



TAKING THE HELM

Welcome, Roberta Potter

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MONTAGUE OLD HOME DAYS

50th Anniversary Celebration

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The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 20, 2009

From Pickles to Paleo-Environments, or How Addie Rose Holland Made It to Lake El'gygytgyn, Siberia



Addie Rose Holland works at the drill rig, adding depth, date, time and other information to the label of one of the many sediment samples her team collected.

BY STEVE WINTERS
MONTAGUE CENTER
— It seems that pickle-farmer-turned-arctic-geologist Addie Rose Holland has a knack for getting to hard-to-find locations: Whether it's Lake El'gygytgyn in northern Siberia, or the Bookmill in Montague Center ("books you don't need in a place you can't find"), her dogged determination pays off.

Addie and I played e-mail tag for about two weeks. Both of us had complicated working and school schedules, plus Addie had car problems. The Pickle Truck was

inoperable, and the gas tank in her car sprung a leak (a story in itself). Finally, Addie and I met at the Bookmill to review her UMass Amherst graduate school project at a faraway Siberian lake and meteor crater called Lake El'gygytgyn (Lake E, for short).

Some of you may already know Montague resident Addie and her partner Dan Rosenberg of Real Pickles. After some time working the pickle business, Addie decided to study for her masters degree at UMass. It was here that her prior studies and work experience in

hydrogeology won her a plum masters thesis assignment: She joined a team of scientists, led by her advisor Dr. Julie Brigham-Grette, who were heading off to a Siberian lake to drill for sediments dating back 3.6 million years. Their goal was to acquire the longest continuous sediment and climate record on Earth.

Great project, but with a catch: Lake E is sixty-two miles north of the Arctic Circle in Russia, and, oh yes, they'd be camping out for 2-½ months and drilling in the middle of a frozen lake (four miles from shore).

How Addie got into this pickle

Addie describes all of this with perfect calm, as if she were explaining how to make kosher dills. First, she tells me why this project is so important. To understand what will happen to our planet as the atmosphere warms up and our global climate changes, we must know how the Earth's climate changed in the past.

see **SIBERIA** pg 8



COURTESY OF NANCY CURRIE HOLMES AND KATHY WEBBER
Paul Charest, Phyllis Hmieleski Sinclair, and Peggy Welcome Sevrens at Schuetzen Verein for the TFHS Class of 1969's 40th reunion

Village Sketchbook

Turners Falls Class Reunion | August 15, 2009

BY DAVID BRULE

There are few events woven into the cultural and social fabric of our town that carry the same import as your class reunion. Sure, there are yearly town-wide veterans' memorial days when you pause to reflect on those from our town who have fought, fallen, or passed on. There are parades for various reasons, marking significant victories or championships in our sports life, and there are family benchmarks like Christmas and Thanksgiving. But there are few gatherings that pull together such a diverse and

far-flung community, now oftentimes a cyber-community, where social lines, career trajectories, and forty years of a lifetime intersect.

There are few events that evoke the old days, revive old anxieties, and generate so much pleasure as when we take the risk and meet up with classmates from long ago, after life has had several decades to play out. Think of it: some of us who are native to this town spent most of our formative years, our painful and vulnerable adolescence, as well as early adult years with a specific

group of friends, many of whom we met for the first time in kindergarten. So it's no wonder that some of our classmates choose to opt out for those very reasons, and why others can't wait for a class reunion to come around again.

So when Montague Reporter Friend (whom our editor calls a Turners Falls pistol!) Nancy Currie Holmes came to the office and said we should cover the 40th reunion of the Turners Falls High School Class of '69, how could we refuse? With my own 45th

see **REUNION** pg 9

Erving Hearing Ignites Controversy

BY P. H. CROSBY

ERVING — A quiet and moderately well-attended Erving planning board hearing erupted into controversy Thursday, August 13th when a member of the audience suggested the Board Chair had a conflict of interest and asked him to recuse himself from the proceedings before he had trouble with the Ethics Commission.

Jeffrey Dubai, Chair of the Erving planning board, denied any such conflict but stepped back from the actions of the board immediately, allowing fellow board member Bill Morris to step in to chair remaining proceedings.

The conflict of interest concern was raised by former selectboard member Dan Hammock, who noted that

Dubay's wife was owner of the Freight House, a coffee shop and antiques business in Erving Center which would likely be affected by the proposed establishment of a gas station and convenience store near the French King Bowling Alley, on the site of the former Countree Living restaurant. The hearing last Thursday was scheduled by the planning board to share with the public the board's intention to propose at the next town meeting a change in zoning bylaws which would allow such a development.

Dubay made clear early in the proceedings that he did not believe the board would be recommending approval of such a project at town meeting. However, because 166 signa-

tures had been obtained on a petition to put the matter before the voters, the planning board had been advised to map out the details of such a zoning by-law change and to share it in advance with the public. The planning board was assisted in the process by Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Director Peggy Sloan, who was present at the hearing to explain some of the proposed language and potential impacts of a revised by-law.

"We may want gas, but we need water," said Dubai when he noted the likelihood that the planning board would not recommend the zoning change. The by-law change would allow the proposed gas station and potential drive-through to

be built in an aquifer protection overlay district, with the reasoning that above-ground storage tanks would sufficiently protect water resources. According to the board, the Department of Environmental Protection recommends neither for nor against such a change, but requires much more frequent monitoring and testing. However, Dubai opined that "most engineers would not put something like this on an aquifer," and noted that gas stations are already allowed in other parts of town.

Current select board member Andrew Tessier noted from the audience that if the town votes for the change, the building proposal would still require a special permit and would need to go before the selectboard, which is the "permit granting authority."

As part of the zoning

change, a drive-through would be allowed, but only in a small area to be newly designated as a "neighborhood commercial district," explained Sloan. This point drew some protest from Dubai, who noted both the unfairness of allowing drive-throughs in some commercial areas of town and not others, as well as the possibility that this could lead next to the kinds of businesses who would "just use us for our traffic."

"The planning board is supposed to protect what makes Erving beautiful and nice to live in," stated Dubai. "That includes the amenities and water supply... We do have to allow for business," he acknowledged, but felt the board needed to be cautious about changes.

Eric Semb, who is propos-

see **HEARING** pg 6

PET OF THE WEEK

A Lot o' Lovin'



Boone

My name is Boone and I'm an 8-year-old male Coonhound in need of a good home. I am a big boy – about 80 pounds – but that just means there's more of me to love. I'm a laid-back, easygoing guy. Sure, I love to go for walks, but I'll be okay if sometimes you just take me out for a quick potty break instead of a long hike. I'm a good match for folks who don't want to dedicate their lives to getting their dog tired out!

I'd love to hang out with you but I'm also happy to entertain myself – probably with a nap – if you are busy elsewhere. I am very eager to be part of a family again. I can live with other dogs, but no cats please. I can live with children over 8. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Protecting Pollinators

TURNERS FALLS – The Carnegie Library will host a presentation by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust on native pollinators and their habitat on Tuesday, August 25th. The workshop "It's the Little Things that Run the World" is recommended for adults and children grades one and up. There will be slides of flowers and insects, and a short talk on what homeowners can do to help native pollinator species, followed by a hands-on presentation for kids. Children will learn

how to make a "bee hotel," and taste pollen from local honeybees.

The event will run from 10 to 11 a.m. There will be handouts and instructions on other projects to help declining pollinator species in one's backyard.

For more information call the Library at (413) 863-3214, or Kate Kerivan, Community Outreach Coordinator, and a Commonwealth Corps volunteer at Mount Grace at (978) 248-2055 x21 or email kerivan@mountgrace.org.



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Phyllis Teater of Turners Falls and her granddaughter Evelyn Ostroski of Keene enjoyed meeting Terra, a Ball Python, owned by Rae Griifiths of Teaching Creature of Belchertown, at the Summer Reading Program

Summer Party at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, August 19th. Parties were held at all three Montague Public Libraries during the third week in August.

For more information, please call the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.



Enjoying the Block Party in Turners Falls are Ann Harding and her young friend Belouria Menegoni

Turners Falls Farmers Market Extended Hours

Starting this Wednesday, Aug. 19, through the rest of the Farmers' market season, Oct 28, the Great Falls Farmers Market will be open from 2 to 6 p.m.: an extra hour to shop and check out the market. Vendors may start setting up as early as 1:15 p.m. and break down by 6:30 p.m.

This change was encouraged by the growing number of vendors, and the customers who have been shopping, browsing, and meeting up with neighbors.

Thank you for your support of this market, and thank you to the Select Board, which approved these changes on August 17th.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – August 24th to Sept 4th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site Manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call 863-9357. Community Action will be here on Thursday 9/3 to do Fuel Assistance Recertifications. Call to sign up. Reserve your tickets now for the Polka Fest trip on September 29 and don't forget the Ice Cream Social on August 31. Call to sign up.

Monday, Aug. 24th & 31st

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social (8/31)

Tuesday, Aug. 25th & Sept. 1st

9:00 a.m. Walking group (weather permitting)
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag (9/1)
12:45 p.m. COA Board Meeting (9/1)
1:00 p.m. Canasta

Wednesday, Aug. 26th & Sept. 2nd

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screenings (8/26)
11:00 a.m. Fuel Assistance Information Session (9/2)
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, Aug. 27th & Sept. 3rd

Friday, Aug. 28th & Sept. 4th

9:00 a.m. Fuel Assistance Recertification (9/3)
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Monday, Aug. 24th & 31st
9:00 a.m. Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, Aug. 25th & Sept. 1st
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Senior Business Meeting (8/25)
12:00 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, Aug. 26th & Sept. 2nd
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 noon Bingo
Thursday, Aug. 27th & Sept. 3rd
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, Aug. 28th & Sept. 4th
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Lunch: Picnic (8/28)
Call for Lunch info on 9/4.

CHAIR YOGA classes with Jean Erlbaum on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. on the following Tuesdays: Sept 8, 15, 22, Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 10, 17, 24, Dec 8, 15. These classes offer a good stretch and strengthening for muscles, oiling for joints and fun! People from all towns are invited and of all skill levels, including folks in wheelchairs. There is a discounted price of \$2.00 for each class. Pre-registration is not required. For more information and for help with transportation, please contact Roberta Potter at (413) 863-4500.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity.

Monday, Aug. 24th & 31st

9:00 a.m. Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, Aug. 25th & Sept. 1st
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Senior Business Meeting (8/25)
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9:00 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, Aug. 28th & Sept. 4th
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Lunch: Picnic (8/28)
Call for Lunch info on 9/4.

WENDELL Senior Center

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Roberta Potter Takes the Helm of G-M Senior Center



LYN CLARK PHOTO

Roberta Potter, new Director of the Gill-Montague Senior Center

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Roberta Potter, the new director of the Gill-Montague Senior Center, blends an intensely high regard for elders with her own strong work ethic.

"I love this position," said Potter as she looked back on her first few weeks on the job. "It's wonderful to be working with seniors. These people have labored hard all their lives, paying taxes, serving on the PTA. They have given so much to their community.

They deserve to have a nice senior center."

