



ANTIQUE AUCTION

at the Blake Farm in Gill
Page 10-11



HORSE & BUGGY

Back to the Future on Wendell Farm
Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 41

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 7, 2008

Gill Institutes Spending Freeze

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Facing a budget deficit of \$279,000 - with only about \$80,000 left in town reserves - the town of Gill has instituted a spending freeze for all items, other than payroll, above \$50, without approval of the selectboard. The board also called on all departments to limit the amount of non-essential driving employees do, "in the spirit of limiting the impact if an override fails," as board member Anne Bannash put it.

The board called on the highway department to limit their activities to "only essential projects," and to hold off on "purchasing materials in advance of winter."

The budget crunch for Gill worsened severely in July, when the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education issued a \$16.82 million one twelfth budget for the Gill Montague Regional School District, after two attempts at

see GILL pg 9

"EAGLE NEST FALLS!"

**BUT EAGLES
SAFE
NEARBY**



PHOTO BY BILL BYRNE, 1990

where the dead tree that held the eagle's nest once stood. But never fear; the eagles are safe.

I can still find our eagle fam-
see EAGLES pg 12

G-M Schools Have \$850,000 in Reserves

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) has approximately \$850,000 in their reserve fund, superintendent Ken Rocke told the school committee at their July 29th meeting. Rocke said the \$200,000 left over from the '07 fiscal year, and the estimated \$650,000 left in last year's excess and deficiency (E & D) fund, raise the question, "Would it be possible to reduce assessments for our towns?"

The towns of Gill and Montague are facing a combined budget gap between what their town meetings voted to fund the operation of the district schools in '09 and what the state has mandated that they pay for the schools under a so-called 1/12th budget, of \$859,521. The towns wrote to state officials in July,

protesting the 1/12th budget, which they say may drive them into bankruptcy as early as next year if more state aid for the schools is not forthcoming. The state essentially level funded aid for the GMRSD this year, but also mandated a 1/12th budget for the district with a 3.94% increase.

Still, Rocke said, "Healthy school districts keep an E&D balance of 3% - 5%, which for the GMRSD would equal \$500,000 to \$850,000."

Montague finance committee John Hanold, who attended the July 29th school budget review with other members of the Montague and Gill finance committees and selectboards, commented after the meeting, "To commit \$850,000 to reduction of

see BUDGET pg 13

Nurses Picket at BFMC

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - For the second time in the last five years, signs supporting the nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center (BFMC) have sprouted around the county, as the nurses once again engage in protracted contract negotiations with management at the county's premier medical facility. On Wednesday afternoon, August 6th, those signs were being shouldered by a line of nurses and their supporters that stretched up and down the block on High Street in front of the newly renovated hospital. Cars drove by honking their support, as rain gave way to sun.

"We had our first negotiating session in the current round of talks on Hallowe'en, last year," said an exasperated Ann Lewin, head of the bargaining unit at BFMC for the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA). "It has become a frightening experience since then."

Both sides agree the main sticking points are a proposal by hospital management to have the right to unilaterally cancel a nurse's shift, and a proposal by management to discipline or terminate a nurse for five or more



(Left - right) Donna Stern, RN, Diane Laferriere-Murphy, RN, Kirsten Einhorn, RN, and Jane Laferriere, RN on the picket line in front of Baystate Franklin Medical on Wednesday

occurrences of taking sick days within a contract year. The nurses call these demands "take-backs."

"We're not making a big issue about money, because the economy is so bad," said Lewin. "We're trying to hold onto the big picture."

BFMC president Chuck Gijanto, who took the helm at the hospital as it wrapped up a \$16 million expansion project this spring, said, "There's a couple of issues that have strong emotional attachments for both parties delaying getting a contract from being finalized. The difficulties have not spilled over into patient care; we're trying to leave them at the bargaining

table." But he confirmed they have remained at the bargaining table since last October.

Charlie Rasmussen, communications director for the MNA, walked the picket line with the nurses Wednesday. "It's our position they can't fire somebody for being sick. It's not part of the contract," he said. Adding a contract clause concerning termination for a certain number of days out sick would "pressure nurses to come into work sick to avoid discipline," Rasmussen said.

Lewin contended that the management's push to include a clause granting them the right to cancel a nurse's shift unilateral-

see PICKET pg 12

Wendell Old Home Day is a Hit

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The lawn in front of town hall filled up quickly Saturday afternoon, August 2nd, as the citizens of Wendell came out to celebrate Old Home Day. Circled around the edge of Wendell Common were tables full of handmade jewelry, beadwork, crafts, locally grown flowers and vegetables from Laughing Dog Farm. Laurel Facey brought her maple syrup. The Friends of Wendell Meetinghouse were selling lemonade and goodies, there were books on sale to benefit the Wendell Free Library. Kids chased each other on the lawn, dogs gathered in good humor, music played all day as some of the many talented local musicians showed up to entertain. Among them, Rowan



Charles Thompson Smith shows a friend his award for Wendell Citizen of the Year for 2008.
Smith has served as chair of the Wendell Conservation Commission for over 30 years.

Bado sang original songs and played ukulele, and Annie Hassett rocked out a few energetic numbers and left the crowd calling for more.

At 1:00 p.m. selectboard member Dan Keller got up on

the bandstand and announced the honor of Wendell Citizen of the Year would be given to Charles Thompson Smith, for "walking the extra mile" for Wendell in helping to conserve land, preserve historic buildings, and care for the needs of senior

citizens. Smith, who speaks half a dozen languages and writes a seventh of his own invention, is the longest serving chair of a board of health in the state of Massachusetts,
see WENDELL pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Waiting for You

**Speedy**

My name is "Speedy", but "Pal" would probably be a better name for me. I'm an 8 year old male beagle in need of a good home. I was a dedicated pal for my person for many years; I slept in the bed, we hung out together, he fed me treats (some would say too many treats!). Then my person passed away and I had to come back here to the shelter. I'm house-trained; I'm fine with kitties and dogs who would leave me alone (I pretty much ignore them), I'm not much of a kid dog but I'm a great match for a home with kids over 12. If you would like a low maintenance dog who doesn't need hours of exercise and training every day - you just want a dog to love you and keep you company, hang out on the couch and watch TV, greet you with happiness and a wagging tail when you come home, that kind of thing - come and visit me! For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARIES NEWS
Summer Reading Parties

MONTAGUE - The annual Montague Public Libraries Summer Reading Program parties will be held at each of the three libraries during the third week in August.

The Montague Center Library Costume Party will be held on Monday, August 18th, at 6:30 p.m. The Millers Falls Fun Party will be held on Tuesday, August 19th, at 3:30 p.m.

The Animal World live animal show will be held at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, August 20th, at 10 a.m. The Carnegie Library program will be held on the lawn, weather permitting.

These special events are for Wild Reads at Your Library summer reading program participants and their families.

For more information, call 863-3214.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS**Science Magic on Aug. 8th**

ERVING - The Erving Public Library will host the Boston Museum of Science's traveling program, "Science Magic" on Friday, August 8th at 7 p.m. Learn the science behind many classic magic tricks, including

the bed of nails.

This program concludes the library's Summer Reading Program and will be free and open to all. For more information, please call the library at 423-3348.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**Manga and Anime for Teens**

TURNERS FALLS - Manga and Anime for Teens, a multimedia presentation by Robin Brenner, will be held at the Carnegie Library on Friday, August 15th at 2 p.m. Participants will gain a better understanding of these exciting comic book genres and see many examples. Robin Brenner is the Teen Librarian for the Brookline Library, where she runs a very popular teen anime and manga

club. She is the author of *Understanding Manga and Anime*. She created and runs the award winning comic book website www.noflyingnotights.com. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**Birds of Prey & Tie Dying**

BY ROSIE HEIDKAMP

"Wingmasters: North American Birds of Prey" is the title of a free program to be held with Julie Collier (all ages) on Wednesday, August 13th at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall. Meet a golden eagle, a red tail

hawk and several other raptors and learn about their world from bird rehabilitator Julia Collier.

"Tie-Dying with Ruth O'Mara" (7 year olds and up) will be held August 13th and 20th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. (snack

FACES & PLACES

DETMOULD PHOTO

Former Shady Glen proprietor John Carey came out of retirement to cook up beer-battered barramundi fillets from Australis at the Tines and Tunes event at Peskeomskut Park on a rare sunny Saturday, July 12th. Let's hope the weather holds for the Block Party!

**Gill Selectboard
Office Closed**

The Gill selectboard office will be closed Wednesday, August 6th through Friday, August 15th while the administrative assistant is on vacation. For urgent matters during this time, please contact the chair of the selectboard, Nancy Griswold, at (413) 863-8271.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- August 12th - 22nd

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500.

Monday, 11th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 12th
9 a.m. Walking Club
Wednesday, 13th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 14th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 15th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500.

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Monday 18th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Tuesday 19th

9 a.m. Walking Club

Wednesday 20th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 21st

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 22nd

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-2584.

Monday, 11th

9:00 a.m. Exercise

9:45 a.m. Library

12 Noon Pitch

Tuesday, 12th

9 a.m. Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, 13th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

12 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 14th

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:15 a.m. Pool

Monday, 18th

9:00 a.m. Exercise

9:45 a.m. Library

12 Noon Pitch

Tuesday, 19th

9 a.m. Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, 20th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

12 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 21st

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:15 a.m. Pool

WENDELL Senior Center, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at 978 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

Something for Everyone at Old Home Days

The 49th annual Montague Old Home Days will take place on the weekend of August 15th -17th, featuring free concerts and entertainment for the whole family, along with food, the annual Mug Race and more!

On Friday, Aug. 15th, Karen's Dance Studio Recital will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; food booths, games and craft tables will open at 6 p.m.; with live music from the Tully Mountain Singers from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 16th, the Mug Race registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. At 8 a.m., the

breakfast booth opens. At 8:30 a.m. the 28th annual Mug Race (5.5 mile road race or 2 mile mini race through hilly Montague Center) will begin and the White Elephant tables and Tag Sale will open. At 9 a.m. the game booths will open, along with a bake sale, craft tables and the Montague Historical Society booth. From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Ed the Wizard will per-

form on the Common.

At 12:30 p.m. the Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance will perform; at 1:30 p.m. the Montague Old Home Days Parade will step off; at 2:30 p.m. the North County Line Dancers will per-

form; at 3:30 p.m. live music with Jen Tobey and Haven't a Clue will be happening, followed at 6 p.m. by live music with Root Cellar (Pat & Tex LaMountain). At

9 p.m. the raffle drawing will be held.

