatment department from both towns will make up the membership of that task force, which will hold its first meeting before November.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**Hearing on Radio Tower Cancelled**

BY JOSH HEINEMANN -

After the Wendell selectboard's August 29th, meeting several of the citizens who attended but did not speak in the meeting itself stayed to talk with Brandon Ruotolo, representative of American Tower, the company that owns the 200 foot tall, disused Locke Hill radio tower.

The citizens told Ruotolo they did not want the tower to remain standing.

As a result, between that meeting and the regular September 12th meeting of the board, Ruotolo contacted the selectboard to say further discussion of American Tower's proposal to pass ownership of the tower to Wendell was pointless, especially if the selectboard was not interested in owning it.

The board members present, Dan Keller and Chair Christine Heard both agreed the town has no interest in owning the 1950's era tower, so the hearing scheduled for September 19th was cancelled.

There have been several further complaints about some of the dogs that were given one last chance when their owners were called to hearings with the selectboard.

Andy Hamilton's dogs have been out barking and harassing passersby. A neighbor of Cindy Freeman, Brian Jones, said one of her dogs, running loose, had killed one of his chickens.

Complicating matters is a new state leash law that distinguishes between nuisance dogs and dangerous dogs. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich had a 21 page printout of the new law on which she had highlighted parts she considered relevant, but she had hoped for, but not yet received guidance on the new law from town counsel.

According to the new law, dangerous dogs may no

longer be banished from town, an action that might only move the problem to another town. They must be securely restrained, with the details of that restraint specified in the law, or they must be euthanized.

The situation with Freeman's and Hamilton's dogs is confused by the fact the town began to address both dog complaints under the old law, but now must act according to the new law.

Keller said the problem should be addressed as soon as possible. The selectboard scheduled a hearing for their next meeting, September 26th. He asked Aldrich to contact town counsel for a clarification of the new law and what will be required of the town by that date.

Seal Lamadeleine met the selectboard to rent the town hall on Friday, September 21st for a community potluck starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by a singalong featuring the Wendell chorus and any other Wendell singers. The event is sponsored by the Wendell recreation commission.

The Valley Land Trust board of directors voted to pay legal fees for creating an easement on town property to allow parking space for the house just east of the office building lot. Because the town will keep ownership of that land, the easement can go through without a town meeting vote.

Whittier Plumbing submitted a bid of \$4,912.75 to install a mini split heat pump in the town vault to control temperature and reduce moisture in the vault. Over years, moisture has allowed mold to grow on town records, and the town recently sent them out to be cleaned while Keller and Jim Slavas made changes to the vault in order to prevent mold from reforming. Both Slavas and

town clerk Gretchen Smith, who is responsible for the documents in the vault, approved of the heat pump plan.

Installing the heat pump is the final step in the process of fixing the town vault. Keller said an e mail should go to the energy committee to include this in the town's effort to achieve green community status.

As an abutter to the Cronquist property, Keller did not sign the contract transferring the conservation restriction on that property over to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, but Heard signed for the board.

The board set Saturday October 13th at 10:00 a.m. as the time for an auction of surplus town property. Ted Lewis will be the auctioneer.

Town moderator and neighborhood captain Kathy Becker wrote a letter in response to the Montague Reporter selectboard report of August 29th. In that article I wrote that, in response to a letter from Sharon Wachslar, selectboard members said neighborhood captains should be more proactive in identifying citizens who need to stay home during long electricity outages. Becker's letter explained she and other neighborhood captains had actively gone around and checked during both the 2008 ice storm and the 2011 October snowstorm. The captains had contacted all the residents that were home and gotten help for those who needed help.

The selectboard, on August 29th, sent a letter to Wachslar asking her to create a list of townspeople who need generators and other special assistance during electricity outages, and to send that list to the police department and other emergency responders.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**G-M to Conduct Search for Permanent Superintendent**

BY PATRICIA PRUITT - With an assist from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), the Gill-Montague regional committee agreed on September 11th to form a search committee and hire a permanent superintendent.

Pat Correia, of the MASC explained how her organization could help facilitate the search for a permanent superintendent for the district. MASC has done this in the past for Gill-Montague, leading to the hiring of former superintendent Carl Ladd. Correia assured school committee members they were in charge of the process. "You tell us what you are looking for."

The cost for MASC's service was \$8500, plus \$2000 for mailing of candidates' files to the district, and an additional \$2000 for the initial advertising of the position, for a total cost of \$12,500.

Correia said the district must develop a timeline from the start of the search to the hiring of a candidate, set up various focus groups to determine what exactly people are looking for in a super-

intendent, then set requirements, and finally establish a screening committee of 13 to 15 members, chosen from all parties with a stake in the district to select finalists for interviews and then interview those candidates.

In other news, student representative Sam Danford reported positively to the Gill-Montague school committee on the new teachers and principals in the district, characterizing them as "nice" and "helpful to kids." He said high school students had spent three days taking the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) computerized tests to measure student progress, and the sports program is in full swing. Danforth presented a list of colleges coming to the high school during September: these include Fitchburg State, Springfield College, Sterling College, AIC, American Institute, and the University of New Haven.

The school committee also heard from Joan Connolly of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who prepared the quarterly report

(April - June) on the district's progress on meeting the Accelerated Improvement Plan across the district. The news was better from the elementary side of the district than from the secondary in terms of meeting the standard of 70% proficiency in math and reading across all grades. Connolly said the elementary principals were engaging in frequent class room observations.

Other changes include new report card evaluation language based on the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) test in the elementary classes and the NWEA tests in the high school. These two evaluation tools are used to establish the baseline at which students are working.

At the elementary level there has been a small increase in the number of areas in which students reached 70% proficiency on DIBELS results in two kindergartens and one 1st grade class. NWEA assessment shows grade 7 reaching 72% proficiency in math and grade 9 reaching 70% in

see **SCHOOL** page 7

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**Will Gill be First in the County to Purchase a Green Police Cruiser?**

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Will Gill get a fuel efficient hybrid when the police department purchases a new front line cruiser later this year? Will the Slate Library add Wednesday hours, at a cost of about \$2500, in response to a recent survey of patrons' needs (a priority that stood out in the survey even more than the request for a public bathroom to finally be installed in the Slate)?

Will the police department get an extra \$10,000 above what annual town meeting appropriated in June? How will the fire department fare in its request for an extra \$7159; or the highway department, for an extra \$22,000 at the special town meeting coming

up on Monday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m.?

Since the town of Gill only has about \$13,000 left over from FY'12, (aside from the recent Green Communities Grant of \$139,000, which could help pay for a first of its kind in Franklin County green vehicle for the police department) it is safe to say not all of these extra requests will be granted.

But selectboard chair Ann Banash, who pushed for the extra budget working sessions with department heads since annual town meeting to clarify what it actually takes to run town departments, made it clear on Monday, "This is a needs based budget for the police. This is what we should

be doing in Gill. Same for the highway and fire. But Mickey, Gene and David know they are not going to get it." She was referring, of course, to highway department head Mick LaClaire, fire chief Gene Beaubien, and police chief David Hastings.

