



**MONTAGUE REPORTER MOVES**  
To 58 4th Street in Turners Falls  
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**OLD HOME DAYS**  
Wendell Rocks and Rolls  
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 42

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 23, 2007

## The Usher Plot Thickens

**COMPILED BY REPORTER STAFF ERVING CENTER-** The Usher Plant, long a white elephant lurking on the edge of Erving Center along the Millers River, burned down on July 30. Just weeks before, the consortium of owners was nearer than ever before to closing the deal to sell the old plant and offices to Patriot Environmental, Inc. for demolition. However fire broke out just after midnight on the 30th, drawing eerie parallels with the fire that burned part of the former Strathmore Paper Mill in Turners Falls, several months before.

Once the fire was put out, after a six-hour battle involving support from all the fire companies from the surrounding communities, and once the smoke cleared, authorities turned their attention to the various issues and questions raised by the fire. Environmental and public safety concerns were foremost: much of the tens of thousands of gallons of water poured onto the fire were drawn from the Millers River and Keyup Brook, and that contaminated water made its way back to the Millers, raising questions about hazardous materials in the river. In addition, it's a well-known fact that the plant contained a high level of asbestos which will complicate the demolition process and subsequent disposal of hazardous materials. The current state of the plant's ruins is also a public safety concern, given the risk of collapse of fire-weakened walls. Due to these con-

cerns, Building Inspector Jim Hawkins has ordered the owners, Morris Housen of Erving Paper Mills and a group of 6 other owners to post a 24-hour guard to ensure that no one approaches the dangerous site.

Patriot Environmental, the company that intended to buy the plant, is still in the process of purchasing the burned-out structure which is slated for demolition in the very near future. Patriot has been in communication with the Western Office of the Department of Environmental Protection, Erving Selectmen, and the Erving Conservation Commission, and soon will be filing for permits to work within the zone designated as protected under the Riverfront Protection Act which severely restricts work within 200 feet of any stream, river or body of water. In addition, clearance must be accorded by the state's Natural Heritage agency which oversees the Endangered Species Habitat zone along the banks of the Millers. It is expected that the permits will be expedited given the circumstances and nature of the demolition project.

A further twist to the plot occurred on August 20th when news reports indicated that two men from Clinton, MA were arrested in connection with the fire: Michael Dreslinski and John Rousseau. These two men both have criminal records including vandalism and breaking and

see **USHER** pg 13

## Block Party Stupendous

**BY CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - If the Block Party Committee for Turners Falls River Culture had any doubts about whether the August 11th, Avenue A block party would be a success, they needn't have worried. It was, in a word, stupendous. From three in the afternoon until a little after ten Turners was the scene of one of the most successful events in recent years.

It all started with a parade featuring kids on bikes and trikes, costumed paraders, the Russ Knuckle Raptor marching band, and a group of synchronized lawn chair performers all followed by a Montague police car and a Turners Falls fire engine. The bands, beginning with Curly Fingers Dupree, and followed by the Jen Tobey Band, the Lower Case g's and the Alchemystics rocked the crowd from late afternoon until well after the sun went down. The evening concluded with the amazing Unit 7 with Kim Zombik and Trailer Park Horns overwhelming the Avenue A audience who called them back

see **BLOCK PARTY** pg 3



*Desiree Sepulveda splashes in the spray from the Turners Falls Fire Department's hydrant during the Turners Falls Block Party on August 11th*

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA SHEPPARD

## Police Station Building Committee Presents Final Cost Estimates

**BY PAMELA HANOLD**  
**TURNERS FALLS** -- Yesterday the Building Committee presented the professional cost estimate figures to members of the Finance Committee, Capital Improvement Committee, and the Selectboard in an information/question session. While still working estimates, a conservative rough break down is as follows: site cost and preparation \$470,000; geothermal wells \$150,000; building construction \$3,470,000; contingency allowance \$400,000; and soft costs (including administrative, architect, insurance) \$900,000.

The site preparation costs are unusually high because we're building over a road with utility pipes that will need to be moved. We are looking to

see if there are less expensive approaches to the rerouting. A pleasant surprise was that the geothermal came in at 1/3 of the original projection.

The questions and shared opinions were very helpful to the committee as we now focus on providing clear information to the town. It also was clear that everyone was looking at the big picture, wanting to meet the needs of the police department while staying aware of other town needs.