On Saturday, Holy Smokes BBQ will provide an added culinary treat, featuring wings and ribs from noon through closing.

On Sunday, August 17th,

from 8 to 10 a.m. a Country Breakfast Buffet will be held: \$6 adults; \$4 children. At 11 a.m. the Montague Old Home Days Worship Service will take place at the First Congregational Church of Montague. Worship music will be provided by the Fall Town String Band.

The Fall Auction will be held Sept. 13th at 10 a.m. Donations are being accepted now. For info on the auction call (413) 265-3013. For more information on all Old Home Days events, please call (978) 544-8430.



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August, 2002

The Best Little Eyesore in Turners

BY HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR.

THE PATCH - In 1982, the movie version of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* hit the big

Falling Down on Power Street

hard place. The town of Montague also faces a dilemma: how to address the problem, without assuming the full costs of cleaning up the mess. Meanwhile, Power Street remains closed - for more than two years now - as the walls keep tumbling down.

This legal dance marathon may go on until the last Patch resident drops!

It's not that our little corner of Montague doesn't wish Mr.

Kosuda the best in his pursuit of big dreams. We do. But, we are practical people, too, and we can recognize when a dream is simply a delusion.

One H Street resident, Tom Sullivan, who purchased his home several years ago, stated that the area where the former Griswold cotton mill stood (or stands, to put it generously) could best be used for "a great park, or tennis courts or something." Sullivan also expressed concern about access to the Patch for safety vehicles and the inconvenience for residents of using the one bridge still open - on 11th Street - to access the entire neighborhood.

It is time for this proud old piece of our history to come down by intention of will rather than intensity of weather! It is time to take more than superfi-

see PATCH pg 5

We Welcome Your Letters!

Montague Reporter

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Summer Schedule

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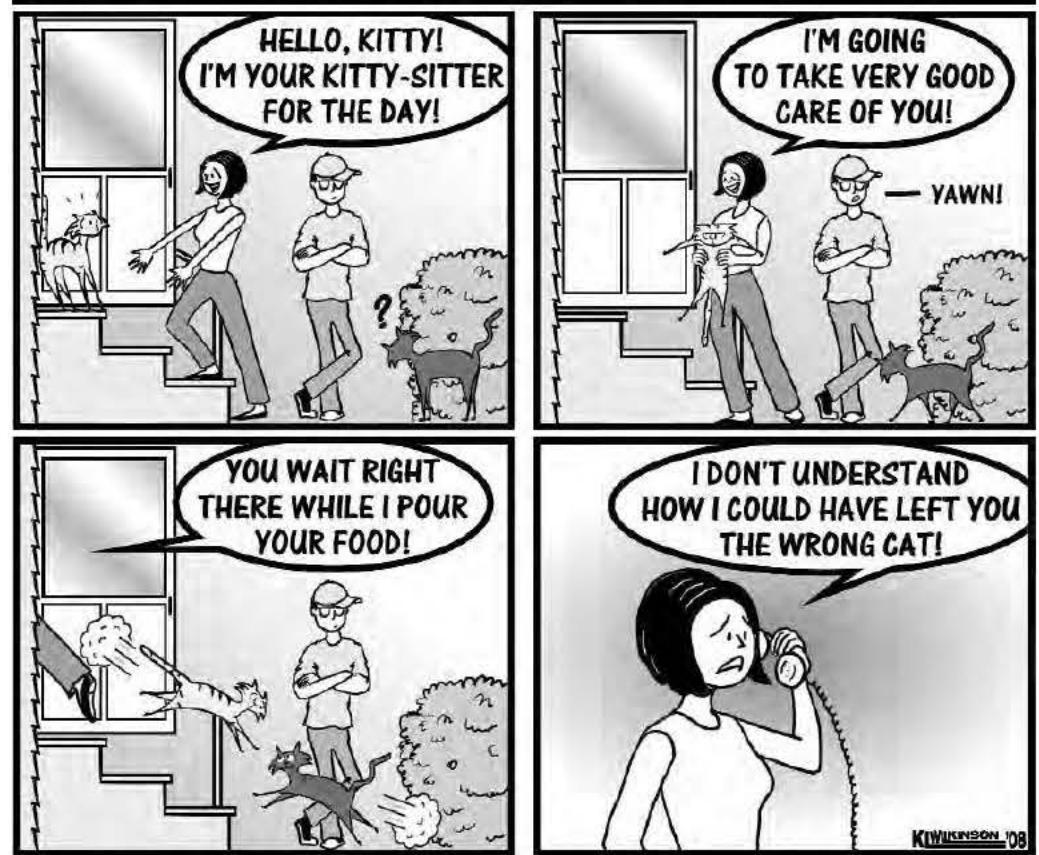
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THE MONTAGUE CAT SWAP



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Avenue A Cafe Closed

Stopping in this past Tuesday, I heard the news. It was so sudden, like hearing of the loss of a dear friend. Avenue A Cafe was shutting down that day -- in mere hours.

Almost every morning over the last year I have gone to the cafe (formerly Cup O' Joe) to get my delicious morning coffee and a "Pump, Stacked High," which is a lightly toasted pumpernickel bagel containing a tall stack of tomato and onions, gently anchored on a foundation of

cream cheese. A meal I will miss, and which Evelyn and I would joke about ("Schakked!" or "Pump and Stack me, baby!").

Evelyn Daly, the owner of the cafe, would greet me with rib-cracking hugs, big smiles, and a burst of energy like a cup of Fog Buster incarnate. She had built up a cozy business, nestled on the Avenue, which soon became home to our local breed of happy young freaks, musicians and artists (aka "the loiterers"). Evelyn is a force of nature with a



Evelyn Daly

big heart and an open mind, and I wish her well in whatever may come next.

- Michael Muller
Montague Center

Transparency Needed for VT Yankee Panel

Once again, or should I say as usual, we the public, as represented by the newly appointed Citizens Oversight Panel chosen to inspect Vermont Yankee in a thorough and independent manner before Entergy is re-licensed for 20 more years, are about to be betrayed by the Vermont Department of Public Service. If the Chairman, David O'Brien, Governor Jim Douglas, and Entergy Corporation have their way, the Citizens Oversight

Panel and the Independent Safety Assessment they were chosen to perform, will be rendered totally ineffectual.

After first refusing to acknowledge the legislatures' appointees, then refusing to let them participate in the recent NRC inspection of Vermont Yankee, the Public Service Department met in secret with the panel on July 17th, in direct conflict with the spirit of Act 189, the bill authorizing an independent safety assessment of Vermont Yankee and establishing the independent Oversight Panel to conduct the inspection "with the maximum amount of transparency and public oversight and involvement."

Citizens can only expect more of the same from this administration, which seems to be taking a page out of the Dick Cheney - Karl Rove handbook. What will they do next to the Oversight Panel? Make them sign a gag rule?

The Oversight Panel was established after the second cooling tower disaster at

Vermont Yankee this summer, in legislation signed by our foot-dragging governor. For those of us who hope that VY will shut down on schedule in 2012, it provided a second hope. However, if, in the next week or so, the panel is forced to sign away its independence and its transparency, leaving us not in the open as the legislature requires, but in the dark, we will once again be left with only one hope: that next year our legislature will vote No on Re-Licensing and Yankee will close in 2012.

Vermont is the first state in the U.S. to take back the power to stop the extension of a nuclear reactor's license. I have not given up hope yet for an honest safety inspection, for these are honorable and knowledgeable men, but we are dealing with a dishonest, and alarmingly dangerous situation that requires us not just to speak to our representatives, but to keep our eyes open to the Douglas administration's interference.

- Jane Newton
So. Londonderry, VT

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 8/6/08



(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

VIEW FROM THE STATEHOUSE

Legislative Session Produces a Bumper Crop of Environmental Initiatives

BY REP. STEVE KULIK

WORLTHINGTON - The Massachusetts legislature ended formal sessions for 2007-08 on July 31st, and I want to provide a brief overview of a few accomplishments of this session. I know that many readers of the *Montague Reporter* are interested in energy and environmental issues, so at the request of your esteemed editor, I will focus on those subject areas.

Several major policy initiatives in the energy and environment fields are the hallmarks of this session. We passed a \$1.6 billion Environmental Bond with funds for state parks, beaches, and forests, agricultural preservation and viability, and environmental remediation. This bill also includes my legislation to create a Conservation Tax Incentive that will provide a state tax credit to individuals who donate property for conservation to a public entity or non-profit organization such as a land trust.

Also, we passed into law an Ocean Management Bill that will allow for clean energy development (primarily wind power) in areas that had been zoned only for traditional energy generation (primarily oil and gas drilling).

The House passed the Global Warming Solutions Act to cap harmful greenhouse gas emissions and put into place a long-term plan to curb emissions in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the House passed the Green Jobs bill to grow jobs in the burgeoning clean energy sector and help attract green start-up companies, while strengthening job training programs in this field. Here in Franklin County we have a long history in this sector of the economy, and we are well positioned to be the state's leader in growing green jobs and businesses.

At the very top of these initiatives is the Green Communities Act of 2007. This effort, first proposed and led by House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi, is being recognized nationally as the boldest and most progressive state energy policy legislation in the coun-

try. It will promote the increased use of more clean and renewable energy in Massachusetts by establishing energy goals and implementing them through statewide initiatives and reforms. It provides incentives to individuals, business owners, and municipalities to invest in energy saving technologies, and aims to reduce energy consumption and dependence on fossil fuels at the state level.

The bill places a focus on "Efficiency First Energy Procurement," and requires distribution companies to consider all available energy resources when purchasing power. It also mandates that the state's electric companies purchase the most cost-effective and stable resources,

with the goal of procuring all cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation, prior to the acquisition of more expensive supply from traditional sources.

On the local level, the bill charges the new Division of Green Communities, under the newly-elevated Department of Energy Resources, to establish a



green communities program to give cities and towns the opportunity to take advantage of loans and grants provided by the state

"This effort is being recognized nationally as the boldest and most progressive state energy policy legislation in the country."

- Rep. Steve Kulik

to finance the cost of energy efficiency improvements and renewable and alternative energy projects.