On Monday, September 17th, the selectboard held a working session with Hastings to go over the police budget line by line, but the main point of discussion centered on whether or not the town should use perhaps \$20,000 or more from the Green Communities Grant to augment the \$33,000 the town has appropriated for a new cruiser, in order to afford a hybrid

see **GILL** page 10

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POLONIA from page 1

Radosz, came in the 1980s under visa lotteries. These immigrants were well educated in contrast to earlier waves, who were often poorly educated peasant farmers or miners.

Abbondanzio next introduced topics of Polish cultural life, employment in the mills, neighborhoods, clubs, and churches of Turners Falls. He hit a treasure trove when he asked members of the audience to discuss these topics and got a lively response. Edie Bourbeau told of her father having inflamed eyes, prior to departing from Poland. Any ailment, signs of being crippled, blind or infirm would be reason for an emigrant to be sent back home from Ellis Island. No doctor seemed to be able to cure his eye condition. "Finally," Bourbeau said, "a Gypsy woman told him to pee on a rag and wipe his eyes with it. And it worked. His eye problem cleared up and he was able to enter the country." There's one for the medical books.

Ed Gregory's family's name was changed, by a processor at Ellis Island, from Gregorsciewicz to Gregory, perhaps figuring the name needed to be changed to look less like a row of letters on an eye chart. Charts like that can cause eye inflammation.

It has long been rumored that the reason there are so many consonants appearing in the Polish language is that vowels are very expensive in Poland.

Gregory, who'd grown up in the Patch, mentioned several of the 130 -150 local nicknames he had personally added to the extended list compiled at the Carnegie Library. His own parents nicknamed him "Gizmo" at birth. Some of the other nicknames were Schnoz, Hero, Shaver, Al Capone, Voit, Slasher, Yabush, Lefty and Blacky, to name but a few.

Paul Petruski brought in a collection of Russell Cutlery knives of various shapes.

"When the power company drained the canal, as kids, we used to look for knives that workers threw out of the Russell Cutlery windows," Gregory said. "They were usually mistakes workers didn't want their boss to see. When the cutlery was closing, the workers were mad at the company and threw more knives out the windows."

Russell Cutlery joined forces with Harrington Cutlery as Russell Harrington Cutlery during the Depression; the company exists to this day. The huge replica of a knife that adorned the cupola atop the Russell Cutlery is now to be seen atop a shop in Old Deerfield, according to Gregory.

Russell Cutlery made a great variety of knives. A three pronged knife in a sickle shape was designed for use by one-armed people so they could cut food by rocking the knife back and forth, according to Gregory.

George Bush spoke of Polish athletes who excelled in sports at Turners Falls High, and the proud day the Turners Falls High School baseball players won the state championship in 1942, with Walter Kostanski as pitcher.

Polish farmers sharecropping with Yankee farmers was a com-

mon practice. The father often worked in a factory while his wife and children worked the fields, as my family did at the Cold Brook Farm in Montague. As sharecroppers of onions, my family got a rent free house, a pail of milk a day, and a share of whatever produce was in season.

Most Poles saved their money in the mattress, since they didn't trust banks. When hard times came, or banks failed, and the host farmer could not pay taxes or mortgage, it was not unusual for the emigrants to haul their money out of the mattress and buy the farm at foreclosure. This caused resentment; the Poles weren't playing by the rules by squirreling their money away instead of banking it. Most of the farms in the Connecticut Valley that are now Polish owned, were acquired that way, though many became Polish owned, as Radosz pointed out, because Poles outbid other buyers in their strong desire for land.

Many Poles in Turners Falls found work in the cutlery, cotton, silk, and paper mills at substantial wages. The Keith Paper Mill was unionized; women received pay equal to that of men. That was very empowering for women, who were often disparaged as second class workers, unequal in the workplace.

Women who worked in the Keith rag room, sorting and cutting up material, had their work weighed. The women competed for producing the greatest amount of material sorted, the prize being the highest weight ticket at day's end. Mill management rewarded the women for their zeal by allowing them to take home cloth material. The women arrived in the morning with a cloth valise hanging flat from each hand. They left work with the valises bulging, staggering up the stairs over the canal, laden like pack animals.

When Saint Kazimierz's Club was mentioned, Rev. Charles DiMascola stood up to say, in jest, "There's an old saying that if you had three Polish people in town, you'd have five Polish social clubs."

DiMascola, who has been pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa since 1986, went on to say with a smile, "Poles are very social. They like each other's company, and they like building a community. The Saint Kazimierz Society was founded in 1904, the first Polish Social Club in Turners Falls. The purpose of the club was to build a church. They called on Rev. Francis Chalupka who had founded the first Catholic Church in New England in Webster in 1887 and a Church in Chicopee in 1891. The club members wanted a church so badly they taxed themselves, each, a month's salary to build our church."

In the meantime, the members bought the old Protestant church on L Street, now home to the Elk's Club. After a small fire in that original church in 1928, members decided it was time to build a new church - of brick.

"The new brick church is not only brick on the outside," DiMascola said, "but even the interior walls are concrete. It was as if they were afraid of fire."

There were several Polish communities in Turners Falls. One was on L Street. On the corner of L and

3rd Street, a man named Civik owned a grocery store. He also dealt in real estate, bought a house on the opposite corner and built a gasoline station where F.L. Roberts is now. Though enterprising, Civik was a kind and compassionate man who let people buy groceries at his store on credit during the Depression years, when people had no other recourse. He bought brush land of low value on the Hill in Turners Falls, in the vicinity of the new fire station, when it was considered worthless. He made a fair amount of money selling building lots and other property in which he'd seen potential. His credit was good. People who could not get mortgages, were able to go to him for a mortgage that he, in turn, sold to other investors, so he could loan mortgage money, again. Though he became prosperous, Civik was frugal, and heated his grocery store with a potbellied stove using cardboard from canned goods cartons. "Why buy wood, and throw away the cardboard?" he'd say.

The largest Polish community was in the Patch, an island with the 11th Street double trestle bridge serving as the main entrance.

It seemed everyone spoke fondly of those wonderful "jelly balls" made at the Olchowski bakery in the Patch, and the sour dough rye bread baked in the bakery's wood fired oven with wood, no doubt, salvaged from the canal. Ed Gregory reminisced of how wonderful the aroma of the freshly baked rye bread was as it drifted through the air at the Patch.

Edward Jeronczyk, who lived in Millers Falls but now lives on Log Plain Road in Greenfield, told of his parents meeting. "My father came to Turners Falls, and met my mother at one of the Polish clubs. They married and moved to Millers Falls."

Jeronczyk went on to talk about meeting his wife. "I met my wife at a Polish dance in Holyoke, and her parents also met at a Polish dance."