"Most people don't need to be convinced we need a new police station," said Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt. The big question looming, of course, is whether the town will support a debt exclusion in this amount to fund the much needed police station.

## Old Home Days a Delight



LYN CLARK PHOTO

*Dancers from the Celtic Heels School of Irish Dance during Montague Old Home Days.*

**BY LYN CLARK**

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Montague's Old Home Days events last weekend were noisy and joyous. I was unable to enjoy all three days, but if what I sampled on Saturday was representative of the whole, the celebration was a resounding suc-

cess.

Children raced about begging coins from indulgent parents, and gradually more and more appeared with stuffed critters they'd won in the toss. The fried dough shack, popcorn, ice cream and hot dog stands, as well as

see **DAYS** pg 12

**PET OF THE WEEK**

**Feisty and Frisky**



**Fluff**

Fluff is a 3 1/2-year-old gray and white female short hair cat in need of a good home. In Fluff's own words: "I am a fresh, frisky and feisty gal. Let me draw you in with my alluring, gorgeous green eyes - I know you want to pet me! Be prepared for an adventure if you take me home because I am a complicated lady with beauty and brains to boot!" For more information on adopting Fluff please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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**MONTAGUE LIBRARIES NEWS**

**Summer Programs Successful**

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**MONTAGUE** - This summer has been very busy at the Montague Public Libraries. Nearly 300 children participated in the read at home Summer Reading Program. The Statewide public library summer reading program theme was *Catch the Beat at Your Library*. Capitalizing on this theme, a wide variety of musical performances were offered. One of the most unusual was the Tarbox Boys Jug Band from Wendell, featuring nine and ten year old boys and their grandfather. The Razzle Dazzle Summer Reading Camp and area Headstart classrooms, as well as the general public, attended many of the

concerts. The annual parties celebrating summer reading at each of the three libraries were fun as usual, with 85 people attending the Rainforest Reptile Show at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, August 15th. Prizes will still be given for reading, until school resumes on August 29th. Participation certificates are available at all three libraries. In the next issue of the Reporter, there will be some photos from the parties. Sponsors for our successful summer programs included the Massachusetts Library Systems, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Waste Management, and the Montague Family Literacy Project.

**Volunteers Sought for CT River Cleanup**

The Connecticut River Watershed Council is seeking volunteers for the 11th annual Source to Sea Cleanup, which will take place Saturday morning, September 29th. Call Andrea Donlon at (413) 772-2020 ext 205 to sign up to volunteer.

**Legal Issues for LGBT Elders Workshop Sept. 5th**

Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC) is offering the workshop "Plan, Protect, Provide: Legal Issues for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Elders" (age 55+ and friends) on Wed., Sept. 5, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

at FCHCC, 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, MA. Atty Susan Shauger and Atty Jan Stiefel will discuss estate planning, real estate planning, end of life documents, public benefits, state vs. federal benefits, partnered individuals vs. mar-



PARZYCH PHOTO

**Ramp Madness:** C&A employee, Jose Gonzales, is jackhammering one of many newly constructed ramps at Ave A because the ramps will not meet the new pavement precisely after the blacktop street is ground down and re-paved. Other ramps are not precisely level. C&A will get paid extra for some of the jackhammering and re-pouring of the ramps, and some they will not, according to C&A Superintendent Ralph Varga and Engineer Andy Pompi. No expense is being spared to give wheelchair users an ultra smooth approach to sidewalks leading to stores that they cannot access, blocked by steps.

**Avenue A Repaving to Begin Sept. 27th**

**BY REPORTER STAFF**

Repaving of Avenue A, from 1st Street to 11th Street, will begin on September 27th, according to Tom Bergeron, superintendent of the Montague Highway Department. The first stage involves co-planing,

where the current surface is ripped. Bergeron expected this phase to be completed before Labor Day. After the holiday, Lane Construction will begin the actual paving. A daytime Avenue A parking ban will be in effect during the project.

**Labor Day Hours in Gill**

Gill Town offices will be closed Monday, September 3rd, in celebration of Labor Day. Due to the holiday, trash and recycling pickup will move forward one day - to Saturday, September 8th. Call Duseau Trucking with any questions (413) 773-5712.