The bill also revamps the existing Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund, housed within the Massachusetts Technology

Collaborative. The Fund, still under the direction of the Collaborative, will now be directly overseen and administered by a governing board chaired by the commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources. The new board will be charged with ensuring that funds will be used to generate the maximum economic

and environmental benefits from renewable energy to the ratepayers of the Commonwealth, through initiatives that utilize the advantages of renewable energy in a more competitive energy marketplace.

Also established in the bill is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Auction Trust Fund, consisting of funds recovered through carbon dioxide allowances auctions. Massachusetts joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, in January 2007. Funds from these auctions, deposited into the trust, will be used for projects like the green communities program and the promotion of energy efficiency, conservation and demand response.

Other portions of the bill include provisions that:

- Direct the state to replace state-owned and operated vehicles with more fuel-efficient vehicles.

- Direct the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to establish a program whereby homeowners or tenants can purchase renewable energy products for the home with no

up-front payment, and pay them off monthly on their utility bill.

- Establish a 5-year pilot program, requiring distribution companies to enter into cost-effective renewable energy contracts, over 10 to 15 years, to help eliminate a barrier in the financing of renewable energy generation in the Commonwealth.

- Codify the Office of the Ratepayer Advocate under the Attorney General to intervene in proceedings on behalf of Massachusetts ratepayers.

- Encourage net metering to promote on-site generation through financial incentives.

- Establish a commission to examine the environmental and economic impact of instituting a green building plan for the Commonwealth.

We are fortunate to have begun working on this legislation at the end of 2006, for we are well ahead of the curve on energy policy and will be more able to cope with some of the volatility of the world's energy situation. I believe that much of our success in reaching energy security and independence will depend on what we all do individually in our homes and businesses to reach a collective benefit. This bill puts us on a better path toward that goal.



PATCH from pg 4

cial delaying actions in hopes of avoiding fiscal expenditures or a major liability incident within the crumbling building. It is time to make visible progress on getting back the alternate access way to our neighborhood in the event of a disaster. It is time to jazz up the pace of the dance with some moves of our own.

One long-time I Street resident, Nancy Aubrey, who was employed in the building during several of its former uses, said she does not agree with the idea being floated in town hall for limiting traffic

on Power Street to one-way only past the building.

"We have a right to go both ways on that street," she said. Aubrey turned in signatures of more than 50 residents of the Patch months ago demanding action from the town, but so far, she said, "We've gotten no satisfaction!"

Both the street and the bridge at that end of the Patch are deteriorating as a result of closure, a lack of regular traffic, and routine maintenance. The town is visibly losing infrastructure by its willingness to delay action to accommodate Kosuda's dilly-dallying.

Who pays to restore this infrastructure if - and dare we wonder when - the building is finally razed?

It is unlikely that a safety hazard and neighborhood eyesore of this magnitude - and a lack of proper access - would be permitted to continue long at any other residential neighborhood in town.

Can we take some steps of our own, or will the vines of time completely obscure the rubble while the legal dance goes on and on?

The July 23rd land court hearing in Springfield on the Railroad Salvage building provided no opportunity for

the Patch residents who attended to be heard. It did result in yet another continuance for the building owner, against the wishes of the town. Kosuda, who lives in Florida, was represented by his attorney and was not present.

A number of Patch residents plan to attend the continuance hearing scheduled for August 11th, in Northampton. They don't expect to see Kosuda in person. But at least by proxy, they do expect another dazzling diddle-dance, by the dancing duo: Montague and Kasuda.



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GMEF Recognition Plaque Presented

BY JOYCE PHILLIPS

TURNERS FALLS - The Gill-Montague Education Fund board of directors continues to honor benefactors



Kevin Collins of Bear Country 95.3 (left), who partnered with the Gill-Montague Education Fund to promote the fourth annual gala, presented the 2008 plaque to Donna Fitzpatrick, principal of Great Falls Middle School.

with a plaque bearing their names placed outside the theater at Turners Falls High School. Contributions were made as tribute gifts in honor of educational staff members,

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How Local Can You Go? Co-op Challenge

in memory of loved ones, as class gifts, and to support the enrichment opportunities of the Gill-Montague students in the arts, academics and athletics.

The donation levels are the Einstein Club (\$1,000), the Michelangelo Club (\$500), The Galileo Club (\$250) and The DaVinci Club (\$100). In addition, corporate underwriters Hillside Plastics Inc. and Montague Elks Lodge #2521 have consistently provided financial support.

As a result of the Annual Gala, the GMEF has awarded more than \$40,000 in grants during the last three and a half years to enhance learning in various fields including science, music, art, athletics, language and reading. To learn more about the Gill-Montague Education Fund, the grants previously awarded, up and coming concerts and how to get involved, go to the GMEF website at www.thegmef.org.

GREENFIELD - Are you interested in eating more locally but wondering just how local you can go? This summer, Franklin Community Co-op (operator of Green Fields Market and McCusker's Market), along with 70 other food co-ops nationwide, will be hosting an "Eat Local America" challenge. The challenge takes place from mid-August to mid-September, the height of the Massachusetts harvest season,

and allows shoppers to spend a month eating more of the delicious foods grown here in our area.

The co-op will be posting a comprehensive map of area farms at Green Fields Market. The challenge will culminate in a tour of Sidehill Farm in nearby Ashfield, where participants will have the opportunity to visit the dairy processing facility where Amy Klippenstein and Paul Lacinski bottle raw milk and make yogurt.

Suzette Snow-Cobb of the General Management Team at Franklin Community Co-op. "And since our beginnings, the co-op has supported local growers and offered local foods to our community."

Between its two locations, McCusker's Market in Shelburne Falls and Green Fields Market in Greenfield, the co-op purchases locally-grown food from almost 80 suppliers, including cheese from Goat Rising in Charlemont, lamb from Springdelle Farm in Shelburne, fermented vegetables from Real Pickles in Montague and maple syrup from Hager Brothers Maple Farm in Colrain.

For more information about the national program, including the participating stores, recipes, blogs and profiles of farms, you can visit their website at www.eatlocalamerica.coop.

Central to Franklin Community Co-op's mission is offering quality goods that promote health and build a sustainable local economy. To learn more about the co-op, becoming a member, or "Eat Local America" events, please contact Suzette Snow-Cobb at the Franklin Community Co-operative: (413) 773-9567 x6 or suzette@greenfieldsmarket.coop.

Patrick Signs Broadband Bill



PHOTO BY ROBBIE LEPPZER
Wendell citizens, including broadband committee chair Robbie Leppz, were in attendance along with approximately 100 other Hilltown residents of Western Massachusetts on Monday, August 4th, as Governor Deval Patrick signed the \$40 million broadband access bill in front of the Goshen town hall. Patrick would not say when exactly Wendell will get high speed internet access, but he promised the bill would bring "universal coverage to all unserved communities in Western Mass by the end of 2010." So hang in there.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Multiple Thefts, Vandalism in Turners

Thursday, July 17th

7:32 p.m. Report of shots fired in the area of Whitney's Way, Montague. Investigated.

Friday, July 18th

12:37 a.m. Report of a fight at St. Stanislaus Society, K Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.

12:55 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls.

9:59 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Turnpike Road address, Turners Falls.

10:39 a.m. Report of trespassing at a Franklin Street address, Millers Falls.

8:52 p.m. Report of assault at a Federal Street address, Montague.

9:43 p.m. Report of assault at a Canal Street address, Turners Falls.

11:15 p.m. Report of general disturbance at a Canal Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

11:45 p.m. Officer initiated investigation of trespassing at Unity Park field house, Turners Falls. Gathering dispersed.

Saturday, July 19th

7:38 a.m. Report of missing person at a Lake Pleasant Road address, Lake Pleasant. Services rendered.

11:24 a.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Park Street address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

6:43 p.m. Report of vandalism at an Avenue A address, Turners Falls.

9:33 p.m. Assist other police department at

Cabot Camp, East Mineral Road, Millers Falls.

Sunday, July 20th

12:34 a.m. Report of suspicious auto at Third Street and Canal Road, Turners Falls. Arrested [REDACTED]

12:55 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Charged with marked lanes violation, operating motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, open container of alcohol in motor vehicle and operating to endanger.

12:45 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls.

1:21 p.m. Report of burglary at an H Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

3:25 p.m. Report of motor vehicle theft at an H Street address, Turners Falls.

5:15 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop, arrested [REDACTED]

Charged with receiving stolen motor vehicle, possession of drugs class B, class C and three counts of class E.

8:03 p.m. Report of neighbor disturbance at a T Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested [REDACTED]

Charged with breaking and entering in the night time, intent to commit a felony and malicious destruction of property over \$250.

Monday, July 21st

9:40 a.m. Report of larceny at Bob's Auto Body, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Tuesday, July 22nd

1:27 p.m. Report of larceny at a Fouth Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

7:26 p.m. Officer wanted at a Davis Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

Wednesday, July 23rd

3:33 p.m. Report of motor vehicle theft at High Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

7:15 p.m. Report of burglary at a Fifth Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

8:37 p.m. Report of burglary at a Third Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Thursday, July 24th

7:54 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Turners

Falls Road address, Turners Falls.

8:11 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls.

2:30 p.m. Report of trespassing at a Franklin Street address, Millers Falls. Investigated.

Friday, July 25th

4:18 p.m. Report of burglary at Hallmark

Institute of Photography, Industrial

Boulevard, Turners Falls. Area search negative.

5:47 p.m. Report of burglary at a Turners

Falls Road address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Saturday, July 26th

4:19 a.m. Report of burglary at a G Street

address, Turners Falls.

9:30 p.m. Report of fight on Unity Street, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

10:01 p.m. Report of suicide attempt at a J Street address, Turners Falls. Subject removed to hospital.

11:47 p.m. Report of burglary at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

11:54 p.m. Officer observed fight at Rendezvous, Third Street, Turners Falls. Arrested [REDACTED]

on two default warrants.

Sunday, July 27th

12:25 a.m. Report of burglary at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

1:06 a.m. Officer initiated arrest of [REDACTED] on two straight warrants.

8:47 p.m. Report of fight in front of Turners Falls Pizza House, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Gathering dispersed.

9:18 p.m. Report of fight in alley between Third and Fourth Streets, Turners Falls. Gathering dispersed.

Monday, July 28th

5:06 p.m. Report of burglary at ExxonMobil, Third Street, Turners Falls.