Potter took over the reins from Juanita (Bunny) Caldwell, who guided the seniors' home-away-from-home for twelve years. She retired from UMass about a year ago, after thirty-five years as Dining Services Manager. As a town meeting member, Potter has long been an advocate for the Gill-Montague Senior Center, maintaining consistently that the center is a vital service.

The director's hours have been scaled down from a 20-hour position to 17. Does Potter think she can still be effective? "Oh yes," she said. There are a lot of folks around here and on our two boards who are totally committed to the senior center."

Montague and Gill each have boards who oversee the GMSC. "Both boards are very knowledgeable," said Potter, "and we have 25-30 regular volunteers, so we can carry on our great tradition of seniors helping seniors."

"We do have our challenges," she said, "especially in transportation. Many of our seniors, who don't drive, can't get to the senior center. Also, we don't have a lot of space. There is one main room. So we're limited by the nature of our environment and must conduct one activity at a time."

Nonetheless, the center will start a knitting circle in September. "And I'd like to identify a group of seniors who would like to start a Friday afternoon bridge group." A tai chi group may begin later in the fall.

One of the current features

of the program at the center is its collaboration with Franklin County Home Care Corporation, which provides congregate meals Tuesdays through Fridays. Becky Cobb is the meal site manager and, according to Potter, "does an excellent job, both serving the food and interfacing our center with FCHCC."

The Montague town health nurse also pays a visit to the senior center on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The nurse answers seniors' questions and conducts blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar screenings.

In addition, an extensive array of social programs are held at the senior center, including weekly scheduled card games, regularly-slated coffee hours, special entertainment programs that feature musicians, and a very strong fitness program that includes a walking group and aerobics.

The Gill-Montague Senior Center, located at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Newt Guilbault League Thanks Local Businesses

The Newt Guilbault Baseball League of Turners Falls would like to thank the many golfers and sponsors who came together in support of our annual golf tournament at the Meadows in Greenfield on August 8th. They raised nearly \$2,000 that will be re-invested in our outstanding baseball program.

Among our generous league sponsors are: Akey Insurance Agency; Berkshire Bank; Bobby C's DJ Service; Booska's Flooring; Brian Sansoucie Locksmith; C&S Wholesale Grocers; Doyle's Car Wash; Greenfield Savings Bank; Hale Custom Signs; Ja'Duke Center for Performing Arts; Jankowski Plumbing and Heating; Jim Wright, Sr.; Montague Elks Lodge 2521; MA Army National Guard; Pipione's Sports Shop; Scotty's Convenience Store; St Kaz Society; The Office Pub; Turn's Lawn Care, Stone, and Landscape Service; Turners Falls Pizza House; and Watroba Construction.

Connecticut River Song Semi-Finals Begin August 23

Fourteen contestants will play their original songs live at the French King Restaurant in Erving starting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 23.

This year's second annual "Living along the River" song-writing contest yielded a diverse group of entries, according to Pat LaMountain, Finance Director at the Connecticut River Watershed Council and creator of the contest, which is sponsored by the Watershed Council. "Songs came in from Maryland, Georgia, and New Jersey. We

received a song from a 13 year-old and a CD from a person who is seventy-three." There is jazz, plenty of folk and rock, and even a rumba and an operatic offering. "There's a ballad about an 1874 flood on the Mill River in Haydenville, MA, and one about "ice out" on the Deerfield, plus dinosaur fossils, Native American mythology, river legends, beavers and dwarf wedgemussels."

During two rounds of semi-finals, followed by the grand finals, judges will evaluate the

best of the entries as they are played before live audiences, scoring them according to contest rules, which are available at www.ctriver.org.

CRWC's Living along the River Songwriting Contest semi-finals concerts will take place on Sunday, August 23, at 4 p.m. at the French King Restaurant in Erving; and at the Rapids Restaurant in Huntington, on Sunday, September 13th at 4 p.m. The grand finals will be held Sunday, October 25, in Turners Falls.

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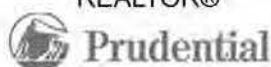
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The Lobster Wars

OWLS HEAD, MAINE – Last week my quiet little vacation spot made the national news when the shooting of one lobsterman by another ratcheted up the ongoing lobstering disputes to a whole new level. The shooting happened on the island of Matinicus, 20 miles off the coast of my peninsula.

Lobstering is a trade dependent on hard work in extreme conditions; it is affected by the weather, the quantity of the catch, and the cost of the "bug" that the market is willing to bear. None the less, it is a way of life that is followed by families for generations. In exchange for unreliability, harsh weather, the enormous cost of running a boat, and a short season, it appears to offer solitary, independent, and sometimes well-paying work to some.

It's also the only way of life some folks know or can imagine.

That said, there are only so many lobsters and only so many hunting grounds. Apparently, stealing from the traps of other lobstermen and cutting lines of trappers who fish in what you consider to be "your grounds," have always been an issue, and one that law enforcement has great difficulty in pursuing to a conclusion.

But the shooting of one Matinicus lobsterman by another one (albeit not fatally) rocked that small island community and others nearby. As their location twenty miles out to sea from all mainland resources suggests, these folks have to pull together in order to survive. A year-round community of less than 50 people, the islanders are neighbors and often families. Both parties to this latest dispute belong to long-standing community families who have always pulled together when disaster or local needs arise. Still, making a living is a serious business, and lobstering is one of the most challenging. Apparently, these two men had disagreed about fishing territory and many cut trap lines.

Territorial disputes between lobstermen and between fishing

communities are not uncommon. Three lobster boats were sunk off my own little bit of Maine paradise recently. While I was vacationing at Owls Head, a Cushing man was arrested and accused of cutting lines from twenty-two lobster buoys. He could lose his fishing license for three years. Many blame the recession and the low cost of the catch for this elevation in the ongoing lobster wars.

As a landlubbing outlander, it occurs to me that this situation is no different from many around the globe, wherever supply is limited and need is great. The slogan "Think locally, act globally" comes to mind.

In today's world we have to look beyond ourselves to the bigger picture. That's easy to say, I know. Still, that's the only way we'll be able to put our teeth into solving the big ones like global warming, global hunger and global greed.

It's always heartening to read of the flip side in these times. In the small coastal town of Port Clyde, also just down the peninsula from me, a Fishermen's Cooperative not unlike our gardening cooperatives has been formed. Only they've taken it a step further: sure, you can buy shares and access the ability to purchase fresh, locally-caught fish harvested by your friends and neighbors, but you can also join in the necessary labor all of this work entails. When the local church bell rings in Port Clyde, and it isn't Sunday morning, it means there's a need for extra hands to fillet fish or clean shrimp.

Port Clyde is standing up as a community to create a local, fresh, sustainable fish supply and offering hands-on assistance in a way that may allow this village to hold on to its centuries-old heritage. We can all learn a lesson from that.

Leslie Brown lives in Montague City and is a member of The Montague Reporter's Board of Directors.



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

Hallmark Institute of Photography's downtown presence in Turners Falls will revive when the Class of 2010 begins its program in September.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tatiana's Fine Gifts and Gallery Opening on Fourth Street

There is a new store opening in Turners Falls! Located at 92 Fourth Street, Tatiana's Fine Gifts and Gallery will have antiques, collectables, local art, candles, jewelry, and more. I'll have pieces made by Jack Nelson, Erin Green, Lou Leelyn from Lou's Upcycles, and others. I'm looking for more local artists who want to sell their work, and I'm open to suggestions as far as what people would like to see in the shop.

I moved back to

Massachusetts six years ago from New Mexico. Before that I lived in Easthampton for fifteen years. I think Turners Falls is a great little town, and its day has come. I am hoping Tatiana's will inspire more people to come here to live and to shop.

I've been thinking about opening this shop for five years, waiting for the right moment, and this year just seemed right. New places are opening all over town. Mark Canon opened his Spanish market two doors away recently,

and JD Keating opened Burrito Rojo this month. In all I believe six businesses have opened here within eight months. What a great inspiration!

The grand opening of Tatiana's will be August 30, 2009. Then the store will be open Thursday through Saturday from 11 to 6, as well as by appointment or by chance. Come by: 92 Fourth Street, Turners Falls. Or call: (413) 325-3099.

Tania Zubchenok
Turners Falls

Stuck in London

A few weeks ago, at a computer in Turners Falls, I tried to sign into one of my Yahoo e-mail accounts without success. There seemed to be a security issue: I was advised to answer a series of questions, and was told my account would be restored in 48 hours. I decided to check out my other Yahoo account and had no problem signing in, but I received a message from myself explaining in great detail and anguish that I had lost my wallet and passport and was stuck in London. It appears the American Embassy in London was not being co-

operative and I was reaching out to all my friends, beseeching them to send money.

You guessed it: Someone had stolen my email ID. My email list of contacts got "pirated" and this desperate plea for money – not in dollars but pounds – was being sent to all my 150 contacts, give or take a few. You can imagine the reaction – not only my anger and frustration, but some real worry from friends and associates. Some initially thought it might be for real, others that I was just joking around. Then others noticed along with me that it wasn't just that my contact list had been stolen. The culprit had set up a Yahoo account with an address almost identical to

mine (only one extra letter added). This really made it appear that I was sending out the requests.

After a few days, the anger and frustration of dealing with this moved on, and I could start to see the humor in it. Anyone who knew me well enough to send money also knew I was stuck in Turners, not London. And then the jokes started, and the teasing. One dear friend said, "I came and got you in Worcester last year, but I'm not going to London;" another said I could sell my identity for 20 cents on the dollar if I was lucky. Yet another said she was going to enjoy all the tomatoes out of my garden.

see LONDON pg 5

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Note to Our Readers

The Montague Reporter is printing on a summer schedule, every other week, for the months of July and August. There will be no paper on August 27th. We return to weekly publication beginning September 3rd.

GUEST EDITORIALS

Gill-Montague Schools: An Optimistic Future

BY EMILY MONOSSON

Despite any fears I may have had before joining the School Committee this year (and there were a few, including whether or not I'd ever see my family again given all those meetings) I am optimistic. Aside from learning at our Strategic Planning meeting this past Saturday that we're a few steps ahead of many other districts since we haven't resort-

ed to throwing punches or other objects at fellow members, I've also learned that, despite our differences of opinion on the budget - which has been the main topic of every meeting I've attended since being elected - we do share some common goals, and we may even have some ideas about how to achieve those goals.

While I think we all agree that it's time to revisit budget-building, beginning now for the 2011

fiscal year, and many agree that we must find ways to reduce town assessments while developing a sustainable budget for the longer term, it's fair to say there are vast differences in opinion as to how to do this. For example, while we don't all agree that the 1/12 budget which may be imposed upon us by the state is best for school and town, we do agree it's time to move on.

The lack of state support over

the years has caused rifts between town and school, and healing these rifts is of utmost importance; strong schools are a benefit to the community just as involved communities are a benefit to our students. But we have broadly different ideas about how to proceed: Do we keep the state involved and at the table, or do we do whatever it takes to keep them out? What kinds of cuts will have the least impact on the exist-

ing integrity and educational opportunities of the district, while allowing for low-cost or no-cost innovation to expand and enhance these opportunities?