**Psychic Fair in Lake Pleasant August 25th**

The National Spiritual Alliance (NSA) will sponsor a Psychic Fair Saturday (August 25) 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 healing services will also be available. NSA is a 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 worlds of form and formlessness, and reincarnation as the method of progression toward perfection.

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**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES August 27th-Sept. 7th**

**MONTAGUE Senior Center,** Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

- Monday, 27th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1 p.m. Canasta
- Tuesday, 28th**  
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
- Wednesday, 29th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 16th**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 30th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

- Monday, 3rd**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1 p.m. Canasta
- Tuesday, 4th**  
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
- Wednesday, 5th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 6th**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 7th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

**ERVING Senior Center,** 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

- Monday, 27th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library

- 12 Noon Pitch
- Tuesday, 28th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, 29th**  
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 30th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Pool  
12:30 p.m. Shopping
- Monday, 3rd**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch
- Tuesday, 4th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, 5th**  
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 6th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Pool  
12:30 p.m. Shopping
- WENDELL Senior Center,** located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at 978 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

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# Aquifer Exploitation Meeting Draws Large Crowd

## BY REPORTER STAFF

Close to a hundred concerned citizens, mainly from Montague but with a healthy representation from other Valley towns, came together last Thursday, August 16th at the Grange in Montague Center to discuss Nestlé's plans to tap into Montague's aquifer. The mood was distinctly anti-Nestlé and anti-corporate, but the predominant concern of the evening was that of saving the aquifer from exploitation.

No one from Nestlé Waters North America attended the meeting but according to Eileen Simonson, co-executive director of the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee, Nestlé has its eye on perhaps as many as ten sites in Massachusetts. Indeed, the only permission granted so far to the corporate giant is to

walk the state-owned Montague Plains to see if it might be suitable for a bottling plant.

This did not prevent the crowd from expressing their apprehension. Montague Center resident Sam Lovejoy, sounding more like the activist of old rather than the selectman of late, predicted "a giant fight" if Nestlé attempted to take over the aquifer. Amy Vickers, an Amherst water planning and policy consultant, proclaimed that she was against the corporatization and privatization of water. "It's our water...and it's worth fighting for."

According to Montague Center resident Paul Lipke, the water Nestlé wants to take from our aquifer would amount to 150 million gallons a day, making many wonder how long the aquifer could

sustain that kind of draw down.

Jeff Singleton, Chair of the Montague Finance Committee, felt that the anti-corporate rhetoric that flew thick and fast at the meeting was obscuring the issue. In a later post on Montaguema.net he stated that while he "certainly did not want to see our local water resources drawn down to a dangerous level or hundreds of trucks clogging our roads...so

far there is in fact no proposal at all and it is not clear any of this is going to happen."

Although the Montague Plains is under State Article 97 protection, this protection can be overturned. But not easily: Article 97 requires a 2/3 vote of both branches of the legislature to dispose of state conservation land. This project would also need to go through the Mass Department of Environmental Protection

Source Approval Process and would likely trigger a review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Finally, the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals would have to sign off on the project.

Judging from the crowd who turned out for the meeting, should Nestlé decide to go forward, at each stage of the process they will be met by considerable opposition.

## PARTY

continued from pg 1

for an encore.

All the Avenue A eateries did a booming business from tables set up along the avenue, including the soon-to-be-opened Rendezvous.

The Turners Falls Fire Department sprayed, from a well-managed fire hose, scores of kids and adults. Word has it that next year's party is already in the planning stages



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

### Chain of Lawn mowers

#### Wednesday 8-15

9:30 a.m. Report of harassing phone calls from a North Street address.

4:10 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with a disabled motor vehicle with a possible intoxicated operator on Bridge Street in Millers Falls.

#### Thursday 8-16

4:45 p.m. Report of sexual assault that occurred on Church Street. Incident under investigation.

10:04 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating under the influence of liquor

and a stop sign violation.

#### Friday 8-17

5:43 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Usher plant.

6:50 p.m. Report of loud music and profanity at campsite 21. Gone on arrival.

#### Saturday 8-18

11:30 p.m. Report of suspicious black van with NH plates in Erving Center. Gone on arrival.

#### Monday 8-20

9:30 a.m. Report of a loose dog on Union Street. Animal

Control Officer caught dog. Found to be injured with porcine quills. ACO transported dog to vet.