Tuesday, July 29th

6:06 p.m. Report of gang disturbance at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Arrested [REDACTED]

Charged with assault with intent to maim, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Native Tribes Propose Preservation Tourism for Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Doug Harris and Bettina Washington, historic preservation officers for the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead, Aquinnah, respectively, came before the Montague selectboard on Monday, July 28th, to propose a joint venture in what Harris termed, "Preservation Tourism," focusing on the Native American history of the area. The tribal representatives, who traveled to Montague from Rhode Island and Martha's Vineyard to make the proposal, also invited one member of the selectboard to attend a meeting of the United South and Eastern Tribes, an organization representing the 26 federally recognized tribes from Texas to Maine, scheduled for September 30th, in Nashville, TN, and offered to pay travel expenses and hotel accommodations for that purpose.

Harris said the offer to Montague was the first time a member tribe of USET has attempted to form a partnership of this kind with a town, and said he hoped it would provide an example for other tribes in the East and South.

"We're looking to open the door to talk about the relationships with towns. One of our concerns is the more information we share about what is ceremonial to us, the greater opportunity there is for destruction of these sites. How do we expand stewardship so we can convince a whole community of its stewardship of these ceremonial structures?" he said.

The Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes have been pursuing negotiations with federal agencies over the fate of a stone formation they consider to be an ancient ceremonial site on a hilltop slated to be excavated and leveled as part of

a \$5 million expansion of the runway at the Turners Falls Airport. Harris and Washington came to the Great Falls Discovery Center on May 19th to screen a video called "Hidden Landscapes," which explored a number of other stone formations in the area that may be of Native American origin. Several sites in proximity to the Great Falls featured prominently in Metacomet's Rebellion, or King Phillip's War, in Colonial days, and Harris suggested these sites could be of interest to tourists nationally and internationally. Harris said the tribes had opened discussions with the National Park Service about the idea of Preservation Tourism.

"This is our first formal offering, to you as a partner in tourism.. King Phillip's War, which occurred in this area, has a very powerful history that has got to be given its due significance in American history. We don't want what happened here to be forgotten by the rest of the region. What happened here helped to shape a lot of what happened in the rest of America," Harris said.

Selectboard chair Allen Ross said, "I think your idea is pretty powerful and important for the tribes and for the area and for us... I might not necessarily understand some of the more spiritual things which I've heard you be a strong proponent for. But I'm very pro-Montague, and pro-tourism."

Ross continued, "Also, there is the airport issue. What do those stones mean there? What is the status of the negotiations going on in Washington? How do the university-based archeologists view the significance of that site as opposed to how you view it?"

Board member Patricia Pruitt said, "I am not an authority on American Indian history, or stones. But I definitely feel a

link since the Reconciliation Ceremony (between Montague and the Narragansetts on May 19th, 2004). This is a step on that path."

Board member Pat Allen also spoke favorably of the proposal, and asked, "Who gets first dibs?" on the trip to Nashville. Both Pruitt and Ross expressed interest in attending the USET meeting, though no determination was made.

In other news, the board heard from Paul Gilbert, project supervisor for the engineering firm Camp Dresser McKee about the town's \$5.7 million combined sewer overflow remediation project, which is now in the second phase of construction. Gilbert requested \$68,000 in additional design and engineering fees for the project, which was running 80% over budget on CDM's watch by May of 2006, when the price tag had ballooned to \$10.3 million.

Under orders from the town to decrease the scope of the project and bring the work in at or below the \$5.7 million voted by town meeting, CDM redesigned Phase II of the sewer work, eliminating some aspects of the upgrade entirely, including the installation of sludge handling equipment that would have saved sewer users money over time.

Now, these cutbacks, coupled with a favorable construction climate have allowed the sewer work to come in approximately \$812,000 under budget, according to wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley, although code compliance issues at the plant and construction work in progress could eat into that margin before the job is done.

Gilbert said the work his company has done redesigning the project, supervising it through some rough patches during the installation of the new chlorine tank, and

designing renovations to the operations building to solve the fire code compliance problems there, justify his request for an additional \$68,000 in engineering fees.

Camp Dresser McKee had originally sought \$1.388 million in engineering and construction supervision fees for the project, but reduced that amount by \$200,000 in May of 2006, after skyrocketing costs forced a reduction in the scope of work.

Before deciding, the board has asked Gilbert to provide a breakdown of total construction costs for the sewer project, so they could judge whether his request for additional fees, as a percentage of the total, fit within "an acceptable number in the field," as town administrator Frank Abbondanzio put it.

On May 7th, 2007, Montague had received two grants, totaling \$849,000, from the United States Department of Agriculture, to reduce the amount the town would have to borrow for the sewer project from \$5.7 million to \$4.85 million. At the time, Abbondanzio told the selectboard the town would not borrow to the authorized \$5.7 million ceiling without going back to town meeting for approval of further add-ons to the project.

The board also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for the upcoming hazardous waste collection day, on Saturday, September 13th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year, the annual collection of household hazardous waste will take place at the Montague highway garage and the Orange transfer station, as well as in Charlemont.

Chris Boutwell, chair of the board of health, delivered petitions with over 200 signatures of Montague residents asking that the position

of public health nurse be reconsidered and reinstated at the next special town meeting. Boutwell said the town meeting vote that cut the position on June 17th was confusing, and did not allow supporters of the nurse position who voted for two different amendments to pool their votes and possibly prevail. "Since then, the phone calls started, and the seniors have been calling around to find out what happened," Boutwell said.

The town hall staff will begin working a four day week, as of Monday, August 11th. Town hall will be closed on Fridays, as an energy saving measure, and the town hall staff will work until 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, until 6:30 on Wednesdays. This change will not affect the libraries or the parks and recreation programs; the highway department has already begun working a four day week for a three month trial period.

Finally, the board informed Douglas Auctioneers that it was withdrawing the offer to sell a parcel of land on Richardson Road near the Leverett town line from the recent auction of tax title properties. Eighty percent of the 15-acre parcel has been subjected to flooding by energetic beavers, whose wetlands creation program has swamped the bases of five wooden utility poles, raising concerns about the maintenance of that line. Dr. Sam Calagione, an abutter, and representatives of Western Mass Electric Company both urged the board to take action to alleviate the flooding, which has affected a section of Richardson Road in the process of establishing a 26-acre beaver pond.

Town planner Dan LaRoche said the town conservation commission was interested in conserving the wetlands, and seeking a compromise solution to the abutters' concerns.

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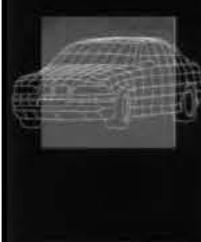


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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Math 101 Prompts Special Town Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Because the special town meeting of July 21st, in approving a higher number - \$357,915 - for the town's share of the Mahar high school budget, neglected to rescind annual town meeting's earlier vote to spend \$266,626 for Wendell's share of the Mahar budget, voters will have to come to another special town meeting this summer to correct the math. At the moment, both votes stand.

Without a vote to rescind the lower amount approved on June 3rd, the town is on the hook to spend a great deal more for Mahar than anyone intended. "It's close to \$600,000 (actually, make that \$624,541); it must be adjusted," said selectboard member Dan Keller to a slightly chagrined board, on July 23rd.

A special town meeting has been set for August 12th, and the first item on the agenda is the vote to rescind \$266,626 for Mahar, which will still leave the town paying \$357,915, which comes out to \$2,755 more per pupil this year than the district town of Orange, and hundreds of dollars more per pupil than New Salem and Petersham. Any adjustment to that disparity will have to wait until next year.

Other items on the warrant for August 12th are a motion to insure that \$2500 will be spent to update the town's Open Space Plan, though grant funding for that purpose may be unavailable, a motion to see if the town will switch to semi-annual property tax collections, a motion to add

\$1000 to the tax collector Penney Delorey's salary, now that she has received her state certification.

Anderson Suit Settled

Finally, Article 5 asks the voters to approve spending

\$7500, the town's deductible costs for an insurance settlement in the case involving the lawsuit brought against the town by Brian Anderson, an abutter to the new town offices.

In a post to the town's internet chat board, Keller explained the reason for the article:

"As many already know, the town was sued by Brian Anderson for damages resulting from an allegedly flawed hearing process to grant the town a variance to build the town office building closer to Morse Village Road than allowed by the zoning bylaw.

"The town agreed to settle the lawsuit though a payment to Mr. Anderson of \$30,000, and his agreement to hold the town harmless from any claims regarding the location of the building now or in the future.

"The payment was made by the town's insurance company, but there is a deductible amount of \$7500 which would be paid by the town through Article 5 if approved," Keller wrote.

Town Hall Maintenance

In other news from the meeting of July 23rd, the board discussed maintenance issues at the town hall, including a rotting sill on the outside cellar door, a faulty furnace, and the need to drain water pipes to the kitchen before winter comes, since they travel through an unheated crawl space. Water to the bathrooms stays on year round.

"We need to take a look at the whole system," said board member Christine Heard. "It sounds a little piecemeal."

The Good Neighbors Food Pantry has recently moved to the town hall for its Sunday distribution hours.

Town administrative

assistant Nancy Aldrich said the faulty furnace would be looked after by whichever company wins the bid to supply heating oil for the coming winter.

The subject of the rotting cellar door caused an extended discussion, involving the proximity of the tight tank, the nearness of the neighbor's property line, and the difficulty of providing adequate drainage there. A conference at the site will be scheduled soon between selectboard chair Ted Lewis, highway superintendent Dan Bacigalupo, and anyone else with pertinent knowledge of the problem.

Laurel Facey stepped down from her post on the Wendell cultural commission, after serving the maximum two consecutive terms. The board appointed Wanita Sears and Laurel Brenneman to fill open seats on the commission.

The town's expected reimbursement from the state for expenses related to the clean-up of the tornado that struck parts of town two summers ago has been halved, at least, at the statehouse, despite the best efforts of local legislators. The town may get only \$75,000 reimbursement for the storm clean-up, from which it will have to pay for the mutual aid provided by neighboring communities.

"I think it's a slap in the face to all the towns that helped" Wendell that July, said Keller, who advised the board to pay the \$40,000 mutual aid bill "off the top" with whatever funds the state eventually provides.

"This has been going on for the last 70 years," said Lewis. "Anything west of Route 128 gets shafted."

Wendell is looking for a new emergency management director, since Dawn Josefki is moving out of town.