Making the best of the resources and talent we have (personnel, technology, buildings, curricula, etc.) will take more than just commitment; it will require creativity and flexibility. One of the highlights of

see **FUTURE** page 10

Imaginative Play in the Outdoors: A Basic Ingredient for Ecological Citizenship

BY GABE SLAVIN

MONTAGUE CENTER - What exactly do six children, all under the age of five, pretending to fish in the Sawmill River using sticks for fishing poles, or collecting flowers to throw in a bucket of water that will soon become "fairy soup," have to do with Ecological Citizenship? Plenty. To the mere outsider it seems like, well, just kids being kids, but there is much more going on here than meets the eye. These activities are the basic ingredients of Ecological Citizenship. After all, if you are going to call yourself a citizen of a place, you have to first feel a connection to it. You have to feel like you belong. You have to feel at ease in it, and to enjoy being in relationship with it. Only then, can you begin to be curious about it and want to understand its complexities, and to feel moved to protect and care for it.

I am very fortunate to live near the Montague Conservation Area. Almost every school day,

the children from my preschool program and I go on an adventure there, exploring the river, forest and meadow habitats. We go out in all kinds of weather, armed with muck boots, sun screen, bug spray... and sometimes even chocolate (to help with that last trudge back to the house, up the big hill during the winter).

The children have made up names for all the nooks and crannies that we frequent. There is Root Bridge, a small section of exposed roots that connects the bank of the creek to a little island. Then there is Fairy Island, a grassy haven where they love to curl up on towels and rest after dipping in the creek. Juniper Ship is a large old Juniper tree that has just enough room for one child to climb up and look out at sea for pirates, using a make-believe spotting scope. Big Bend is the best place to try and catch minnows, and Pine Hill is a really good place to hide and go unnoticed by other passers-by.

There are places we go and

things that we do that are dependent on the time of year. The children look forward to these special activities as we move from one season to the next. In the Winter, we sled on the hills and skate on the pools of standing water; in the Fall, we pick wild grapes to make jam; in the Spring, we look for Skunk Cabbages and tadpoles; and in Summer, we spend many a day at the creek trying to catch minnows and making mud burritos. (Knotweed leaves make excellent tortillas.)

My curriculum isn't too heavy-handed with teaching concepts like recycling, or why it is important to eat local produce from the garden vs. driving to the supermarket and buying items from South America. There'll be plenty of time for these concepts later in life. For now, the children are learning to enjoy and anticipate the cycles and the systems of the Earth, and are being introduced to plants and creatures that

they share this miraculous planet with. By exploring with their imaginations and their senses, and by having a relationship with a place, they are falling in love with the Earth.

I used to wonder at what it was that I had in common with other outdoor enthusiasts who work in the field of environmental education or advocacy. I discovered that many of us experienced imaginative and exploratory play in the outdoors as children. Whether it was playing hide and seek in a tangle of scrubby bushes in a suburb of Chicago, feeding ducks in Central Park, or making a stick fort in the woods at a family summer camp, many of us had magical memories of these early years playing outdoors. I am convinced that these childhood experiences had a huge influence on the very core of our beings, and without them we may not have ended up becoming people who gave a

rat's fanny about organic gardening, recycling, buying local or reducing our carbon footprint.

Giving young children the gift of falling in love with the Earth should not be underestimated. Whether you are an educator, a parent, an Auntie or Uncle, or just plain anyone who has children in your life, taking them outside and letting them explore and helping them to feel comfortable, competent and excited about the Earth is a powerful act. It's pretty simple stuff - you don't even need a college degree or special training to do it! Learning to be in relationship with the earth as a child through play is the first ingredient in becoming a grown-up who takes their Ecological Citizenship to heart. Mud burrito, anyone? You really should try them, they are quite delicious!

Gabe Slavin lives in Montague Center and runs Hummingbird Preschool Programs.

LONDON from page 4

My original yahoo email address was never restored, and I have been trying to reconstruct my contacts ever since. I put no personal information on my account and kept no documents that could come back to haunt me or to hurt any of my contacts. I will never know how this heist was accomplished or by whom, but if it could happen to me it could happen to you. I could warn you to be careful what sites you sign up for, and

never ever forward anything to anyone unless you delete all those other email addresses, but I did that and my address was stolen anyway.

To my friends who worried or wondered, thank you. If in the future you get an email from me that I am stranded in Tahiti, please just leave me there. I won't be coming home.

Don Clegg
Turners Falls
(London section)

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

HeartSafe and Secure at Town Hall

BY DAWN MONTAGUE
TURNERS FALLS – At the August 17 meeting of the Montague selectboard, Bill Travis of Baystate Health Ambulance brought forward a proposal that the town become a HeartSafe Community. The town already meets the criteria for the designation, and would receive signs to post around town recognizing Montague's continuing commitment to cardiovascular health.

Travis also brought a draft of a 3-year service agreement between the town and Baystate Health Ambulance. Travis emphasized the commitment of his company to remain a Franklin County-based business, providing good jobs and a high level of emergency response to the community. The selectboard will review the document over the next few weeks.

Following a vote of approval at the town meeting, the FY2010 sewer rates were approved, in the amounts recommended by Water Pollution and Control Facility Superintendent Robert Trombley.

At an earlier meeting of the selectboard, members decided to formalize a policy around security at the Town Hall, and the distribution of keys to the

building. Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio read the policy, and though there was some discussion of minor details, all members agreed that the policy was sound.

Due to the success and high turnout at the Great Falls Farmers Market, Don Clegg requested an extension of the hours. The market will now be open 2 pm to 6 pm (1:15 pm to 6:30 pm for set-up) for the rest of the season.

The selectboard held a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for FY2010. Bruce Hunter reviewed some of the programs that have been funded by the grant in past years, including the extensive sidewalk replacement in Turners Falls on Unity St, and the rehabilitation of 10 units of housing. Prakash Laufer, Executive Director of the Brick House Community Resource Center, and Susan Mareneck, Executive Director of Montague Catholic Social Ministries both participated in the hearing as well. Since the process for determining the distribution of grant funds will be different this year, there will be a public informational meeting on the social service component of the CDBG at the end of August

(date & location to be announced).

The next meeting of the Montague selectboard will be August 31 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.

FY 2010 Sewer Rates

Rates per 1,000 gallons

I. \$5.56 Gill, Southworth & Strathmore

II. \$6.00 Turners Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, Lake Pleasant

III. \$334 12 month Flat Rate

IV. \$6.00 Millers Falls

Non-Contract Surcharges

Total Suspended Solids

\$0.3601 per pound

Biochemical Oxygen Demand

\$0.3466 per pound

Septage

In Town & Town of Gill

\$90/1,000 gallons

Out of Town \$95/1,000 gallons

Other

Interest Rate – 14% per Annum

Demand Charge – \$5.00

Minimum Bill – \$36.00

from **HEARING** pg 1


ing the gas station and convenience store for the site, noted the unfairness of a separate item among the proposed by-law changes. "Why have you lowered the accepted height of a building from 45 feet to 35 feet?" he asked. "The bowling alley can be 45 feet, but a new building on our site can't?"

"I have to do something with this piece of property even if the town says no to this proposal," added Semb, suggesting that the proposed change put arbitrary limits on his options. Planning board members agreed to review the

item in their next meeting, with the possibility of revising it before town meeting.

It was at this point that former selectboard member Dan Hammock offered the opinion that planning board views were being influenced by someone with a potential conflict of interest. While Dubay did not agree, his immediate withdrawal from the proceedings left the hearing, which was quickly adjourned, not only incomplete, but also invalid. The lack of an official quorum makes a new hearing mandatory. Since another of the four planning board members has already recused herself due to

being an abutter to the property in question, the board is now left in the awkward position of having to find two alternate members.

A two-thirds vote in a town meeting to be scheduled sometime in September would be needed to make the zoning changes. Officials present noted that if the planning board recommends against the proposal, and it is voted down by the town, it may not be brought back for two years. If the planning board does recommend it, but it is still voted down by the town, the proposal may be brought back sooner. 

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Juveniles With Explosives

Tuesday, 8/4

4:15 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant.

4:48 p.m. Report of vandalism at an Avenue A address.

7:36 p.m. Report of vandalism on the bike path in Turners Falls.

Wednesday, 8/5

12:41 a.m. Report of an unwanted person at a G Street address. Investigated.

1:15 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Bernardo Drive address.

8:27 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Farren Avenue address.

Thursday, 8/6

7:50 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at Subway restaurant on Avenue A. Services rendered.

Friday, 8/7

7:57 p.m. Report of a restraining order violation at a Third Street address. Services rendered.

Saturday, 8/8

12:22 a.m. Officer initiated investigation of fire at Hillcrest Elementary School, Griswold Street. Arrested two juveniles, ages 16 and 13. Charged with disorderly conduct, trespassing, malicious destruction of property valued over \$250, throwing, placing or exploding of explosives, possession of an infernal machine, and making, selling, using or possession of a molotov cocktail.

1:25 p.m. Report of vandalism at a G Street address. Services rendered.

7:27 p.m. Report of assault and battery at an Oakman Street. Peace restored.

Sunday, 8/9

6:04 a.m. Investigation of abandoned 911 call. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with assault and battery, domestic.

6:45 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at Carroll's Market, East Main Street, Millers Falls. Investigated.

12:23 p.m. Report of a hit and run accident at a Turners Falls Road address.

5:08 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] on a probation warrant.

Monday, 8/10

11:50 a.m. Report of vandalism at Turners Falls Pizza House, Avenue A.

4:00 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Old Stage Road.

8:25 p.m. Report of assault and battery at a Second Street address. Peace restored.

9:50 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Crescent Street address.

Tuesday, 8/11

12:07 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Aubachon Hardware, Avenue A. Investigated.

5:07 p.m. Report of vandalism at a South Street address. Investigated.

8:58 p.m. Report of a domestic distur-

bance at an L Street address. Investigated.

Wednesday, 8/12

2:01 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested a juvenile, age 14. Charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, and refusal to identify self.

10:09 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Fourth Street address.

8:03 p.m. Report of vandalism at Railroad Salvage Building, Power Street. Area search negative.

Thursday, 8/13

9:10 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Marshall Street address.

9:20 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Millers Falls Road address.

9:56 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Services rendered.

Friday, 8/15

1:37 p.m. Report of a restraining order violation at a Fourth Street address.

11:12 p.m. Officer wanted at a Turners Falls Road address. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with disturbing the peace, trespassing, and unlawful burning.

Saturday, 8/16

2:04 a.m. Report of a fight at Rendezvous restaurant, Third Street. Arrested [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] Both charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct.

9:38 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Smiarowski Road. Services rendered.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Leave it to Beavers

JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL – Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser opened the August 5th meeting with some general comments about the Fiske Pond dam inspection at which he was present. The engineer said that woody vegetation was growing on the dam, and should be cut back, and that a beaver dam was blocking the spillway and raising the water level. Don Chapelle, of the Fiske Pond Advisory Committee, said that the committee or the Con Com would take care of both issues, but that he felt that raising the water level through the summer by leaving the beaver's work untouched would improve swimming. The town can wait until it receives the official

report before it takes any action, and there is room for some back-and-forth discussion about the spillway. A 'beaver deceiver' might eliminate the problem in the spillway.

