



BACK IN THE SADDLE

Montague Old Home Days Rides Again
Wendell Too! see page 13



NATIVE REVIVAL

People's Harvest on the Cove
see page 14

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YEAR 4 - NO. 41

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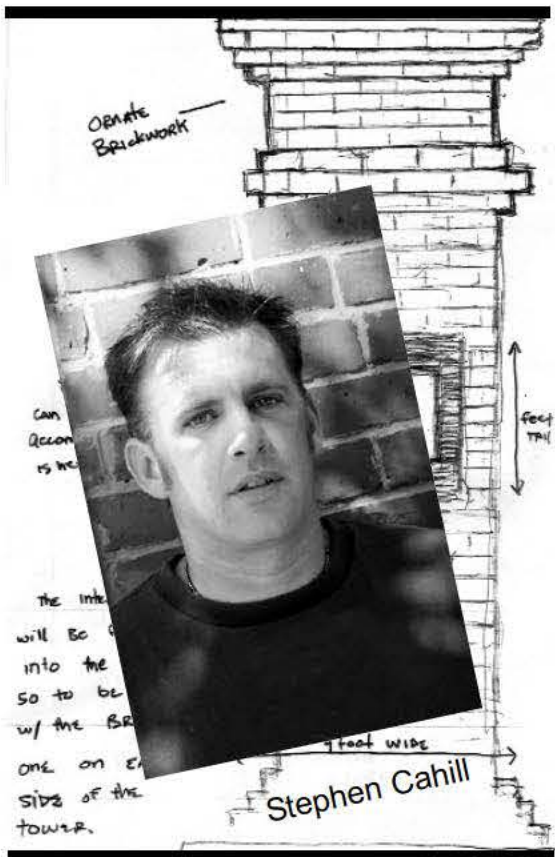
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 10, 2006

RIVERCULTURE PROJECT FUNDS PUBLIC ART IN TURNERS FALLS Four Artists Chosen



BY LISA DAVOL - The Turners Falls RiverCulture Project has chosen four artists to install outdoor art pieces that will also serve as informational kiosks to be placed in downtown Turners Falls. These functional works of art will open an artistic and historical dialogue as well as serve as a way of finding out about the town's cultural, historical and recreational resources. The four artists chosen are Stephen Cahill of Turners Falls, Cynthia Fisher of Charlemont, Gary Orlinsky of Leverett and James Rourke of Northfield. Each proposed a piece centered on a theme relevant to Turners Falls, and will include display space for a map, RiverCulture project information and a space for community postings. Cahill, a brick mason by trade, said, "The quality of craftsmanship in the buildings of this see ART, pg 13

AMONG HORSES

ASHVANA STABLES AND OPENING GAITS THERAPEUTIC RIDING CTR. "READY FOR BUSINESS"



(left) Sarah Rury, Noah Traver and Erika Heilig prepare for their ride. (right) Noah Traver grinning ear to ear as Katelee Johnson leads Honey on a perfect New England summer day. Photos Courtesy of Erika Heilig.

BY P.H. CROSBY GILL - At the bottom of a hill on Main Road, not far past the entrance to what Gill residents know as the Renaissance Community, another renaissance is taking place. The former Ten Penny Acres, unused as a riding arena for over two decades and housing more tractors than animals in recent years, is being reborn as Ashvana Stables and Opening Gaits Therapeutic Riding Center. Sarah Rury, 28, and Erika Heilig, 35, are the new owners breathing life into the equine complex, which they have populat-

ed with nine horses, to date, including Morgans, Arabians, and one small pony named Honey. Rury and Heilig started up lessons at Ashvana June 1st, and will launch a grand opening and open house in October. Last winter, friends, family and neighbors logged over 1000 hours of volunteer time to restore the facility - clearing ground, laying fence, repairing stalls and walls, and creating a space that is welcoming, roomy, and cheerful. The operation has two names for a reason. Opening Gaits will offer

therapeutic riding lessons specifically for children and adults with physical disabilities and mental health disorders. Ashvana Stables will offer lessons for the able-bodied with a focus on what Rury, who is also a certified yoga instructor, calls "integrated riding." Heilig and Rury have similar backgrounds, and although a career trajectory from University of MA anthropology majors to small business horsewomen may seem unusual, there has been a consistent thread in their education and work since their teenage years that

demonstrates the passion both young women have for action, movement, and challenge as the way to emotional and physical health. Heilig has worked extensively in outdoor-based education and counseling, and Rury, who began her young career interning with the Dian Fossey Foundation on mountain gorilla rescue, has worked as a rape crisis advocate and youth counselor at in-patient and out-patient treatment programs. Both women have Masters degrees from Goddard College in Health Arts and Sciences, see HORSES, pg 16

Roadwork Ahead for Montague



Chainlink on the Park. Construction has already begun downtown, creating some less than attractive streetscapes. It's the short term price for the improvements changing the face of downtown.

BY DAVID DETMOLD & AMY LAPRADE -

With the recent announcement that the town of Montague has been approved for nearly \$340,000 in federal community development block grant money for crosswalk improvement and new curb cuts along Avenue A, reconstruction of the old main drag will move forward on several fronts in the next year and a half. Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron told the selectboard on Monday, August 7th he will put a portion of this year's \$600,000 in state Chapter 90 (road improvement) funds towards repaving from the 3rd Street and Avenue A

see ROADS, pg 7

New Librarian at the Slate

BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL - A change is coming to the Slate Memorial Library in Gill. Lissa Greenough, who has shepherded the growth of the collection and the hours during which it has been open to the public for the last ten years, has handed in her resignation, effective August 17th. But the board of library trustees may not have far to look for her replace-



Jocelyn Castro-Santos is slated to be the new librarian at the Gill library

see SLATE, pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK

Green Eyes



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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS
Bookmobile Visits

BY LINDA HICKMAN

The Bookmobile has recently visited both the Millers Falls and Montague Center Libraries. The bookmobile is a vital resource that only serves towns under 10,000 in western Massachusetts. It rotates books, movies and books on tape and CD to small libraries throughout the region. The Bookmobile comes from and is funded by the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System.

The Bookmobile visited the Montague Center Library on Tuesday, August 1st. Several of the Montague Public Libraries staff selected many books, videos and DVDs off the truck, which will be available for borrowing until the next visit in eleven weeks. The books for adults include general fiction, mysteries, science fiction and fantasy. For children and teens, there are picture books, easy

readers, high interest non-fiction, novels and paperback fiction. Many videos and some DVDs were selected, including action films, classics, family fare and children's titles.

The bookmobile visited the Millers Falls Library on Wednesday, August 9th. Similar items were chosen, along with collections of large print mysteries and romances. They will also be available for the next eleven weeks.

If you cannot find what you are looking for at the Montague Public Libraries, library patrons are encouraged to place orders for books, videos, DVDs, books on tape and CD, and music tapes and CDs at their local library or on-line at www.cwmars.org. Delivery vans from WMRLS transport library materials to and from libraries across western Massachusetts's daily.

The Millers Falls Library,



PHOTO BY ALI URBAN

FACES & PLACES

JULIA PAULIN, 9, PLAYS BINGO AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH IN TURNERS FALLS WHERE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN BIBLE LESSONS, CRAFTS AND GAMES DURING THE ONE-WEEK SESSION IN EARLY AUGUST.

23 Bridge Street, 659-3801, is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 -5 and 6 -8 p.m.

The Montague Center Library, 367-2852, is open Mondays and Wednesdays, also 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m.

Workshops for Seniors

Thursday September 14th
Elder Driver Workshop. This is a free workshop for elders presented by the Registry of Motor Vehicles for drivers 55 and older. Topics include: How age effects driving; When is it time to stop driving; Identify the warning signs of unsafe driving; How to obtain a disability plate or placard; Adaptive equipment for elder drivers. Question and answer period.

Thursday September 7 at 11 a.m. Video presentation on Osteoarthritis of the Knee. This

video discusses the epidemiology of osteoarthritis and the number and types of people who are affected. The video is comprised of patient testimonials about how osteoarthritis has affected their lives and how to recognize the signs and symptoms. Handouts will be available. Advance registration is appreciated

Wednesday September 20 at 11 a.m. Apple Ahearn, Reverse Mortgage Specialist from Wells Fargo Mortgage Company will present a pro-

gram on how seniors can obtain and use reverse mortgages. Information will include: How you can receive monthly payments instead of making them; Use money for home repairs; Making large purchases. Reverse mortgages do not affect Social Security or Medicare benefits. Advance registration appreciated.

Advance registration is appreciated and all workshops are held at the Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES July 31st - August 11th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

- Monday, 7th**
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
- Tuesday, 8th**
9:30 a.m. Aerobics
- Wednesday, 9th**
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 10th**
1 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 11th**
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

- Monday, 14th**
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
- Tuesday, 15th**
9:30 a.m. Aerobics
- Wednesday, 16th**
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 17th**
1 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 18th**
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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 (978) 544-3898.

- Monday, 7th**
9:30 a.m. Exercise

- 9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
- Tuesday, 8th**
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, 9th**
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 10th**
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping
- Monday, 14th**
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
- Tuesday, 15th**
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, 16th**
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 17th**
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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.

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Free Yoga Classes

Jeanie Erlbaum, a Master Registered Yoga Teacher, will offer free yoga classes to new students during the week of September 11th. Her classes offer gentle stretches, yoga breathing and deep relaxation. Beginning and Intermediate, Women's and Over 50 Yoga will be held days and evenings in Greenfield and Montague. Contact Jeanie for schedules/information/registration at 413-773-9744 or je88@comcast.net.

MCTV to Broadcast GED Connection

Montague Community Television (Channel 17) will begin broadcasting *The GED Connection* on Wednesday, August 16th, at 7:00 p.m. This 39-part program intends to help individuals prepare for and pass the GED exam. Subjects involved in this program include Language Arts, Writing and Reading, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics.

The first tape to be broadcast is titled GED Connection Orientation. Each week a new program will be broadcast, taking 39 weeks to cover the entire program.

Visit MCTV, Monday through Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.. MCTV is always looking for producers and volunteers. Get involved in your local media!

26th Annual Montague Mug Race: August 19th

The 26th annual Montague Mug Race will be held on Saturday, August 19th at 8:30 a.m. Registration for the 5.5-mile race will start at 7:30 a.m. on the village green.

The top male and female finishers will be awarded pewter mugs. And the top three finishers in the 10 divisions are awarded ceramic coffee mugs.

Pre-entry fee is \$18 and \$20 the day of the race, with the first 75 entrants receiving

free tee shirts.

There is also the Mini Mug Race, a 2 mile run for all ages. This race runs the first loop of the Mug Race and will also start at 8:30 a.m. The top two finishers in the divisions are awarded mugs, with tee shirts to the first 50 racers. The pre-entry fee is \$12 and the cost the day of the race is \$15.

For info on both races please contact Ann Fisk at 413-367-2812, or by email at shollow@crocker.com.

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Wellness Sampler to Benefit Nelcwit

On Saturday, September 16th from 12 -5 p.m., Green River Yoga at 158 Main St., Greenfield (above World Eye Books) will host a drop-in Wellness Sampler. This low-cost clinic will offer several types of healing bodywork: acupressure, cranio-sacral, thai massage, Kripalu body-

work and chair massage. The cost will be \$1.00 per minute, with a percentage of all proceeds going to Nelcwit (The New England Center for Women in Transition) For more information, please check our website www.greenriveryoga.com or phone 413-768-9586.

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Correction: We regret a last-minute typo that slipped past our sleep-deprived proof readers last issue, on the headline of David Brule's book review. The title incorrectly identified the author of the new memoir of growing up in Gill during the Depression - *Jep's Place* - as "John" Parzych. We all know him as Joe, for indeed, that is his name. In addition to Books & More and the other bookstores listed last week, *Jep's Place* may also be purchased at the Great Falls Discovery Center and the Gill Store. And stay tuned, you may soon be able to read it serialized in the pages of this newspaper!

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A Cruise on the Connecticut River

Summer is vacation time, but with the price of gas so high, you might want to consider a pleasure cruise right in your own back yard. No, we're not talking about raising the Uncle Sam from the bottom of Lake Pleasant. How about taking a turn on the Connecticut River instead, courtesy of Northfield Mountain's *Quimmetukut II*, a 60-seat version of the type of canvas-topped riverboat popularized by Humphrey Bogart in the *African Queen*? The mechanics at the environmental and recreation center seem to keep the engine in rather better repair than Bogey did, and the only guns along this particular stretch of river are the small-bore variety at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club, off to the south on a pleasant spit of green lawn. Other than that, the banks are dotted with a number of well-appointed camps, more on the Gill side than the steeper slopes of the Montague shore, and the only restless natives in sight are careening off rope swings. Or speeding by on power craft or jet skis of all description in the riverboat's wake.

The hour and a half tour is narrated with dry Yankee wit by tour guide Phil Allard, who peppers his commentary with mordant observations on the habits of speed boaters. "They've passed us twice, still haven't caught up with any fish." Or, watching youngsters being towed through the choppy waters in tiny inflatable rafts, bouncing manically up and down at a high rate of speed: "That can't be fun. Especially right after lunch."

Allard is a master of river lore, of the slow, steady variety. As the *Quimmetukut* lazily departs the pier at the Riverview Picnic Landing in Northfield, he begins recounting the history of the geologic forces that created the peculiar rift in the continental land mass that became the Connecticut River Valley, after a stint under the water of Lake

Hitchcock 15,000 years ago. The story starts back at least in the Triassic Period, when part of North America began migrating toward Africa, pulling apart from the rest of the continent. That old fault line is still clearly visible north of the French King Bridge, where Allard said the rocks on the Erving side of the river are 400 million years old, while the rocks on the Gill side are mere shavelings, 200 million years younger. That's why you will often hear Gill farmers, of an evening, look across the river and say, "Who'd want to farm over there? That soil is plumb wore out."

The old commercial pathways are still evident from the *Quimmetukut's* mid-river vantage point. Ferry boats used to ply the river from several points on the Gill, Northfield, and Erving shores, including the early 1800's Spacy Landing, still plainly visible across from the Northfield pier (wouldn't you know, off Ferry Road). At the confluence of the Millers River, just beyond the gorgeous steel arch of the French King Bridge, to the east lies a small peninsula of land where the restored Cabot Camp toll station is located. Allard explained this was the last stop for cargo boats heading through the elaborate system of locks and canals that allowed for large scale river transport from the mouth of the Deerfield up and around the falls in the early 19th century. The tenth and final lock was located here by Cabot Camp.

Speaking of the French King Bridge, Allard pointed out that engineers built the 782-foot steel arch in less than a year, in 1932, for \$385,000. They began building it from both sides of the river at once, and were only a few inches off when they met in the middle, an adjustment they were able to compensate for with a little work at one abutment.

Recently, he said, the bridge was repainted at a cost of \$3 mil-



lion. He recommended the planners from the Big Dig come have a look at it, to figure out how to proceed with their boondoggle.

Allard talked of the perilous plunge from 60-foot cliffs on the Gill bank that local daredevils still attempt on hot summer days. He said Barton Cove was a farmer's field before the dam went up; before it was home to Native Americans it was home to three-toed dinosaurs who left the richest record of their comings

and goings in North America in the sandstone and shale shelves along the Gill shore. He pointed out a bald eagle by the 900-pound nest in a dead pine tree at the mouth of the cove, and showed us a family of swans guarding their young by the Rod and Gun club. He solved the mystery of the origin of the Deep Hole that has long been a puzzle to the unenlightened... but if you want the answer to that question, and many others, we recommend

you take the pleasant cruise yourself, while the fine summer days linger.

The *Quimmetukut* usually runs three times a day, Wednesday through Sunday - at 11:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. - from the Northfield landing to Barton Cove and back. You will come away with a new appreciation for the beauty, majesty, and history of our own back yard. Always call ahead for reservations: 800-859-2960.