The Franklin County Solid

Waste Management District will hold hazardous waste collection at the Orange transfer station and the Montague highway garage on September 13th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents who would like to participate may determine fees and pre-register at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

With the town's Chapter 90 allotment, the highway department has repaved all of West Street this year.

The board decided to meet with the assessors to discuss the peculiar arrangement with the assistant assessor, who gets paid different rates to perform different duties, in two part time positions filled by the same individual. The board felt Helen Williams should be eligible for benefits like vacation time and holiday pay, since she was working 30 hours a week or more.

"That should be one position," said Lewis. "She's got more credentials than anyone here in town."

Heard agreed to talk to the landscape committee overseeing the grounds of the new town buildings about library trustees' request to use \$1000 from the building fund for more flowers and shrubs. Heard said the committee was looking for volunteers to weed and mulch.

September 20th has been set as the date for the town's auction of about 10 parcels of surplus land, taken for back taxes.

The board discussed appointments to a committee to look into installing a bathroom for the police station. The names Ted Lewis, Harry Williston, and Dan Keller were mentioned, among others. "It's gonna be tight," predicted Lewis, of the bathroom space, not the competition to serve on the committee.

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GILL from pg 1

getting a \$17.01 million budget through the town meetings of Gill and Montague failed.

Gill has not issued a check for its first quarterly bill for the one twelfth budget - the town owes about \$369,300 to the GMRSD at present. But after reading a letter from the selectboard of the town of New Braintree, a member town of the Quabbin Regional School District, where the selectboard has refused to send the quarterly payment mandated by the state's one twelfth budget for that district, opting to send a portion of the amount voted by their town meeting instead, the Gill selectboard directed tax collector Ronnie LaChance to do the same.

The town of Gill approved an \$1,339,362 assessment for the GMRSD at annual town meeting in May; a quarter of that amount equals \$334,840.

The board will confer with the town of Montague about their approach to the one twelfth GMRSD budget.

Coincidentally, the Quabbin Regional School District is the district where the GMRSD's former superintendent, Sue Gee, is working now.

The town of Gill has not set an override figure or date in response to the budget crisis,

preferring to wait for the outcome of the district meeting between Montague and Gill voters, which amounts to a referendum on the GMRSD budget, set for September 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School.

In addition to a long list of projected cuts for Gill departments that administrative assistant Tracy Rogers presented to the selectboard two weeks earlier - which may be necessitated if the school budget stands at the one twelfth figure and an override to cover the deficit fails - Rogers delivered the news that more cuts will be needed if the town delays resolving the budget crisis until later in the fiscal year.

"If we wait until October 1st, we'll need to lay off one more police officer," leaving only the chief, said Rogers. "If we wait until January," to resolve the budget gap, "we'll have to cut \$38,000 in highway materials."

Previously, Rogers had listed closing the Slate Library, deleting all support for the Gill-Montague Senior Center, no cost of living increases for the nine town employees, reducing hours for town hall staff by 20%, and laying off one full time highway worker and one full time police officer among the cuts that will

be needed if an override in the amount of \$279,000 fails at the ballot box, and a budget gap of that size persists.

The Gill selectboard will seek to set up a joint meeting with the selectboards and finance committees of Montague and Gill the week before the school district meeting to try to coordinate an approach on the school budget.

The board decided to make the summer trial of a four day work week at town hall permanent, to save energy in the winter.

In other news, the town received a grant of \$1245 from the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition to allow the board of health to purchase a new laptop.

Representative Chris Donelan has notified the town that the \$30,000 appropriation to secure the banks of Unadilla Brook against erosion near the town center cemetery has remained in the state budget, contrary to previous reports.

The board issued a business license to Kurt Prondecki to open a used car dealership at the former barbecue restaurant on Route 2. The dealership, which will be called the New England Auto Network, will be open within two months, Prondecki said, selling foreign and domestic

used cars at competitive prices.

Board member Lee Stevens reported that a drainage pipe beneath a culvert near the Main Road entrance to Northfield Mount Hermon has separated and collapsed, causing a dip in the newly reconstructed pavement there, and a back-up of rainwater runoff during recent storms. Stevens said he would be in touch with Mass Highway and F&J Construction, the contractor that handled the road reconstruction, about the matter.

Steve Hussey, the director of the Four Winds charter school, which leases part of the Riverside Municipal Building, came in to contest a letter the board had sent the school requesting a \$500 a month increase to the lease, to cover the spike in heating oil.

"We are just breaking even on the building," said Banash.

Hussey countered with an offer to install plastic on all the building's windows before winter, and to keep track of the gallons of heating oil used this season compared to last, to see how much heat is saved by weatherizing the leaky sashes. The board accepted his offer.

The board also heard from Tony Mathews, chair of the conservation commission, who told them new member Ken Sprinkle has been a boon to the

commission, helping him keep up with paperwork. He said two parcels owned by the Urgiel family on Munn's Ferry Road would soon be considered for state APR protection, and suggested some help in meeting the town's expected 10% match for that effort may be forthcoming from the proceeds of the recent Blake auction, courtesy of Dick French. Mathews congratulated treasurer LaChance for her work on finding a suitable buyer of a parcel of land on Barney Hale Road - largely wetlands - which was bought for \$25,000 and placed back on the tax rolls for the first time since 1973 by an abutter, Thomas Magnani. **MQ**



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Trees Down & Assistance to Gill

Tuesday, July 22nd

9:25 a.m. Mutual aid to Northfield police for breaking and entering in progress on Warwick Road.

6:40 p.m. Suspicious male reported hitch hiking on Route 2 near French King Bridge. Subject fled into woods upon arrival. Unable to make contact with same.

7:45 p.m. Courtesy transport of stranded hiker from Route 2 to Route 202 in Orange to arrange ride from family.

Wednesday, July 23rd

9:00 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Maple Avenue. Under investigation.

7:14 p.m. Citation issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for uninsured motor vehicle and operating motor vehicle with a revoked registration.

10:50 p.m. Report of tree down across Route 2 in Farley Flats area. Tree located and removed. Message left for Mass Highway.

Thursday, July 24th

8:45 a.m. Report of accident, tractor trailer unit vs. car on Prospect Street, Ervingside. Both vehicles left the scene prior to arrival.

2:15 p.m. Walk-in to station to report past disturbance on Gunn Street.

4:20 p.m. Assistance to Gill police with traffic stop that resulted in an arrest.

7:03 p.m. Assisted Gill police with out of control subject on Main Road, Gill. Transported subject to hospital.

11:40 p.m. Assisted Gill police with domestic situation at Chapel Street.

Friday, July 25th

7:20 p.m. Citation issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Saturday, July 26th

12:45 p.m. Walk-in to station reported loss of blue kayak on the Millers River.

8:40 p.m. High Street resident setting off fireworks. Advised same to stop.

Sunday, July 27th

8:50 a.m. Report of missing person from

Mountain Road.

7:59 p.m. Citation issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for throwing a lit cigarette onto a public way near forest.

9:15 p.m. Assist Northfield police with domestic disturbance on Main Street.

Monday, July 28th

4:55 p.m. Medical emergency on High Street. Assist Erving Fire Department.

10:03 p.m. Report of male/female disturbance on French King Bridge.

10:10 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for two straight warrants.

10:40 p.m. Report of two car head on motor vehicle accident at intersection of Route 2 and East Prospect Street.

Tuesday, July 29th

1:20 p.m. Report of orange barrels put in travel lane on French King Bridge. Found same and removed.

8:30 p.m. Assisted Montague police in Turners Falls area.

Wednesday, July 30th

1:02 p.m. Medical emergency on French King Highway. Assisted subject until ambulance arrived.

4:45 p.m. Report of suspicious person on French King Bridge. Gone upon arrival.

8:45 p.m. Report of erratic motor vehicle operator in Bridge Street area, Millers Falls. Possibly struck bridge. Checked area, nothing found.

Friday, August 1st

3:57 p.m. Report of two car accident without personal injury at Route 2 and East Main Street.

8:40 p.m. Report of shots fired.

Sunday, August 3rd

8:37 p.m. Citation issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for unlicensed operation of motor vehicle and expired registration.

3:45 p.m. Forest Street resident reported family member returned vehicle with severe damage. Owner stated he would handle civilly but wanted police informed.

Monday, August 4th

11:15 a.m. Mutual aid to Gill for neighbor dispute on Oak Street.

12:14 p.m. Citation issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension.

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BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - When people descended upon the Blake farm off Mountain Road in Gill in June to attend the estate auction, they found a treasure trove of 13 antique farm tractors, five Model T Fords and a collection of old newspapers of historic dates, diaries, scrapbooks, photo albums, paintings and a wide assortment of miscellaneous collections and furniture. Though Clesson Blake and his sister, Ruth Cook, were collectors, they did not accumulate as much as they inherited, according to Dick French, a cousin of the Blakes, who had looked after them during their declining years. Fortunately, Clesson and his sister Ruth were savers. But, unfortunately, after a fire an unscrupulous antique dealer made off with several truckloads of valuable antiques at \$1,000 per van load. To her credit, Cook would not allow the dealer to touch any of her belongings, and four pastel family portraits by famous painter Ruth Henshaw Bascomb were spared. Tradesmen hired to do repairs also made off with money and valuables.

Clesson Blake's great grandfather, Jonathon Blake, bought the farm from Deacon Phillips Ballard in 1858.

Blake's Auction

Jonathon Blake left the farm to his son, Clesson who in turn left it to Ernest, the last Clesson's father. This last Clesson Blake, whose complete name is Clesson Phillips Blake, was named after Clesson Phillips son of Rossy Ballard Phillips and Simon Phillips, housewright, farmer and superintendent of schools, who was the son of Israel Phillips and wife Mercy Bascomb Phillips, which demonstrates some of the interrelationship of the early Gill families, and quite possibly creates mind boggling confusion.

To further confuse the reader, the Blake family had connections to many early settlers of Gill, namely the Clapp, Ballard, Bascomb and Phillips families, to name a few. These families all settled in Gill at about the same time. Three sisters, whose family had come from the eastern part of the state, wanted to live side by side. They were the Johnson sisters from Warwick. They requested of their husbands that



Civil War boot and boot last, Blake Auction

they buy adjoining farms so that they could live close by one another. Their husbands indulged them by buying farms along Main Road in close proximity. To have such power over their husbands is a tribute to the persuasive talents of the three sisters, especially Martha Johnson, who married Elisha Clapp.