The moral of the story being, "If you want to get married, learn to

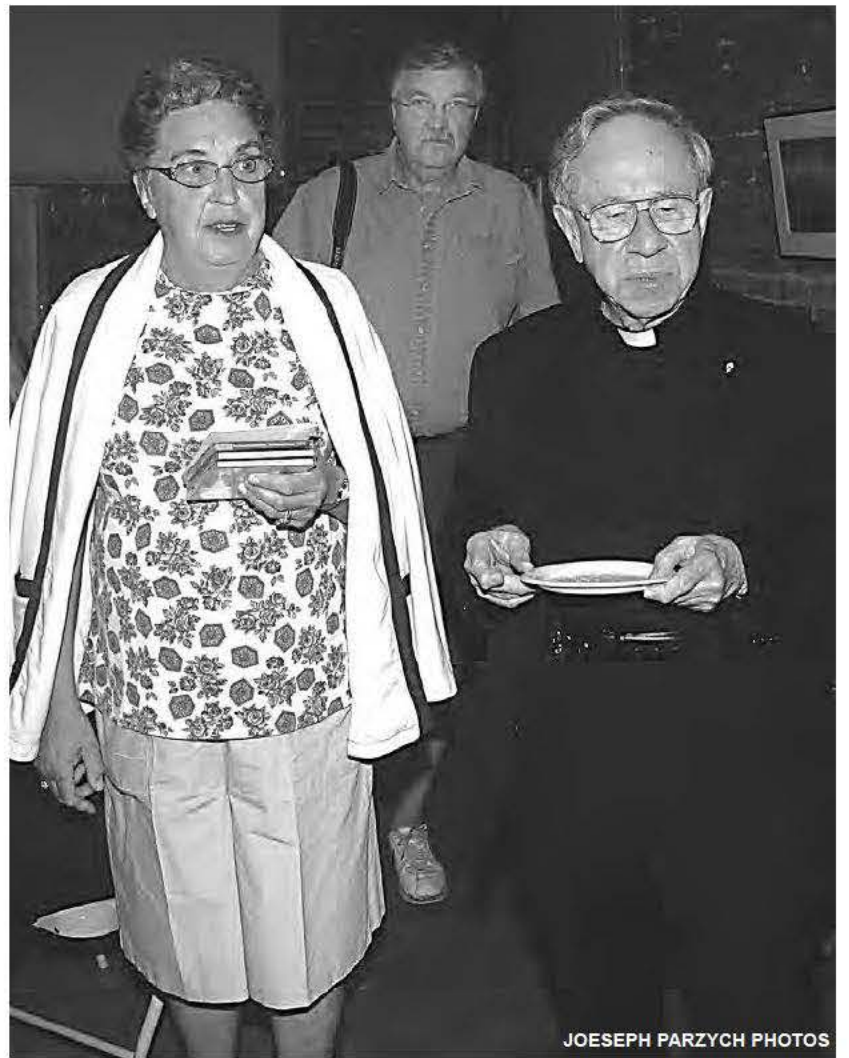
SCHOOL from page 6

reading. Connolly stated it will take a great deal of effort for the district as a whole to achieve the short term outcome of students reaching 70% proficiency in both reading and math.

She emphasized it will be necessary to continue training administrators and coaches in analyzing test results and using those results to support teachers in making instructional changes.

DESE's report also acknowledged the tremendous turnover among Gill-Montague administration and teaching staff, so that much of the training done during the last April-June quarter is no longer available to the district. In addition the report had specific advice for interim superintendent Mark Prince, to guide him in implementing all the recommendations.

Interim superintendent Prince announced in-service workshops on September 13th, reviewing different instructional materials for teachers, training on early indicators of potential dropouts from school for guidance counselors, and emergency preparedness training for potential accidents at the nearby



JOSEPH PARZYCH PHOTOS

Edie Bourbeau and Rev. Charles DiMascola with Edward Gregory in the background at Tales and Legends of Turners Falls — the Polish Influence.

Polka."

The churches in the Polish community held classes to teach emigrants to read and write English, and also helped them prepare for citizenship exams. Those same churches held Polish classes for the following generation so they would know the language, songs, customs and traditions of Poland.

"Oh, yes, I remember well taking Polish lessons at Our Lady of Czestochowa, where I learned to read and write it too," Bourbeau said with a smile.

In later years, Bourbeau traveled as an interpreter on tours to Poland. One year, she also taught Polish at the Greenfield Library.

All too soon, the evening was over, and people went away saying, "We need to get together,

again. There are so many stories people didn't have time to tell."

Are you listening, Lisa Davol and Frank Abbondanzio?



PEPPERS from page 1

house; two tandem trucks and an 18 wheel tractor trailer unit. The tandem trucks hold 15 thousand pounds of peppers and the tractor trailer unit holds 40 thousand pounds.

"We picked by hand when we started in 1993 until 1995 when we invested in the Pik-Rite picker," Patterson said. "It seemed hard to justify investing in a picker, but it's hard to find anyone who is willing to work. They can't seem to bend over that far."

This picker is different enough from Patterson's cucumber picker that they are not interchangeable, though they work in a similar fashion by slicing off the plant at ground level and hauling it up a conveyor belt where the fruit is picked off of the plant, before discarding the plant remains back onto the land.

Patterson's peppers are of the hot variety used in salsa and other products requiring hot peppers. Patterson first trucks the peppers to a warehouse in Deerfield for cleaning and sorting out broken or decayed peppers. From there, the peppers are trucked the next day to the Northampton Pickle Company in Northampton. Hired trucks also haul sorted peppers to the Cosmo Pickle Company in Hurlock, MD, the next day.

"We allow people to glean the fields for peppers left behind," Patterson said. "But they need to ask first."

Patterson offered me a few peppers, but even the sight of the beautiful bright red fruit gave me heartburn. I like peppers, but they don't like me.



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HALLMARK from pg 1

Everyone does a low-key photo, black on blacker, shadowed forms sunk into darkness. Everyone does a high-key photo, crystal clarity on spanking white. The brooding masculine nudes chosen for the low-key photos were the antithesis of the smiling - we might say beaming - baby's face in a high-key portrait. The challenge is to have everything be clear in the extremes of light, to keep sufficient contrast where there is low contrast, to keep areas of grey, or color, alive where it tends to die.

Every student shoots glass: reflecting, distorting, refracting. Everyone shoots metal: glaring, glittering, glinting. These are difficult to photograph well.

It's all about light: first, how to see it. Then, how to create it, and control it. How to harness its emotional potential, find its overtones and undertones, its brilliance, its

depth. How to tell a story with it.

The most interesting photographs are the self-portraits, another standard assignment.

Midge Norman-Barker's self portrait is a twist on a 1954 Norman Rockwell painting of a young girl who looks at herself in the mirror, her doll cast aside, imagining her future as the glamorous gal pictured in a magazine on her lap. (All students are assigned an "art historical reference.") Two chose Norman Rockwell as the artist to pun upon, or build upon.) Norman-Barker's photo is virtually identical to how Rockwell painted it, a seated girl gazing at her own reflection - but instead of a magazine on the girl's lap, there is a photo of Norman-Barker herself, unadorned, in mid-life, in the present. It opens a dialog about dreams of the future and dreams of the past, between memory and imagination.

Jennifer Broy's self-portrait is a

comedy: she is broadly, flamboyantly winking, holding out an overflowing platter of hamburgers. Although the pose and expression are clearly absurd, it's not clear what the joke is. Maybe she's a vegetarian, or worked at a fast-food restaurant? Unfortunately there are no titles for any of these photographs, or captions. But this is a vivid, arresting photo.

Lorin Dukman - definitely not straight out of high school, as many Hallmark students are - with his salt and pepper beard, and sagging 60-ish face, frowns in his self-portrait. The light that shines on his jowls projects a menacing shadow behind him. A delicately clad young woman occupies a corner between him and his shadow. There are several presences in the photo: Dukman, his shadow; the woman, her shadow; an arched passageway, its shadow; and a landscape out the window. Like

characters in a drama, these inter-related elements create a tension between desire and reality, interior and exterior.