Harry Williston, Chair of the Highway Commission, met the board soon after the meeting opened, and asked that some of the money that the state has authorized for tornado reimbursement be used to buy a chipper for the road crew. The town has been renting one for \$200 a day to clean limbs that fell in the ice storm, and there is use for one every year. Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that New Salem spent \$14,000 for theirs. Selectboard Chair Christine Heard said the town

does not have the tornado money yet, but it seems like a good idea to go on the list of things to do with the money when it comes.

Williston said that in a couple of weeks the clean up from the ice storm will be done and that the accounting for FEMA can be completed.

Aldrich relayed that FRCOG had two bids for Information Technology consulting. The town is under no obligation to accept those bids, and can hire IT consulting on its own.

The Selectboard approved donating the old generator that had been in the highway garage and fire station to Pine Brook Camp, a non profit organization. A new (safe) generator has been installed at both the highway garage, and the town office building, as authorized by town meeting, but the generators for the town hall, the library, and the well have not come in yet.

The town's final account from the Renewable Energy trust is \$6,569.67. Librarian Rosie Heidkamp is working on adding that to money from the Friends of the Wendell Library to match a grant and get more photovoltaic panels on the

library. November 1st is the deadline for using that money.

Both board members who were present signed the legal notice from the state and so acknowledged the state law that prohibits dogs from running at large.

They also signed a letter in support of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. Pooser said that he had sent an e mail to Broadband Committee Chair Robbie Lepzer about changes that may be needed so zoning bylaws restricting cell towers do not also restrict a possible broadband relay antenna which is much smaller and uses much less power. He said the email bounced, and he would print paper copies and put one in the ZBA town office mailbox as well as the Broadband mailbox.

The annual town meeting authorized using pothole money to pay \$700 of outstanding salary, and \$75 for a town hall rental that was paid for but never happened. The pothole account was empty, so it will be necessary to authorize those payments from another source at a special town meeting.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Dog Days In Erving, Meteor Loungers

Wednesday, 8/5

2:40 p.m. Report of possible child endangerment at a Forest Street address. Checked same, parent and child OK. Under investigation.

6:30 p.m. Report of juvenile, age 8, alone at French King Entertainment Center. Subject left East on Route 2 just before arrival. Checked area, child not found.

9:15 p.m. Report of barking dog at Ridge Road address. Checked area, nothing found.

Thursday, 8/6

10:35 a.m. Complaint of chronically barking dog at a Prospect Street address. Owner advised.
9:25 p.m. Report of a domestic dispute at the Freight House parking lot. Found to be verbal only, all parties dispersed and peace restored.

Saturday, 8/8

11:00 a.m. Assisted motorcycle benefit through town.

7:43 p.m. Report of shots fired around Old State Road. Found to be two licensed subjects target practicing and finished for the evening.

Sunday, 8/9

12:35 a.m. Report of a barking dog in the area of Mountain Road. Confirmed complaint and advised owner to bring dog in for the night.

5:48 p.m. Report of car vs. dog on Central Street. Operator stated dog ran in front of her car from a Central Street residence. Dog okay, spoke to owner about leash law.

Monday, 8/10

12:47 p.m. Report of junk car debris at Gunn Street address. Located same and issued written notice.

6:58 p.m. Alarm sounding at Greenfield Automotive. Checked building, all secure.

7:15 p.m. Report of barking dogs on North Street. Upon arrival, advised that dogs had been brought in, all OK.

Tuesday, 8/11

8:00 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for possession of a class B drug.

Wednesday, 8/12

2:05 a.m. Report of three subjects laying down on the French King Bridge. Subjects were watching a meteor shower and were moved along.

Thursday, 8/14

11:20 a.m. Report of vandalism to a motor vehicle on Central Street.

Friday, 8/15

1:40 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a River Street address. Arrested [redacted]

Charged with assault and battery, domestic and intimidation of a witness.

5:00 p.m. Escorted female party to a River Street address to pick up belongings.

9:20 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield for an abandoned 911 call to a Warwick Road address. All OK.

Sunday, 8/16

4:35 p.m. Report of a manhole cover in the roadway on Route 2 at Arch Street. Mass Highway on scene.

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50TH ANNUAL MONTAGUE OLD HOME DAYS CELEBRATION



The Montague Grange Musicians entertain at Montague Old Home Days

LYN CLARK
MONTAGUE CENTER – Mugs, magic and music – as in years past – marked the annual Old Home Days celebration in Montague Center on the Common. Food and game booths, crafts and white elephant

Montague Historical Society had arranged a display of quilts – beautiful, colorful, each unique, each with its own history.

There was the traditional mug race, with too many winners in too many categories to mention here, but our hats are off to all who finished on one of the hottest days of the summer. Ed the Wizard entertained the small fry with his sleight of hand, and Karen's Dance Studio, the Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance, and the North County Line Dancers entertained the crowd with their 'sleight of foot.' There was live music from Jen Tobey and Haven't a Clue, the Montague Grange Musicians, Shingle the Roof, and Curley Fingers Dupree.

And of course what every



LYN CLARK PHOTO

Lillian Fiske is the quilter who created this extraordinary work of art.

child and every adult waited and listened for: the grand parade! Horses, ponies and llamas, carts, wagons and antique cars, Vietnam vets, 4-H Club members, heavy farm equipment, police cars and fire engines, with that wonderful, deafening, soul-

satisfying clamor of bells, sirens and horns without which no parade is complete, they clanged, whistled and blared their way through town. We all hope Montague Center continues this joyful tradition for the next 50 years!

from SIBERIA pg 1

Ironically, because the very cold north and south poles (also known as the Arctic and Antarctic) are so sensitive to global climate change, they are among the best places in the world to look for clues from the distant past as to how the Earth will heat up in the near future.

Addie points out that we have a good number of ice cores from ice sheets around the world (for example, from Greenland and Antarctica) and many sediment cores from all over the ocean bottom. These cores have provided definitive information about overall global climate change. But we have very few sediment records from ancient terrestrial (non-marine, land-based) environments that can help round out the picture. And we have no records as thick (over 1,100 feet) or as old (3.6 million years ago) as Lake E's.

What makes Lake E unique is how it was formed: A meteor more than half a mile wide crashed into Earth and formed an eleven-mile wide crater. It's estimated that the energy released by the impact was orders of magnitude greater than the combined

release of all the world's nuclear arsenals. Once the dust settled, and the crater cooled, it filled with water and sediment – and the sediment has been piling up for the last 3.6 million years.

The sensitivity of Lake E's arctic climate to global climate change means that any evidence of long-term warming or cooling at Lake E should be relatively easy to find. Scientists are also keenly interested in Lake E because the almost 4 million years' sediment record conveniently spans (or, in science lingo, "brackets") our most recent ice age, the Pleistocene. Consequently, if we are able to "read" the sediments and infer Lake E's climate changes as the ice came and went, we may get a much better idea of how our planet will fare as a result of human-induced cli-



TIM MARTIN PHOTO

Storms can whip up quickly in the Siberian arctic. Holland and her assistant dismantle a meteorological station they used to help forecast local weather at their research site.

mate change in the 21st century and beyond.

Plowing ahead

Addie further explains the daunting logistics of drilling in the Siberian arctic. For example,

if you've ever had a water well drilled on your property, you'd know how big (and expensive) a production that can be. Now, imagine drilling to over 1,100 feet in the middle of a frozen lake, in the middle of winter, in Siberia.

Getting there was the first step. It took 25 days of "driving" a convoy of bulldozers (there are no roads to Lake E), trucks, trailers, c o a l - b u r n i n g stoves, generators, and enough camping equipment and supplies to last 2-½ months of arctic cold.

The project was an international effort. Addie was but one member of a science team assembled from the U.S., Germany, Austria, and Russia. Days were short – only about 6 hours. Often, when the evening wind would whip up the snow to

blizzard conditions, workers would have to find their way back to camp along trails marked with bamboo stakes festooned with orange flagging tape. Late-night visits to the outhouse required a snow shovel, so you could dig your way back out of snow drifts that would cover your camp door in the few minutes you were gone.

Drilling in the middle of winter was actually an advantage at Lake E. The scientists needed to drill in the middle of the lake (four miles from shore) – an impossible task on water. But unlike ice fisherman here in Massachusetts, the drillers on frozen Lake E required the expert attention (24/7) of an on-duty ice engineer to assure scientists and drillers that the 7-½ feet of ice would hold 180,000 pounds of drilling equipment and the over 3 tons of sediment core they pulled to the surface.

Going home

After 2-½ months of working and drilling on the ice, Addie and her colleagues had accumulated 3-½ tons of core that, if assembled in one mighty piece, would extend 1-½ times the height of

see SIBERIA pg 10

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Psychic Fair in Lake Pleasant August 29

The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair on Saturday, August 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Thompson Temple across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards.

Consultation is with a medium of choice. Reiki and spiritual healing services will also be available. TNSA is a democratic, deistic, reincarnationist, Spiritualist organization. Principles include belief in an infinite and eternal creating and sustaining force, the interconnectedness of everything, the siblinghood of humanity, personal responsibility for thoughts, words, and deeds, non-judgmentalism, continuity of life of the soul, communication between the physical and spirit worlds, and reincarnation as the method of progression toward perfection.

For more information, visit www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org.

REUNION from pg 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY CURRIE HOLMES AND KATHY WEBBER

Old high school neighbors Jason Fournier and Sharon Lenois Girard

coming up (TFHS Class of '64), I figured this would be a chance to practice up and play the eavesdropper/do the fly on the wall thing. I'd go to the '69 reunion and see if those joy-filled and anxiety-ridden scenarios played out. This class's motto proclaims "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intentions of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming 'WOO HOO What a Ride!'" I figured it'd be worth a visit to see if they had all lived up to that motto, and if they could still party with the best.

I got in the mood by looking at yearbooks, a collection of which can often form a small section in any family library. When I got to the class of '69, I checked the Administration and Faculty sections and found that by '69, some familiar faces were missing, there were some new ones, and some reappeared from past years. Missing by then were the traditional pictures of superintendent Arthur Burke, an imposing figure in a double-breasted suit, and George Wrightson, the archtypical New England school teacher

and headmaster who had guided TFHS for decades as principal. In their places were the first of a series of revolving-door administrators that has now become typical of modern public education. The yearbook of the class of '69 was addressed to Robert F. Kennedy, assassinated in the summer of '68. My own class of '64 had dedicated our yearbook to his brother John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated the summer before our senior year, in 1963. These were reminders of the years of turbulence we all experienced through the mid-'60s and which would last until the mid-'70s.

Others pages brought forth familiar teachers: the venerable and durable Fred Oakes had served once again, as yearbook advisor. Durable indeed, he had lasted well into his 90s and only recently passed away this year. The list continued: John Zywna, Bill Connelly, Eddie Bourdeau, Bob Avery, Jack Bassett. There was vintage Charlie Galvin in his bow tie and hair parted down the middle, George Bush at his post teaching European history to generations of novice historians, Mery O'Brien, who patiently taught art appreciation to the

same budding intellectuals, and my personal favorite, the aimable Harold Fugere, doing the best he could to keep us physical-fit and safe on the road!

I dwell on the teachers because they form the common strand that links the disparate classes and years of young scholars who passed through our high school. The teachers are the ones who connect us over the years and create a common history.