Elisha Clapp came from a prominent Dorchester family who had arrived on the first shipload of immigrants to settle Dorchester. The Clapp and Blake family entered into a partnership in a water-powered tidal mill in Dorchester, most likely to grind grain. The mill captured the incoming tide and used the dammed water to power the mill

as the tide receded. The historic Hestor Blake house still stands in Dorchester.

Jonathon Blake moved to Gill in 1858. He married Alice, one of the Johnson sisters. Martha Johnson married Elisha Clapp and a third Johnson sister married a Conant, possibly Roger. The Conant farm is now occupied by the Keith Lilly family.

Other early settlers were the Bascomb, Ballard and Phillips families, who were all interrelated by marriage to the three families who settled along Main Road in Gill. There were also a couple more Johnson sisters. Fortunately,

readers will be spared any further convoluted genealogical bewilderment.

After Elisha Clapp bought the house on Main Road at the site where Emily Samuels and Dick French now live, Elisha's wife, Martha Johnson Clapp, was not content to just live near by her sisters. She convinced her husband to move the house off the foundations and build a new house in a style that Martha fancied. The house has a labyrinth of hallways. Some short hallways have as many as five doors, and some rooms with as many as seven doors. Neither were these cheap doors.

The old house was parked in the dooryard, where the Clapp family lived during construction

of the new house. Upon completion of the house on the old foundation, a road was built across the hill, behind the house, to Center Road, and the old house was moved to the site where Phil and Suzie Maddern now live. Moving houses long distances was common. Folks in those days moved houses more frequently than people move trailer homes, today.

Amidst the treasure trove of history found at the Blake home was a diary in which Simon Phillips logged his daily activities from 1852 to 1888. Phillips was married to Mercy Bascomb. A versatile craftsman, Phillips worked as a farmer, housewright and cabinet maker as well as a millwright, which included working on mill machinery and piping.

Phillips recorded his daily activities and lists of material he used on his various jobs, such as constructing the town's ballot box, building houses and repairing machinery at mills around the county. There were many small mills scattered around Gill at that time. There are the remains of a foundation of a very small mill behind the Gill fire station that once existed not far from the Blake homestead.

Since Phillips was an independent contractor, it was probably a necessity to record time and material for various jobs. Recording the weather and other events were just noted for personal interest. In addition to his housewright and millwright work, Phillips served as the superintendent of Gill's six or seven schools. While serving as superintendent, Phillips had a

see BLAKE pg 11

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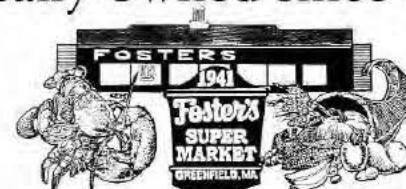
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BLAKE from pg 10

bylaw passed in Gill to deal with truancy. Any young upstart who was truant three times was labeled "A Habitual Truant." It was an early "Three Strikes and You're Out" law. Habitual truants were sent to a training school in Greenfield. If that school was full, the state of Massachusetts had other reform schools to deal with offenders. Parents could also have their children committed to reform school as a

were the only children of Ernest Blake and Alice Blake. The other bedrooms may have been for use by hired help on the farm, or for workmen making leather boots, possibly in the two workrooms. Home industry was common in the early days, as was providing room and board for employees. The privy was an indoor arrangement with a sloping rear wall to facilitate cleaning from the outside.

Though Ernest Blake had a tie-up in the barn for about eight

she brought several pieces of fine furniture and jewelry including a gold thimble from her family home in Chatham. She was a soft spoken woman who made an ideal librarian for the Gill library. She ran a hallowed sanctuary for book lovers at the Slate Memorial Library, speaking only in a low voice. If anyone spoke above a whisper, Mrs. Blake would admonish the transgressor by clearing her throat while holding a finger across her lips. She was also strict about levying fines of a penny a day for overdue books, but allowed kids to work out the fine by raking leaves or working on the library grounds.

It is not clear if Clesson's sister, Ruth Joselyn (Blake) Cook, had any college or formal training, but she retired as a bookkeeper for the Federal Farm Credit Agency and later worked in the offices of the Gill town hall.

Clesson Phillips Blake, born in 1912, came from a long line of musically talented family members. He saved sheet music passed down by his grandfather, and played a clarinet in local dance bands. One of the auction items was an inherited pre-Civil War bass wood and ivory clarinet that predates 1850.

Clesson was also mechanically inclined, interested in cars and tractors. His diary recorded working on other people's cars as well as working on the farm. He owned an Indian Chief Motocycle (Indian did not use the term moto_r_cycle). Clesson rode his motorcycle to Florida where he worked in a gasoline station for a time.

During WWII, Clesson served in the Navy as a radioman aboard a ship in the Pacific, where presumably he developed interest and experience in repairing radios. After the war, Clesson worked with Michael Williams repairing radios next to Walter Bardwell's gas station, near the present fire station. They later branched out into dealing in televisions. When Williams moved away, Clesson continued TV repair and sales from the Blake homestead. He did fine with black and white TVs, but

Antique Tractors, out to pasture, at the Blake Auction

"stubborn child," if they so wished.

Phillips' detailed daily logs are presently being transcribed for the Gill Historical Society by volunteers who find these and other historic Gill diaries fascinating. Also purchased by the Gill Historical Society were three photo albums of tintypes, as well as an autograph book, an 1887 Victorian scrapbook compiled by Ernest Blake, and a silver plated pitcher awarded to Ernest Blake by the First Congregational Church.

The two story Blake house has five bedrooms, a dining room, a living room, two big pantries, plus two rooms that appear to have been workrooms. At the auction, French bought a boot last for making leather boots for Civil War soldiers. Boxes holding tens of thousands of tiny wooden pegs used for securing the soles to the boots accompanied the boot last and one remaining boot. Cottage industry was common in past years.

Despite the house having five bedrooms, Clesson and Ruth

to ten cows plus a horse and a mule, "Maud," it is not clear if he engaged in dairy farming. Ernest did not appear to be in the best of health and was rumored to have had "consumption." He was an avid smoker. As a young boy I marveled at Ernest Blake's ability to cough continuously while still puffing on his pipe, with each cough sounding like his last breath, emitting little puffs of smoke like a locomotive getting under way. His son, Clesson, said the road builder, who had removed gravel from a gravel bank on the farm to use in building Main Road, had rented and ruined their horse by overworking it, according to Dick French. There is no report as to the fate of Maud, the mule. The only record of her was her name, "Maud the Mule" emblazoned on a board over her stall in the barn.

Alice Doliff Blake, wife of Ernest Blake and mother of Clesson Phillips Blake, raised a wide variety of beautiful gladiolas. She sold them as cut flowers as well as the bulbs. When she came to live in Gill,



These cars recall the days when more farmers had Model Ts than bathtubs. Asked why, one farm wife said, "You can't drive to town in a bathtub."

never was able to make a good transition to the more complicated inner workings of color TV.

The paintings by Ruth Henshaw Bascomb brought spirited bidding at auction. Bascomb only painted family pastel portraits. It is unknown if she had any formal training in painting. While the extended families were large in size as well as in number, it is also not known if portrait painting was her vocation or her hobby.

Apparently she had no shortage of subjects. At any rate, the portraits are of museum quality.

The open Model T touring car that Clesson Blake and Ruth Koch enjoyed taking on long excursions, sometimes way up into Vermont, sported an inspection sticker dated 1999. The touring car brought \$5,500 at the auction. It most likely is the very same Model T that Clesson purchased decades earlier from Carl Schacht for \$300.

French surmised that the 13

antique tractors only brought \$500 to \$1,000 each because there were so many of them. Clesson usually paid about \$50 for a tractor before restoration. The auction netted in excess of \$50,000. The farm is being sold and the proceeds of that, too, will be put into a charitable trust for land preservation, according to French.

The auctioneer displayed the wide assortment of family collections handed down for generations in lots, outside, and under a tent in the Blake homestead dooryard. In the twilight of the evening before the auction, spirits of families past seemed to drift over this last reunion of all the remaining items once owned by generations, summing up the essence of their lives. The long line of the Blake family has come to an end. The barn, which collapsed years ago, is long gone, and the house and sheds stand empty. Only the spirits of families past remain.

MQ



PARZYCH PHOTOS

Antique Tractors, out to pasture, at the Blake Auction

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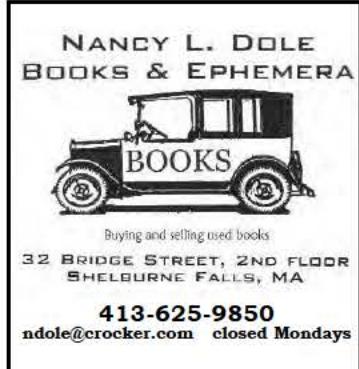
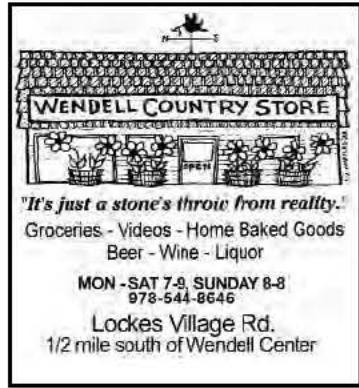
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EAGLES

continued from pg 1

with the telescope. A few days after the tree came down in a bad storm two Sundays ago, July 27th, probably about 1:15 or 1:30 in the afternoon, an adult eagle was continuously perched nearby, and eventually the eagle chick was



seen in a neighboring tree.

The people who habitually watch the Eagle Cam on MCTV, local Channel 17, could see only a view of several trees at odd angles, as the eagle camera came down with the dead pine. My phone began to ring. Word soon spread that the eagles were safely perched, and the solar panel appeared untouched.

A team from First Light Power will assess the equipment soon. In past years, the eagles have nested in other trees nearby.

Former Silvio Conte Fish and Wildlife staff member Carolyn Boardman, who predicted back in October of 2002 that the fall of the eagles' tree was imminent, told the Montague Reporter at that time, "Because the birds are so connected to the site, they will certainly stay in the area of the island." Well, six years later, the tree has finally fallen, and the eagles are still nearby.

Further news will follow as we get it, on Montague's Eagle Watch!

MQ

WENDELL

continued from pg 1

with three decades of service.