"The greatest mastery involves the most complex lighting," David Turner said. His statement illuminated the best, and eeriest, photographs in the show.

Also worth mentioning as real, but so much more, are Kenzi Dion's snake-skin high heels with a double-headed snake slithering around them (the second head of the snake was digitally created);

and Mike Dunkerley's portrait of a goddess-like woman in a red velvet dress in the woods.

Light is the vehicle that connects us with what we see, like the meaning that connects the words in a sentence. Go see the light, while it remains, at the Gallery at Hallmark.

Future exhibits sponsored by the Hallmark Institute of Photography will be held at the school's capacious facility off Millers Falls Road.



Midge Norman-Barker's self portrait.

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A Good Time at the Gill Craft Fair

The sun shone bright and crowds milled around the craft fair at the Riverside School grounds last weekend. The wind picked up and blew over a couple of displays, but other than that, no major problems were reported in an event full of family fun, food, music, arts and crafts.



John Ward with a display of a solar collectors and other solar products at his Solar Store kiosk at the Gill Craft Fair.



Don McAulay Sr. of Erving poses beside one of his pieces of rustic furniture at the Gill Craft Fair.

JOEY PARZYCH PHOTOS



Barbara Alfange pauses from her sightseeing to read the Leverett selectboard notes in the Montague Reporter — at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park



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Turners Falls

Home of White Coal, Cheap Power

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - Just after the Civil War, visionary industrialist and Turners Falls financier Alvah Crocker urged, "Businessmen, invest in the waste land on the Montague Plains which could be irrigated to produce valuable crops within five years that would bring a good return on investment."

Grayce Perry called recently with new information after reading my first article about the White Coal Farm in the *Montague Reporter* (MR 10 #42 - *Anyone Remember the White Coal Farm?*). Her late husband's father, Fredrick Perry, was in charge of the experimental White Coal Farm owned by the Turners Falls Company, a corporation Crocker founded. White Coal was a term the early founders of the planned industrial village of Turners used to refer to the cheap water power produced by the power canal.

Crocker saw opportunities at every turn. He not only founded the Turners Falls Company, the modern village of Turners Falls, two banks that bore his name, he also financed the power canal, bridged the canal in four places, and sold factory sites as well as home building lots. He even saw potential in "waste land" on the

Plains, in the area where the airport is now located.

In a special dispatch to the Boston Globe, by an unnamed writer, "The Turners Falls Company, a corporation with a very large capital, whose business is the development of water power for manufacturing purposes, both at home and for transmission 50 or more miles away, is trying a very interesting experiment in cultivating the soil on what has been considered barren plain land at Turners Falls on the Connecticut River, where its principle power stations are located. The corporation owns 1500 to 2,000 acres of land on the Montague Plain for building lots. The sandy land had been considered worthless, especially as farm land."

At some point, either before or after the Turners Falls Company experiment, overhead irrigation on a small scale had been successful for raising strawberries, using a water ram on a small stream on the Socquet Farm to bring water to a farm straddling West Mineral Road, which the Koch family later owned. The Turners Falls White Coal Farm experiment pumped water directly from the Connecticut River.

In the Globe story, the author

describes how, "An experiment using small amounts of water pumped from the Connecticut River to irrigate the worthless sandy soil proved to be successful, warranting a large scale planting of Havana tobacco said to be nearly equal to any grown in the fertile lands of the Connecticut Valley, several acres of onions, a large corn and miscellaneous crops of a varied nature consisting of many farming truck and fine flower garden crops, including a row of sweet peas, several rods in length with thousands of blossoms. The corn is only irrigated in part. Another experiment is being tried; the cultivation of about five acres of sweet clover and this was not irrigated. Sweet clover is similar to alfalfa. The crop is doing well but not nearly as well as it would do if irrigated."

Sweet clover is an invasive plant brought to the U.S. in the 1600s. It is a bush-like plant that grows almost anywhere, as much as five feet tall. It invades and degrades native grasses by overtopping and shading native sun loving plants, but it is still used as a forage crop and soil enhancer in the Midwest, today. Plowing under the crop as "green manure" would have given the sandy soil of the

Montague plains much needed organic material. Clover plants contain bacteria in nodules in their root system which fix nitrogen that helps the plant grow. When the plant dies, the nodules release more nitrogen, fertilizing the soil. However, nothing in the report mentions using sweet clover to enhance the soil, nor does the dispatch describe how the Turners Falls Company pumped water 175 feet from the river to irrigate the fields. A water ram or a paddle wheel using the Archimedes screw



Farm manager, Fred Perry, holds his son Fred as a worker poses with them in the strawberry patch on the White Coal Farm.

method to pump water would have been the most likely mechanism. It is also possible that the farm used a

see COAL page 11

from GILL page 6

vehicle. Green Communities are not required to purchase fuel efficient vehicles for front line cruisers. But Banash said she would love to have the town be the first in the county to buy a Green cruiser anyway.

"I think hybrids are the wave of the future," said Banash. "It's coming, whether it happens this year, or next."

But Hastings said, "I do feel we're not prepared at this time in the town of Gill to downsize to that level," referring to the lighter hybrid vehicles now becoming available for police departments. Hastings said at least one the vehicles being studied for possible purchase as a cruiser has not tested as well for crash safety as the standard issue Crown Vic.

The board has been looking at a number of hybrids and low mileage vehicles as possible replacements for the oldest of the town's three cruisers, and combing over statistics on everything from door width to trunk space to room for computer equipment, and whether or not the back seat is washable.

"We need to think about where to put all of our equipment," said Hastings. "With one officer on the road, we need to protect the safety of our officers."

Hastings said in New York City, where the police force maintains 1000s of vehicles, it makes sense to have some hybrids on the road for fuel efficiency, since not all police equipment needs to be carried in every cruiser there. But in Gill, the police department basically carries all its necessary equipment on the road in a cruiser every time the one officer on duty is on patrol.

Speaking of equipment, it turns out Gill asks officers to supply their

own guns and ammunition, a practice Banash said should change.

Meanwhile, Hastings has been cautioned to use at least 200 hours of vacation time this year, to chip away at an accumulation of vacation hours, and he said he would do that. But doing so will cost the town more in part time salaries, he warned.

Speaking for the library trustees, Lissa Greenough said she would work to put librarian Jocelyn Castro-Santos on a pay and classification step, so that she would not be passed over in the future for annual pay raises. Castro-Santos worked for five or six years without a raise, earning \$14.09 an hour, until the anomaly was noted at this year's annual town meeting, at which point the library director's pay rate was hiked to \$15.45 an hour.

Even with this hike, the board was concerned that Castro-Santos might not be earning a comparable rate of pay to librarians in other small Franklin county communities, like Whately or Ashfield. Greenough said she would present her finding to the personnel committee later this week.

But the board agreed to separate the issue of how much the library director is getting paid, and whether or not the town could afford four more hours a week for the assistant librarian to keep the Slate Library open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons.

Board member John Ward said that when he was a lad, "I found an inverse ratio between the amount of time I spent in a library and the amount of time I have spent in the back seat of a police cruiser."

Yes, but was that back seat washable?