GUEST EDITORIALS

Seasons of Remembrance and Anticipation

BY FRAN HEMOND
MONTAGUE CENTER - Remembrances and anticipation are bonuses to happy times. Our regular seasons of light and dark, heat and cold, snow and rain remind us the earth is still turning in its orbit, still in sync. And the timely changes give frequent opportunities to relive our favorite days and savor their return. The basketball season, the baseball season, the hockey season are looked forward to by romantic and realist alike, both reliving the great games and plays of the past and hoping to emulate the cherished events in the future. In a betting world, races for the triple crown dominate lives for days, and years.

To each their own. Casual skywatchers remember the great meteor showers and hope for a rival. They recall spectacular conjunctions of Venus and Mars and watch the almanac for matching heavenly sights, as they check out the good old Dippers and North Star, constants in the night sky.

Our setting is fine for variety. Here we are at 45 degrees north latitude, halfway between the equator and the North Pole,

enjoying distinct seasons that give us a diversity that fosters many interests. We live in an open area with hills and dales, rivers, lakes and meadows that are people-sized. They encourage average folks to hike and ski and swim and camp. And we produce some specialties. Who can forget the maple syrup, strawberry shortcake suppers, the apple festivals and cider pressings, the myriad holiday events we relive and wait for?

Also, dependent on our setting, there is the hope for and arrival of the first robin of spring. His coming says the snowdrops will be poking through, followed by quince and daffodils and lilacs and countless varieties of shrubs and trees, leafing out in sequence, the shad coming up the river as the shadbush comes into bloom. Everyone's list of things to wait for and remember is different. It

is tailored to our individual perceptions of the world around us, and the things that give us pleasure.

For the adults, the planning of a successful event is surely much of the fun, and the telling and re-telling may bring more pleasure than the day itself. Remembrance and anticipation are fundamental to the breadth of one's life. They provide a welcome bonus to happy times.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Editorial on School District Decision Making Disputed

BY MIKE LANGKNECHT
MONTAGUE CENTER - I am writing in response to the editorial by Joyce Phillips in your last issue (IV#40) titled, "School District Recovery Thwarted by 'Budget Crisis' Mode," subtitled, "Framework Exists for System-Wide Decision Making."

The first irony of this editorial is that the author, herself, has been the single greatest obstacle - the single most mili-

tant opponent - to the process she correctly describes as "being in place" for resolving the elementary school configuration question for the Gill Montague Regional School District. The second irony is that the author has also been the single most prolific sower-of-the-seeds of misconception about this process throughout its recent history, as is amply demonstrated by the July 27th editorial. For example, the

"thorough feasibility study performed by Mt. Vernon Associates in 1998/99" had nothing to do with elementary configuration. For that matter, if the Mt. Vernon study was the be-all and end-all for the GMRSD, why did the school committee - Ms. Phillips included - initiate the Elementary Study Group process in 2003?

Furthermore, there was no "separation of elementary and secondary building committees in 1999." The building feasibility committee examined the needs of all of the grades in the district, and when a secondary building program was proposed and accepted by the towns (after we failed to reach consensus on an acceptable elementary school plan), the feasibility committee was dissolved and a building committee was constituted to oversee the renovation of the Middle/High School complex.

Also, it is utter fiction to suggest that the towns of Gill and Montague would have approved two building projects at the same time back in 2000/01. In fact, the town of Montague was so ambivalent about the secondary school project at the time that it voted to spend \$1.8 million for plans and drawings *before* it would agree to pull the trigger on the project the following year. And, contrary to Ms. Phillips' suggestion, were it not for Montague's foot dragging we'd have been looking at a 74% reimbursement rate from the state instead of the 90% rate we eventually received on the project. Call it kismet, call it serendipity - but it wasn't the work of any committee and no one could have foreseen it! Ditto on the miraculous *deflation* in the construction market at the exact moment we went

out to bid (hence the project came in \$1,000,000 under budget).

Even if Ms. Phillips could have whipped out her crystal ball (she was on the school committee and the feasibility committee at the time), and convinced the town the time was right to proceed with two school building projects at the same time, how would the process of choosing between Mt Vernon's 12 elementary building options have differed from the ESG process the district is engaged in now? Perhaps it would have been by virtue of the "evidence" that the Montague Center School building and plot size would not meet Department of Education or School Building Assistance Bureau requirements? That was the report we received from a certain building feasibility committee member after her meeting with the SBAB - the feasibility committee even took a vote to close the Montague Center School based on that information - but, when Dave Backlund of the SBAB made a site visit to our district, we were stunned to learn that he saw no problem at all getting a building renovation project approved for the Montague Center School, as long as it was approved by town meeting.

I guess that result just wasn't "what some expected or wanted..."

Adding to the irony, Ms. Phillips suggests in her editorial that, "what prohibits (the many elementary configuration) studies from finishing is not a lack of process but a mindset." Ain't that the truth! Sure, the school committee has heard from parents about choosing out, about wanting schools to stay open, about needing stability - and who can

blame community members for being concerned, or for loving their schools? We have heard equally impassioned pleas from residents of every village in Montague - and from Gill. But the school committee has determined that our decision-making process will be based on the health, success and sustainability of the district as a whole.

The author says she has seen "school committee members consciously voting 'no' on closing a school regardless of the facts." As the only school committee member to publicly make a specific "no" statement regarding a school closure vote, I can tell you that statement was made *because* of the facts, and in response to an irresponsible attempt to railroad the school committee into a school closure decision during a budget subcommittee meeting, after the entire committee had, in open meeting, reached a legally binding consensus to follow a specific procedure for such decisions.

On one point I agree with Ms. Phillips, when she asserts, "there is not only a budget gap but also an education gap and a community gap," in our district. But, contrary to her assertions, the current GMRSD school committee has embraced the responsibility to make the tough choices; to remove the uncertainties; and to demonstrate the sense of community in its decision-making processes with a vision toward the future for all students that will eradicate the social and educational gaps that, by Ms. Phillips' own report, have widened over the last twelve years.

Mike Langknecht is a member of the GMRSD school committee.



MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: Friday, August 11th - Thursday, August 17th

<p>Friday, August 11 6:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles 9:00 am Montague Selectboard 8/7 11:00 am Montague Update 12:00 pm Community Bulletin Board 6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #2 6:30 pm Classic Arts Showcase 7:30 pm Montague Update 8:00 pm From the MCTV Archives</p> <p>Saturday, August 12 6:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles 9:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #2 9:30 am Classic Arts Showcase 10:30 am Montague Update 11:30 am Community Bulletin Board 6:00 pm Montague Selectboard 8/7 8:00 pm NASA Connect: The Venus Transit 8:30 pm There and Back</p> <p>Sunday, August 13 6:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles 9:00 am Montague Selectboard 8/7 11:30 am NASA Connect: The Venus Transit 12:00 pm Community Bulletin Board 6:00 pm From the Discovery Center 8:00 pm Montague Update 9:00 pm Classic Arts Showcase 10:00 pm From the MCTV Archives</p> <p>Monday, August 14 6:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles 9:00 am Montague Update 10:00 am From the MCTV Archives 11:30 am Community Bulletin Board 6:00 pm Destination Tomorrow #3 7:00 pm Montague Selectboard 8/7 9:00 pm GaiaVision 10:00 pm NASA Connect: The Venus Transit</p>	<p>Tuesday, August 15 6:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles 9:00 am GaiaVision 10:00 am Classic Arts Showcase 11:00 am From the Discovery Center 12:00 pm Destination Tomorrow #3 12:30 pm Community Bulletin Board 5:30 pm Classic Arts Showcase 7:00 pm GMRSD Committee Meeting LIVE 10:00 pm Montague Update 11:00 pm From the MCTV Archives</p> <p>Wednesday, August 16 6:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles 9:00 am Montague Update 10:00 am From the MCTV Archives 11:30 am Community Bulletin Board 6:00 pm Franklin County Democrat 6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #3 7:00 pm GED Connection #1: Orientation 7:30 pm There and Back</p> <p>Thursday, August 17 6:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles 9:00 am There and Back 10:00 am GED Connection #1: Orientation 10:30 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #3 11:00 am Franklin County Democrat 11:30 am Community Bulletin Board 5:30 pm NASA Connect: The Venus Transit 6:00 pm Montague Update 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting 8/15 10:00 pm From the MCTV Archives</p>
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A History of Montague's Proposed Library Renovation

BY VERONICA PHANEUF
TURNERS FALLS -

Many town residents are wondering why the funding for a preliminary study of a community building should take place at all considering Montague's budget struggles.

At both special town meeting and in other smaller meetings with the finance committee and the selectboard, the topic of funding for a study to look at the possible construction of a community center in Montague has arisen. The funding for this study has roots in a previous town meeting appropriation to purchase two parcels of property that would have been needed for the planned expansion of the Carnegie Library building.

The board of trustees of the Montague Public Libraries and the library director view this study as another step towards realizing a new facility to house a very important community service.

The history of requests for an improved building for the main library goes back to the early 1900s, not long after the current Carnegie building opened. Funded by a grant of \$12,500 from industrialist Andrew Carnegie, the library was built on a slight rise of land on the busiest avenue in town. The trustees had looked at other sites for a new building, but chose the Avenue A parcel in order to give the library a lofty place in the community. Library buildings in the early 1900s were considered places where a person could gain knowledge and improve their minds. What better location for an institution such as this than on a prominent corner overlooking the main thoroughfare of the community?

Ironically, the library's location has since proven to be a major hindrance to its use. Nineteen stairs and long sidewalks lead up to the front door.

In 1915, only nine years after the library opened, the trustees of the public library petitioned the Carnegie Corporation for a supplemental grant to add on to the building. They were tersely denied by Carnegie's agent, who stated the corporation had never intended for Montague to build such a fancy building. He said they had not intended for a cellar area to be so grandiose, or for a performance space to be included on the second floor. Frankly, it was not in the scope of Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy to give



Renovating the Carnegie Library has proven to be an uphill battle.

second grants to already funded projects. One hundred years later, Montague is still suffering from the library's original design problems.

In the middle of the 1980s, planning began for an addition on the south end of the building. In 1999, the library received a \$20,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to plan for an addition and the renovation of the Carnegie building. A building program was developed by a library consultant and preliminary drawings were drawn up by J. Stewart Roberts, Architects. The building program is a study that looks at current and projected town demographics and dictates the amount of space needed for library programs. This building program must meet the criteria set by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grant program for new library construction projects in order to be eligible for funding. The plans that were drawn up included enough square footage for a town of Montague's size for twenty years into the future.

In 2001, a Massachusetts public library construction program application was filed with the Board of Library Commissioners. Montague's application received funding, dependent upon town approval. The projected cost of the building addition and renovation was estimated at \$4,610,807. The MBLC grant award totaled \$1,923,242.

When public meetings were

held about the proposed library project, many concerns were voiced. The trustees listened to a lot of criticism concerning the size of the building. Trustees and the director never felt the building was too big for an addition of this size, 100 years after the original building was constructed. The renovation and addition only included program areas necessary to provide up-to-date library service to Montague residents. The meeting room was large, but only equaled the current meeting room. In the first plans, the cellar was not used at all, and this square footage figured into the plan. The second plans used the cellar for the children's area and kept the meeting room on the top floor.

The Massachusetts Historic Commission had issues with the design, stating that it was too modern and did not fit the look of the current historic structure. With this in mind, the trustees voted to spend \$8,000 from library state aid funds to modify the plans.

During this time, the United States had engaged in a war in the Middle East and construction costs had skyrocketed. The new design now carried a price tag of \$6,438,423, with no additional funding from the state. After a lengthy and serious debate on the needs of the library versus the financial situation of the town, the library trustees voted to withdraw their application for funding from the Board of Library Commissioners.

This was a very difficult decision, given the amount of work

put into the application process. Some of the trustees felt that voting to bring the project to town meeting, while facing likely defeat, would bring attention to the needs of the library. The trustees did not plan to stop seeking a solution to the conditions at the library, but felt they should move in a direction that made more fiscal sense to the town.

During the original planning for the library renovation, the trustees heard from townspeople who were not pleased with the high cost of the project. A renovation or addition at the Carnegie will never be inexpensive. The large historic building is difficult to build onto, with its fancy exterior design. The top level is only a half level on the outside. Also, attaching a building and trying to match the roof line would be nearly impossible. A flat roof is the only answer, and we all know how flat roofs fare in New England weather.

Meanwhile, the library still provides service from a building that is too small for current library programs. The adult stack area is not handicapped accessible, and it is less than one third the size necessary for a town of Montague's size. The one public rest room is woefully inadequate and not accessible. The building is draughty. The windows leak cold air in the winter. The swinging doors are dangerous. Offices are located in the damp, moldy cellar. Elderly folks have stated they cannot come to programs here since they cannot negotiate the stairs outside, or the many

stairs up to the meeting room inside. Should you park in the back and come in the ramp entrance, you endanger your life by backing out the driveway onto busy Seventh Street. There is no additional space for computers to add to the four we already have, and they are in constant use. The circulation area is far too small for the amount of business we do. Children's programs have to be limited in registration due to restrictions on occupancy in the meeting room. These programs are very popular and easily attract 100 - 150 participants. Meeting room space is limited to 90.

In a concept that was presented by a selectboard member, discussion developed about the possibility of building a community center, one that would be shared by the senior center, parks and recreation, and the library. The trustees voted to participate in researching and developing this concept in the hope that the three projects could share common spaces and thereby give all three departments the space they need, with a cost effective plan. Meeting rooms could be shared, some rest rooms, lobby space, staff rooms, etc. This would be an entirely new building in a location to be decided upon, possibly behind town hall. It is very clear that building a new building would be more cost effective than renovating the current library.

In keeping with their commitment to pursue updated library space, the library trustees agreed to allow the reallocation of funds originally intended for the purchase of land for the expansion of the Carnegie building. These funds will now be used to draw up a Request for Proposals and subsequent preliminary plans for the new community center building. This is the money that has been designated for a feasibility study for a community building.

A commitment to quality library service and growth of new library materials and programs requires a continued effort for a more modern facility. Montague cannot continue to provide limited 21st century library service in a very early 20th century building. We must plan for the future of our library users and consider changes to library service yet to come.

Veronica Phaneuf is a member of the Montague Public Libraries board of trustees.

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ROADS

continued from pg. 1

intersection, down 3rd to Canal and back around to 7th Street. He also promised to install new stop lights and crosswalk signals at these two intersections, where motorists have complained of long waits with little cross traffic due to worn out trip wires. "The computer system at Avenue A and 3rd is 30 years old," said Bergeron, and difficult to maintain. The computer at 7th is 25 years old. The new LED system will allow for flashing lights at night, and audial walk signals.

Bergeron said he planned to mill and repave the rest of the Avenue when the crosswalk and curb cut work was complete, by the end of construction season in '07.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said construction on the first phase of the combined sewer overflow project would be starting on August 14th, with excavation beginning near Bob's Auto Body and continuing back towards 7th. In combination with the \$342,000 renovation of Peskeomskut Park, underway now, (largely paid for out of federal CDBG funds), and the installation of public art works at the park and on 3rd Street, the Avenue will be undergoing quite a facelift before the end of next year's construction season.

"It's going to be a more user-friendly business district," Abbondanzio predicted. "It is a difficult environment to negotiate for people in wheelchairs," which the most recent grant funding will address by removing barriers, reducing inclines at the curb cuts, and otherwise bringing the main street into compliance with ADA requirements.

"There will be new opportunities for public events, at Peskeomskut Park," once the bandstand is complete. "This will bring more people downtown. We're already seeing more of that with use of the waterfront park," (the picnic area and grills near the entrance to the fish ladder and bikeway). The public art signage will increase awareness of events for tourists to access the downtown, he said. In addition, MassHighway has assured the town they will allow destination signage on I-91, free for town attractions like the Great Falls Discovery Center or the Shea Theater. There may be the possibility of signage on Route 2, as

well, Abbondanzio said.

"All of this may stimulate new business development. That's the next focus."