6:45 p.m. Subject into station to report assault and battery. Found to have happened in Montague. Referred to Montague Police.

#### Tuesday 8-21

6:00 p.m. Spoke with group of kids driving a chain of riding lawn mowers up to elementary school from Gunn Street. Advised to stay close to home with the vehicles.

## "Dancing in the Streets"



### Turners Falls Block Party would like to extend special thanks to:

#### Committee Members:

Laurie Wheeler - Block Party Chairperson, JD Keating - Music Coordinator, Jen Audley, Sharon Cottrell, Eileen Dowd, Jack Nelson, Dan LaRoche, Patricia Pruitt, Bob Fritz, Matt Robinson, Chris Holmes and Linda Ackerman

#### Thank you to our major sponsors:

Massachusetts Cultural Council, Town of Montague, Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Greenfield Savings Bank and Hillside Plastics, MCTV for live coverage

#### And a special thanks to:

A-1 Enterprises, Adams Donuts, Alchemystics, Audio Pro Media, Monte Belmonte/WRSI, Tom Bergeron + Montague Highway Dpt,

#### Madison

Cripps - Puppeteer, Tim De Christopher, Bob Diamond, Felton Construction Company, Food City, Franklin County Solid Waste District, Gettens Electric, Greenfields Market, George Rosa and Hallmark Institute of Photography, Matt Lattkiewicz, Montague Reporter, Norma Johnson, Kip Dresser and Curly Fingers Dupree, Klondike Sound, Koch Automotive, Richard Kuklewicz, Lively Dance Company, Lower Case g's, Montague Police Department, Montague Selectboard, Montague Water Department, Northfire Recording Studio, Pierce Brothers Coffee, Regal Real Estate, Rust Knuckle Raptor, Shady Glen, Robin Sherman, Jen Tobey's Alter Ego, Turners Falls Fire Department, Turners Falls Businesses, Unit 7, Whole Foods Market



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA SHEPPARD



Info about what is happening in Turners  
[www.TurnersFallsRiverCulture.org](http://www.TurnersFallsRiverCulture.org)

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## Tilting at Windmills -- or How I Spent My Summer Vacation Shutting Down the Nuke

BY DAVID DETMOLD  
SOMEWHERE

IN VERMONT - For the last week, I have been riding my bike around Vermont, shutting down Vermont Yankee. It's a bit like tilting at windmills, only in this case, it's about promoting windmills. And photovoltaic panels on rooftops. And methane generators in dairy farms. And cogeneration projects, micro-hydro turbines, energy saving light bulbs, wood chip burning plants and geothermal design. But most of all, it's about removing the dark cloud that has hovered over the Upper Connecticut River Valley for 34 years in the form of an antique, embrittled, nuclear steam kettle in Vernon spewing deadly doses of radioactive gas into our air, food and water every day it is allowed to continue operating. And then dealing with the fiendishly toxic high-level rad waste - more than a million pounds of it - that has piled up in a 7th story swimming pool in Vermont Yankee since the plant first went on line in 1972.

At the time, it was designed to put out 540 MW of power for forty years. Last year, compliant state and federal regulators allowed the aging plant to boost to 650 MW. Now Entergy VY is seeking to run the plant at 120% of design capacity for another 20 years beyond its decommissioning date of 2012. That's like taking a 34-year-old Caddy with 300,000 miles on it, adding a fifth gear and heading it down the highway at 90 miles an hour. Only the tank is full of plutonium, and an accident would leave a large section of New England

permanently uninhabitable. Including Gill. And Montague. And Wendell, and Erving.

One funny thing about the nuclear power industry in America is that it allows the corporations that make millions running these atomic pressure cookers to privatize the profits and socialize the risks. Congress, in the 1950s, helpfully passed a law called the Price-Anderson Act providing that in the event of a nuclear meltdown, the corporation that ran the nuclear plant would have no liability. If a few million people have to evacuate most of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont, and lose all they own, no one has to pay. And Congress has renewed that law.

But Vermont, unlike any other state in the country, decided last year to give itself the power to say yes or no to the continued threat nuclear reactors pose, specifically, to decide whether or not to allow Vermont Yankee to get that 20 year license extension its corporate managers are angling for. In the next two years, Vermont legislators will vote Yes or No on whether Vermont Yankee will stay open until 2032, or close. Our future in Western Mass hangs in the balance.