UMASS AMHERST LIBRARIES HOST 8TH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM ON SOCIAL CHANGE "TO THE VILLAGE SQUARE: AN EXPERIMENT IN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY"

~ A discussion on nuclear power and political activism with ~

Lionel Delevingne and Anna Gyorgy

Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The UMass Amherst Libraries will host a talk by renowned photojournalist Lionel Delevingne and international activist and Women and Life on Earth coordinator Anna Gyorgy on the lower level of the Du Bois Library at UMass Amherst. The event celebrates the acquisition by special collections and University archives of Delevingne's photographic works and Gyorgy's papers. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to join in on the discussion. Delevingne will discuss the mass media's role in the nuclear power issue and his own responsibility before and after the Three Mile Island accident and Chernobyl disaster. Anna Gyorgy will discuss citizen action and democracy, with international examples.

TRAPROCK ANNOUNCES ROOTS OF PEACE SERIES

A Portrait of Pacifists Sept 28th at GCC

Greenfield's Traprock Peace Education Center in collaboration with Greenfield Community College will sponsor a talk by author Richard Unsworth titled "A Portrait of Pacifists: Le Chambon, the Holocaust and the Lives of Andre and Magda Trocme. The public is encouraged to come and hear this moving story at The Sloan Theater on the GCCC campus from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, September 28th.

Magda and André Trocme were committed pacifists and leaders of a WWII rescue mission in France that saved the lives of an estimated 3,500 Jewish refugees. Richard Unsworth has taught religion at Smith College and Dartmouth College, and served as headmaster and president of Northfield Mount Hermon School. His years of involvement with the Collège Cévenol in France led to a friendship with André and Magda Trocme. Reviewers describe Unsworth's book, *A Portrait of Pacifists* as "An absolutely wonderful new biography of two seminal figures in the history of nonviolence." And, "A courageous and inspirational story of Andre and Magda Trocme who chose non-violent resistance and together with parishioners of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, saved the lives of many Jewish children in World War II France."

This talk is part of the Roots of Peace Speaker Series

sponsored by Traprock Peace Education

Center at GCC and is free and open to the public. For more information visit please the Traprock website.

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MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Price Drops Again for Photovoltaic Systems in Solarize Montague

BY SALLY PICK - As of today, Montague residents have contracted for over 55 kilowatts (kW) of solar electric (PV), dropping the cost to Tier 3 pricing, significantly below prices at Tier 2!

The cost for a typical residential PV system of 5 kW is now \$1,250 less than at Tier 1 prices. Discounted electricity prices for leased PV systems have also dropped.

Northeast Solar reports that many more residential contracts are in process, including a number of leased PV systems, and they have provided proposals for sever-

al commercial sites, all of which have the potential to push prices even lower.

There is still time to sign up for Solarize Montague before the program ends on September 30th, and be a part of this community effort to bring affordable solar to residents and businesses in our town.

For more info or to arrange for a free site visit, contact the Solarize Montague solar installer, Northeast Solar, at 413-247-6045 (info@northeastsolar.biz).



Pole Mounted Installation

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHEAST SOLAR, INC.



The White Coal sign at the bridge to Southworth Paper Mill greeted people arriving from Greenfield.

“one lugger” gasoline powered unit to drive the pump.

The Globe article does mention, that experts estimated “an average season about 27,500 gallons of water per acre are necessary each week in order to give the proper moisture.”

The dispatch goes on to say, “The land is so sandy that a foundation underneath has to be established before the best results can be secured. This foundation is secured by a variety of ways.”

But the report does not specify what these “ways” might have been. Since photographs show a lot of poultry and large farm animals on the farm, manure from these animals was undoubtedly part of that foundation. The report goes on to state, “Fertilizers were used but in no larger quantities than used on the rich river bottom land [in the Connecticut River Valley]. Apparently, the reference here is to commercial fertilizer as opposed to manure.

Rather than rotating crops, com-

monly recommended, the experimental farm found that growing onions and tobacco on the same land for several years in a row actually increased yield. “In other words, it is necessary to cultivate both tobacco and onions probably five years on the same soil before the best results are secured.”

Often the underground root structure of a plant equals as much as the plant’s foliage above ground, so organic root residue accumulation after several years would account for increased yields. Though the experiment’s monocrop practice went against the grain of advocates of

crop rotation, it’s hard to argue with success.

Since the experiment demonstrated the former “waste” land could produce profitable crops, it seems strange that upwards of 2,000 acres of land successfully put under cultivation in 1927 did not continue, probably due to the Great Depression, which followed soon after the stock market crash of 1929. The Koch Farm, that had been the core of the larger experimental White Coal Farm, continued for a number of years as a smaller operation.



VOTES from page 5

munity for its economic development. And we haven’t been able to do that. Before I become part of the spirit world, I want to help to make good and do that.

“The medicine man who performed that ceremony [Lloyd Running Wolf Wilcox] is now lying in a nursing home. I see him every week. And one of the questions he asks me is, ‘What have we done to complete our work?’ One of the things he asks me about is Turners Falls.” Harris held up a copy of the *Reconciliation Document* signed by the Montague selectboard and the Narragansett Indian Tribe on May 19th, 2004, as part of the observances marking the town’s 250th anniversary.

“His signature is on this document,” said Harris. “I honor the fact that his signature is on this document. His ancestor, Canonchet, chief sachem of the Narragansetts was here [in 1676] and set up a refugee camp that was on the island that was midway between Gill and Turners Falls. But it was Montague that signed this document. So we honor the people who signed this document, and our initial support is to you.”

The document committed the town and the tribe to mutual support to promote cross cultural understanding, historic preservation, and economic development.

Allen backed Fairbrother up on his main point. “We definitely should include Gill and Greenfield.”

Harris said, “We know the chiefs came into Northfield, the area called Squakheag [in the winter of 1675 – 1676 when Metacom, chief sachem of the Wampanoag and leader of the rebellion against colonial incursions known to the English as King Phillips War, was believed to have journeyed to the council in Squakheag] where the council fires were held. This is where it got started. The Narragansett Indian Tribe has a commitment to the word that it

gave in that document. We certainly don’t have a problem expanding to other communities, if that is your wish, and historically it would be appropriate.”

Allen said she was in support of the concept of the town applying on behalf of a consortium of interested parties for a Battlefield Protection Grant from the National Park Service.

Board chair Chris Boutwell said, “I think we need to know what happened, and where it happened, and where all the missing pieces are.” He added, “I think the majority of the people in the community would like to know that.”

Fairbrother said, “I would also be opposed to the town spending anything for it. Not Frank. Not Walter,” Fairbrother said, referring to staff support on the grant proposal from town administrator Frank Abbondanzio or town planner Walter Ramsey. “Not anybody else. No. They’re getting a grant; let them hire the people to do the work.”

Allen made a motion to allow some administrative support from the town for the grant application, and Fairbrother refused to second it.

Boutwell seconded the motion, and it carried two to one.

Later in the meeting, Allen invited everyone in the MCTV viewing audience to attend the next historical presentation, sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture and curated by Abbondanzio with assistance from the selectboard’s administrative secretary Wendy Boguzs, of the series Turners Falls Tales and Legends. Having reviewed the contributions of the Germans and Polish and other Eastern European immigrants in the first two sessions, the town will offer a look at the influence of French Canadians on Friday, at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. This will be followed by a look at local Irish immigrant stories on Friday, September 28th, also at 6:30 p.m. at the Discovery Center.