Bergeron has not forgotten that other streets in town are in tough shape. With \$400,000 of the Chapter 90 funds, he told the board he intends to repave Turnpike Road from the firehouse down the hill, from the bridge by the Book Mill down to the intersection of 63 and 47 with an inch and a half overlay, and also plans to chip seal the rest of Ripley Road in the area of Highland Ave, in addition to the roadwork downtown.

Bergeron also announced the town had received \$142,159 in supplemental Chapter 90 state aid. But before more potholes get fixed, he put the board on notice his department would like to spend most of that windfall on a new 6-wheel dump truck.

"We still have two 1980-somethings on the road, and they are getting more expensive to maintain. Next year, the California diesel emission regulations will kick in, making it even more problematic to keep these old trucks on the road." Cost of a new 6-wheeler? Around \$121,000.

The highway boss said he hoped to keep some of the Chapter 90 money in reserve for engineering on Greenfield Road, where plans for major reconstruction work are still creeping forward.

Opening Soon: Dry Hill Road!

On another long-stalled road project, the board conferred with Bergeron on the plan to reopen Dry Hill Road from the intersection of Wendell Road to the old town cemetery. Now that survey work is complete on the town's 33-foot right of way, and the adjoining landowner seems to be finally in agreement, the work is ready to proceed. Bergeron estimated it would cost the town around \$30 - 40,000 to put in a 12-foot one lane gravel road, with a turnaround near the cemetery. He said the highway crew would assist with removing the worst brush from among the broken tombstones in the Dry Hill Cemetery.

The board expects the road to be open by the fall of this year.

Town Planner Search

As of October 31st, the town of Montague intends to hire a new town planner to replace Robin Sherman, whose last day,

officially, is September 1st. Sherman sought a 10-month leave of absence to pursue post-graduate work in public administration at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, but the board turned down her request at their July 24th meeting.

The board will advertise her position next week, and accept job applications until the end of September. A search committee will be formed in the meantime, to review potential applicants. Abbondanzio, building inspector David Jensen, and members of the planning board and conservation commission will be asked to serve.

Bourbeau Appointed Clerk

The board appointed Deb Bourbeau as the new town clerk, effective October 1st, when the resignation of long time clerk John Zywna takes effect. Bourbeau has served as assistant town clerk for two years, and has been pursuing course work to qualify for state certification for the position.

The board signaled their intent to ask town meeting to reduce the salary for the position, which was set by vote of town meeting this year for the present clerk at \$55,154, a figure they deemed inappropriately high for someone new to the job. A two-thirds vote of town meeting will be required to set a lower figure. The board also noted the position is an elected one, and Bourbeau's appointment will only be effective until the next town election. Board chair Patricia Pruitt thought Bourbeau's two and a half years of training ought to be taken into consideration when setting her salary.

New Roof for WPCF

The water pollution control facility is used to dealing with leaking sewers, but leaks in the administration building roof are another matter. After six years of singing "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Desk," WPCF superintendent Bob Trombley received approval from the board to hire Rockwell Roofing Company, the low bidder at \$66,450, to install a new membrane roof and added insulation. Five thousand dollars has already been spent on the project's architectural fees.

Outdoor Café at 2nd Street

2nd Street Cafe manager Lew

Collins received board approval to go ahead with Outdoor Cafe Day, an event to raise money toward school sports programs at Franklin County Tech, Greenfield and Turners Falls high schools.

The event will take place at 2nd Street on August 19th. The cafe will serve food and drink and provide live music entertainment, probably an acoustic solo act, Collins said.

"I do not know how many people to expect, but I wanted it to be an indoor and outdoor event to allow for a larger capacity, which in turn would raise more money.

There will be a golf tournament at 8 a.m., at the Greenfield Meadows for the Mike Konvelski Memorial fundraiser. Proceeds go to Franklin Tech, Turners and Greenfield sports programs. The live music and outdoor cafe at Second Street Cafe will follow from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We will have prizes and raffles to raise money, in which half will go to the winners of the raffle, while the other half will go toward funding the school sports programs." The Konvelski family will decide how much money will go to which school, Collins said.

At the outdoor event the bar held earlier this season, many out-of-towners stopped by and were enthusiastic, thinking they were actually at an outdoor cafe. That event raised about \$2,000 for the Shriners Hospitals. "Though we did serve alcohol, it all went well, without any incidents," Collins said.


"You need a financial report, which would give you added publicity, and could get other sponsors involved, thus increasing the success of fundraising," suggested board member Allen Ross.

Hearing Set for '07 CDBG


A hearing date was set to solicit ideas from community members, social service groups, and department heads for the next cycle of community development block grant funds. CDBG funds can be used to remove blight, or improve infrastructure in low-income areas, among other uses. They provide towns like Montague with a rare infusion of discretionary federal funds, disbursed at the state level. Community input is essential at the early stage of the process to determine what the perceived needs of the commu-

nity for these funds might be. The hearing is set for 7 p.m. August 28th, at the town hall meeting room.

Recent examples of CDBG funded projects in Montague include the town hall accessibility project, sidewalk improvements in certain areas of downtown, art programs at the Brick House and Montague Catholic Social Ministries, and the current park renovation in downtown Turners. Housing rehab loan funding is commonly included in the grant requests. This year, Montague received \$270,000 in housing rehab loans, and slightly more than \$100,000 for programs at the two downtown social service agencies.



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Local author nominated for inclusion in "Who's Who of American Women"

LAKE PLEASANT - Katherine Mayfield, author of *Smart Actors*, *Foolish Choices* and *Acting A to Z*, has been nominated for inclusion in the 2007 edition of *Who's Who of American Women*. Mayfield was a professional actress before publishing her books, appearing Off-Broadway in New York City, in Hal Hartley's first film, *The Unbelievable Truth*, and on the daytime drama *Guiding Light*.

Mayfield is also the owner of the Essential Word (www.TheEssentialWord.com), a business writing and editing service, which has been in operation since 1995 and is currently expanding its operations. She is the author of numerous articles for national and local magazines and newspapers, and teaches workshops for artists and actors on eliminating illusions related to the business aspect of their professions.

Smart Actors, Foolish

Choices is the only book written specifically to help actors cope with the emotional

challenges associated with pursuing a professional career. Mayfield's website for her books, www.ActingAtoZ.com, offers information for actors, teachers, and parents on coping with these challenges, and on the business of acting, which is the subject of her second book, *Acting A to Z*.

Mayfield lives in Lake Pleasant, a small village that originated as a Spiritualist summer camp. She is known to local readers as the occasional columnist of "the View from Lake Pleasant" in the *Montague Reporter*.



Katherine Mayfield

Northeast Organic Farming Association SUMMER CONFERENCE

BY KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD AMHERST - Walk-ins are welcome this weekend, August 10th-13th, at the Northeast Organic Farming Association summer conference at Hampshire College. Over 200 workshops on food, farming, gardening, landscaping, spirituality, health care, homesteading and more, along with children's and teens' workshops.

Sister Miriam Therese MacGillis of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, N.J. will deliver the keynote address on the theme, "Holding our Farms in Hope; Keeping Faith in our Farming." In 1980, Sister Miriam founded Genesis Farm, a learning center where people gather to search for more authentic ways to live in harmony with the natural world and each other. As her home and livelihood, Genesis Farm practices biodynamic methods of agriculture, and was one of the first of many farms in the U.S. to organize a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) venture, which has grown to

support nearly 300 families. The keynote is set for August 11th at 7 p.m.

The 32nd Annual NOFA Summer Conference debate topic this year is "Mandatory Animal Identification: Should We Support the USDA Plan?"

The 2006 NOFA Summer Conference will host the first in a series of national dialogue meetings sponsored by the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, the Rural Advancement Foundation International and the National Organic Coalition. At this year's conference, participants will examine and discuss national and federal priorities for organic agriculture.

This year's conference-goers can look forward to the cherished NOFA traditions of the Saturday Country Fair, with fun activities for people of all ages, and the much-anticipated Local Meal, which is prepared entirely with locally grown and produced organic foods.

For more information check out www.nofamass.org

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Town Moving Forward on Mariamante Land

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Thursday evening, August 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at town hall, the review committee for proposals for the future use of the 12-acre town-owned parcel on the corner of Main and West Gill Road known as the Mariamante land will meet for the first time. The seven-member committee includes representatives of the selectboard and finance committee, and interested members of the public, and the meetings will be open to all residents.

A request for proposals (RFP) has been drafted by administrative assistant Debra Roussel with assistance from land use planners at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Roussel said the RFP is being crafted to "encourage commercial development, as a preferred use, consistent with the rural character of the town."

Roussel said the town would like to recoup purchase and carrying costs for the parcel, which equal roughly \$250,000, not counting the \$10,000 spent on a Phase I archaeological survey. Any future developer for the land would be encouraged to participate in a further archaeological survey of the middle parcel on the land, where signs of pre-Columbian occupation were found during the Phase I survey. But Roussel said the main goal would be to find an appropriate use for the land that would begin generating jobs and taxes.

Town Meeting Scheduled

Gill will hold a special town meeting on August 21st at 7 p.m. to vote on two articles: one to supplement the school assessment with \$23,000 to update curriculum and instruction materials - textbooks - and implement technology support agreements. The sum will allow voters to match Montague's commitment for these items, on a percentage basis equal to the size of the Gill's school population. Montague voted \$141,900 for textbooks and technology support at the special town meeting of July 12th.

At the August 7th selectboard meeting, member Ann Banash said the town would be able to vote the \$23,000 without exceeding the levy limit, because Gill's school assessment had been reduced by a similar amount, from the figure voted at town meeting in June.

The second article facing Gill voters on the 21st will be a motion to create a shared clerical position for three municipal boards: the planning board, the board of health, and the zoning board of appeals. The person hired for the part time position would work 12 hours a month, at a total yearly cost of \$1600.

Constable Fred Chase II was at the meeting to sign the warrants, and left to post them in a hurry, to comply with state law requiring 15 days notice.

New Tractor

The board agreed to authorize additional spending for a 4-wheel drive tractor to mow under the power lines along the sides of the roads. The tractor will be leased jointly with six other towns: Erving, Deerfield, Sunderland, Leverett, Whately and Pelham, which will share its use. WMECo will reimburse the towns for the cost of a 2-wheel tractor, but the Gill board agreed with the recommendation of highway superintendent Mick LaClaire, who said spending an extra \$1500 to get a 4-wheel drive unit would be preferable.

"That's what we should do," said Leland Stevens. "Whether or not the other towns agree to make up the difference." LaClaire said he has enough extra in his highway budget to make up the difference.

On the subject of roadside mowing, the town's insurer, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency, has reimbursed the \$1157 the town paid to Dan Sachs, a resident of Main Road, after a roadside tractor caught a downed power line in its blade, disconnecting power to his house and shorting out numerous home appliances. MIIA will seek to recover damages from the utilities that share joint use of the pole from which the power line had fallen.

Smart Growth

The town proposes to hold two public hearings on planned changes to Gill's zoning bylaws, to solicit public feedback. The meetings will be held at town hall and the Riverside municipal building in the fall, with the facilitation of land use planners from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Proposed changes include the adoption of a village commercial zone to promote mixed use

development along the Route 2 corridor in Riverside and at the southern end of Main Road. Other changes would encourage the preservation of open land by relaxing frontage and acreage requirements to permit the clustering of houses on one portion of a parcel in exchange for the permanent preservation of open space on the same parcel. A proposal to allow so-called 'flag lots,' with reduced frontage requirements for a driveway leading to a back lot - only in the proposed commercial zone - has met with a great deal of debate. Some residents feel flag lots should be allowed throughout town, so that land does not become unaffordable for the children of local residents, and others feel widespread use of flag lots would work against the goal of open space protection and the rural character of the town, by allowing ridgeline 'McMansions' to spring up on any lot with adequate back acreage.

After the public hearings, proposed changes would have to be approved by the planning board and by town meeting.

Volunteer Fair

The town held a volunteer fair on August 7th, to encourage local residents to meet members who serve on boards and committees and gather information about what would be required to fill some of the vacancies on those boards. Roussel said at least 10 residents had come or called ahead of time to express interest in serving the town, in various capacities. The boards may make a further effort at outreach to residents at the rescheduled Friends of Gill picnic on the common on August 27th.


Hazardous Waste Collection

A hazardous waste collection day has been scheduled for Saturday, September 9th at the Montague Highway Garage. Pre-registration is required; call: (413) 772-2438 for more details.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Tornado Damage Added Up

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - The town of Wendell spent close to \$11,000 in the immediate cleanup after the tornado, and the cost borne by other towns in mutual aid was more than \$30,000. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said a lot of the town's cost was paid in highway crew expenses, and the normal highway work they would have doing at this time of year has had to be postponed. The town of Pittsfield sent its van, which would have coordinated the flights of aircraft during the time right after the tornado, if aircraft had been able to fly. Pittsfield is not in Wendell's mutual aid group and so sent a bill of \$295.32, the cost of the van. Northern Tree Service estimated the cost of roadside cleanup, now the roads are passable, at \$160,000. The downed trees will become a fire hazard when they dry out. State Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Stan Rosenberg have introduced legislation to help offset that cost, but the legislature is in irregular session, and so action on the bill will be slow.

The board chose Wednesday, August 16th as a date to discuss the local response to the tornado, and think about what they

learned. Aldrich will have to contact police, fire, and the highway department to make sure that date will work.

Lewis felt the building projects are not going well. He said only one person has been on site most of the time, and progress has been slow so far. But board member Dan Keller had a more optimistic view of the building projects. Insurance will cover damage to the old town office building, and the USDA and the state and national historic commissions have approved the demolition of that structure, as the damage has made restoration impractical.

The selectboard voted to approve demolition and accepted the bid of Associated Building Wreckers of Springfield, with instructions to save as many beams as possible. Associated Building Wreckers recycles and resells materials from their work. Construction will continue on the original footprint, with the existing foundation buttressed on the outside with concrete.

Keller said he had received a recommendation that the roof of the new town office building be insulated rather than the ceiling so that ductwork and mechanical systems will be contained in

an insulated space. He will write up a proposal to that effect. The septic system work is ahead of schedule and a tank is in for each town building. The bid documents for the water system are coming in.

The meeting opened with Clara Starr, daughter of Dan Keller, asking to rent the town hall Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. so she and her husband can teach a dance class. She hoped the class would draw 10 to 25 people, and their plan was to charge \$10 per person. Because people are away in the summer, rent for August and September was set at the rate for fewer than 10 people attending, with the understanding that she would return after that with a clear sense of how many people were attending. The first class was held August 6th.

Robin Pierce met the board next with the news that John Germaine was not, after all, going to purchase his automobile salvage yard on Stone Road. The hearing for Germaine's possible Class III auto salvage license was ended, and the selectboard considered some conditions of Pierce's current license. Pierce brought in copies of the conditions with changes he wanted to make

because he said two interested people had shied away from buying the property because the restrictions "were painted with too broad a brush," especially the condition that no unregistered vehicle may be in sight of any neighbor.

Lewis said this was a good time to straighten things out. He objected to the provision that said Pierce could call and notify the selectboard and leave vehicles he was done with out by Stone Road for up to three weeks while waiting for pick up by a ramp truck. Lewis said the other yards in town may not leave junks out by the road, and that the rules for one should be the rules for all. Pierce said that when he calls for the ramp truck the pickup has usually been made within 48 hours. He brings the vehicle out near the road to allow the ramp truck easy access without making the driver back down his long driveway. He could widen the driveway but only by cutting some nice trees, which would then open up the view to his storage area.

He also said he has been located on Stone Road longer than any of his abutters, and they all should have been aware of his yard when they moved

there.

Board member Christine Heard, who inspects salvage yards, said she was concerned about the neighbors on the west who have children they want to keep away from the cars, but that Pierce's yard was not the worst in town. She and Keller suggested a wood fence or a hedge by the road might make cars waiting for pick up less visible.