Francis Dougherty introduced the musicians and did a great job as MC for the show, while Karen Copeland brought everything together behind the scenes, with a magician's grace. Marsia Shuron-Harris returned to entertain her fans. The Steve Crow Band with Peter Kim and Joe Fitzpatrick competed with the rain as Wendell music lovers sat under umbrellas and shelters to listen. Indoors, Waffles the Clown entertained the kids with a show in the library. On the common, people stopped by the Wendell Story Corps to be videotaped for posterity sharing their stories of life in Wendell.

Clowns, jugglers, a strangely tall painted person walking on stilts followed, like a Pied Piper, by children, laughter, music, good food, and lots of fun rounded out the day. There was even a fire truck parked for the kids to play in, and a horse grazing on the lawn next to the gazebo. This was Wendell Old Home Day, done right.

PICKET

continued from pg 1

erally was an unnecessary power grab. She said whenever the patient census was down to the point where nursing shifts needed to be canceled, calls go out for nurses to volunteer to stay home that day, a "system that works well now. There's never been a problem." But she said, "We work a certain number of hours a week. We count on the money. We don't want the language 'may be asked' to cancel a shift to be understood to mean 'may be cancelled at will.'"

Gijanto stuck by the hospital's demands. "The ability to send staff home when census is low, when we don't have patients and don't have revenue," is commonplace at other hospitals where Gijanto has worked. At BFMC, "the hospital has lost a large sum of money in the last two years," and cannot afford to "support nurses sitting at their desks when we don't have patients.

"Nobody likes to do this," he added. "It's a simple matter of economics."

Gijanto agreed that "the vast

majority of the time we get volunteers" to stay home from work when the call goes out to cancel shifts. But he said there had been a problem lately when one worker filed a grievance about the policy, and therefore the hospital has to clarify the issue.

As for the sick day policy, Gijanto said the hospital's proposal was "not designed to have people come into work sick." But "there's always a small percentage of people who abuse sick days. The number of instances are very low where people have been disciplined." He said the policy would count extended sick leaves for the flu, for example, as one occurrence, rather than a multiple use of sick days, and would allow for scheduled surgeries and planned family medical leaves.

Lewin said the present contract, which covers 225 nurses at BFMC, allows 12 sick days for fulltime workers, and nurses value that protection. "Do I want to go to work sick? It's not going to make this hospital an attractive place."

Rasmussen acknowledged that BFMC had been losing money over the last two years, even as they went through a major renovation, but noted that the hospital's parent company, Baystate Medical, has made a profit of \$55 million in the same period of time.

Gijanto said it was true that Baystate was profitable, but contended, "We need to stand on our own feet." He said \$6.5 million of the \$16 million invested in the recent renovation at the Greenfield hospital was raised from charitable contributions within the community, "which speaks volumes to the tremendous support" BFMC enjoys in Franklin County.

MQ

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. In my HMO's provider directory, some of the doctors have a "DO" after their names instead of an "MD." What exactly is the difference between these two?

DO stands for doctor of osteopathic medicine. MD is the abbreviation for doctor of medicine. MDs are also called doctors of allopathic medicine.

Here are a couple of brief dic-

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Osteopathy and Allopathy

tionary definitions:

- **os-te-op-a-thy** *n.* A system of medicine based on the theory that disturbances in the musculoskeletal system affect other bodily parts, causing many disorders.
- **al-lop-a-thy** *n.* A method of treating disease with remedies that produce effects different from those caused by the disease itself.

Osteopathic medicine is a safe, established practice. Like MDs, DOs must pass a state medical board examination to obtain a license to practice. There are about 15 MDs for every DO in the United States.

Both DOs and MDs are fully qualified to prescribe medication and perform surgery. Like a medical doctor, an osteopathic physician completes four years of medical school and can choose to practice in any medical specialty. However, osteopaths receive an additional 300 to 500 hours in the study of manual medicine and the body's musculoskeletal system.

An osteopath will often use manipulation - hands-on techniques to make sure the body is moving freely so that all of the body's natural healing systems can function properly.

The osteopath is trained to

feel the body's flow of fluids, motion, textures and structure. The DO applies precise force to promote healthy movement of tissues, eliminate abnormal movements, and release compressed bones and joints. This process is called Osteopathic Manual Medicine (OMM) or Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT).

Osteopathic therapy follows a holistic (whole body) approach to health care.

Osteopathy takes advantage of the body's natural tendency to strive for good health. DOs often say that the best drugs are within the body's immune system.

Over the years, the gap between MDs and DOs has narrowed as physicians in both categories have adopted many of the

approaches of their colleagues.

Osteopathic physicians who wish to specialize may become board certified in much the same way MDs do by completing a 2- to 6-year residency within the specialty area and passing board-certification exams.

Civil War Surgeon Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, founded osteopathy in 1874. Dr. Still believed that many of the medications of his day were useless or even harmful. In response, Dr. Still developed a philosophy of medicine based on ideas that date back to Hippocrates, the father of medicine. That philosophy focuses on the unity of all body parts.

Dr. Still identified the musculoskeletal system as a key element of health. He recognized the body's ability to heal itself and stressed preventive medicine, eating properly and keeping fit.



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Rowan Bado performed original songs on his ukulele at Wendell Old Home Days. (see article on facing page)

BUDGET from pg 1

assessments is not a prudent position. It's just like the town

is using reserves to balance its budget. You better be prepared to do it again next year. But this is one time money, especially the 200,000 from '07."

Rocke

also said that the savings from closing Montague Center, which on April 1st he estimated at \$228,000, had been redistrib-

uted to other areas of the budget, notably to increase the half time principal and half time nurse at Gill Elementary School to full time positions, and adding a sixth grade teacher at that school. He said the loss of the secretarial position at Montague Center would pay for a receptionist at the high school, for added security there, and the gains from utilities saved at Montague Center would be countered by increased energy costs districtwide.

Hanold said, "They've taken the consolidation savings and put them to different places in the budget. He (Rocke) is not letting any of it flow through to benefit the towns."

Rocke said the \$450,000 in expected gains to the school district from joining the state's GIC health plan last year would

be largely canceled out by new hires called for in the district's turnaround plan, developed under state supervision to hopefully reverse the district's "underperforming" status. Those new hires include a half time assistant principal at the upper school, a new (partially grant funded) administrative nurse leader position, an 8th grade reading specialist, an English as a second language teacher, and a possible new 6th grade teacher at the Middle School, if class sizes demand. The GIC gains will also be partially absorbed by the district assuming costs for positions which were previously grant funded, such as a reading first specialist, and a technology instructor.

Hanold commented, "The whole legislative intent in mak-

ing the GIC available to the schools was to grant some relief to the towns. Since January, the only change in the bottom line (of the GMRSD's \$17.1 million budget) has been removing \$50,000 for a pickup truck. Even with the 1/12th budget, they are still sticking with the same higher number."

Hanold continued, "The school budget is too big because of the towns' inability to afford it. The superintendent says, 'We have taken into account the towns' ability to pay and we have taken into account the district's needs,' in crafting the budget. In my opinion," Hanold said, "He has given much more weight to the district's needs."

"The state aid that is granted is totally incompatible with what the DESE says the district should have. I have no expectation that state aid will change, at this point," Hanold added.

"I sense a growing feeling in town that we're not looking for a way to pay," for the budget the schools have submitted. "We're not going to do it. Each year we're told, give us one more year, we're going to find a way to fix the problem. We're tired of waiting," Hanold said.



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JEP'S PLACE Part LXXXVI

Shotgun

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - Pa came home from an auction with a shotgun. He first tried it out by creeping up on the snake lying in the garden. At close range, he let loose a blast. When the dust had cleared, the snake was gone.

"How could he get away so quick?" Pa asked, shaking his head. I doubted the snake could have slithered away, and suspected he had blown the snake to smithereens. He next tried the shotgun when butchering.

A cow had given birth to a bull calf earlier that summer. Pa decided to castrate the calf and raise it for veal. He tied the calf's legs together, cut open the bull's scrotum, cut out the testicles, and dumped salt brine into the wound. When he untied the struggling calf, the poor thing ran leaping and kicking in agony. My father laughed, "Stings some, I guess."

I had followed Irene's advice and did not name the calf. On the first frosty day of fall, Pa opened the haybarn doors and hung up the pulley block. He sent me to

get the calf.

"I'm going to try something different," Pa said. He placed the muzzle of the shotgun on the young steer's forehead and fired. "Bang!" The calf's head swelled up and his eyes bulged. He fell to the barn floor, dead. The stench of gunsmoke, scorched hair and smell of blood filled the air. Pa grinned. "Spoiled the head, I guess."

He hung the dead animal by the heel cords and slit its throat to drain the blood.

These gruesome scenes had a traumatic effect on me. Pa figured that I would become hardened to these bloody scenes, but it only made me more sensitive.

After the calf was butchered, Pa spoke about looking forward to having some veal. At supper that evening Pa wondered why I did not want to eat meat from the calf, when it was so tender and tasty.

That was fine with him; he said, it meant that he could present more veal to his friend, Mr. Taradana, who often came to visit. He worked in a dusty foundry and loved to come to the farm to work out in the fresh air

and sunshine. He did not drive, but took a train to Greenfield where he hired a taxi to drive him to the farm. I was always happy to see him.

One day when Pa was yelling at me, Mr. Taradana said in a gruff voice, "Let him come to work out in the field with me - I'll handle him."

Ma packed us a lunch with a bottle of milk for me and a bottle of beer for him. In the field where we were going to lay drainage pipe, he had me put the bottles in the cool water of a spring we were draining.

He praised me at every turn. He was a kindly man and it made me feel good when he said he always wanted a son like me.

He had two oafish daughters who took after the sad spectacle of his wife. She had become pregnant by him, when he was young, and he felt duty bound to marry her. He never complained, but did not spend anymore time with her than he had to.

He made me a cast iron bank at the foundry. It was a figure of a horse. I treasured that gift from this kind man, but somehow I lost it. Years later, I bought a replica and have kept it ever since.

- Continued next issue

Montague Clean Energy Raffle

The Montague Clean Energy Campaign will hold a raffle drawing at the Montague Grange in March of 2009, so you have plenty of time to take a chance. The Clean Energy Campaign is a project of Montague Grange #141, to develop a source of funds for the town of Montague to use for energy efficiency, renewable energy projects and to expand renewable energy in New England. People signing up to support the campaign can enter a raffle to win prizes donated by town



businesses and artists, including the Rendezvous, the Lady Killigrew Cafe, Real Pickles, Mark's Auto, Depot Gardens Farm Stand, Stewart's Nursery and Garden Center, Brooks Bend Farm, the Montague Reporter, 2nd Street Bakery, artist Louise Minks, and Hallmark Institute of Photography faculty members Paul Teeling and Michael Zide.