“Go hear about your history,” Allen said.



REDEVELOPMENT from pg 5 spent a year and \$40,000 dollars of his own money to develop his plan. I think the time and money he has spent is the cost of doing business and not a point of pride. He is thinking about his future tenants and profits, and he is willing to spoil the very “sylvan” setting he would be marketing.

I think the decision makers on the selectboard, the zoning board and the conservation commission have to ask themselves if this project, as proposed, is really in the best interest of the town. Or are they just anxious to unload the property, even for meager tax revenues? The town has not been shy about maintaining the empty Strathmore mill building, at a cost nearing half a million dollars, or spending more than \$400,000 in predevelopment

permitting for a landfill that voters of the town eventually blocked.

Town officials are probably frustrated to see all this opposition, just when the Montague Center School building’s redevelopment seemed like a done deal. But that’s the price an organization and a developer often pay for poor communications.

There is another ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) meeting on September 26th at 7:30 p.m., and though the agenda has not yet been posted, this meeting will be a continuance of the discussion from the previous meeting. This is the best way to get questions answered and to hear the concerns of the neighbors. I walk most mornings, and the traffic issues they have raised are real and urgent. Try crossing School Street during commuter time, and then imagine another 40 cars. Try to

imagine owning a historic home you have lovingly preserved for years and then finding yourself next to a 22-unit apartment building. Try to imagine more apartment buildings in town. Why not the old Town Hall or the land behind the Mini Mart? Why shouldn’t homeowners with double lots create an income stream for life? Once this zoning permit is approved, on what grounds would the ZBA deny other requests?

Yes, we are in the throes of a national election, but that doesn’t mean we can afford to ignore local issues. Check the town’s website every morning, and then again at night. It changes. The next ZBA meeting might involve a property near you.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Burglaries; Domestic Assault & Battery

Tuesday, 9/11

5:30 p.m. Burglary report taken at 1 Sherman Drive, Turners Falls.

Wednesday, 9/12

2:48 a.m. Burglar alarm report taken at Franklin County Technical School, Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

4:24 p.m.

was arrested at her home. Charges include disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Thursday, 9/13

9:13 a.m. was arrested on a default warrant at 15 5th Street in Turners Falls.

11:17 a.m.

was arrested on a default warrant at 127 4th Street, Turners Falls.

11:26 a.m.

was also arrested on a default warrant at her home in Turners Falls.

4:05 p.m.

was arrested on Unity Street in Turners Falls. He is charged with domestic assault and battery.

4:05 p.m.

was arrested for breaking and entering at 54 Central Street in Turners Falls. Other charges include larceny, destruction of

property, and receiving stolen property.

4:52 p.m. Burglary reported at 21 Central Street, Turners Falls.

Friday, 9/14

9:55 a.m. Fraud report taken at 357 East Main Street, Orange.

Saturday 9/15

10:30 a.m. Larceny reported at 9 Church Street, Millers Falls.

5:53 p.m. Burglary reported at 150 Third Street in Turners Falls.

8:36 p.m. Peace restored after reported fight on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Sunday, 9/16

2:00 a.m. was arrested in the area of 381 Federal Street, Montague.

Charges include operating a

motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, operating to endanger, and speeding.

6:14 p.m. Hit and run accident reported at the Town Hall parking lot on 1st Street, Turners Falls.

10:38 p.m.

was arrested for domestic assault and battery at 95 5th Street, Turners Falls.

Monday, 9/17

9:10 a.m. Vandalism reported at 83 3rd Street, Turners Falls.

1:50 p.m. Larceny reported and investigated at 51 Central Street, Turners Falls.

Tuesday, 9/18

8:58 a.m. Larceny reported at the Powertown Apartments, 25 4th Street, Turners Falls.

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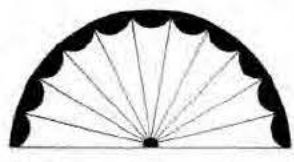
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Rice Re-arrested for Breaking and Entering and Receiving Stolen Property

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Lance [redacted] 23, of [redacted] 4th Street in Turners is back in jail this week, after being arrested on Thursday, September 13th, for allegedly breaking and entering a home at [redacted] Central Street, in Turners Falls, and attempted larceny of a lap-top (dropped outside the home, along with a change jar). [redacted] was also charged with receiving stolen property, in the form of an i-Pod taken from a home across the street at [redacted] Central that same day.

[redacted] who had been arrested for attempting to break into Basically Bicycles on Third Street in the early morning hours of July 31st (Rice was caught on the store's security camera during the course of the break in) was released on bail by August 11th, when he called the Montague Reporter to say a story published about his July arrest was "80% lies."

Follow up phone calls to [redacted] to allow him, at his request, "to tell his side of the story," went unreturned.

On September 13th, at about 4:00 in the afternoon, Montague police responded to a call from [redacted] Central Street of a house break in progress. A

neighbor, acquainted with [redacted] later reported she had seen [redacted] and a female associate, identified by police as Abby [redacted] 28, of [redacted] Avenue A, knocking on the front door of [redacted] Central at about 3:50 p.m.

When the call came in, ten minutes later, a witness heard the sound of glass smashing, went around the back door to find the clotheslines still shaking, a smashed coin bottle on the walk, along with drug paraphernalia, a lap-top and a pair of women's sandals.

Montague police detective Bill Doyle went around the block to Park Street where he found [redacted] and [redacted] barefoot, walking together. They initially denied being on Central Street at all that day. Subsequently, according to Doyle, [redacted] told him she had been keeping [redacted] company as he visited "his cousin's house" at [redacted] Central Street.

As he placed Rice under arrest for breaking and entering at [redacted] Central, Doyle said he searched the backpack Rice had with him, which contained the i-Pod taken from Nina Rossi's house that same day, at [redacted] Central Street, where a front porch window

had been forced open. The i-Pod had Rossi's name engraved on it.

Doyle said [redacted] had been arrested in Holyoke earlier this summer for possession of heroin, and his bail had been revoked when he was arrested at the end of July for the attempted break at Basically Bicycles. But, according to Doyle, "due to a snafu at the courthouse," [redacted]'s bail revocation was not processed in a timely fashion, and [redacted]'s family was able to bail him out in August.

"It appears something got screwed up. Because of the open Holyoke case, he should have been held when he was arrested on July 31st for breaking and entering in the nighttime," Doyle said.

Now, Doyle said, [redacted]'s bail is set at \$2,000, and a bail hearing is set for Rice on Thursday, September 27th in Greenfield district court, open to the public at 9:00 a.m.

Dave Carr, owner of Basically Bicycles, commented this week, "I think it's really unfortunate that a person like this, who has been caught and released and caused all this damage to businesses and people - - the court should take that into consideration. It's just frustrating to all the people downtown who have worked to make this a nice place to live and work. When the police catch people, they should be punished."

Rossi, owner of Nina's Nook on Avenue A, whose i-Pod turned up in the backpack in [redacted]'s possession last

Thursday while she was at work said, "I'm really pissed they let him out again to prey on this community. I think he should be locked up. Obviously, he can't rehabilitate on his own. He's just going to repeat what he's been doing."