And of course, for the class of '69, there was victory in the fabled Turkey Day game. They took that game over much-despised Greenfield High, 26-12. Co-captains Robert Cadran, Mark Galvis, and Mike Lewandowski, along with all the others of that class earned bragging rights in town for a lifetime!

It had been decided that the ice-breaker for this 40th reunion would be a pub crawl from establishment to establishment in downtown Turners Falls. They started out at Ristorante DiPaolo, where they were treated to a before-hours wine and cheese happy hour. Many remarked on the quality and class of the restaurant. No such dining opportunities existed when this class was passing through. Suitably impressed with the setting and reception at DiPaolo's, they headed off for other venues: Jakes' Tavern, Between the Uprights, and for those still upright by then, the Rendezvous for a night cap.

They all seemed none the worse for the wear when I caught up with them at the Schuetzen Verein for the main event. Catered by Bub's Barbecue, the feast began after a performance by local oldies duo "Ruby's Complaint." The pastors among the graduates of this class, Father Stan Aksamit of Our Lady of Peace and Reverend Gary Bourbeau of Gill, offered up prayers and blessings for classmates both present and absent. Providing the dinner music was

river poet/songwriter John Currie (Class of '78) and David Shea ('78 as well), who was migrating through from the Canary Islands and sojourning among the Shea clan in Turners Falls.

A life-sized photo of Barack Obama smiled confidently from a front corner of the pavilion. What else could you expect from a class who had featured a nativity scene with a black Jesus and who had staged sit-down protests in the school cafeteria? Equal to their early sense of political engagement, placing a photo of Barack in their midst seemed a fitting symbol for their 40th, although some were heard to query "What is HE doing here?"

The socializing continued long into the night, with groups of old friends finding themselves together again, as some of the old cliques reformed after 40 years, but now in a more ephemeral sense – just for a few hours. Old boyfriends and old girlfriends exchanged brief conversations, sensing the unwritten rules that go unsaid, yet well understood: that was then, this is now, and tonight no one crosses the boundaries. Some people danced, most-

ly the girls, happy to be 17 again.

Then, there came a time when slowly people turned and disappeared from the circle of light under the pavilion and headed out to the darkened parking lot.

That's how it is with reunions: you take the step, you take the trip, back to your hometown, apprehensive, hesitant and excited. Once you've made the pilgrimage, oftentimes you're ready to return to your real life and familiar surroundings, yet you might still feel wistful. Your friends were there, however briefly, and for better or for worse, you could relive those years and laugh.

As far as the class of '69 is concerned, one of the classmates quipped in a parting shot: "When I looked in the mirror on Sunday morning, I expected to see that yearbook face that was on my nametag last night – even though I hated the photo back then – oh, to be 18 again! But WOO-HOO! What a ride!"

Special thanks to Nancy Currie Holmes and Cornelia "Neal" Shea.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY CURRIE HOLMES AND KATHY WEBBER

Marie Gravelle Putala, Cindy Dempsey Orr, and Kathy Webber reconnected in person after several months on Facebook

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from **FUTURE** pg 5

this weekend's meeting was the list of potential curriculum and program innovations – the promises of the future, near and distant, including (but not limited to) integrating a place-based theme throughout the curriculum so that students could learn about the fascinating cultural history of the Connecticut River valley region. By this we don't mean a course here or there, but providing students with a true appreciation of the diverse culture, surroundings and community that is their home. Similarly, we hope to see an environmental culture developed throughout the school system. It is not a stretch to imagine that GMRSD could become a model for other schools wishing to incorporate important themes into their own culture and learning.

In addition to these high priority innovations, the committee has asked that the administration study and report on the feasibility of providing students seeking greater academic challenges with a broader range of advanced learning courses, and of starting an elementary foreign language program. In the longer term, task forces will consider the pros and cons of developing individual identities for each school, much like that of charter schools, as well as exploring the potential for establishing Readiness and Horace Mann schools within the district.

There already is a group working with other school districts on inter-district, county-wide collaborations. There is no doubt that times are chaotic. A year ago, when regionalization was the buzzword, there were

concerns that GMRSD might have a few more letters added to the mix: whether another G for Greenfield, or P for Pioneer, or both. Now the words are 'collaboration' and 'readiness' – terms more suggestive of shared resources, broadening curriculum, and increased opportunity. Who knows which way the state will swing next, but if our district along with others in the county continue to communicate as we currently are, maybe collectively we can chart a course that works best for us, rather than whatever works best for the state.

To support our goal to engage and serve the broader community beyond those with school-age children, we've agreed to develop task forces to investigate the feasibility of developing programs for both early education (ages 0-5) and adult education.

Additionally, we'd like to explore the feasibility of developing an active program for volunteers, thereby strengthening the bond between community and school.

Understanding and addressing perceptions and misperceptions of the district, particularly by those who have decided to send their children elsewhere, can be a daunting yet informative task. Years of budget wrangling has sown deep school-town rifts, mistrust and resentment. For some, the closing of schools and reconfigurations have resulted in alienation, misperceptions and bitterness. While there may be some distance between the perception and the reality of GMRSD (the reality for many within the district is more positive than the perception), we acknowledge the need to

improve our district's graduation rate, raise expectations for all of our students, and continue providing them with the tools they'll need for success beyond high school.

But strategic planning is one thing, and following through is another. By being innovative about how we solve budget issues while strengthening our academic programs, we hope that someday soon others will look to GMRSD as a model district.

Emily Monosson was elected to the Gill-Montague School Committee for a two-year term in 2009. She lives in Montague Center and her children attend Great Falls Middle and Turners Falls High Schools. The views expressed here are her own, not those of the school committee.



SIBERIA from pg 8

the Empire State Building. Now came the fun part: breaking camp and taking home the longest arctic sediment core ever collected.

Much of the information in the sediment is contained in organic molecules (that is, the decayed remains of ancient sediment-dwelling plants and animals). To prevent this organic material (and information) from breaking down before it could be analyzed, all 3-1/2 tons of core were sealed in temperature-controlled containers and flown by special cargo planes from Siberia to St. Petersburg, then on to a lab in Germany where paleoclimatologists (scientists who study "fossil" climates) begin analyzing it. Ultimately, the core will end up where it began (thermally, that is): in a huge freezer locker at the University of

Minnesota.

Back on the farm

Now settled in again at her pickle farm in Montague and at her lab at UMass, Addie begins another daunting task: Figuring out what to analyze for and how understand what it all means. A nearly quarter-mile of sediment is a lot of core for one person to analyze, so Addie's first task, working with Dr. Julie Brigham-Grette, is to build a conceptual data model using a smaller (52-foot) core from a previous drilling season at Lake E.

Much of her time now is spent in the lab, looking for organic compounds that indicate which organisms may have lived on the lake bottom over its 3.6 million-year history. From her lab bench, using a MacBook computer that she often totes to the Bookmill, Addie will answer some tough

questions: What is the source of the organic material? Is it terrestrial (mainly plants living on dry land)? Is it aquatic vegetation? Or is it from one-celled organisms (bacteria) that lived within the sediment – generally without oxygen?

Knowing the source of the organic material is important, Addie explains, because the type of organisms and where they lived will tell scientists whether Lake E was completely ice-free all year, mainly ice-free, or frozen solid at its surface and closed off from the atmosphere.

Ultimately, Addie and her advisor want to describe the ancient climate at Lake E by analyzing what she calls four environmental modes: 1) warm; 2) peak warm; 3) cold and dry; and 4) cold and wet. Although Addie's core analysis cannot be

used to determine absolute dates (for example, that a certain cold and wet period occurred 1.3 million years ago – that's someone else's research project), her modes can help scientists ferret out how Lake E and the arctic changed over 3.6 million years. That information can then be used to help us forecast how climate may change in the near future (10s and 100s of years from now).

Not bad for a thesis Addie began a little over 6 months ago, when the pickles were but cucumber seedlings and the Bookmill parking lot was blocked with snow. But then, Addie Rose Holland is a woman determined to find her way.

If you'd like to learn more about Addie Holland's adventures in Siberia and the UMass project, please check out the

main link for the expedition at www.geo.umass.edu/lake_e/. You'll find Addie's personal blog at www.geo.umass.edu/grads/holland/blog.html. Lastly, you'll find lots of interesting detail on the project on the Boston Globe site, at www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2009/03/16/down_under_up_north/.

Steve Winters is a hydrogeologist and environmental science educator who lives in Turners Falls. In the summer, he is a Park Interpreter for the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, and he teaches environmental geology at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. Reach him at science_matters@yahoo.com.



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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

The editors would like to thank
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Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street,
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design by Boysen Hodgson

The New Gun Audition

The cops invented a machine
that can put a trigger on anything.
I was looking in the attic for a shield
or something to hide behind
and I found a picture of my
dad's Harley Davidson.
I wanted to ride it right out of the frame.
I had turned myself into a picture.
My family wandered into the attic
and I thought, so blurry.
Stand still where I can see you.
They noticed me in the picture.
They stopped to look at it, smiling,
like I had always been there
before whirling off again.
Their smiles trailed on and on
behind their faces.
I couldn't look around my photo.
I didn't know where I was.
I must be sitting on that Harley.
But I've never been near a Harley.
The cat, chasing after a mouse,
blurred into a streak that went
straight through a window.
Somewhere outside
someone was shooting.
The cops said not to
show my face in this town again.
Maybe I'll live to see another cold war.
Or maybe I'm on a beach somewhere
dodging falling satellites,
a tropical graveyard of space machines.
There's no more need to work,
the president has found a way
to pay everybody to help
spot the satellites. They fall to
the earth full of food and wine and music.
Nobody knows who puts the stuff in there and nobody wants to know.
Last week it sounded like Beethoven
and Annie Lennox. We don't understand the language, as in we can't speak it,
but I get a distinct feeling from each new piece, like emotions have replaced the lexicon.
Earth wine pales in comparison to their merlot.
And the oysters, always fresh, always full of liquor.
I'm thinking about opening a little resort for couples, second and third honeymoon types.
Who knows, I might go on a honeymoon myself if I meet the right person.
Smoke is wafting in the wind.
Is there any way off this island?

--Alex Phillips
Lake Pleasant

The Heavensent

The welkian effect

Sue asked, "what the heck is going on?
This is strange.. how could they
Do this? They shouldn't...do this.
Move along bubbles, move along!"
something here was different.
"Close your eyes." I suggested.
Feeling light in the head.

The welkian effect

The dizzy dancing way that we felt
Our effervescent visitors
were not benevolent.
This champagne campaign was
An assault Upon our senses
And we were left defenseless.

"honey come! to the honeycomb!"
An odd way for me to put it.
But I had been effected and
Turning about quickly
almost sent me to my knees
so I struggled to retain
My equilibrium.

The spinning of the spheres,
The fluid in my ears,
The parabolic shifting
Of My hyperbolic gears
"There's something I can't explain,
never happened before,
happening here!"

I swung out to ward them off.
Moving slowly we three
Advanced to our country dome
Heads down our eyes
Focused on the gravity below
And glancing up, I saw
These bubbles were not alone.

The light around confounded
The path we tried to follow
For we were thrown off
By doppler's shifting patterns
As if the aurora borealis
Was newly sunshine powered
Or Sol itself was furious.