That's where the bike trip comes in handy. With a few other Solar Rollers, a gang of anti-nuke bicycle riders who once rode to Rocky Flats, Colorado from Seabrook, NH to protest nuclear power and weapons, now mostly in their 50s and 60s, I have been pedaling the message to towns and

see NUKE pg 9

### Note to Our Readers

The Montague Reporter is in the midst of our usual summer schedule, printing every other week. There will be no paper on August 30th. Weekly again in September.

### We welcome your letters Montague Reporter

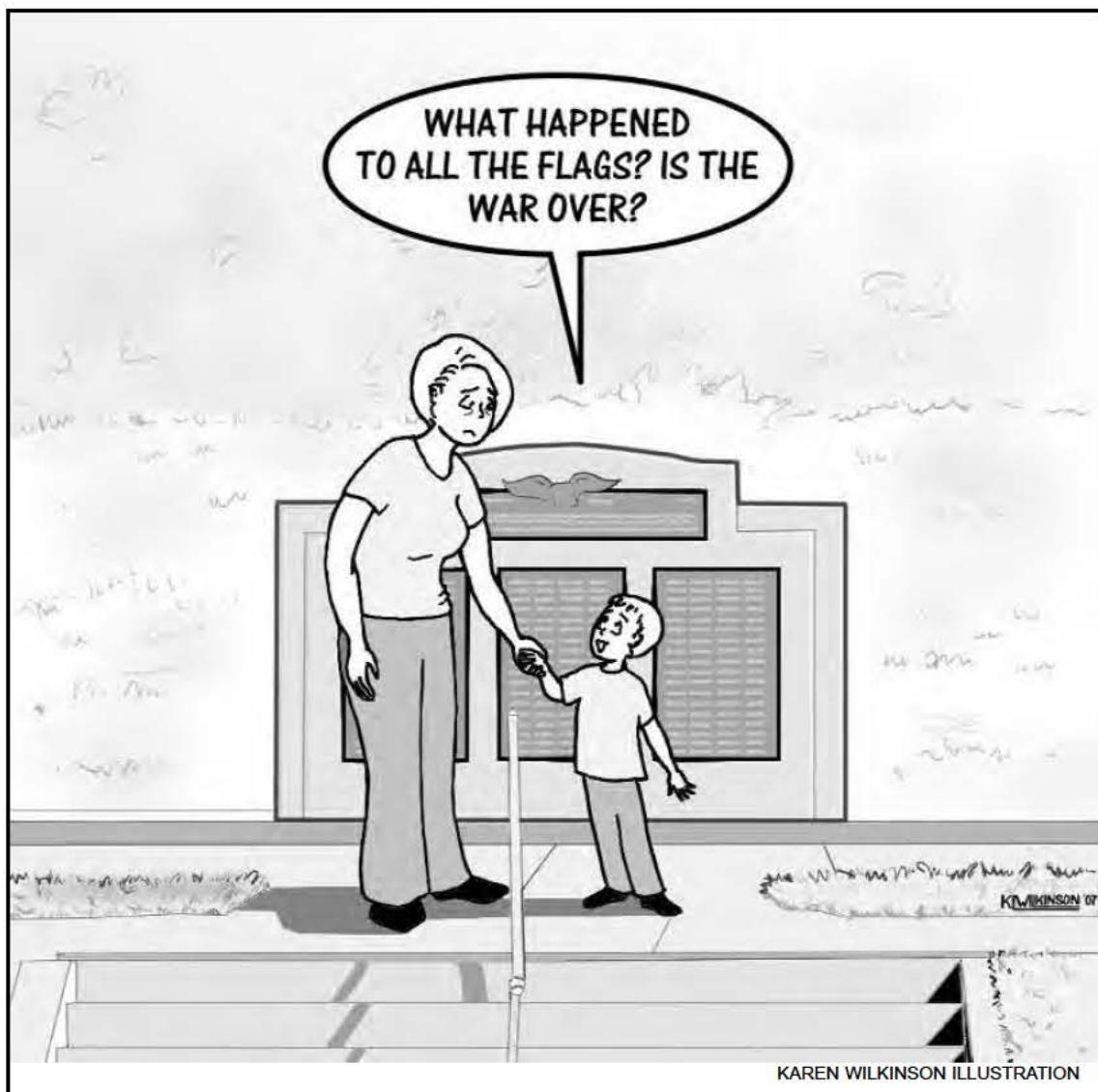
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Setting the Record Straight

In the last *Montague Reporter* the reporter at the Gill selectboard meeting did not report accurately. Many statements were used out of context and many facts were omitted.