Subsequent to [redacted]'s release in early August, the rash of breaking and enterings that had been plaguing downtown businesses, including the Shady Glen, Ristorante DiPaolo's, Bob's Auto Body, Crestview Liquors, and the Franklin Regional Housing Authority, among others, resumed with additional breaks at Bob's Auto Body and at the store Loot, on Monday, August 20th.

But a pattern of home breaks during the day (when people are less likely to be at home) also emerged in and around downtown Turners in the past four weeks, with more than a dozen home and car breaks reported in that time, along with additional breaks at Crestview Liquors, Turners Falls Pizza, and other businesses.

Doyle urged residents to call the police (863-3200) if they see anything out of the ordinary, saying a Neighborhood Watch-style campaign



COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE

Lance [redacted] is the first line of protection against this type of activity.

Doyle also said that Dennis [redacted] who was arrested in connection with a series of break-ins of businesses including the Millers Pub last year, and Beijing Station, where he sliced his wrist with a knife while cutting the cord to the cash register, leaving an easy trail for a police bloodhound to follow back to his 3rd Street apartment, had been paroled this summer, at about the time the rash of recent business break-ins began to peak. Doyle said he caught [redacted] trespassing at 8 Prospect Street, found a controlled substance in his backpack, and re-arrested him. [redacted] has since pled guilty to charges, Doyle said, and been sentenced to 3 - 5 years.

The Wealth of Commons

The Wealth of the Commons: A World beyond Market and State, edited by David Bollier of Amherst, and Silke Helfrich, of Germany, will be released locally on Wednesday, September 26th by Levellers Press of Amherst. To mark the occasion Bollier will speak at 4:30 p.m. at Amherst College's Paino Hall in the Beneski Building. Bollier is an author, activist and independent scholar of the commons. He is co-founder of the Commons Strategies Group and the author of ten books, including Viral Spiral, Brand Name Bullies and Silent Theft. An informative website for the book has now been posted at www.wealthofthecommons.org.

The book consists of 73 essays by a diverse roster of international activists, academics and project leaders. Never before have so many different international voices about

the commons been brought together in one volume. The purpose of The Wealth of the Commons is to show the depth, breadth and rigor of the growing international movement dedicated to the commons now emerging beyond the gaze of most western, mainstream media. It is especially active in Germany, Italy and India as well as among various peoples in the global South and among certain affinity groups in the US (open source software, Wikipedians, defenders of water, locavores, etc.).

Bill McKibben remarks, "This fine collection makes clear that the idea of the Commons is fully international, and increasingly fully worked-out. If you find yourself wondering what Occupy wants, or if some other world is possible, this pragmatic, down-to-earth, and unsentimental book will provide many of the answers."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

| Loose Dogs, Women, Fishermen and Trees | | |
|--|---|--|
| Wednesday, 9/12 2:00 a.m. Report of one motor vehicle car crash on Route 2 in Gill. Assisted on scene. | Friday, 9/14 12:45 a.m. Suspicious subjects walking on Route 2. Located two female subjects walking. | 7:13 a.m. Mutual aid to Northfield for report of domestic disturbance on Route 63. |
| Thursday, 9/13 8:00 a.m. Report of downed tree blocking North Street. Same removed. | Saturday, 9/15 2:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with felony warrant arrest on New Plain Road. | 1:33 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Ledges. Same moved along. All set. |
| 3:20 p.m. Report of two loose dogs in area of Christina's on Route 2. Same returned to owner. | 4:00 p.m. Report of trespassing at River Street. Unwanted person on property found to be fishing along the river. | Monday, 9/17 2:30 a.m. Removed debris from Route 2 and East Main Street. |
| 7:15 p.m. Medical Emergency on Forest Street. Assisted on scene. | Sunday, 9/16 | 4:15 p.m. Alarm at Northfield Road residence. Found to be tree across driveway. Building secure. |

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF WENDELL PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40, Chapter 40A, Section 5 and Section 9 of M.G.L., the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on October 9, 2012 at 7:15 p.m. in the Town Office Building at 9 Morse Village Road to consider changes to the Wendell Zoning Bylaws as described herein: In Article I, Section E, add a provision for the appointment of an Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. In Article I, add Section G providing for the appointment of an Associate Member to the Planning Board. Add Article XIV SOLAR INSTALLATIONS to provide for ground mounted solar installations As-of-Right with a site plan review. In Article III. DEFINITIONS add the following definitions: As-of-Right Siting, Building Permit, Extra-Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation, Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation, Small-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation, Solar Electric Installations, Site Plan Review, Site Plan Review Authority, Special Permit, Zoning Enforcement Authority. Article VI, Section F add to Residential Uses, Small Scale Ground Mounted Solar Electric Installations - Y, add to Industrial uses, Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installations Site - PB, Extra-Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installations - Site PB. In addition, we will be presenting a new fee schedule. On or before September 24, 2012, the proposed text of the Bylaw changes under consideration will be posted outside the Town Offices for review and will be available on the Planning Board door and at the Town Library during their regular business hours. A copy will also be available on the Planning Board page of the town website at <http://www.wendellmass.us>.

Nancy Riebschlaeger
Chair, Wendell Planning Board

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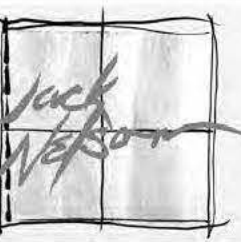
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EVERY TUESDAY

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

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic* with Dan, Kip & Shultzzy 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

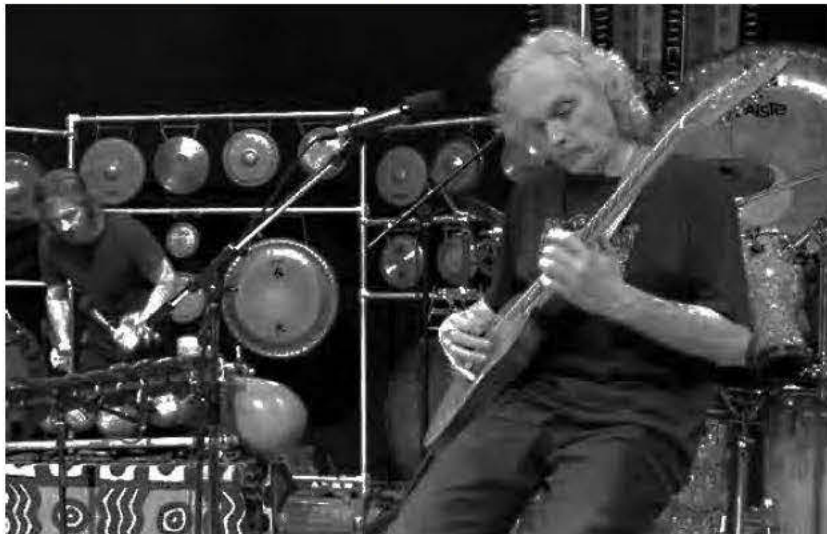
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

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 between 1973 and 1978, taken mostly in Brooklyn and Queens, NY,



Tony Vacca & The Impulse Ensemble will play at the Arts Block in Greenfield on Friday, September 21st at 8 p.m. Their passionate, mesmerizing performances converge traditions and redefine what American music is today.

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 20th

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

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 Hoffsommer and Dave Bilodeau. 8 p.m. Free.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st

Wendell Town Hall: *Community Potluck* followed by a *singalong*. Bring food to share and your own place setting. Have fun learning an eclectic mix of simple songs. 6 p.m.