--Doug Turner
New Salem

Not to mention what the dog can do

Frog behavior with Ben
Androgynous and migrating
Fish calculus
Charitable Children Day
Bear attacks you observed
Hummingbird PTA
Found Kate's bracelet
Wanted Chair Potluck
Roast Pork sing along
Together on the land
The audience is listening
The villagers don't need you

--Janel Nockleby
Turners Falls



Remembering Sylvia

Sylvia's apartment was a haven from the evil smells
and harsh realities which confronted your senses
in the streets of New York City.
She often spoke of her place of birth,
"You are now in the thick of it,
It doesn't get worse than this,
The belly of the beast."
Born in 1920,
into a one room flat in the Bronx,
a daughter of Jewish immigrants
who landed on Ellis Island on a chilly December day.
Sylvia rarely spoke of these times,
except on occasion when passing the Statue of Liberty,
"Give me your tired,
your hungry, your poor,
Aaahaa, this lady, look at her,
All those people must of felt so disappointed,
landing on Ellis Island."
She'd pause and stare off into the horizon at the green tinted lady
It was almost as if she was reincarnated as the lady herself,
holding a burning torch for all the lost souls of the earth,
struggling to make a new life.
Moments later, commenting on the radiance of the sunshine reflecting on the
harbors edge,
"Well, it's the perfect day to shlep around,
I haven't been down to this end of town since the construction boom.
This is the latest place to live, they say."
passing by some street venders,
selling post cards, books and little plastic bubbles,
filled with fake snow and water,
saying greetings and welcome to New York.
A musician pipes out long lyrical sounds on his sax,
floating up into a breeze,
leaving a sweet aroma,
lingering quietly to all who pass by.
Sylvia throws a coin into the musicians bucket,
He smiles and nods while she comments on the horror in the gentrification
of the city.

--Jan Atamian
Lake Pleasant

Desert People

In the desert,
they round themselves.
In the desert, children prepare birthday cakes.
They stand on them, crush them like berries, distill them.
They live like aperture.
In the desert, there are no busses.
There is no hammering of pistons,
no diesel fuel, no whirring of engines
or whining of brakes.
They rake pennies.
No one in the desert lives alone.
There are coincidences in the desert
that take the place of planning.
Their recipes are irresistible and
inconsistent. They never bake,
it's much too hot!
In the desert,
you cannot leave your boots
outside for too long
or they will shrivel up
like leaves in the fall.
But there are no leaves.
There are diamonds
and rivers of coins.
Children in the desert rake pennies.

--Alex Phillips
Lake Pleasant



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Brady Gets Past First Hurdle

BY LEE CARIGNAN

PHILADELPHIA — Tom Brady saw his first action in almost a year last Thursday, in his much-anticipated return against the Philadelphia Eagles. The quarterback was 10-for-15 for 100 yards, with two touchdowns and an interception. Both touchdowns were to new tight end Chris Baker. Brady led the Patriots to a 15-point halftime lead, and looked good in his debut, considering he is coming off major knee surgery. The quarterback seemed as comfortable as ever in the rhythm of the offense. The Patriots hung on to a 27-25 victory with their backups playing the entire second half. "It's a really small step for this team in a very long journey," Brady said. "We're on a mission this year. This is the first step."

At times the the two-time

Super Bowl MVP, who threw for a NFL record of 50 touchdown passes in 2007, did show some much-expected rust. Brady missed Joey Galloway over the middle on a third-down play, and floated a pass for an interception down the left sideline intended for Randy Moss. "I hate throwing interceptions," Brady said after the game. "Got to eliminate those."

The big test will come when Brady gets hit. Will the knee be able to hold up from the pounding? This is something that did not happen Thursday night, thanks to the offensive line's excellent performance. Brady was never touched in the game. This will be the biggest challenge for Brady as the preseason rolls on. He'll have to have the confidence to stand up in the pocket, and make his reads while

defenses are closing in on him.

Last year Brady suffered tears to the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee, during the first quarter of the season opener against the Kansas City Chiefs. This caused him to miss the rest of the 2008 season, ending his 127 consecutive game streak. Questions about Brady's recovery have lingered throughout the off-season, fueled by a post-surgery infection in his knee that caused the quarterback's rehabilitation to fall behind schedule.

Last year Brady did not play in the preseason, causing the quarterback to wonder if this may have played some part in his injury. On WEEI Brady admitted he may not have been up to speed with his pocket presence, causing him not to sense the pressure from Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard, who hit Brady

in the knee with his helmet from the ground. This won't be an issue this year, as Brady is expected to play a lot this pre-season. In fact, head coach Bill Belichick has run a grueling camp with a lot of two-a-days. All the starters will see a lot of

action in the preseason. The past few years Belichick has been easier on his teams, especially the older veterans. But with many new faces and younger players in camp, and the window of opportunity closing for another championship, the coach is cracking the whip this summer.

Brady and the New England Patriots play their second preseason game tonight at home against the Cincinnati Bengals. Brady and the starters are expected to play at least a half.

Patriots notes:

• Could this be the year the Patriots move to a 4-3 base defense? The team has been practicing it a lot this camp, and

used it exclusively against the Eagles. It would make sense, as the team is a little thin at line-backer, and has one of the best defensive lines in the NFL. The Pats even auditioned two more defensive linemen last week, Vonnie Holiday and Kevin Carter, to possibly add more depth. The Patriots have always been very flexible switching in and out of different defenses, but have always been a base 3-4 defense under Belichick.

• Keep an eye on No. 11 Julian Edelman tonight. The rookie seventh-round pick was a long-shot to make the team heading into camp. But the kid has looked impressive all through camp and had a dazzling debut last Thursday night against the Eagles. Edelman returned a punt for a 75-yard touchdown and had five catches while playing with the starters. This is surprising considering he was a quarterback at Kent State and has never played wide receiver before. The kid has a good shot at becoming the Pats' fifth receiver and punt returner this year.



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MCTV Channel 17 Afternoon/Evening Schedule 8/21 – 8/27
 Visit www.montaguema.net for complete schedule

Friday, August 21	12:30 p.m. Block Party 2009	3:00 p.m. Systems Out of Balance	5:00 p.m. TF Block Party 09
	3:00 p.m. White House Chronicle #1027	3:30 p.m. Mark Beaubien: Biomass Plant	7:00 p.m. GMRSD (Live)
	3:30 p.m. Underground Railway Concert 07	4:30 p.m. Chainsaw Massacre	Wednesday, August 26
	5:00 p.m. This is Montague Dec 06	5:30 p.m. Common People Concert 8/4/09	12:00 p.m. Basketball 2/23/09
	5:30 p.m. The Western Mass Dem: Chris Forgey	7:00 p.m. Discovery Center Birds of Prey.	12:34 p.m. Basketball Tournament
	6:30 p.m. Teachers at Sea.	8:30 p.m. TF Block Party 09	1:30 p.m. Baystate Healthbeat July 2009
	7:00 p.m. GMRSD 8/11/09	Monday, August 24	2:30 p.m. Beat The Devil
	9:30 p.m. Block Party 2009	12:30 p.m. Coffee House, Jeff Martell	4:00 p.m. Both Sides of the Bridge
Saturday, August 22	12:30 p.m. The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion	2:00 p.m. Franklin County Fair	5:00 p.m. A funny thing happened on the way to the moon
	2:30 p.m. Senior Center: Ruth Harcovitz	2:30 p.m. Power Canal Draw Down	6:00 p.m. 9/11 Blueprint For Truth
	3:30 p.m. Franklin County Fair	3:00 p.m. Seabrook 1977.	8:00 p.m. A funny thing happened on the way to the moon
	4:00 p.m. Systems Out of Balance	4:30 p.m. TF Block Party 09	9:00 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson "Big Fat Lie"
	4:30 p.m. TF Block Party 2009	6:00 p.m. Discovery Center: Northern Bats	10:00 p.m. Chainsaw Massacre
	5:23 p.m. TF Block Party 2009 #2	7:00 p.m. Select Board 8/17/09	12:00 a.m. Encore Body Art #11
	6:30 p.m. The Reflecting Pool Interview with filmmaker	8:30 p.m. Downtown on Ice	12:28 a.m. Encore Body Art #4
	7:30 p.m. The Secret Government	9:30 p.m. TF Block Party 09	12:59 a.m. Encore Body Art #9
	9:30 p.m. The Cabinet of Dr Caligari	Tuesday, August 25	Thursday, August 27
	10:30 p.m. Valley Idol Finals	12:30 p.m. All About Bats	1:30 p.m. Improbable Collapse
Sunday, August 23	12:30 p.m. 911-Eyewitness	1:00 p.m. An Inside Look into Iran	3:00 p.m. Cal Ripken Baseball
		3:00 p.m. Franklin County Matters Farren Care Center	4:30 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson "Get a Clue"
		4:00 p.m. The Western Mass Democrat Lt. Gov Tim Murray	5:30 p.m. Common People Concert 8/4/09
		4:30 p.m. Systems Out of Balance	7:00 p.m. Select Board 8/17/09
			8:30 p.m. TF Block Party 09

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ — *Q: What exactly is Salmonella, and how can I avoid it?*

Salmonella are microscopic living creatures that spread from the feces of people or animals. Salmonella can be found in raw poultry, eggs, beef, and unwashed produce. But, any food can become contaminated. Salmonella is the most common cause of foodborne illness in the United States.

Salmonellosis is an infection of the intestinal tract from the bacteria. Symptoms of the infection, which usually last four days to a week, include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever, and headache.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Salmonella

Salmonellosis can be more serious in the elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems. Typhoid fever, a more serious disease caused by Salmonella, frequently occurs in developing countries.

Most people who get infected don't need treatment. If Salmonella germs get into your bloodstream, they can be lethal. When this occurs, antibiotics are used to treat the condition.

Seek medical attention if you develop diarrhea that doesn't clear within several days. Other symptoms that require a healthcare provider are blood in your stool, severe vomiting, abdominal pain or dehydration.

In some persons, the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized for rehydration with intravenous fluids. In these patients, the Salmonella infection may spread from the intestines to the blood stream, and then to other body sites, and can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics.

A small number of Salmonella victims develop joint pain, eye irritation, and painful urination. This is called Reiter's syndrome. It can persist for years and lead to chronic arthritis.

Salmonella germs in feces remain highly contagious. These germs are usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with feces. A common cause for salmonellosis is a food handler who did not wash with soap after using the bathroom.

You also can get a Salmonella infection after handling pets, particularly reptiles such as snakes, turtles and lizards. About 90 percent of reptiles carry salmonella.

Many young birds carry Salmonella in their feces.

How can you prevent getting infected by Salmonella? Here are some tips:

- Don't eat undercooked eggs, poultry, or meat.
- Always wash your hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds after using the bathroom, holding pets (especially reptiles), handling uncooked foods or utensils used on these foods, and touching any feces.
- Wash utensils, cutting boards, dishes, and countertops after preparing each food item.
- Use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry, and seafood.
- Use disposable paper towels to clean kitchen surfaces. If you use cloth towels, wash them often in the hot cycle of your washing machine.
- Avoid foods that may contain raw eggs, such as some salad dressings, homemade ice cream or mayonnaise, cookie dough, and frostings.