First, what was the purpose of the Gill Montague Regional school district meeting on July 31, 2007? Was it to vote or was it for a meeting? My understanding was that we were going to vote on a budget. There was no mention of a meeting or a moderator.

Second, I did state that the U.S Supreme Court and the ACLU did gut the school system by taking away: discipline, values, allegiance, and prayer. What was not reported was that I also stated that no amount of money, teachers or new laws would fix that.

Third, in reference to my daughter, the reporter did not give the reader all that was said and took statements out of context. My daughter came to the U.S. when she was in third grade and English was her sec-

ond language. When she graduated from high school, she was 5th in her class. Her achievement can be attributed to: excellent teachers, hard work on her part and the fact that she had discipline, values, allegiance, and prayer even though she did not receive all those attributes from school.

Fourth, I stressed the importance of the traditional family unit: man, woman, and children. The U.S. is trying to redefine the core values of society and is trying to save the world and it's not working!

Fifth, if all of the teachers were doing their jobs, there would be no need to worry about the MCAS test. Now that the teachers are being held accountable, they often teach only for the MCAS test and the rest of the child's education is ignored.

Sixth, I also stated at the selectboard meeting that there were no concrete plans for the future and that we would be back here next year facing the

same dilemma.

Not mentioned in the *Montague Reporter* was the fix. At the meeting I stated that by restoring discipline, values, allegiance and prayer things would fix themselves.

In summation: our ancestors who settled here from Germany, Poland, France, Italy and many other countries were assimilated into American culture. They were taught reading, writing and arithmetic in English with no interpreters or special teachers. Our ancestors learned and prospered. Why fix something which is not broken? After all, English was their second language. When freedom lacks common sense what you have is democracy run awry.

Honestly and sincerely,

- Martin Yarmac  
Gill

## American Dead in Iraq as of 8/22/07

US FORCES  
Casualties in Iraq  
as of this date

4,127

Afghanistan 412

Wounded in Action 34,032

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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

## Working Tobacco in Millers

I very much enjoyed reading "Working on Tobacco" by David Brule in the June 21 issue. I grew up in Millers Falls and worked on tobacco when I was 14 years old. So did my brother, Dean Elgosin. Reading that article was quite a trip down Memory Lane! I was at St. Kaz in Turners Falls on Sunday attending the 30th

anniversary of Fr. Stanley Aksamit entering the priesthood. In the receiving line, Dean and I spoke with Stan about his speed and therefore his elevated paycheck for doing piece work on tobacco. In Stan's words, "The work was dirty, but the money was clean."

see TOBACCO pg 5

LETTERS TO  THE EDITOR

# Thank you for Flotilla Support

Thank you to everyone who welcomed the 75 international rowers to Turners Falls last month. Marilyn Shapiro, tour organizer, said that people who participated in the various welcome events "were able to give rowers from around the world a week of peaceful fellowship and goodwill rowing on one of 'America's Greatest Treasures', the Connecticut River. It was a week they will long remember, having experienced some of the best examples of our country's hospitality, beauty and friendliness." The rowers also raised nearly \$10,000 for the Clean Water Initiative of the Connecticut River Watershed Council as part of their tour.

Although the rowers had many experiences on their trip down the Connecticut River from Vermont to New York City, Shapiro thought that the stop in Turners was the most memorable. She said that the rowers talked about their visit here the whole week that they were in the U.S. - they loved the celebration (complete with a Dixieland band), and were surprised that so many people

took the time to welcome them. They were also extremely impressed with their tour of the Great Falls Discovery Center, which gave them the chance to really see the habitats that they were passing through on their trip down the river. The rowers came from seventeen countries from around the world, and although a tour like this won't happen again on the Connecticut for a very long time, Turners Falls has made its mark in the international rowing community. Right now, there are two groups making plans for a trip down the Connecticut for next summer, including rowers from Denmark, and both groups want to spend some time in Turners Falls. Thanks again to everyone who helped to make the welcome event here so successful.