Pierce agreed to limit the number of vehicles in his yard to 50 altogether, including registered vehicles, and to look into ways he can avoid having them out at the road at all. He said the property's next owner was likely to own a ramp truck and so storage at the road for pick up and removal would not be an issue.

At the request of Charles Smith the board approved the nomination of Kristine Stimson of West Street to the open space committee.

Deirdre Cabral of the planning board is pursuing a joint forestry management study grant with Pelham. Originally the grant was to cover four towns, but Shutesbury and Leverett dropped out. Wendell is not obligated to accept the grant if it is awarded.

THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

High Winds!

Tuesday 7-11

Tornado hits Wickett Pond area and center of town

middle of night. Nothing taken.

Wednesday 7-19

Lockes Village Road resident reported possible theft of camera from car in barn.

Saturday 7-15

Lockes Village Road resident reported shots fired last night near residence.

Friday 7-28

Motor vehicle accident in center of town. No injuries.

Sunday 7-16

Motor vehicles entered last night. iPod and three cell phones taken.

Jennison Road resident reported cracked windshield on two vehicles at residence. Unknown cause.

Monday 7-17

Lockes Village Road resident reported car entered in

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Open and Gross Lewdness

Saturday 7-29

1:20 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

1:45 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Chestnut Street address.

[redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

5:22 p.m. [redacted] was arrested at Food City on a straight warrant.

Sunday 7-30

2:15 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Montague City Road.

[redacted] field, was arrested on two default warrants.

11:24 a.m. Report of an assault at a 2nd Street address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged

with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and domestic assault and battery.

6:41 p.m. Report of trespassing at a 4th Street address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with trespassing.

Wednesday 8-2

8:00 p.m. Report of sex offense near the Subway.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or over, soliciting for prostitution, open and gross lewdness, and disorderly conduct.

11:46 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended

license.

Thursday 8-3

12:46 a.m. While assisting another police department.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, operating under the influence of drugs, marked lanes violation, and assault and battery on a police officer.

1:18 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Montague City Road at 11th Street.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license.

Tuesday 8-8

11:16 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant

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Jutres to Share Principalship of Hillcrest, Montague Center Schools

~Crisafulli will be Interim Principal of Gill~

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Gill-Montague superintendent of schools Sue Gee has moved quickly to fill administrative vacancies at the Gill and Montague Center elementary schools, in the wake of Bob Mahler's departure to Shutesbury Elementary. In the last three years, Mahler shared duties as the half-time principal for both the Gill and Montague Center schools, so both schools lost their principal when he left at the end of the school year.

Although the school committee has yet to act on her recommendations, Gee said the two candidates she has chosen to fill the vacant positions on an interim, one-year basis would be confirmed at the meeting on August 15th.

For the half-time post at Gill Elementary, Gee has nominated Dr. David Crisafulli, a former resident of Gill who now resides in Montague Center. Crisafulli, who served as the

superintendent of Union 28 in Erving for three years, retired from a 22-year career as a superintendent of schools this June, after a four-year stint at the helm of the Franklin Public Schools, in Franklin, MA.

Crisafulli, who will have a chance to meet with the Gill school community at an ice cream social being organized by the PTO for August 24th, said he was looking forward to working in a small school again. "We had 6200 kids in the Franklin Schools; I was there for the openings of six schools, and presided over major administrative changes. But my roots are in elementary education." He said he would be glad to help build the strength of the Gill school community, keeping an eye on MCAS score improvements and the implementation of the district's curriculum goals, while "getting to know kids on a first-name basis again."

With Mahler's resignation coming late in the hiring season, Gee said she was happy to receive the call from Crisafulli, who in turn said he was happy to find a half-time position close to home. For Montague Center's vacancy, Gee talked the matter over with the GMRSD administrative team and neighboring superintendents, who felt there was not enough time before the start of school to attempt a candidate search outside the district. Moreover, the school committee has signaled its willingness to come to a final decision on whether to close a district elementary school this year, and, if so, which one to close. Thus an interim, one-year appointment for both Gill and Montague Center seemed advisable.

Gee has asked the longtime principal of Hillcrest School, Christine Jutres, to take on the half-time post at Montague Center for the coming year.

Jutres, who was the district's early childhood education coordinator for three years prior to becoming principal 15 years ago, will have to reduce her hours at Hillcrest proportionally. But she said, "It makes sense for me to spend time [at Montague Center] on an interim basis while we wait for the elementary study group to come to a decision about what configuration the school district should have."

She added, "The challenge will be to keep delivering the same level of involvement at the Montague Center School," as she has given to Hillcrest. Montague Center, a K-3 school, has about 90 students returning, while Hillcrest, pre-K - 2, has 175. Jutres said the staff and student needs at the larger school would likely require more of her attention during a given week than the smaller school would.

She said she had worked

with some of the teachers at Montague Center in prior years, and one of the pre-K teachers from Hillcrest, Shanda O'Keefe, has taken the opening at the Montague Center's first grade for the coming year. There is still an opening for a 2nd grade teacher at Montague, and for a reading specialist at Hillcrest. She said with the cohesive staff, she planned to appoint 'Teachers in Charge' on the days she was not present in either school. "And I will only be a phone call away," if an emergency should arise.

Still, Jutres said, "I think Hillcrest really needs a full time principal. It will be a little bit of a stretch." She saw positives in terms of cross-district support for teachers at different grade levels. "It will be a matter of folding in everyone together to achieve goals, while respecting the individuality of each school."

Solar Star Party at Northfield Mountain

BY BETH BAZLER, NORTHFIELD - It's one of those secrets only local astronomy buffs know, that every summer nationally-known solar observers bring amazing telescopes to Northfield

Mountain and watch our closest star neighbor. This year you're invited to the party!

On Saturday, August 19th from 9 - 10 a.m., 'Barlow Bob' and friends will be leading this informal viewing opportunity where participants have the chance to both observe and ask questions and may see sunspots and solar flares. 'Barlow Bob' is the solar director of the largest astronomy trade show in the US, the Northeast Astronomy Forum. His love of solar observing shines through in his desire to share the experience with others.

There will be a variety of telescopes that allow safe viewing of the sun with filters such as H-alpha, CaK Calcium and Sunspot filters. No need to understand the high-tech filter names, the experience looking through the lenses will make their power clear.

Call Northfield Mountain at 800-859-2960 to register for this unique opportunity. The program is free of charge.



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Eagle Watch

PAT CARLISLE

GREAT FALLS - Our eagle nest in Barton Cove has been a wonderful success again this year. We have watched two eggs hatch to reveal two fuzzy chicks. Some of us worried about a seemingly slow second baby who finally took offered food and began to grow. Meanwhile we shared many worried phone calls; listened to encouraging thoughts from our biologists who always had positive, better-educated and experienced answers!

We now celebrate as we watch the first chick take flight and disappear for hours or even a day and then appear back in the nest for visits and food.

Those of us who see the daily nest activity on our local access MCTV Channel 17 in Turners Falls and GCTV Channel 15 in Greenfield and



PHOTO: EAGLE CAM

The eaglets are poor hunters and may scavenge on dead prey. As the chicks develop their flight skills they harass the adults and try to take fish from them. This behavior helps eaglets learn to forage and be independent and will last into September. (17 to 23 weeks of age). This is the time when the young eagles leave the territory, following the prevailing winds to more northerly shorelines and water bodies in search of good feeding grounds.

several surrounding towns appreciate a peek into the life of this majestic bird: the bald eagle - our national symbol.

The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls also offers eagle nest activity on TV Extended hours every day

except Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will amaze visitors to this free museum. The gift shop is open and displays an array of items for all ages. Come and see!


We'll hope to watch another year of nest activity in 2007!

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Objections Raised to Senior Center Razing

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON, WENDELL - The doorless, windowless shell of Wendell's original town hall disappeared last Friday, August 4th. Stripped earlier of windows and some interior walls in preparation for renovation as a wing of the new library, the building had acquired a pronounced list after being hit and weakened by the tornado that plowed a swath through Wendell on July 11th.

Both the library building committee and the selectboard voted to dismantle the shell of the old building after the town building inspector, Phil Delorey, declared the building dangerous and pulled the permit for the library construction.

But the demolition took place over the objection of the town's historic commission and, according to members Jerry Eide and Jean Forward, without consulting or notifying them. The two planned to present a letter expressing their unhappiness to the selectboard at their August 9th meeting.

In the letter, Forward said she and Eide charged the demolition "chopped up and dumped... \$20,000 [worth] of historic materials and craftsmanship."

The building, they said, was razed "without the approval of the Wendell Historic Commission" and they noted there had been "no public hearing about the change to the library (construction) plans." Eide and Forward believe the action amounted to "a financial and historic waste."

The building had "symbolized the town's and country's separation of church and state," the letter said, in that it had first served the community as a town hall, built in 1846, after Massachusetts became the last state to disestablish state churches in 1833. The building next served as a schoolhouse (after a renovation in 1933), and finally, in the 1990s, as senior center and town offices, meeting place and community center.

Rosie Heidkamp, the town



PHOTO: J. VON RANSON

Piled timbers are all that remains of Wendell's first town hall.

librarian, recognized the work Forward had done in getting Wendell Center registered with the federal government as a historic district, and said both she and Eide had "put their hearts into" preserving this important building in the district. Heidkamp said she herself and selectboard member Dan Keller had "carried the torch" for preserving it and incorporating the old structure into the new library, "but after the tornado, we had to let it go." She said she and the building committee members had to balance history

the demolition.

The building was insured. "The town kept its policy, thank God," Keller said (slipping briefly from the constitutional separation of church and state in a conversation with the Reporter two weeks ago), and the insurance adjuster said his company will pay for new framing on the part of the building that had been slated for restoration. (The rear of the old building had been slated for demolition anyway). A second source of coverage - the contractor's builder's insurance - will reportedly cover any work the contractor had performed that has to be done over again. Keller

with cost and safety. She said Forward was "genuinely shocked" to see the building gone, but that there had been no intent to circumvent the historic commission or disregard its wishes, citing a conversation between Keller and Forward a day or two before

said in that conversation that the foundation concrete-reinforcement plan will now be improved because of better access.

Finally, Heidkamp said the town had been promised another \$40,000 in emergency funds from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. She held out hope that the tornado's consequences would not end up costing the town money - only history.

Heidkamp reported that project architect Margo Jones has already drawn up plans for the building to be rebuilt in the same Thirties schoolhouse style, but with new materials.

The historical commission has clearly had its hopes dashed that some of the old structure could remain as the "bones" of the library's childrens wing, but there's still a chance that some of the historical "tissue" of the town's first town hall will grace the new building. Keller said earlier that the contractors will be instructed to salvage what they can of the structure, "and maybe the timbers can be sawn up into boards for trim."

In a related development, there has been a suggestion made to get flooring for the new library sawn from trees felled by the tornado that helped finish the life of the old building.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

DEP Warns Erving over Wastewater Treatment Plant

BY DAVID DETMOLD - At the August 7th meeting, the Erving selectboard received a second letter from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection notifying the town of non-compliance in testing procedures at the Millers Falls wastewater treatment plant. According to administrative coordinator Tom Sharp, the board agreed, "We need to take corrective action. The DEP found us to be lacking in terms of quality assurance and quality control. We need that discipline down there."

The board scheduled a meeting for Friday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. at town hall to discuss the problem with Mike Pierce, superintendent of the wastewater treatment plant.

On the plus side, the town has completed the capping of the old Farley landfill on Maple Avenue to meet DEP specifications.

Hearings have been scheduled for the coming weeks by both the board of health and the

zoning board of appeals. On August 14th, the board of health will hold a hearing at 6:30 p.m. regarding the use of a semi-public swimming pool at the Weatherhead Apartments. The health board will hold another hearing on August 28th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss problems with testing the quality of the public water supply in use by a cooperative of residents in Farley.

The zoning board will hear a request for a variance by Eric Overgaard of 33 River Road for setback requirements for a garage, at 7 p.m. on August 24th. At 7:30 p.m., the board will hear a petition from Jennifer Bordeaux to replace a trailer on her property at 74 High Street.

Meet the New Principal and Superintendent

The board will welcome recently hired Union 28 school superintendent Joan Wickman and Erving Elementary princi-

pal Charlene Galenski on August 21st, at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall meeting room. The finance committee will also be on hand to "extend a hand of welcome" to Wickman and Galenski, before the next budget season starts. The public is invited to come meet the new administrators.

On the 14th, the board has scheduled an extra meeting on their off-week summer schedule in order to strategize with the board of assessors about the upcoming change of ownership of the Northfield Mountain project. The valuation of the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro station is of considerable importance to the town of Erving, as it contributes the lion's share of the town's tax base.

The board accepted the resignation of firefighter Doug Dupell, who is moving to Orange, where he intends to once again serve on the fire department.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Dead Rabbit in Mailbox

Wednesday 7-26

5:42 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating under the influence of liquor and an inspection sticker violation.

firewood. Advised subjects to finish up what they were doing and move along before dusk due to poor visibility on roadway.

Thursday 7-27

10:45 a.m. Report of a dead rabbit in mailbox at a Church Street residence. Report taken.

1:07 p.m. Report from Hamshaw Lumber regarding a generator that had been rented for one day on 7-19 and yet to be returned. Officer contacted subject. He stated he was on his way to return it immediately.

Saturday 7-29

10:00 p.m. Arrested [redacted] and charged with domestic assault and battery.

Sunday 7-30

11:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with large underage party on Birnam Street

Monday 7-31

11:13 a.m. Report of a two-car accident at Erving Elementary School. One car backed into another. No injuries reported.

8:30 p.m. Report of gunshots in the area of Mountain Road. Nothing found.

Friday 7-28

4:30 p.m. Passing motorist called in a report of men cutting wood on Route 2 east of papermill. Located three subjects who reported they had received permission from a Mass Highway worker to remove fallen brush to use for

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There's No Place Like Wendell on Old Home Day

BY KAREN COPELAND
WENDELL - Organizers are preparing a Wendell Old Home Day this year that will truly blow you away! The event will be held on Saturday, August 19th, and the theme is: 'Survivor - 2006!'

This has been a year of extreme change in town. "The Miracle of Wendell," was that everyone was safe after the tornado tore a path of destruction through the center of town. But we all lived to tell the tale, even the goat pulled from the rubble of the Shulman-O'Kane barn. The historic town offices got razed due to severe damage from the storm, and new town buildings are popping up like mushrooms on the common, but one thing hasn't been changed: Old Home Day Lives On!

Wendell is a special place full of talented, creative folks,

so a tornado or a few construction sites can't keep us down. This year, the Kids' Parade will kick off the day's activity at 11:30 a.m., led by the famous Joshua J. 'Waffles the Clown.' Kids of all ages are encouraged to join in.

As always, the common will be crowded with vendor booths, tag sales and raffles, including the kayak raffle for the new library. There will be lots of great food, including Lorraine's eggrolls and Iris' homemade pies. The Wendell Women's Club will again provide kids games and a petting zoo. Other highlights include a wild Mushroom Museum, demonstrations, and the not-to-be-missed Free Box Fashion Show. Not for the faint of heart this year will be "Tales of the Tornado," told by those who actually lived through it! And, as always, the local musicians

will keep the spirit alive, including: Edward Hines with Turkish and Kids Music starting at 12:30 p.m., followed by Rich Chase and friends, Mixed Nuts, with Lynne Meryl and special guests, A Day at the Beach, with Judith Ann-Marie, Jeffrey Bauman, Martha Sandefer and Fred Sweitzer, Radiolaria, the Bear Mountain Boys, Blame it on Tina, the Steve Crowe Band, a special dance demonstration by Abdou Farr from Senegal (by way of Wendell) and many more musical surprises!

So hop in your hot air balloon or tap your ruby slippers and beat a path to the center of Wendell for another unstoppable Old Home Day, Saturday, August 19th!

For more info, call: 978-544-7352 or email keepthebeat@yahoo.com.



Storm chaser Eric Nguyen photographed this budding twister in a different light -- the light of a rainbow in Kansas in June of 2004.