• Keep eggs refrigerated below 41 °F. Discard cracked or dirty eggs.

• Cook eggs thoroughly, and eat them promptly. Undercooked egg whites and yolks have been associated with Salmonella infections.

• Cook your hamburgers so there is no pink in the middle.

• Wash all produce thoroughly.

• Isolate raw meat, poultry, and seafood from other foods.

• Freeze or refrigerate food promptly. Freezers should register 0 °F or below and refrigerators 40 °F or below.

• Thaw and marinate foods in the refrigerator. Foods should not be thawed at room temperature. Foods thawed in the microwave or in cold water must be cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature before refrigerating.

• Don't pack the refrigerator so that air can't circulate in it.

If you have a question, please write to fred@healthygeezers.com

NEW! CONSUMER'S HOME REPAIR GUIDE

FROM ANNA VIADERO OF Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC)

"How am I going to pay for heat for next winter?"

"How am I going to get the broken rail on my front steps repaired?"

"Suddenly I am wheelchair bound. Where can I get a ramp and make changes in my house?"

"...and, most important, where can I get the money?"

Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC), our Area Agency on Aging, is charged by the state of Massachusetts to ask what elders need, and then help them take advantage of funding available from state, Federal or private sources. FCHCC creates programs to address the needs of elders, caregivers and persons with disabilities. Currently FCHCC offers 40 programs.

Surveys revealed that in Franklin County and North Quabbin area, 82% of elders lived in a home that they owned, but 60.8% (over 8,000!) said they needed help finding both home repair people and the money to keep houses repaired.

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, FCHCC developed a *Consumer's Home Repair Guide* and made it available at www.fchcc.org. The guide has 4 parts:

1. "Finding a Contractor" provides links to the lists of licensed contractors maintained by the state, and a similar list of tradespeople who do disability modifications.

2. "How to Hire a Contractor" gives a list of the home repair trades, and some useful consumer advice.

3. "Finding a Handyman"

provides a town-by-town list with a contact person, if available, to help elders and people with disabilities find someone to help with those "stitch-in-time" problems.

4. "Finding the Money" provides lists and contact information for many small and large funding sources that are available to get houses and apartments insulated and weatherized, as well as helping find the funding for disability modifications, for emergency heat and repairs, or for a major home repair and rehabilitation projects that will bring your home up to code.

The Home Repair Guide is available at www.fchcc.org. Additional help may be available by contacting the Information and Caregiver Resource Center at FCHCC: call (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259 or email info@fchcc.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Dog Abandonment Reported

Tuesday, 8/4

8:29 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Main Road business.

10:45 p.m. Criminal complaint sought against [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, speeding, and defective equipment.

Thursday, 8/6

8:27 p.m. Report of a motorcycle accident on French King Highway near the Greenfield town line. Determined to be in Greenfield. Assisted with traffic control due to slippery road.

9:50 p.m. Requested to assist Erving police department with a disturbance.

Friday, 8/7

3:45 p.m. Responded to residence on West Gill Road for past assault and battery complaint.

10:33 p.m. Assisted disabled motorist with tow truck on French King Highway

Saturday, 8/8

4:38 p.m. Report of cows on French King Highway. Gone on arrival.

Sunday, 8/9

9:43 a.m. Report of a traffic hazard on Riverview Drive, checked same.

2:29 p.m. Report of subject leaving a dog on the side of Main Road. Checked area, unable to locate dog.

8:33 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle at a French King Highway address.

11:08 p.m. Welfare check requested on a resident of Franklin Road.

Monday, 8/10

3:40 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Mount Hermon campus.

Tuesday, 8/11

1:50 p.m. Report of a possible despondent person. Area towns advised to be on the look out for same.

7:20 p.m. Suspicious activity on Myrtle Street investigated. All o.k.

Thursday, 8/13

3:15 p.m. Checked welfare of tractor trailer unit operator on French King Highway. All o.k.

Friday, 8/14

10:50 p.m. Report of erratic operator on French King Hwy, unable to locate.

Saturday, 8/15

9:45 a.m. Report of past hit and run accident on West Gill Road.

11:05 p.m. West Gill Road resident called regarding an overdue motorist. Area checked, unable to locate

Sunday, 8/16

3:50 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Gill boat ramp on French King Highway, ambulance transported.

7:10 p.m. Report of trespassing ATV in Factory Hollow area.

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300th Series



300th Combat Engineer Battalion repairing the under piling of a bridge destroyed by enemy fire along the Carentan - Cherbourg Road in France - June 30, 1944.

BRAD PETERS & JAN ROSS ERVING - In recognition of the 65th anniversary of the U. S. campaign in Europe in WWII, the Montague Reporter will follow the men of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion as they moved through France, Belgium and Germany from their landing in Normandy in June 1944 to VE Day on 8 May, 1945. Donald Ross, father of Jan Ross of Erving served with the 300th.

Allied forces had surrounded and cut off Paris by early August. Even though British and American forces had been primarily responsible for the retreat of the Germans, de Gaulle insisted that French troops be allowed to "take" Paris and the first to enter the city. Orders went down for the 300th and others to stand down. General Jacques Philippe LeClerc led his French 2nd Armored Division into Paris on the evening of 24 August.

From a presentation by Commanding Officer of the 300th Colonel Riel Crandall at a 300th Reunion in 1996: "I probably shouldn't say this in front of

Dispatches from France, late August, 1944

the ladies here, but I sent 300 soldiers into Paris. Now Paris was real happy since they had just been liberated and everybody was dressed to the nines, great big grins and waved cheerfully at the Americans. I sent in 300 soldiers in one side, and when they passed me on that corner on the other side, I was looking at 300

meme, libere par son peuple avec le concours des armies de la France. (Paris! Paris raped! Paris broken! Liberated by her people with the help of the armies of France.)"

Although the men of the 300th were well beyond Paris by late August they were aware of the international political in-

Just after the General (Hodges) left for XV Corps by Cub plane, U.S. General (Leonard T.) Gerow arrived at headquarters. 'Who the devil is the boss in Paris?' he asked. 'The Frenchmen are shooting at each other, each party is at each other's throat, is (French General Marie-Pierre) Koenig the boss, is DeGaulle or am I the senior commander of troops in charge, I must know, I have no instruction on this score.' 'You are in charge,' said (U.S.) General (William B.) Kean. 'All right, said General Gerow, but there will be repercussions from important people. I have a military job to do and I don't give a damn about those politicians.'

"During [General Gerow's] absence in Paris General DeGaulle ordered a grand parade



Donald Ross of Springfield just before shipping out for engineer training

Choltitz]. He insisted that only our arrival saved Paris from going up in smoke asserting that the internecine war between the French surpassed all his expectations. He added emphatically that he was damn glad to get rid of his job of policing both Paris and the Frenchmen.

"Tuesday, 29 August 1944: The General (Hodges) left the CP shortly after twelve o'clock to attend the triumphant parade up the Champs D'Elysees of the 28th Division, three Field Artillery Battalions, a TD Battalion, and also the troops. General Bradley and General DeGaulle, General Koenig and General LeClerc were among those who stood on the reviewing stand at the Place de la Concorde. General Hodges was very much impressed with the appearance of the 28th Division which marched smartly and the Parisians lining the streets showed their enthusiasm by wildly shouting and cheering."

Note: The website of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion can be found at: www.300thcombatengineersinwwii.com



Citizens watch setting up show for the troops, likely in France. Photo Harold Palmer

drooling wolves."

Letter from Don Ross, father of co-author Jan Ross, to his mother:

August 25, 1944 (Belgium) - "Remember, I told you we saw Dinah Shore one evening. The show itself was swell, besides Dinah Shore, Edward G. Robinson was there and they both went over big. It was an outdoor show, the place was packed and the boys were climbing high into nearby trees in order to see. So many of them would get on a branch and eventually the strain would prove too much, the branch broke and the boys came down. Nobody was hurt though and it gave us a good laugh."

On August 25, Charles de Gaulle made his famous speech from England. "Paris! Paris outrage! Paris Brise! Libere par lui

fighting on the part of the Allies after the Normandy Invasion. But, they also knew that General Dwight Eisenhower was commander of all Allied forces in Europe, with his command now established in Paris, and believed that the best interests of the United States would prevail.

The following are excerpts from the daily War Diary of General Courtney H. Hodges, Commander of the First Army, to which the 300th was attached during the liberation of France. The diary was maintained by his aide Maj. William Sylvan and approved daily by General Hodges. The diary, only recently published, provides some very candid insight into the international politics of the war at that time.

"Saturday, 26 August 1944:



Col. Riel Crandall, Commanding Officer of the 300th

of the 2nd French Armored Division. General Gerow informed General Hodges that he had told General LeClerc to disregard completely these orders and proceed as previously instructed to clean up the city. During the morning Colonel Dickson had as our 'guest' the former (German) military commander of Paris [Dietrich von

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th

Soviet Union Parks: Presentation by Sarah Bevilacqua, Great Falls Discovery Center Manager. Interesting facts about Georgia, the flora, the fauna and the rich culture of the Georgian people. 7 p.m. At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

Tina Collins and Jenny Bird in concert at Unity of Greenfield, 6 Arch Street, Greenfield, 7 p.m. Uplifting, original acoustic world fusion. \$10. Info 773-3942, or at www.jennybird.com.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Benefit for FC Community Meals Program, 8 p.m. \$5.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault and Company*, Blues Based Roots music, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st

Singing Bowls at Himalayan Views, 265 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield, in The Tibetan Plaza. Monthly singing bowl group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. third Friday of the month. Bring your own bowls and bells, or use the store's. All experience levels welcome. Info: (413) 665-5550 or www.tibetanplaza.com/himalayan.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls in collaboration with *Turn it Up* records, present: *Jay Bethea, Clayton Sabine and Alexander Burnet & the Proud Flesh*, \$3, 9:30 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mike and Ruthy* (also of the Mammals). This song-writing, harmony-singing, banjo and fiddle-slinging duo from the Hudson Valley have been described as literate, political, organic, and inspired. \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. 8 p.m. www.mikeand-ruthy.com.

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andruthy.com.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie*, 9 to 11 p.m. Singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and many more.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Mike Stetson Band*, rock & roll covers, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22nd

The Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Too Close for Comfort*. How much

space do humans and wildlife need to thrive? Bring the family for this interac-



A public dancing event to celebrate the fresh waters of the Connecticut River. Water Dances! Saturday, August 22nd, sunset (7:34 p.m.) at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Suitable for all ages. FREE. Photo by Mary Schiess

tive program and discover your space needs and what we can do to give wildlife the space they need. 11 a.m. to noon.

Just when you thought the summer was getting boring, along comes *Water Dances*, a public hoop dancing event to celebrate the fresh waters of western Massachusetts! This evening program uses LED hoops, dancing, and rhythmic drumming to help celebrate the water. Be a participant: pre-register, wear black, and meet at sunset at Unity Park. Or, just come to watch (no registration required) and enjoy this fabulous riverside event! At sunset (7:34). FREE. Participants contact phyllislabanowski@comcast.net, (413)-369-9985, or (413) 219-0352.