Montague residents and businesses can sign up to support the Clean Energy Campaign and enter the raffle at the campaign's table at many area events, such as the Great Falls Farmers Market, the Turners Falls Block Party, and across the street from Montague Old Home Days. They can get more info by going to www.montaguema.net and clicking on the Montague Clean Energy Campaign's logo on the right side of the screen.

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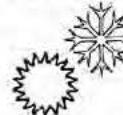
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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY,
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At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ja'Duke presents *Grease!* Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Info. 863-2281.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
AUGUST 8th & 9th**

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Paper Moon*. 7:30 p.m. with music before beginning at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th

Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center Coffee House. Open Mic Night. Come share your talents with your friends and neighbors. 7 p.m., door open at 6:30 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Block Party Concert Kick-off. Featuring up-and-coming local favorites *Touching Mrs. Dash*, *The Motel Matches*, & *The Accident That Led Me To The World*, 7 p.m. \$5.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Studebaker Hawk presents *Flashlight* (disco/funk dj), \$3 cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th

Turners Falls 2008 Block Party! Avenue A between 3rd and 5th, 3 - 10 p.m. free! Details at www.turnersfallssriverculture.org.

Second Annual 5K and Play - To benefit cancer research. 5K run/walk, Turners Falls. Volleyball tournament to follow at the Turners Falls High School. Men's & women's doubles and co-ed friendly 6's. Call Kristin Mullins (413) 834-8136 or www.2nd5kandplay.page.tl for more information and to register.

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Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Loose



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staff to explore the large and small wild things that help your garden grow and discover how your garden provides important habitat for wildlife. 10 - 11 a.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Lower Case g's Block Party All-Stars Jam, \$3 cover.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th

Green Trees Gallery, Northfield: opening reception 3 to 5 p.m. for *A River Town: Views of Northfield*, a celebration of Northfield's special connection to the Connecticut River. Artists of all ages may enter the contest through the August 3rd deadline. For more info. (413) 498-0283 or visit www.greentreesgallery.com.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Second Sunday Comedy show, 7 p.m. Three Comics for \$5 www.LaughAtDave.com/SecondSunday.html.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT Karaoke, 8 p.m. - midnight, free.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11th

Montague Community Band concert at Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, 7 p.m. Rain location: First Congregational Church, 148 L Street. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH

Deja Brew, Wendell: Joe Laur on guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

Ultimate Frisbee in Wendell, Each Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. on the town common. Non-competitive and fun for the whole family. Beginners welcome! Bring water and a light and dark shirt. Call Jody (978) 544-2537.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*. Rock out with Betsy, Mark & Bruce to 60 & 70's oldies cover tunes.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th & 16th

Old Home Days! Montague Center

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21st
COOP Concerts 2008 Summer Series!
Featuring local musicians. Bring your blankets, chairs, picnic and spend an enjoyable evening of music at Greenfield Energy Park. 6 to 8 p.m.

UNTIL AUGUST 30th

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Memorial Hall Theater POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday August 8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m. **PAPER MOON**

Depression-era con artist Ryan O'Neal takes up with a precocious, mischievous 9-year-old girl (real-life daughter Tatum O'Neal) who proves to be as good at the gift as he is if not better. Beautifully filmed in rich b&w 30s style, this film is both outrageously funny and sadly touching. 1973. PG. 102 min.

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3. MAMMA MIA PG13 DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:00
4. WALL-E G DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40
4. HELLBOY 2: THE GOLDEN ARMY PG13 9:20
5. HANCOCK PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:20
6. THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR PG13 DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30 dts snd
7. STEP BROTHERS R in dts sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30

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August 15th "Charlotte's Web"

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Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

the Rendezvous

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Horse and Buggy Days

JOE KWIECINSKI

WENDELL - Enter the On the Way Farm on West Street in Wendell, and you'll feel as if you're taking a trip back to the future. Jim Dunn and his wife, Dr. Jenny Fyler, and their eight-year-old daughter Ivy, are hard at work these days carving out a simple, sustainable way of raising crops and livestock on their tract of land.

Waiting in the middle of the farm is an old-fashioned conveyance that may be a vehicle of time to come. It's a hand-

some two-seater Amish cart Dunn purchased recently in Leyden. Hand-crafted in precise detail, this authentic buggy was untouched by motorized machinery in the manufacture. It was even completely sanded by hand. Riding atop hard rubber tires and 52-inch wooden-spoke wheels, the cart is being groomed for a new role, a function completely consistent with Dunn's vision of farming.

"We are into low-impact, sustainable farming," said Jim. "We don't use chemicals and

we don't use any plows," he explained. "The guiding philosophy is simply to try to use everything

that can be found on the farm or in nature to both further our process and to solve any problems we run into."

So, how did Dunn decide to put the horse before the cart at On the Way Farm? "I've gotten many of my ideas," the Dunn said, "from a gentleman named Lynn Miller, who is editor and publisher of *'The Small Farm Journal'*... practical horse farming." In particular, Dunn follows Miller's lead about the importance of restoring more actual "horsepower" to farms.

"The small farm in New England, through many means, including using horses, can ultimately help ease the agricultural and economic problems we're facing today."

Dunn continued, "The horse and buggy solves a problem we're all facing here in Wendell and Franklin County. With staggering high petroleum prices, I could not only get around and save on prices at the pump, but I could also do some of my farming using a plain old horse and buggy."

"I need someone to teach me about using a standard bred horse to power my cart," said Dunn, who has recently gotten in touch with a neighbor who can help him learn the basics. "I need help learning how to harness the horse. I don't want to frighten the animal. Then I'd like that someone to enable me to experience the driving process itself: how much pres-

sure to apply (to the reins), things like that."

"I know, too, I want to learn how to read the horse," the tall, white-bearded Dunn added. "I want to give the animal what it needs and expects."

On a practical level, the horse and buggy would save on gas on trips to downtown Wendell, the Leverett co-op, or over to Orange, Dunn emphasized.

Meanwhile, Dunn is proud of the fact that his farm has five colonies of bees producing honey and pollinating his crops. "We're always looking for a balance," he added. "And, you try to live with your pests. We try to keep nature in balance here as much as possible, using natural pest control, so we don't eradicate a part of nature and cause an imbalance. And we certainly try not to rely on any big machinery. We don't use chemicals that deplete the soil, nor do we employ plows, so the topsoil can be left intact."

One of the most productive aspects of the Dunn farm is the role played by daughter Ivy. An accomplished rider of horses since the age of 4, Ivy sells eggs high in Omega-3 fatty acids from her free-range chickens, at the farm. Ivy, who is home schooled, is using the money she earns from egg sales to buy goats, which will be bred in anticipation of adding goat's milk sales to her enterprise in 2009.

Another key aspect of the operation is the work done by Dunn's wife, Dr. Jenny Fyler, a practicing psychiatrist at Amherst College and Smith. Despite her busy workload, Fyler oversees the farm's large vegetable garden, which relies on heavy mulch to retain moisture and keep down the weeds (although retaining moisture hasn't been that much of a problem this growing season). In the winter, the Dunn-Fylers use their greenhouse to grow broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, and spinach.

For Dunn, the evolution into full-time farming has taken him a long way from his past career as a college professor. He was a teacher of Chinese language and poetry, Irish poetry too, at UMass Amherst. In addition, Dunn taught philosophy at Boston University. He also lived in China for six years, where he taught comparative literature.

As a member of the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Jim is looking forward to this weekend's 34th annual summer conference at UMass. The gathering runs from Friday, August 8th through Sunday the 10th. Hundreds of different workshops are scheduled during the regional gathering.

Perhaps they have one on driving a horse and buggy.



DETMOULD PHOTO

Jim Dunn and his daughter Ivy

MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: August 8-August 14th

Eagle Cam: Not airing until further notice.

Friday, August 8

8:00 am Block Party 2007
12:00 pm Chronicles
1:00 pm Coffee House Series: Joe Gravline
6:00 pm Montague Update: Block Party
6:30 pm Source to Sea
7:00 pm GMRSD (7/29/08)
9:30 pm The Western Mass Democrat
10:00 pm This is Montague
10:30 pm Block Party 2007
Saturday, August 9
8:00 am Block Party 2007
10:30 am Chronicles
11:30 am Discovery Center: Birds of Prey
1:00 pm Enjoy the Ride
6:00 pm Falls Table
7:00 pm The Well Being: Snoring and Sleep Apnea
8:00 pm Underground Railway Concert
9:30 pm Wisdom Way Solar Village
10:30 pm The Western Mass Democrat
11:30 pm Encore Body Art
Sunday, August 10
8:00 am Women Girls & HIV
8:30 am Veterans Day 2007
9:30 am Underground Railway Concert
11:00 am The Three Rights of Spring
12:00 pm The Rise and Fall of Lake Hitchcock
6:00 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant
8:00 pm Songs for Wee People
9:00 pm Skin N Bonz
10:30 pm Senses of Place

Monday, August 11
8:00 am 9-1-1 People, Facts and Stories
8:30 am Fall Town String Band
10:30 am Amanda
12:00 pm Bernanke
6:00 pm Fossil Tracks
7:00 pm Select Board (Live)
10:00 pm Common People: Celtic Harp
11:30 pm Dark Water Pie Rats
Tuesday, August 12
8:00 am Open Mic Night
9:30 am Women Girls & HIV
10:30 am Valley Idol Semi Finals
6:00 pm Franklin Count Matters: Sheriffs Office
7:00 pm GMRSD (7/29/08)
9:30 pm Girls Softball
Wednesday, August 13
8:00 am Girls Softball
10:30 am Falls Table
11:30 am Over the Falls
12:30 pm On the Ridge
6:00 pm Montague Update: Susan Shilliday
6:30 pm Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee
7:30 pm Journey to Wissatinnewag
8:00 pm Fall Town String Band
10:00 Bech Interview
Thursday, August 14
8:00 am Chronicles
9:00 am Fall Town String Band
10:30 am Dark Water Pie Rats
12:00 pm Poetry & Prose
6:00 pm Franklin County Matters
7:00 pm Select Board (7/11/08)
10:00 pm Poetry & Prose

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