SLATE

continued from pg. 1

Jocelyn Castro-Santos, who has been assistant librarian at the Slate for the last half of Greenough's tenure, has sent in her resume and applied for the job. The trustees will meet Thursday, August 10th, to decide on Greenough's replacement, but board chair Ellen Johnson said, "Castro-Santos is the only applicant we are looking at."

Library trustee Sue Kramer credited Greenough with transforming the concrete block building across the common from town hall from a dreary storeroom for old books to a lively community center for families, children, and adults in "uptown Gill."

"She came along when we needed new energy," said Kramer, a trustee for 14 years. "She was instrumental in get-

ting the children's room organized. She weeded the collection... A lot more people use the library now, especially young families with children."

"I've given the library the best of what I can give it," said Greenough, who is partners with her husband Alden Booth in two busy enterprises, the People's Pint in Greenfield and the newly renovated and greatly expanded Gill Store, just a stone's throw from the Slate. They are also raising three children, ranging in age from 12 to 17. "I'm feeling a little over committed," she admitted.

Castro-Santos, who majored in Art and Art History at Colgate and got her MA in Art Education at UMass, before teaching art at Frontier for five years, said she has gradually taken on more responsibility at the Slate, including ordering the children's books. She and her husband Ted, who works at the

Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Lab and serves on the regional Gill-Montague school committee, have a child in Gill Elementary. She said if she gets the job, she would like to increase the art component of programs at the library, starting with the pre-school story hour on Thursday mornings this fall. She would like to expand art offerings to include after school activities for older children, and also plan seasonal events, such as the Hallowe'en Party and Yuletide gathering, to include an art component along with storytelling. In order to bring in more artists to help with such programs, Castro-Santos said she will have to look into the fundraising end of things, something the Friends of the Slate Library helped out with in years past.

"The Friends are slightly defunct at this point," Johnson said. She recalled their last big

effort was a Noel Paul Stookey benefit concert at the Congregational Church in November of 2003, which brought in enough money to keep the summer reading program going in the three years since. "But there's only \$30 left in that account now...."

Greenough was able to access a number of new funding sources for the library during her term as librarian, including a grant to establish the children's collection. "We didn't even get state aid when she started," said Johnson. "She's been an outstanding librarian. She's brought a lot of life to Slate Memorial. She's gone above and beyond the call of duty, working extra hours as a community service."

Johnson credited Greenough with building the children's collection, while also keeping an eye on the adults, as a reader herself and a lover of books.

Greenough called the collection "small, but much used, with a varied assortment of new titles."

Fundraising will be much on the minds of the trustees going into the next years, as building maintenance issues become more pressing. Greenough suggested the need to renovate or possibly expand the library building was a daunting task that would probably involve new committees and grant writing efforts.

On the plus side, she said the town has been very supportive of the improved offerings at the Slate. "I took it from five hours a week to 14 hours (open Monday: noon - 6 p.m., Thursday: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). I'd like to see it open 20 hours, and four days a week," Greenough said.

That will be among the many goals for the new librarian to pursue.

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ART

continued from pg. 1

town has become somewhat a lost art. I hope to pay tribute to this aesthetic in my work. My artistic creativity comes from many places: the decay of man-made buildings, the rust of the railroad or the natural wonders that surround us. Turners has provided me with an endless inspiration to create." Cahill's piece will be placed on the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street, in front of the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography. Cahill has created work for the Boston Flower show, independently installed sculptures along the river in Turners, and produced paintings and work in mixed media.

As veteran artist Gary Olinsky describes his piece entitled *Rock, Paper, Knife*, he will juxtapose stacked paper from the last remaining paper mill in town with stacked rocks from the river, displayed inside a monumental support made of

oak timbers. Rather than use knives from the old cutlery factory, he will include the grinding wheels used to sharpen blades as a tribute to all the men and women who labored in the mills. "For it is not the architecture or industry alone that we celebrate - but the spirit of the people who made these things possible." Much of Orinsky's work has explored the dual themes of regional history and the interplay of nature and civilization. He notes, "While the dams and canals provided the power for the mills, they also created the rather unique landscape of the dry riverbed." *Rock, Paper, Knife*, will stand at the riverside bike path next to the Fish Ladder, in front of the parking area.

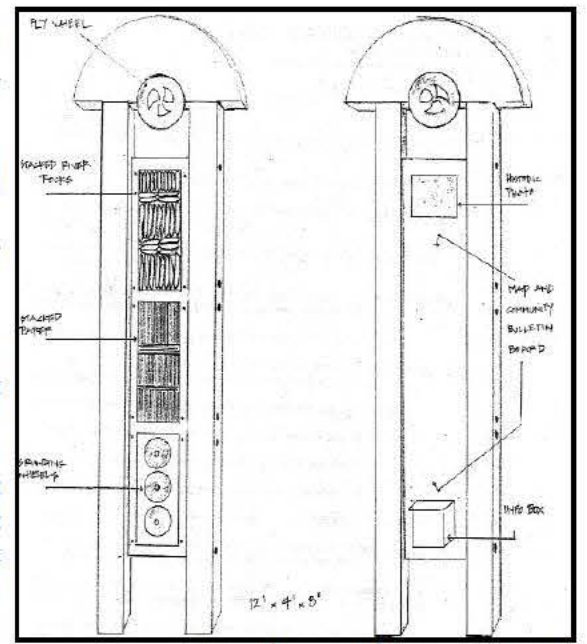
Cynthia Fisher, a mosaic artist, proposed a large mosaic salmon, an important symbol of a healthy river environment. Her piece will pay tribute to the goal and hope of "biologists and nature lovers alike that this once abundant inhabitant of the major rivers of New

England will, with our help, recover from the drastic population declines." An accomplished mosaic artist, Fisher has created several works of public art and illustrated 30 children's books. "While color is the obvious attraction for me, it is the more sophisticated and challenging aspects of working in mosaic I truly respond to. I love bouncing between thinking analytically and intuitively about how to achieve a desired affect." Her large mosaic will reside in Peskeomskut Park.

Sculptor James Rourke's proposed installation called *Powertown* is an abstracted wheel constructed of forms and materials pulled from the historical and visual landscape. The wheel is meant to echo the water wheels utilized by the canal's factories as well as the bicycle wheel that transforms a rider's energy into movement. Rourke notes, "the surrounding landscape and structures become material to be explored so that we may gain a deeper understanding of the life of the past and possibilities for our individual and collective futures. The wheel is a universal symbol of man's develop-

ment over time and functions to visually draw a similarity between the recreational and mechanical uses of our earliest technology." *Powertown* will stand at the foot of the bike path at the parking area at the end of First Street, in front of the river. Solar lights are integrated in the piece for viewing postings at night.

The public art selection committee consisted of RiverCulture partners, town officials and outside jurors. They include Chris Janke of Suzee's Laundry; Jack Nelson, artist; Bill Gabriel of Northeast Utilities; Frank Abbondanzio, town administrator; Dave Jensen, building inspector; Lisa Davol, RiverCulture Coordinator; Hezzie Phillips, Director of the Contemporary Artists Center in



North Adams; James

Gary Orinsky's creation will involve large oak timbers with stone, paper and machine parts to recall the history of Turners Falls.

Sign up for the Turners Falls RiverCulture free email newsletter!
www.turnersfallsriverculture.blogspot.com

Montague Prepares for Old Home Days

BY VERA FOLEY
MONTAGUE CENTER - Old Home Days is back! Preparations have begun for Montague's summer event, to be held this year from August 18th to the 20th. With its myriad activities and displays, the annual gathering in front of the Congregational Church on the village common promises to be as exciting as in years past. The festivities start on Friday, with Karen's Dance Studio performing at 6:00 p.m. Old Home Days organizer Ann Fisk recalled, "They always have jazzy costumes." Next up will be the Curly Fingers Dupree Band, with Montague's own Kip Dresser on guitar, "doing acoustic sets, performing

until 9:30 p.m." Fisk added, "Ongoing, of course, will be the usual good homemade food." Also ongoing will be the game booths, this year featuring a Ring Toss, Rolling Ball, and Velcro Darts. On Saturday morning, a local farmer's market has been added, where local growers will sell their produce. This will be located on the Grange lot, and will begin at 8:00 a.m. Everything from farm fresh eggs to summer produce is expected. At 8:30 a.m. the Mug Race, a 5.5 mile footrace up and around Taylor Hill, will begin. A two-mile race has been added for those who would prefer to run a shorter distance. To sign up, call Fisk at: 367-2812.

A perennial favorite on Saturday morning is the auction, and also the tag sale on the church lawn. From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. a new attraction will debut this year: the rock climbing wall. There will be a separate charge of \$5 for this activity. The craft tables also open at 10:00. (To find out how to get space to display crafts, contact Peg Bridges at: 367-2061.) The Montague Historical Society will also have a display in the Grange. At 1:30 p.m. the Old Home Days parade begins, featuring floats, horses, tractors, and more. (In previous years, candy has also been involved.) The parade forms at the ballpark, and goes down Main Street from Old Sunderland Road. For more information, or to enter in the parade, contact Linda Ackerman, at 367-9567. An hour later, at 2:30 p.m., the Fall Town String Band of



Clarkson Edwards on a tractor at last year's Old Home Day Parade.

Bernardston will perform. Fisk calls them a "good listening band." They will be followed by the Chicken BBQ - for reservations, call the First Congregational Church, 367-9467 - at 5:30 p.m. And, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Swift Kicks will be playing Country Western music. Of course, throughout the day, the annual raffle will be going on. First prize is a quilt;

third prize is a \$100 gas card. Buy some tickets! The festivities end on Sunday with the church's 8:00-10:00 country breakfast (walk-ins welcome, \$6 adult, \$4 kids) and the church service, this year featuring the MacDonald Family Singers from Orange. A schedule of Old Home Days events can be found at www.montaguema.net. Y'all come back, hear!

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Native Culture Reviving for Two Days at People's Harvest on Cove

BY VERA FOLEY

GILL - "This will be the second time in 330 years that Native American people have gathered at this location in peace," said Joe Graveline, referring to the second annual People's Harvest to be held on Barton Cove, (near the Scheutzen Verein) on September 16th and 17th.

The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine. There will be "plenty of tent coverage" to keep participants out of the weather, if need be, said Graveline, one of the event organizers. Last year, the first People's Harvest took place on a single day. Due to the popular response, the gathering has been expanded to an entire weekend this year.

Until last year's Harvest, Graveline said the last time Native American people had gathered on the riverbank land in peace was on May 18th, 1676, the day before the massacre by Captain William Turner and his colonial militia. From this event, Turners Falls derives its name.

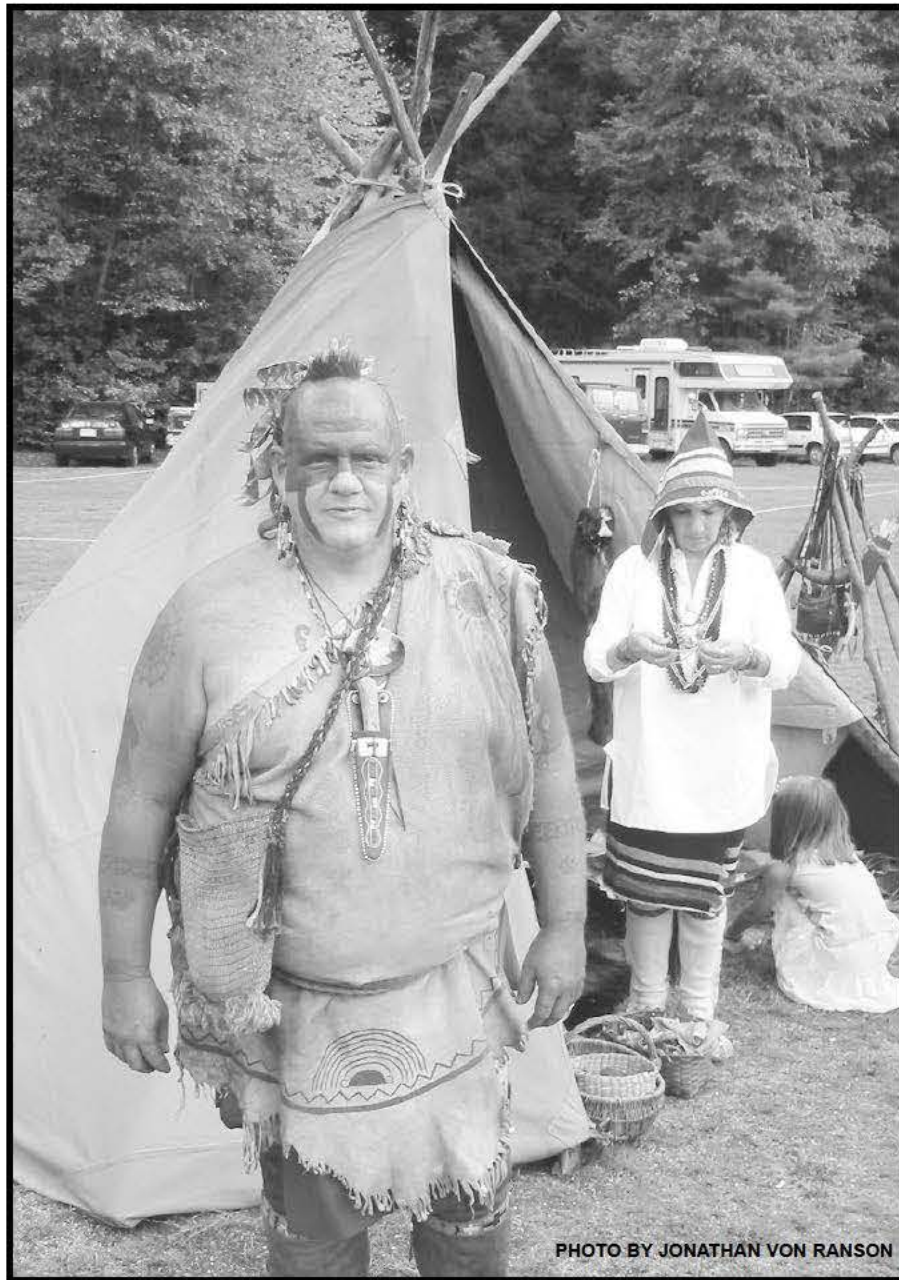
The Friends of the Wissatinnewag, a local native support group, and Lorenz Honda are co-sponsors of this year's People's Harvest, which will be a fundraiser for the nonprofit Friends of the Wissatinnewag. "We are bringing Native American people back for a feast with art, music, and history," Graveline said. Everyone is welcome to attend.

In the years before Captain Turner's attack on the sleeping fishing village, the native people considered the site above the Great Falls as the hub of a great

wheel of trade. They considered it a "peace village," according to the People's Harvest website, www.peoplesharvest.org. The salmon, shad and eel runs and the cornfields around the river gave abundantly to those who tended and harvested them. Thus every year, area tribes (the spokes of the wheel, to continue Graveline's analogy) came together at the falls for a feast. The website names the time-honored participants as the Abenaki, Mohawk, Nipmuc, Narragansett and Pocumtuc people. In keeping with the name "the Peace Village," all disagreements and disputes were set aside for the time of the feast.

Thus the location itself is important to the gathering. Graveline described the scene of the celebration as a "beautiful site next to Barton Cove. You can feel the energy of the place."

In the days of the village, there was no cove, as the river had not yet been dammed. The actual location of the village is underwater. "On a nice day, when the water is clear, you can see the old fire pits," Graveline said.



A participant in last year's People's Harvest in red paint and native costume.

The celebration will give "the public a chance to immerse themselves in Native American culture." Native American musicians will perform, including Joseph Firecrow, a renowned Cheyenne flutist. Artisans and crafters will be in abundance, a basket-weaving demonstration will show not only how to weave a basket, but how to beat the bark which will become the basket. On Sunday, area naturalist Tom Ricardi will be there with his raptors. The

caterer for the event will offer native New England food among other items, Graveline said. "It will be two days of nonstop activities."