2001: *A Space Odyssey* movie showing at the Wendell Free Library, 7:30 p.m. Free Admission (but seating is limited). First of a series of Science Fiction and Horror movies on or about the new moon. (978) 544-3559 or www.wendell-freeibrary.org.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Mid Range Trio*. Singing wonderful songs - spanning generations & crossing genres in multi-part harmony, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Evenspeak*. Rock & roll. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd

CRWC's Living along the River Songwriting Contest semi-finals concerts, 4 p.m. at the French King Restaurant, Erving. (The Grand Finals will be held Sunday, October 25, in Turners Falls)

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo!* 8 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Nomi Tuzman Eagan*. Stories with a bit of the blues and that mountain sound, but with the punch of the modern city. 8 p.m. www.myspace.com/nomisongs

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25th

Protecting Pollinators and The Land They Live On Free presentation by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust on native pollinators and their habitat at the Carnegie Library, Turners Falls. Recommended for adults and children grades one and up. There will be slides of flowers and insects, and a short talk on what homeowners can do to help native pollinator species, followed by a hands-on presentation for kids. 10-11 a.m. Info: 863-3214, or Kate at Mount Grace (978) 248-2055 x21/ kerivan@mountgrace.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26th

The Great Falls Farmers Market, corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls. 3 to 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting & Crafts Night*, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft and any skill level welcome.

Social Ballroom Lessons every Wednesday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dance till 9 p.m. \$8 per person. Come solo or bring a partner. Montague Elks, Turners Falls. August, Mambo & Salsa! Info: call Frances, (413) 885-8888.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Under the Tree Artists Music Co.*, showcase and jam. 7 p.m. No cover.

Live jazz every Thursday at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. (413) 863-4441.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*. Country & City Blues Guitar with vocals, 8 p.m.

Coop Concerts every Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Greenfield Energy Park, Greenfield. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, food, and drinks, and enjoy music from Franklin County's finest! Featured musicians this week: *Kathy Chapman, Laura Siersema, and Roland La Pierre*.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The*

Larry Berger Band, \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Thaddeus Hands*. Rock Fusion. 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Ghost Quartet*. A blend of improvisational jazz, blues, and miscellany. \$5 in advance, \$7 at door. 8 p.m. www.ghostquartet.com.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Love Bomb!* Dance rock & roll 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, AUGUST 28th to 30th

21 - The New Musical premieres in Brattleboro, VT. Featuring New York cast, directed by Broadway veteran Jerry Dixon. Based upon the life of iconic baseball hero, Roberto Clemente, features music and lyrics by songwriter Alki Steriopoulos. In addition to his phenomenal sports career, Roberto Clemente's contribution as a political and social activist on behalf of Hispanics, people of color and children is monumental. The first public performances of "21" will be held at the intimate New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat Street, Brattleboro, VT Friday & Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at 3 p.m. \$15. Info: www.21themusical.com.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29th

Val Ramos Flamenco Ensemble at Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls. Music & dance performance. 6 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kathy Chapman* and friends, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. This Legendary reggae band will keep you dancing all night. 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

At The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Carrie Ferguson, Gavin Thomas & Friends*, 8 p.m. Carrie, Northampton-based musician, known for "joyful melancholy" music, joins with Gavin Thomas, a thoughtful, nuanced songwriter, and some special guests and friends. \$5.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Steve Sanderson & Freddie Freedom*. Early show 6:30 p.m.

Roger Salloom will host and perform at the 27th annual *Gift to the Community* concert at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton. This FREE show features many artists. 7:00 p.m. For more info visit rogersalloom.com and academyofmusictheatre.com.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30th

At The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dave Richardson, Charles Havira* and more! 8 p.m. \$7 at the door. Specializing in sea shanties and traditional folk, Connecticut's Dave Richardson performs lively, spirited, classics and originals. Charles Havira hails from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and his eponymous EP reads like an American music compendium: a little Nina Simone, a little Bob Dylan, and a little Aaron Copland.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jay Stanley on the Kalimba*, 8 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31st

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open Mic, 8 p.m. Come at 7:30 p.m. to sign up to perform.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th

Jason Connelley Band reunites for one show only at The Rt 63 Roadhouse for one show only! Original members Jason Connelley, Bob Gentry, Tom Archer, Richie DiMatteo, with Dave Purock filling in on drums.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376



www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for Friday, August 21st to Thursday, Aug. 27th

1. THE HURT LOCKER R DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:30
2. INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS R in DTS sound DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:30
3. HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE PG DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:30
4. 500 DAYS OF SUMMER PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. G.I. JOE: RISE OF THE COBRA PG13 DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:20
6. THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:40
7. SHORTS PG in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:40

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Friday, 8/21 9 to 11 p.m.
Josh Levangie Johnny Cash Favorites
Saturday, 8/22, 9 to 11 p.m.
The Mid Range Trio Tunes in Harmony
Thursday, 8/27 8 to 10 p.m.
Larry Kopp Country & City Blues Guitar
Friday, 8/28 9 to 11 p.m.
Thaddeus Hands Rock Fusion
Saturday, 8/29 9:30-11:30 p.m.
The Equalites Reggae
Sunday, 8/30 8 to 100 p.m.
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FRI: 8/21 | 9:30 PM | \$3
TURN IT UP @ THE VOO Music Series debut \$5
SAT: 8/22 | 9 PM | \$5
Lonesome Brothers
THURS: 8/27 | 7 PM | FREE
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LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – A week's vacation can provide great therapy. A week at the ocean side is primal therapy in and of itself.

The weather was spectacular: warm, sunny and often downright humid inland. At the cottage, the sea breeze always refreshed. I walked, read, ate fresh fish, drove to favorite haunts, and just sat taking it all in. You can watch the surface and color of the water and never get it right, because it changes in an instant as a sailboat goes by, a cloud passes overhead, or the breeze comes up.

The quiet was punctuated only by the cry of the loon, the call of the osprey, and the motor of the occasional lobster boat.

Coming home was also a pleasure. True, the weeds have exploded exponentially, but so has the produce. Sure, the cat required minute-to-minute petting and reassurance that she had not been abandoned permanently (and all this after having spent good money to have the Pied Piper of cats stop by twice daily to feed, pet and admire this over-cosseted shelter friend).

I can't believe I'm saying this, but it's actually a bit dry in the yard since it has been hot with little rain for over a week now. The beans and cucumbers have burgeoned in these warm temperatures and the pepper plants look as if they might bear fruit after all. There was a good harvest of tomatoes waiting. These plants look a bit spent

after a long, challenging spring. I am not heavily weeding them anymore. The grass at the base of the plants holds the evening dews well, and as I am not inclined to water yet, I will leave much of it alone because the earlier over-dampness has already caused an increased likelihood of powdery mildew and late blight.

It's a bit overwhelming – all these weeds – but I have done some cosmetic work to good effect. While reclaiming the strawberry bed, I indulged in the pleasant fantasy of an Adopt-a-Garden program. One could visit senior housing, at the Weldon, say, and connect with folks who had to give up their homes and gardens and who, none the less, now living on the third floor, still itch to have their fingers in the dirt and their hands wrapped around crabgrass. I could fulfill their

dreams in return for some fresh garden produce. This fantasy occupied my mind until I found I had finished the job. It was pleasant, really, my legs damp from the tall grasses in the early morning. The strawberry plants look like they've made a good start on growth for next year, too.

When I left for vacation a week or so ago, there were blossoms on the squash plants. I returned to find recognizable Delicata fruit just beginning to show its stripes. There should be baby beans soon in the tangled vines on the tepee, and maybe before too much longer, small cucumbers starting. The onions are starting to bulk up, but I won't pull them until the greens die back, signaling that they've gotten as big as they are going to.

This is a pleasant time in the garden season: much of the

work has been done, with the pleasure of harvest still to come. It's time to pinch the blossoms on the basil again so that the growth will concentrate in the leaves. I'll also cut some to decorate the sliced tomatoes with their flavor of anisette.

The birdsong has declined with the end of the nesting season, but the Carolina Wren continues to boss the yard with his sharp call. The cardinal pair is still in view though quieter. They will stay around through the end of the summer season and watch for me to hang the feeder around Thanksgiving. It is good to live in New England. I can't say I look forward to the winter, but I wouldn't trade the changing seasons for the monotony of a climate which is the same day after day.

Change may be challenging, but it also often brings new pleasures.

Summer Mornings at the Feeder



DR. THOMAS G. BARNES/UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY PHOTO

Northern Cardinal

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER – My joyful neighbor arrives with enthusiasm. He flies to the feeder, and breakfasts with no muss nor fuss on a simple fare of millet seed. After breakfast, he takes time to hop around to view the world of green bushes and far pond. Then, just as quickly, he zips off to the business of the day. He will return whenever he feels like it. This little song sparrow shows his ilk by the dark, central spot on a streaked breast, his brown head and back, and of course his bright happy voice. He saves his song for a prominent platform where the message and presentation cannot be missed.

Years ago, a lively little song sparrow of an earlier generation

regularly gave concert from a round high unstacked woodpile. Its protruding peak was his stage. His song, according to a birdbook of the day, was "Madge, Madge, Madge, put on your teakettle, teakettle, teakettle." Whatever the words to the song, they give evidence to happy days.

With spring, the winter juncos and tree sparrows left for their summer haunts, and the remaining chickadees and woodpeckers were joined by grackles and blackbirds, who greedily devoured all the seed in sight. The strategy of resorting to a sparse offering of millet seed caused the unwelcome birds soon to move on, although woodpeckers and nuthatches continued to drop in occasional-

ly. But my song sparrow still welcomes that basic seed, and wastes not a grain of it.

In contrast, the shy lady cardinal arrives with a tentative air. She is a true beauty, but does not use her size or her social position to compete in the feeding order. In the winter, when the feeders are busy with speedy little chickadees and contemplative nuthatches, she is content to scratch around on the ground if the junco population is minimal. Her golden brown body and wings are accented and faintly brushed by a glow of red. Her red bill is emphasized by the black feathers that surround it. And her elegant crest tops off her charm. This robin-sized bird finds the quiet feeder to her liking and teeters around on perches built for smaller cousins. She brings back fond memories of a "sister" cardinal who was the first I had encountered many years ago. In those days cardinals were a southern bird, and the soft-colored secretive female, scratching in the schoolyard bushes, was a challenge for this novice birder to identify.

Other birds occasionally stop by to check the menu and fare, but the two regulars bring a familiar beginning to a good morning of cheer and happy design.



CHRISTOPHER PARKER PHOTO

On this hot day in Wendell, the water chair was a popular seat!

WENDELL OLD HOME DAYS

BY NAN REIBSCHLAEGER

WENDELL – What started at the library and ended up in the town square? Old Home Days. Weeks of practice and preparation by new stilt walkers were held at the Wendell Library, and on Saturday they showed off their newfound skill and their costumes in the parade.

The town square was filled with revelers enjoying the weather, the music, the food,

and the variety of booths with items for sale, including glass work, jewelry, paintings, and treasures. A mushroom museum was filled with locally-picked mushrooms, all labeled: some edible and some not.

James Slavas was awarded the Citizen of the Year plaque for his contributions to various boards and committees in the town.

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