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 French Canadian immigrants. 6:30 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New Renaissance Players \$5 Theater - A Comedy of Eaters* - one-acts and monologues. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: MCTV video of *Starhawk's presentation* at the 1st Congo in Montague April 2011. *Starhawk* is one of the most respected voices in modern Goddess religion and earth-based spirituality. She has authored many books and is committed to bringing 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. A discussion to follow the film. Josh "JJ waffles" Dostis is hosting the evening. 7 p.m. Free.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Tony Vacca and the Impulse Ensemble* - free-flow fusion of World Music, Jazz and Spoken

journey over the ocean floor using trapeze, aerial fabric, gymnastics and more! 2 shows: 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Montague Book Mill: Music: *Fancy Trash & Wishbone Zoe*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson - Renegade Blues*. 9 - 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bright Lines* - rockin' country Americana & *Jake Klar*. 9:30 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd

Traveling Rhubarb Circus, 2 North Street, Montague: *Snap!* - Designed, written and performed by kids between the ages of 6 and 15, *Snap* takes you on an amazing journey over the ocean floor using trapeze, aerial fabric, gymnastics and more! 3 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: COA Film Series presents Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*. 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Harmaniac Brothers* - two multi-instrumentalists. 8 - 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Karaoke* by TNT productions. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Free.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Stinchfield Lecture Hall: *Dr. Ira Helfand*, a medical physician who has recently returned from Fukushima, Japan, will give a presentation on emergency planning. All residents living within the 50-mile range of Vermont Yankee are encouraged to attend. 7-9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*. 8 p.m. (sign up 7:30 p.m.) Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps - A Night of Poetry & Spoken Word*. Open Mic 7 - 8 p.m. Featured Readers 8 - 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

Temple Israel, Greenfield: *Kol Nidre* on the eve of Yom Kippur. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Reading the Forested Landscape* with author Tom Wessels. 7 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mister Johnson's South of the Border All-Star Band*. 9 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th

2nd Congregational Church, Town Common Court Square, Greenfield: "Farewell to Factory Towns" a film on job loss and job creation in North Adams followed by a Q&A with director Maynard Seider, presented by Occupy Franklin County. 7 - 9 p.m.

UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst: Professor Noam Chomsky will give a lecture entitled "Who Owns the World? Resistance and Pathways Forward. Seating is limited. Reserve tickets by contacting the FAC box office: 413-545-2511. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl* - Blues/Jazz. 8 - 10 p.m.

CALL for Erotic ART SUBMISSIONS
Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "Triple S: *Sensual>Sexual>Smul*" show in February 2013. Naughty, bawdy, funny - or just

merely suggestive - artwork - anywhere on the continuum of erotica - is welcome. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Smaller works more likely to be chosen due to 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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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - Somehow the daylight seems to last a bit longer at the ocean's edge. Probably this is just an illusion as the land is flat and the horizon wide. In any case, we saw some of the longest sunsets last month in Maine.

Since our return home, the days have shortened visibly, adding to the sense of fall approaching that has been accentuated by chilly night temperatures. In any case, most of the garden crops have stopped growing, and harvest time is upon us.

We've pulled onions and garlic and air dried them for longer storage life. I've made ripe cucumber pickles from the lemon cukes. The last of the green beans and kale are ready.

As the temperatures cool, the body feels more ready for hot foods, so it will be a pleasure to use the last of the kale in hearty soups. Perhaps we'll make kale and tomato soup with the last of the ham and some new potatoes. We're also picking the last of the sweet peppers, which will be all the sweeter when cooked on the grill.

As the basil plants look a bit peaked with the cold nights, I've been harvesting all of the fresh green leaves I can find. For the last few summers I've made homemade pesto with basil leaves, olive oil and walnuts. It is extremely tasty served over your favorite pasta and garnished with the end of the cherry tomatoes.

This year I'm drying the fresh leaves for future use in cooking instead. We've tried two methods of drying: the standard oven and the microwave. Both seem satisfactory. We've collected the leaves in a white paper bakery bag and

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Summer's End

then experimented with the length of time needed to heat them to a dryness that will allow for crumbling the herb.

The key is to dry, not cook the leaves in either an oven cooling down to a low temperature after baking use or in the microwave in one minute intervals until ready. Allow the leaves to cool and then crumble with your hands and store in a clean jar with a tight lid. You will also experience the lovely aroma of basil throughout the house while you are working as it lingers after the drying is done.

Speaking of the last of the cherry tomatoes, these are still coming daily with many green ones yet. I hope the shorter days and cooler temperatures will convince the remaining crop of large tomatoes it's time for them to turn as well. We've had a few delicious beefsteaks but returned from Maine to find the squirrels had also enjoyed a large portion of the ripening beauties. Happily those varmints are now distracted by the large crop of acorns and are now demonstrating their anticipation of the coming season change by digging everywhere to stash nuts for their winter diet.

As seems to happen every year, the tomato crop has been a challenge. While the fruit enjoyed the summer heat and what seemed to be a fairly regular watering, we have still found evidence of blossom end rot in some plants. Blossom end rot causes spoilage at the end of the fruit and is a result of too much fluctuation in the water supply, which in turn results in a calcium deficiency in the plant. Since this only affected the plants that neighbor the large butterfly bushes, the gardener has concluded two things.

First, the summer rains supplemented by a few manual waterings brought most of the tomato plants along successfully. Next year, however, we will not plant so close to the butterfly bushes, which no doubt have grabbed an unfair proportion of the water sup-

ply and also provided more shade than tomatoes prefer.

We will craft a planting plan to keep both plants happy. We want a large harvest of healthy fruit. We also want to continue to enjoy the butterfly bushes, as every late afternoon brings a show of the fragile monarchs as they stop off to rest and feed before resuming their long journey across the country.

While the change in seasons will shorten the days for swimming, it will produce the perfect weather for hiking and for putting kayaks into the water to enjoy the coming foliage changes up close. We will miss sitting out in the warm evenings watching fireflies and the awakening lights in the night sky.

However, as the dark moves in earlier we will enjoy lighting the fire pit both for the warmth and for

the pleasure of watching this seasonal light.

This is also the season for making a fire with charcoal and banking the coals for slow cooking. This requires a time adjustment for those of us used to the speed of the gas grill, but it produces deli-

cious food in its own good time and a perfect fire for watching. Then too, there's always the potential for the indulgence in a S'More before the fire goes out completely.

In the unlikely event any reader has forgotten this childhood treat it only requires a thin layer of chocolate bar on a graham cracker topped by a couple of toasted, melting marshmallows. Not a health food perhaps, but entirely, messily delicious!

Happy harvest cooking and happy end of season gardening!

Mahi-Mahi Steaks Cooked over Charcoal

Allow ½ pound fish steak per person.

Lay each piece of fish on a large piece of heavy duty foil.

Garnish with ginger root and lemon peel using a vegetable peeler to create ultra thin slices.

Pour 1 tablespoon of white wine over the fish and wrap the foil tightly, creating a well-sealed package.

Cook directly on the coals for about 25 minutes and then turn the packets for another 25 minutes. Check occasionally for doneness. The fish should be firm yet flakey.

POETS WANTED!

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

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