Another attraction of the Harvest that will be repeated from last year is the native storytelling. As Graveline recalled, a storyteller last year spoke while 40 children listened in absolute silence "with their jaws hanging open." To be true to native history, storytelling will be a very important part of

the festivities, particularly for the children. "This kind of one-on-one contact is very ancient... it resonates with young kids," Graveline said. He added that children often don't get this contact anymore, with the computer and television access of the modern day.

Graveline said the organizers want to "encourage education and exposure to different culture." Children, whom he considers "the future of diversity," have the potential to "heal wounds of misunderstanding and prejudice." Thus, children under twelve will be admitted free. (Otherwise, tickets are \$8 apiece, \$6 for seniors, and may be purchased at the gate.)

The People's Harvest event involves the cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Connecticut River Watershed Association and the Great Falls Discovery Center. "Local businesses are helping also, and we're very appreciative of that," added Graveline.

Email info@peoplesharvest.org for more information about participating in or sponsoring this event.

FREE SHUTTLE!

A free shuttle, courtesy of Kuzmeskus Bus and Northeast Utilities, will run to the People's Harvest on Saturday and Sunday, September 16th and 17th, from 9:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. It will leave from the Town Hall lot, where parking is available

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Sleep Apnea May Show up as Daytime Sleepiness

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ -

Q. My husband seems to stop breathing briefly during the night. It scares me, but he doesn't seem to be worried about it. Any ideas about what causes this?

It's possible that your husband is experiencing sleep apnea. I urge you to get your husband to a doctor for a diagnosis because sleep apnea can be a serious disorder. High blood pressure is common in sleep apnea. Sudden drops in blood oxygen levels that occur during sleep stoppages increase blood pressure and strain the cardiovascular system, raising the risk of heart failure and stroke.

About 18 million Americans have sleep apnea. It's much more common in older adults and men. Apnea is Greek for "without breath."

People with sleep apnea stop

breathing for as long as 30 seconds at a time. These interruptions can happen hundreds of times a night. The breathing cessations may wake you and prevent you from getting a good night's sleep. These awakenings usually are so brief that you don't recall them.

There are two kinds of sleep apnea: central and obstructive.

If you have central sleep apnea, there's a communication breakdown between the breathing muscles and your brain. It's uncommon.

About 90 percent of sleep-apnea victims have obstructive apnea, which is caused by a blockage in the windpipe. Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when the muscles in the back of your throat relax. These muscles support the soft palate, tonsils, tongue and uvula - that doohickey that hangs in the back of your mouth. When the muscles relax, your airway is narrowed and breathing is cut



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON

off. A blockage can also be caused by a lot of fatty tissue in the throat.

The most common symptoms of sleep apnea include:

- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Loud snoring
- Observed episodes of breathing stoppages during sleep
- Abrupt awakenings with shortness of breath

- Awakening with a dry mouth or sore throat
- Morning headache
- Problems associated with sleep deprivation such as forgetfulness and mood changes.

A common treatment for sleep apnea that helps most sufferers is Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP). You sleep with a special mask that adds pressure to the air you breathe. Mild cases of apnea can be treated with dental devices that move your jaw forward to make breathing easier. In very few cases, surgery is necessary to remove tonsils or extra tissue from the throat.

There are some self-help techniques:

- Sleep on your side instead of your back. Sleeping on your back can cause your tongue and soft palate to rest against the back of your throat and block your airway.
- Eliminate alcoholic beverages

and sleep medicines, which relax the muscles in your throat.

• Quit smoking. Nicotine is a stimulant and can interfere with sleep. Smoke is an irritant to nose, throat and lungs.

• Lose weight. A fat neck tends to narrow the airway in your throat.

(Note: In my research, I often seem to run into warnings against alcohol, tobacco and fat. Must be something to it.)

When you go to a doctor for a diagnosis, he or she may refer you to a sleep disorder center. You may be asked to undergo overnight monitoring of your breathing and other body functions during sleep. You may also be referred to an ear, nose and throat doctor to rule out any blockage in your nose or throat.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com.

FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Osteoporosis, Part 1: The Bad News First

BY JENNY CHAPIN
MONTAGUE CENTER -

Bone is living tissue, continuously being built up and broken down. When the buildup doesn't keep pace with the breakdown, and the bone's protein structure and mineral content are lost, a condition called osteoporosis develops (literally "bone passages"). Normally dense bone tissue acquires holes and spaces. If the condition progresses, bone mass declines, the bones become more porous, weaker, and lighter, and the risk of fracture increases.

Osteoporosis is classified into primary and secondary types according to cause. Primary is due to lower estrogen levels in post-menopausal women, causing a lessening of bone mass over time (loss varies between 5 - 40%), or to advancing age, when there's lower absorption of calcium from the intestine as well as lower secretion of calcitonin, the hormone that prevents calcium from leaving the bones.

Secondary osteoporosis is a factor in a number of diseases. Endocrine gland disorders (the thyroid, parathyroid, and

adrenals are all involved in bone formation); a sedentary life or bed rest diminishes intestinal absorption of calcium; and malnutrition (bones suffer with a lack of calories or nutrients in the diet). Illnesses such as liver disease, gastrointestinal tract disorders, kidney disease, and various cancers may have a secondary effect on bone formation. In addition, a number of pharmacological drugs (corticosteroids, anticoagulants, antiepileptic drugs, certain diuretics, lithium, anti-tumor agents, thyroid hormones, tranquilizers, sleeping pills) are known to cause bone loss.

Although post-menopausal women are the most highly targeted group for osteoporosis, older, alcoholic men are also at high risk. For women, the main risk factors are being small-boned, of European or Asian descent, post-menopausal, with a family history of hip fractures, and not having given birth. For men, it's testosterone insufficiency, and advanced age. Men's bones are bigger, thus less likely to break; also, men tend not to live as long as women, although as that



changes, their incidence rate is also increasing.

For both genders, further risks include delayed puberty, alcohol consumption, smoking (due to poorer health in general, and less likely to walk for exercise), sedentary life or lack of exercise, being thin, insufficient calcium, insufficient vitamin D.

Significant dietary factors that may increase the propensity for developing osteoporosis include a high proportion of animal protein, high consumption of flour products and sweets, lots of nightshade vegetables (potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers), not enough vegetables, lack of good-quality fats, or insufficient protein.

Substances that decrease bone formation by removing calcium from the bones are ingested extensively in our culture. Caffeine (coffee, chocolate, black tea, soft drinks, headache remedies), refined sugar, meat, alcohol, tobacco,

aluminum, pesticides, marijuana, and other intoxicants are all culprits.

It's not as simple as adding calcium to the diet through supplements or more milk. Dietary calcium exceeding 450 mg per day was found to double the risk of hip fracture. Excess calcium encourages kidney stones and gallstones, and prevents the absorption of magnesium, which itself is needed to stimulate the absorption of calcium into the bones. Daily calcium supplement pills may cause abdominal discomfort or constipation. Excess vitamin D, often found in calcium supplements, may provoke bone loss. Excess calcium and vitamin D supplementation is also associated with increased fracture rates.

Cultures with high-protein, high-sodium diets (North America, Europe) need more calcium for nutrient balance, and have elevated levels of osteoporosis. Cultures where sodium, protein, and dairy consumption is minimal, and whose lifestyles include more weight-bearing and physical activities (North Africa, India, China, areas of Southeast

Asia), have a much lower calcium requirement, and a small proportion of the number of bone fractures found in more developed countries.

Next issue: Osteoporosis, part 2: The Good News.

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at

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SCIENCE MATTERS

The Yin and Yang of Rivers

BY STEVE WINTERS

TURNERS FALLS - One of my most vivid college memories is of a lecture by a Korean hydrology professor, Soon Kim. Clearly fascinated by the mysteries of moving water, Dr. Kim told us that no one exactly knows why rivers meander (snake back and forth as they move downstream). His face glowed when he told us that even pure water rivulets from melted ice meander. No one can explain this, he said, with evident delight.

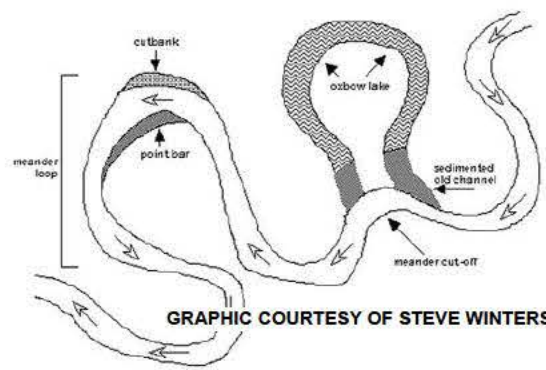
In the years since Dr. Kim's lectures, I've come to suspect that the delicate winding path of pure water has something to do with turbulence - a very advanced subject I still barely understand. So when I must explain meandering to my students, I take a different, more conceptual approach. A river meanders because it is not one strand of moving water but two, each moving in a direction opposite to the other. I call these seemingly-conflicting but complementary strands in all rivers the Rivers Yin and Yang.

Originating in ancient Chinese philosophy, the terms 'yin' and 'yang' refer to the opposite sides, elements or extremes present in all things. But the concept need not be mystical. Principles of dynamic equilibrium - like yin and yang - are common in Western science. For example, physicists and engineers tell us that a well-built bridge stands because the forces that hold

it in place precisely counterbalance the forces that pull the mass of the bridge to the earth. Without this balance of opposites, the bridge would fall. Far from inciting conflict, yin and yang assure harmony.

How does the concept of yin and yang apply to rivers? Imagine one river containing two inter-penetrating strands. One strand, River Yin, flows lengthwise down the river valley. The other strand, River Yang, flows crosswise relative to River Yin, cutting sediment from the outside bank (the 'cutbank') while depositing sediment on the inside bank (the 'pointbar'). This cutbank erosion and pointbar sedimentation makes the river move side-to-side as it travels down its valley. The resulting loops of flowing water and sediment are what we see as meanders.

I like to think of meandering as a way the river stabilizes or 'calms' itself. How does this work? Meandering increases the length of a river - the distance it travels from its source to the sea. That increase in distance means the river now moves more gradually from its highest to its lowest point. This more gradual descent slows the river down, which minimizes soil erosion while building up its flood plain deposits.



A diagram shows how a river meanders

It's really hard not to think of a meandering river as if it were alive: to our senses, rivers seem to be alive and to 'want' to meander. We mythologize this perception in song (Jerome Kern's "Old Man River") and in myth and religion. The River Nile, for example, was a god to the ancient Egyptians. And those of us who have read Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, or Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* know the river is as real a character in these novels as any human actor.

Young rivers have few meanders because it takes a long time for the meander-forming process of simultaneous erosion and sedimentation to do its work. In fact, geologists use meanders as a reliable indicator of a river's maturity. Our own Connecticut River is a mature river that traces its ancestry back at least 10 million years, when crustal forces uplifted the valley and led to the formation of one river (the

Connecticut) from several (the Deerfield, the Westfield, and the Farmington Rivers, among others).

The stretch of the Connecticut River between Turners Falls and Springfield is particularly rich in meanders. So rich, in fact, that, sometimes, the mature river gives back some of the land it took earlier in its youth. This gift of

old age is an arc-shaped lake called an oxbow.

This is how oxbows form. Meanders in mature rivers tend to make wide loops that stretch across a flood plain. Eventually, when the distance the water travels between two loops is much shorter overland than the distance it travels winding its way in the streambed, the river breaks through its banks and cuts off its downstream partner loop. Where this meandering cut-off occurs, an oxbow is formed.

The conditions responsible for oxbow formation develop over thousands of years - although the final formation of the oxbow can be sudden and catastrophic. Our region has a famous and very dramatic oxbow story. During a large flood of the Connecticut on March 3rd and 4th, 1840, Amherst College President Edward Hitchcock and his students ascended Mt. Holyoke to stake out the (then) meander loop between

Northampton and Mt. Tom Junction. During those two days, Professor Hitchcock and his students saw how the Connecticut broke through its bank to cut off a very wide meander that had formed in South Hadley. After the cut off, town property that once was taxed in the east bank community of South Hadley, now joined the tax base for the west bank community of Northampton. This famous oxbow is beautifully on display from several viewing locations on Mt. Holyoke or Mt. Tom.

Meanders are a natural and beautiful way rivers have of adjusting to varying conditions of flow, erosion, and deposition going on in their watersheds. Whether we imagine the process as the outcome of a dueling Yin and Yang or as an engineer's model, we can nonetheless wonder at the marvels of moving water. Dr. Kim, I'm sure, would beam his approval.

Steve Winters is a hydrogeologist and environmental science educator. Through Boston University's Prisoner Education Project, he teaches geology to prisoners at the Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Framingham. This summer Steve is also the Seasonal Interpreter at the Mt. Tom State Reservation in Holyoke. Steve lives in Turners Falls. Reach him at science_matters@yahoo.com.

HORSES

continued from pg. 1

and both completed theses that explored the relationship between women and their bodies in the sphere of athletics and trauma, respectively.

Both also share a love of being "among horses," which is what Ashvana means in Sanskrit, and, as their brochure expresses it, a belief in "riding as healing, on the physical, emotional and spiritual level."

On a visit to the Center, where Rury teaches as an NARHA-certified advanced instructor, (NARHA stands for North American Riding for the Handicapped Association), one passes first by the small apartment shared by the owners, then enters a comfortable horsy space that is part office, part tack room,

part parlor, and includes a bookshelf full of one's childhood collection of the plastic Breyer horse models familiar to many a school girl. The spacious arena beckons next, with its high trussed roof and ample ring. A turn to the left brings you into the stables proper, where a handsome group of animals greets the visitor, including a cat named Fiver, a dog named Brodie, and a stunning collection of sleek, velvety horses in spacious, spanking-clean stalls. Visitors are introduced to, among others, Opie, Captain, Casey, Khandessa, and Dessa's gorgeous, leggy son Khadence, born just six weeks ago under the Strawberry Moon.

The indoor arena will make it possible for the Center to operate nearly year-round, working with schools, organizations, and individuals in the fall, early winter, and spring months, and making room for special programs and camps in the summer.

The first such camp is starting up very shortly: Horse Camp I, August 14th-16th, and Horse Camp II, August 21st-23rd. Open to ages 6-14, the camps will run all day and include two small group riding lessons, horse-handling skills, games, and additional riding time and activities.

The concept of therapeutic riding is not new, according to Rury, but has gained serious momentum since its introduction into this country in the 1970s. "One of the first calls we



Getting ready for the ride.

received after letting people know we were starting up was straight from a school, saying how soon can we give you a referral?" related Heilig. People appear to warm to the idea of therapeutic riding immediately, especially if they have had any experience with horses or love of animals. "It's about building confidence and respect and self-esteem and trust, but it's also about balance and coordination, muscle tone, posture, and motor development," said Rury. She notes that many of the things the able-bodied take for granted are a challenge for the disabled. They are skills that must be learned or re-learned, and the science of 'hippotherapy' shows that horses can play a huge role in that learning.

Asked, "Why Gill? Why Ten Penny Acres?" both owners note

the manageable size of the five-acre farm, the convenient built-in apartment, the indoor arena begging to be used, the proximity to I-91 and Route 2, making it easier for distant customers (of which they expect to have many, since the only other therapeutic centers in the region are in Orange and Holyoke) to access them.

"But we also knew this was the place for us, by the incredible response of the community," said Heilig. In addition to the thirty friends and family who showed up to help them move in on their first day, Heilig and Rury say literally scores of neighbors and townspeople have dropped by since (once, twenty-five in one weekend), with donations of tack or tools, eager questions about the business-to-be, and offers of all varieties of assistance.

The owners' willingness to accept and actively seek out such assistance is apparent, and it seems to be one reason their business is on such a strong footing at this early stage. They acknowledge the help of the Franklin County Community Development Corporation in giving feed-

back on their business plan and referring them to a very able accountant. They have also found an array of business people willing not only to advise but - even more valuable - to mentor them, and a foundation that understands their mission and is committed to helping them get established.

But the happiest moment so far, Heilig says, has nothing to do with completed business plans or property purchases. It has been the process of working with a young boy with autism and Down's Syndrome, who first came to the stable eager but afraid, wanting to touch the horses, but actually terrified to get near them. Noah has now ridden four times, asks to help saddle his mount, and most importantly, back at home at night, "plays out" and processes the hour he has spent in the stable, clearly looking forward with joy to the day he can come back.

Ashvana... "among horses." It is an apt description for a place where being among horses seems to be not only what you do, and who you are, but also a path to who you may become.

For more information about Ashvana Stables visit www.ashvanastables.com or call 413-863-2676. For more about Opening Gaits visit www.openinggaitstrc.org, call 413-863-0002, or watch the *Montague Reporter* for ads.

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Brady Looks For Redemption in '06

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - It was a sight Patriots fans have not been accustomed to seeing over the last five years. During a pivotal moment in last year's AFC play-off game against the Denver Broncos, with the game on the line and the Patriots driving to take the lead in the second half, Tom Brady threw a devastating interception to Broncos' cornerback Champ Bailey, who returned it 99 yards for a touchdown that essentially ended the Patriots' season. Mr. Clutch had let his team down for the first time in his career during the playoffs, and had broken his perfect 10-0 postseason record.

Brady has quarterbacked the New England Patriots to three Super Bowl championships. He has met the Pope, been invited to hear the President speak to Congress, dated starlets and posed for glossy magazine ads. But for the first time in his career he was going home early during the playoffs, wondering what might have been. The Patriots' defense, which struggled for much of last season with injuries and inconsistent play, was playing their best

football down the stretch and in the playoffs. Making matters worse, the Patriots would have hosted the AFC championship, setting themselves up for another Super Bowl had Brady and the offense not turned the ball over five times in Denver.

The Patriots will now try to put the dynasty-derailing play-off loss behind them as Brady and his teammates begin training camp in Foxboro for the 2006 season. Brady is now entering his seventh season with the Pats. The quarterback did have his best season statistically last year, with 26 touchdowns, 14 interceptions, and 334 completions for 4110 yards. But Brady will have a thinner group of wide receivers to work with this season. David Givens bolted to greener pastures with the Tennessee Titans during the off-season, signing a \$24 million deal. The Patriots also lost wide receivers Tim Dwight and Andre Davis and traded away Bethel Johnson. To top it off, wide receiver Deion Branch is in a contract squabble with the Patriots, holding out for his big pay day, and longtime receiver Troy Brown isn't getting any



younger at 35 years of age.

The Patriots will be counting on free agent Reche Caldwell and rookie Chad Jackson to fill some big shoes this season. Caldwell has been a disappointment in his first four seasons with the San Diego Chargers. The receiver has battled with injuries and has only 76 receptions in his career. Jackson has a lot of physical talent, but it is unrealistic to expect a rookie to step in and produce right away.

Brady still has his talented tight ends Daniel Graham and Ben Watson. Both will probably see more action in the passing game this season. Third round pick tight end David Tomas has looked good in camp, adding

depth to the position. Brady should also benefit from a better running game this season with the addition of first round pick running back Lawrence Maroney and a healthy offensive line with tackle Matt Light and center Dan Koppen returning. Veteran running back Corey Dillon is also healthy and out to prove last year was a fluke.

Brady, who turned 29 years old last week, is now entering middle age for a NFL quarterback. Brady has been wearing a brace on his left knee during camp, which he dismissed as a preemptive approach to keeping it healthy. He has also had more days off in this year's camp to rest his arm, and eliminate wear and tear. Brady will be using this year's training camp to build chemistry with his new receivers. He will have to go through the learning curve with them and use the preseason games to gain some continuity with the new recruits. "I've still got to learn my reads," Brady said. "I've got to make my progressions. I've got to be that much better when I'm playing with guys I'm not familiar with.

Maybe that helps me out a lot, too. Deion's not here, other people get the ball. If Deion were here, then Deion would get the ball."

In a way, Brady said Branch's absence and Givens' departure magnify his responsibilities as a leader and, after six years in the league, a veteran.

The Patriots definitely need Deion Branch back in uniform soon. But until then Brady will have to work with what he has. The Patriots will probably be searching the waiver wire as teams make their cuts at the end of the preseason to look for more receiver help. The team is still \$13 million under this year's salary cap and has the flexibility to bring in some players that may be able to help Brady out.

Every year is a new challenge. This year could turn out to be one of Brady's biggest career challenges. But, no matter what's thrown at him, one thing is certain. There isn't a better quarterback in the league, and the Patriots are lucky to have him.

Highlights of the Gill Police Log

Disabled Vehicles, Multiple-Car Accidents

Wednesday 7-26

11:15 a.m. Report of a coyote in the area of North Cross Road, reported to be sickly looking. Officer sent to the area; coyote gone on arrival.

Friday 7-28

8:10 a.m. Report of a loose pit bull in the area of Center Road. Officer assisted in looking for the animal.

12:07 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident on Route 2, near Chappell Drive. No injuries reported - both vehicles moved out of the area. One operator cited for accident.

10:00 p.m. Loose raccoon at NMH campus residence. Officer unable to locate.

Sunday 7-30

3:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with arrest of two subjects with regard to a breaking and entering.

11:07 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with dispersing

underage drinkers from an area.

Monday 7-31

9:20 a.m. Cow in the road on West Gill Road. Animal moved back to its pasture.

11:05 a.m. Residential alarm sounding at a Mountain Road residence. Officer sent to the area, all OK. Workers at the house.

9:50 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at the Gill Mobil lights. Operator assisted.

Wednesday 8-2

1:40 p.m. Medical assist requested at a Stoughton Place residence. Same party was transported to FMC by way of BHS ambulance.

1:55 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 eastbound near long rest area. Officer assisted.

4:50 p.m. Report of fireworks being set off in the Riverside area. Officer sent; situation was unfounded.

Thursday 8-3

3:34 p.m. Motor vehicle crash with no injury on Main Road near NMH. Charges were filed on [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. Among other charges, he was criminally cited for negligent operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

4:35 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering in progress at a Riverside area home. Party called back and advised that individual was allowed to be at the home.

Friday 8-4

4:00 a.m. Officer called out from his residence to a report of suspicious motor vehicles on South Cross Road. Same vehicles were found and identified. No one was found with the vehicles.

2:00 p.m. Fire alarm sounded at NMH campus. Found to be a false alarm.

2:15 p.m. Report of a large branch in the roadway impeding traffic on Oak Street.

3:00 p.m. Report of a past

motor vehicle crash at the Gill Mobil lights. Officer took a report. No parties needed medical attention.

11:00 p.m. Report of fireworks being set off at the boat ramp. Incident unfounded upon officer arrival.

Saturday 8-5

12:01 a.m. Medical assistance requested at NMH campus. Party was transported to FMC.

6:20 p.m. Report of loose cows on North Cross Road. Officer assisted securing the cows

10:01 p.m. As a result of a motor vehicle stop on French King Highway criminal charges were filed on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Sunday 8-6

9:30 a.m. Minor motor vehicle crash on Route 2 near Barton Cove area. No injuries.

1:00 p.m. Minor motor vehicle crash reported in the Wagon Wheel parking lot. No injuries reported.

1:30 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 near Barton Cove. No injuries reported in this three-vehicle crash. Accident report filed.

2:10 p.m. Report of a bike having been run over in the Riverview area. Officer sent to the area. Report was taken. No one was near the bike at the time.

Monday 8-7

7:35 a.m. Report of damage caused to a vehicle on North Cross Road, under investigation.

6:15 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with a section 12 involuntary commitment.

Tuesday 8-8

6:50 p.m. Responded to a disturbance on Center Road; legal options given to involved parties.

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MOBS OF ZOMBIES

BY RAY DIDONATO WENDELL - *Dawn of the Dead* directed by Zack Snyder, (2005). This zombie flick, loosely based on the 1978 George Romero film of the same name, is a movie all its own. When an epidemic of flesh-eating zombies strikes the earth, a small group of survivors finds themselves holed up in a local mall. Faced with the prospect that

no help will arrive, and with an ever-increasing horde of zombies surrounding the mall, the group must decide whether to stay or flee to safer confines, if such sanctuary exists.

This film abandons the comedic and sometimes silly elements of Romero's 1978 film, and goes straight for the jugular. Older films by Romero and others depict slow, mindless beings. The 2005 DOD zombies are

faster, sneakier, and freakier, more like the creatures in *28 Days Later* - perhaps its the modern zombie zeitgeist. The special effects in this movie are excellent, from scenes of utter chaos to mobs of zombies. Some aspects of this film might be disturbing to watchers unaccustomed to gore, so *caveat renter*. Rated R, 101 minutes.

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADERS!



A scene resembling Greenfield Sidewalk Sales, in Robert Wise's Dawn of the Dead.

The Day the Earth Stood Still directed by Robert Wise, (1951). When a flying saucer lands in Washington, D.C. the military and civilians are in a state of alert and paranoia. An alien emissary, Klaatu (Michael Rennie) and his robot, Gort (Lock Martin) have come with a message that must be delivered to representatives of all the nations of Earth. But will it be delivered in time? When Klaatu befriends a woman and her son (Patricia Neal and Billy Gray), it becomes clear to her that Klaatu's message must be heard, and that the alien faces grave danger in his peaceful endeavor. The film won a Golden Globe for "Best Film Promoting International Understanding."

This film accurately reflects both the paranoia of a nation embroiled by the Communist Red Scare, and the relative world tension that ushered in the Cold War. Klaatu, who looks just like any other civilian, could be our next door neighbor. Is anyone safe?

This film is relevant today, and one can draw parallels between the military and civilian mindset of this film and the mindset instilled by our contemporary "War on Terror." This is also a good film for introducing school-age children to sci-fi, though some might find the robot Gort a bit frightening at times. Rated G, B&W, 92 minutes.

X-Files Recommendation

"Home," originally aired 10/11/96 (Season 4, Episode 2). When Mulder and Scully investigate the remains of an infant with a variety of birth defects, their attention focuses on the Peacock brothers, who live in an adjoining farmhouse. The Peacocks are anything but your "normal" family.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 11TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Catamount, classic rock & roll, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

At the Montague Bookmill: The Believers & Niagara & Mike Tamburo & Soil Sing Through Me, free-rock to raga inspired free-improvisation, \$7, at 8 p.m. Info. 367-9206 or www.montaguebookmill.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Strangers, rock, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 11-13TH
Ja'Duke Productions presents Urinetown-The Musical at The Shea Theater, Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. 863-2281

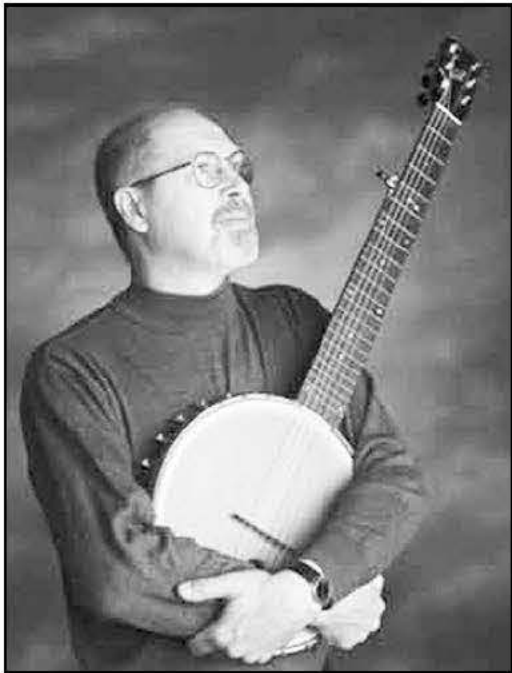
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH & 12TH
Midsummer Night's Dream, produced and directed by Caitlin Freed with an all youth performed production. 7:30 p.m. at Shelburne Falls Memorial Hall. \$5 donation to benefit youth organizations. For info call (413) 575-5869.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Rock 201, rockers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Stone Coyotes, first "lady of rock", come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Old Home Day "Survivor 2006" is the theme. Kids parade will kick off the day at 11:30, led by "Waffles the Clown". Tag sales, raffles, food, kids games, petting zoo, mushroom museum, music! (978) 544-7352 keepthebeat@yahoo.com

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH-20TH
Old Home Days, Montague



Michael Nix performs for the first Great Falls Discovery Center Coffeeshouse in the Great Hall., 7 p.m. on 8/23

Center. Friday: 5 p.m. Village Fair, dance recital, and Curly Fingers DuPree. Food, games, auction items viewing. Saturday: 8 a.m. Village Fair, local farmers market, Mug Race (367-2812) 9 a.m. auction, rock climbing wall, food, parade, games, Fall Town String Band, historical display. 5:30 Chicken BBQ, Swift Kicks. Sunday: 8-10 a.m. Breakfast \$6. 11 a.m. Worship Service, music by MacDonald Family Singers

John Waynelovich presents *A Year From Now* at The Shea Theater. Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. 863-2281

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH
Connecticut River Valley Astronomer's Conjunction First Annual Solar Star Party. Nationally-known solar observers bring amazing telescopes to Northfield Mountain and watch our closest star neighbor. An informal balance of observing and responding to participant questions about the sun and the telescopes. Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Route 63, Northfield. Ages 10 yrs and older. 9 p.m. to 10

a.m. Pre-register 800-859-2960

Northfield Art Fest. More than 25 artists & artisans, enticing food & drink, local musicians, children's activities at Green Tree Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (413) 498-0283

Art Show & Music Paintings by Mike Hollenbeck: "Hot Rods and Muscle Cars from the son of a Lineman for the County, Hamburg, Michigan" Live music by PFTA/Pete & Steve, 5 p.m. at 42 Central Street, Turners Falls

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 19 & 20TH
Wendell State Forest, the Great Northern Tier Geocaching Tournament. Expert and amateur geocachers - join the hunt for "caches" hidden throughout region using hand-held GPS (Geographic Positioning System) unit (rent or buy). Caches for Bikers, Hikers, and Paddlers! Prizes & coupons for area attractions. Saturday: 8 a.m. registration begins (250 "teams" limit). 8 to 9 a.m. GPS instruction. 5 to 7 p.m. Chicken B-B-Q. Sunday: 3 p.m. deadline for submitting scorecards (978) 544-3332.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH
The Physical language of Plants with Chris Marano. Introduction to Native American system for understanding medicinal and nutritional uses of herbs. Gather at 66 West Street. 10 a.m - 1 p.m. Sponsored by Wendell Free Library and Wendell Cultural Council. (978) 544-8554

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22ND

Upcoming at the Discovery Center

Seasonal hours: Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SUNDAYS, THRU OCTOBER
Family Nature Program geared towards the family group with lots of crafts, nature activities and live animal presentations. Programs at 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The GFDC will be open to the public every Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH
Puritan Tiger Beetles: What's all the Buzz? Learn about the threats to its population and how important the Connecticut River watershed and you are for its survival. Endangered and only found in two places on the entire planet! All ages, free. 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH
Migration Headache Learn what a migratory bird has to do to survive as it prepares to head south for the winter. 11 a.m. to Noon.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23RD
Michael Nix, 7p.m. Described as "wonderfully warm and inspiring", "breathtakingly beautiful to hear" and "touching and transcendent." A nature themed concert on guitar, mandolin, & Banjar-a seven string banjo of his own design. Benefit for Friends of the Discovery Center. Sliding scale donations: \$5 to \$10.

Great Falls Discovery Center 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863.3221 www.greatfallsma.org

Poetry reading by Slate Roof Poets, Susan Middleton and Trish Crapo, 7 p.m, Leverett Library. Free and open to the public. Refreshments.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH
Noon - 3 p.m. Picnic on the Gill Common. Hand cut french fries and strawberry shortcake. 1-3 p.m. Fall Town String Band and horse-drawn hay rides. 2 p.m.: Sawdust coin-hunt for kids, and more! All proceeds benefit the Friends of Gill.

UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9TH
Print, Wood, Clay exhibit exploring image through media by Gary Grosenbeck at The Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts (413) 548-9070

UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24TH
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3. MONSTER HOUSE PG DAILY 12:00 2:00 4:00
3. AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH PG DAILY 7:00 9:00
4. PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:25
5. THE DESCENT R DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. TALLADEGA NIGHTS PG 13 IN DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
7. THE WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 IN DTS SOUND DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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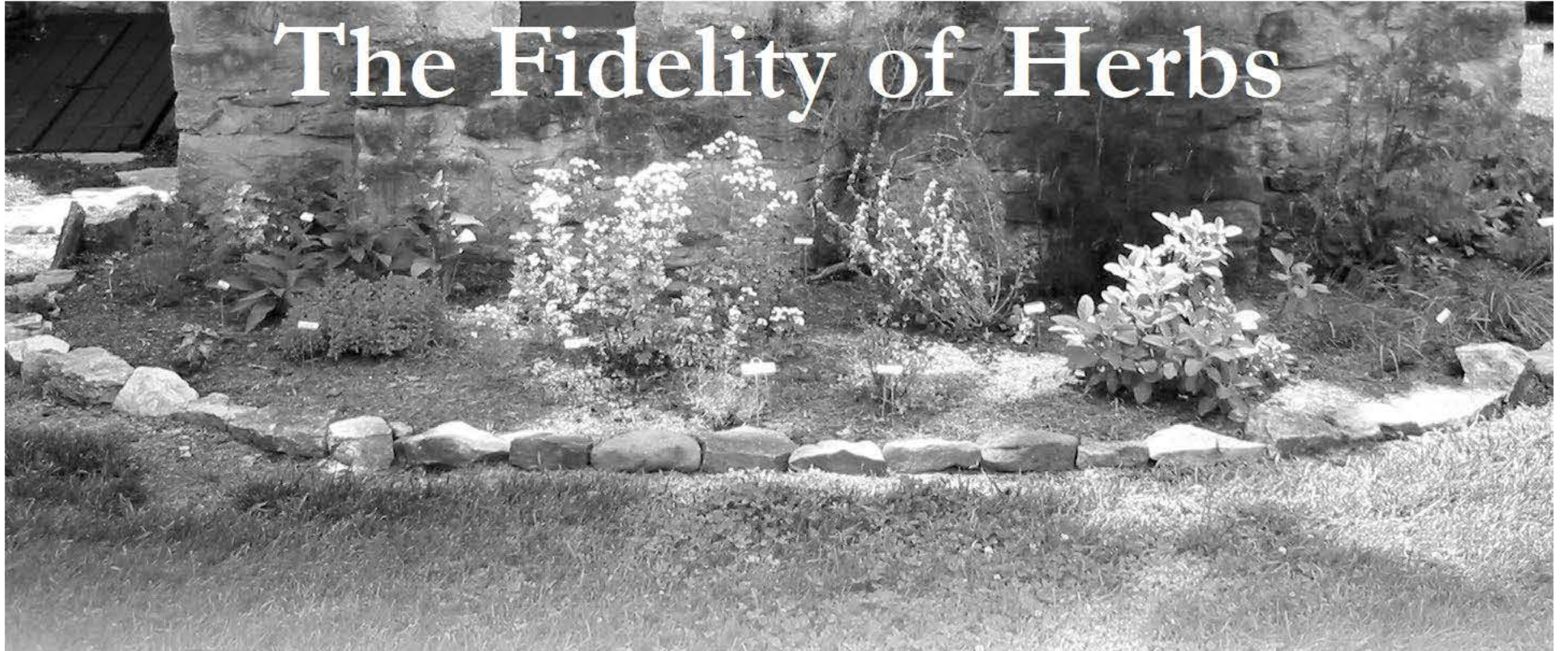
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The Fidelity of Herbs



BY JOANNE KOCH POTE

TURNERS FALLS - We think of herbs, for the most part, as either seasonings or as medicinal plants but rarely do we look beyond their utility or healthfulness. For centuries, herbs and flowers have had special meanings associated with them. We only have to think of Hamlet to recall "rue, for sorrow... rosemary, for remembrance" or to look at the 15th century painting of "The Marriage Contract" by Van Eyck in which the serious groom holds a dianthus in his slender fingers, a symbol of his fidelity. Certainly the French word *pensee* for thought is associated with pansies, a bouquet of cheerful thoughts to be found in a May basket, but just how, when or why these meanings arose have been lost over time.

As someone who loves arranging flowers for any occasion, I was delighted to be asked

by my sister to help with the arrangements for my youngest niece's wedding. Cesca had been deployed to Iraq for almost two years and her safe return warranted an especially festive occasion. I went to the attic to dig out the 1930s straw basket that I filled for my own daughter's wedding. I carried it on the bus to Binghamton thinking I would fill it with a few of the herbs, lavender and thyme, and flowers, alstroemeria, lilies and lisianthus, that I knew the bridal attendants would be carrying in their bouquets.

Upon seeing the nave of the very modern Binghamton Unitarian Universalist Church, and confronted by a very ugly table about fourteen feet long and three and a half feet wide covered with a rather yellowed lace cloth, I despaired. Knowing that we must leave everything in the church as we found per the orders of the church secretary, I realized that the easier plan would be not to remove the table but just to "make it work." Happily, at four in the morning on the next day, I had an inspiration.

My brother-in-law, Salvador, the keeper of garden and lawn at their home, headed out with me

to a nursery set high in the hills surrounding Binghamton to meet Dana, the manager, who pulled out a unique, Victorian-looking leather volume. This book - on the language of flowers - was exactly what we needed for our project. I had some of my own ideas in mind and kept my eyes open for chamomile as it symbolizes "patience in the face of adversity." Not only is this a good philosophy as one enters into a lifelong commitment, but remember poor Peter Rabbit who was put to bed with chamomile tea after escaping from Mr. McGregor! I found two chamomile plants, along with a pink potentilla that appropriately means "beloved daughter."

Salvador added these pots to our nursery wagon and in a second wagon, we added artemesia (for fertility), baby's breath (gentleness), coreopsis - both burgundy and gold - (cheerfulness), sage (domestic bliss) and yarrow (health).

Salvador, who was getting a bit anxious about the cost of all these fabulous plants and taking the long view, asked, "Oh, by the way, what happens to all these plants after the wedding?"

"Why, you are going to plant

them in your garden," I replied. "Great," enthused the bride's father, glad for some return on his investment as he reached for a silver rose geranium (preference).

Pots of marjoram (joy), lavender (devotion) and miniature roses (undying love) were added along with thyme (strength and courage), violets (loyalty) and pansies (happy thoughts). While Salvador was writing a very large check, I picked up some pretty oval labels on which to write the names of the plants and their meanings. Having diplomatically persuaded the bride not to include sunflowers in her bridal bouquet, I asked my sister to find fifteen empty wine bottles in which to place these flowers.

On the morning of the wedding, after Salvador and I carried the pots into the nave, I began to arrange a little garden running the length of the wooden table. Pots, tall and small, were staggered in height and color. Some, including antique ivy geranium (bridal favor) and thyme, were put on their sides so the blooms and tendrils of the plants hung down. Salvador filled the wine bottles with water for the sunflowers, which

were cut in various heights and placed in each of the bottles and arranged behind the herbs in groups of twos and threes. Then I tucked the labels in the pots and stood back well pleased with our labors.

During the wedding ceremony, the minister told the congregation the herbs represented all the good wishes the guests had for the bride and groom and afterwards many guests came forward to more closely examine the arrangement. It did look charming and most importantly the bride and groom were delighted with the thoughtfulness and beauty of the plants. With the permission of the minister, the arrangement was left for the Sunday service and apparently, the UU congregants liked what they saw so much they wanted the floral designers to do some future arrangements. Salvador retrieved the herbs later that morning to be placed in their permanent beds. With many happy memories of a beautiful and meaningful celebration of love, I will have the pleasure of seeing my table herb garden live on whenever I visit my sister's home.

Two-Part Plant Walk in Wendell

BY ADELE SMITH-PENNIMAN

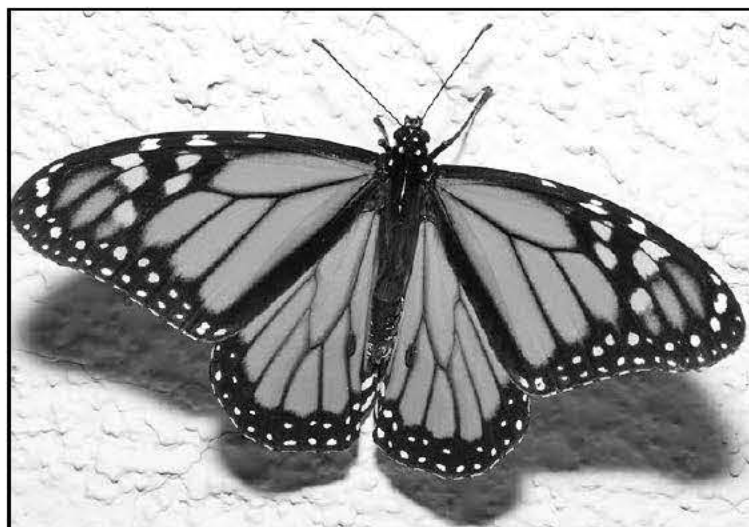
How do plants speak to us? What are their medicinal properties? Chris Marano, acclaimed clinical herbalist, will lead a walk entitled "The Physical Language of Plants" on Sunday, August 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., as part one of a two-part series. The free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Wendell Free Library with funding from the Arts Council. Gather at 66 West Street, Wendell to explore the richness found in our backyard.

The second of the two-part gathering will explore plants, moon cycles, and cross-cultural history. Marano will focus on plant identification and uses and mapping a calendar for use in your garden or farm. The free event will take place on Sunday, August 27th at 10:00 a.m. at Fiske Pond in Wendell. Wear appropriate clothing for mild hiking and, if you have one, bring a Maynard's pocket calendar.

A Banner Year for Monarch Butterflies

BY MARK FAIRBROTHER

MONTAGUE - Recent surveys and numerous independent sightings have shown what many readers may already know: this is shaping up to be a banner year for monarch butterflies in our area. Just about every field or garden with a couple of milkweed plants and a few flowers has one or more monarchs coasting around it. Many have been seen depositing eggs on the milkweed. These eggs will hatch into caterpillars that will munch away on the leaves for a couple of weeks before transforming into the familiar chrysalis for another week or so. Finally they will emerge as large, graceful orange and black butterflies in



late August through October. This is when they move south through our area on their amazing journey to the mountains of central Mexico, where they will spend the winter roosting in

evergreen trees, waiting for the return of spring.

Because of the numbers of adults we are seeing now, we can expect large numbers will be passing through primarily

during September and October. Many hawk-watch sites inland and especially along the coast have in recent years also started counting the monarchs passing by, and we may get record reports, with numbers in the thousands. They will probably be able to be found almost anywhere during that time, but a visit to any large open field or meadow should provide viewers with the sight of numbers of monarchs individually, resolutely coasting southward on the slightest breeze.

Remember, they are heading thousands of miles, on their way to central Mexico, before their flight is done!

Examples of ad proportions

1 col. x 2"
smallest ad
\$12.00

2 col. x 4"

\$48.00

1 col. x 4"
runs on any page

\$24.00

3 col. x 5"
get yourself seen

\$90.00

4 cols. x 5 inches quarter page ad
Can also run 2 cols. x 10 inches
or 5 cols. x 4 inches

\$120.00

5 cols. x 8 inches half page ad
Can also run 4 cols. x 10 inches

\$225.00

5 cols. by 16 inches full page ad: \$440.00

The Montague Reporter

Cost Number of columns and inches

\$6.00 per column inch, 2 inch minimum

\$12.00	1x2				
\$18.00	1x3				
\$24.00	1x4	2x2			
\$30.00	1x5				
\$36.00	1x6	2x3			
\$42.00	1x7				
\$48.00	1x8	2x4			
\$54.00	1x9	3x3			
\$60.00	1x10	2x5			
\$72.00		2x6	3x4		
\$84.00		2x7			
\$90.00			3x5		
\$96.00		2x8		4x4	
\$108.00		2x9	3x6		
\$120.00	1/4 page	2x10		4x5	5x4
\$144.00		2x12	3x8	4x6	
\$168.00		2x14		4x7	
\$180.00		2x15	3x10		5x6
\$192.00		2x16		4x8	
\$216.00			3x12	4x9	
\$225.00	1/2 page discount			4x10	5x8
\$440.00	full page discount				

Chart is based on local ad rate of \$6.00 per col. inch. (5 col. format) Standard sizes. Additional sizes quoted upon request.

Business Card Directory

\$8.00 per week. Ad must run a minimum of 12 weeks.

Cost: \$96.00 per term. **\$86 if prepaid.**

Based on the standard business card size.

**Actual size of your
business card display**

Deadline

Deadline for all advertising is 12 p.m.

Tuesday for Thursday publication.

Pre-printed inserts must be ordered one week prior.

Space Reservations: Space must be reserved by noon Tuesday. Changes to proportions will be made on a space available basis. A \$5 fee will apply.

Circulation: Our print run is 2,000 plus copies. The Montague Reporter is sold at local stores and by subscription.

Copy Regulations

- ◆ In an effort to best serve our readers, The Montague Reporter reserves the right to edit or reject any advertisement deemed objectionable or misleading.
- ◆ Display advertising that resembles editorial content must be clearly marked "ADVERTISEMENT" above the ad.
- ◆ The Montague Reporter will try to honor requests for ad placement, but there are no guarantees.
- ◆ The Montague Reporter shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for typographical errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the first ad. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad that contained the error.
- ◆ Read your ad the day it runs. If it contains an error, contact us immediately. In the event that your ad does not appear on the day requested, it will be inserted in the next week's edition. No liability will be recognized.

Why advertise? There are many advantages to placing your ad in the Montague Reporter.

Weekly newspapers have in-home longevity. Your ad in the Montague Reporter may stay around the house a few days longer than in a daily. Also, with our tabloid format, your display ad increases in visual dominance. Your half-page ad in the Montague Reporter would only equal about the size of a quarter page ad in a local daily. Lastly, by dedicating our coverage to Montague, Gill, Erving and Wendell - something the larger dailies can't do - you're guaranteed a local audience.

Rates

Local ad: \$6.00 per col. inch (5 col. format)

National ad: \$8.00 per col. inch

Classified: \$5.50 per col. inch (6 col. format)

Boxed classified display is \$6.00 per col. inch

Business Card Directory: \$8.00 per week and ad must run a minimum of 12 weeks.

Cost: \$96.00 per contract or \$86.00 prepaid.

Commitment Discounts

4 to 12 consecutive inserts: 5% discount

13 consecutive inserts: 10% discount

26 consecutive inserts: 12.5% discount

52 consecutive inserts: 15% discount

- ◆ Discounts only apply when payment is made within 30 days.
- ◆ Discounts do not apply to national, business card directory or classified advertising.
- ◆ Discounts do not apply to broken contracts. Advertisers will be billed for any discount applied to a contract suspended before its term.

Pre-printed Inserts

Maximum size: One sheet at 8 1/2 x 11 inches. We allow only two inserts per issue. Please call ahead for scheduling. Inserts must be ordered one week prior to publication run. Cost: \$150.00 per 1000.

the Montague Reporter

24 Third Street, Turners Falls MA 01376

Phone: (413) 863-8666 Fax: 863-3050

Email: Reporter@MontagueMa.net

Website: MontagueMa.net/reporter

Advertising Rate Sheet

Effective August, 2006

The Montague Reporter is a non-profit community weekly covering the five villages of Montague: Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Montague Center, Montague City and Lake Pleasant; Gill, Erving and Wendell. By covering community news, events and cultural happenings, the Montague Reporter gives your village a voice through accurate and honest reporting.