- Anne Jemas  
Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center  
- Chelsea Reiff Gwyther,  
Executive Director  
Connecticut River Watershed Council

## TOBACCO

continued from pg 4

I attempted piece work in the barns by sewing leaves onto laths. I was proven not good at this when the supervisor came along to shake our laths and many (read "most") of my leaves fell to the floor. I recall a girl named Connie who was the

best at sewing leaves. In the barns she made the most money on piece work. Connie had plans to become a nun. Hmmm. Did Connie and Stan know something the rest of us did not?

- Joan (Elgosin) Milnes  
Beverly MA

GUEST  EDITORIAL

# No Stopping to Admire Ten Foot Crows

BY ANNE HARDING

Several times a year I travel from Turners Falls, Massachusetts to Toronto, Ontario to visit my family. Since I'm usually on a mission and driving in the wee hours of the morning, I rarely take the time to enjoy the scenery. Last May, however, I had a passenger so we stopped at the SkyDeck on the return trip to see the sights. While admittedly a touristy tower, the pinnacle provides you a fantastic look at the Thousand Islands in the vicinity of Gananoque, Ontario where New York Route 81 crosses the border into Canada. (Photos of the spectacular scenery are available at the SkyDeck website <http://www.1000islandsskydeck.com/photos.php>)

Our next stop was just south of the USA-Canada border, Alexandria Bay, New York (population 1,108). The select-board there, it seems, has come up with an ingenious solution to the financial woes of a small town struggling to balance its budgets. The attached letter pretty well documents their approach to fundraising.

June 2, 2007  
Alexandria Town Court  
46372 Old Goose Bay, Bx 130  
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

To the Officers of the Court,

I find myself in the strange position of deciding whether to take a return trip to New York for the sole purpose of attending a hearing for my alleged traffic violation. It has been difficult to make a decision in part because the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles



PHOTO BY PAT FITZGERALD

Attack of the 10-foot crow not considered an emergency stop!

has not responded to my request for information about the potential range of fines that might be assessed. Though the infraction was fairly benign, the unknown dollar factor concerns me greatly because not only will I need to pay the fine; but there may also be a surcharge to my Massachusetts insurance premiums for the next seven years.

However, the main reason that I am reluctant to return and plead innocent is that I am indeed guilty of "disobeying a traffic control device." I hope you will bear with me while I explain what happened and perhaps you will consider some leniency when you levy the fine.

I make about three trips a year through your neck of the woods to visit my family in Ontario. I had planned this most recent visit for February but my mother called and asked me to delay the trip to accommodate my brother Tom's surgery schedule. I was perfectly happy

to do this since he and his wife Patti have been a terrific help to me during some difficult transitions of the past few years.

Now, you might think my 85 year old mom had been scheming since it turned out the optimal time for me to help out just happened to be Mother's Day weekend but I can assure you that's not true. In any case, I contacted my co-worker Pat who's wanted make this journey with me for some time.

I let her know that instead of the long-planned recreational trip to the lake we would be helping out my convalescing brother and his wife who was recovering from a car accident. Pat was a good sport, so we each took a few days of vacation and set out on our adventure. We worked very hard to take care of their spring gardening, winter cleanup and sundry other household chores and also got to have a nice visit with my mother over the Mother's Day weekend. We returned to

see CROWS pg 6

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# CROWS from pg 5

Massachusetts on Monday.

Pat was pretty excited about the return trip because we were traveling during the daylight hours and she'd be able to see the scenery. I promised her a little sight seeing as a reward for all the hard work.

I'm sure the court is aware that a flock of giant crows has begun to convene just outside Alexandria. I saw the first crow with my young son about six years ago. It was poised on the edge of a field quite a distance from the highway and we thought we were imagining things initially. Over the next few years the crow was joined by another and then by a third. Funnily enough, in spite of their size, they're not very visible when traveling north because of the hills, trees and the median divider. You only see them going south.

I had just been telling Pat about the birds when we approached them. I was certain they were much closer to Route 81 than ever before. The lure of the crows was impossible for me to resist especially since a section of the fence was down and a pathway had been mowed through the field. It seemed as though the path

had been mowed specifically for curious onlookers to get a closer look at the birds. We pulled off the highway and got out to take some photos.

You likely know the damned birds are 10-12 feet tall but without a person standing beside them it's very difficult to tell. I didn't want anyone to think the big bird photos were just a perspective illusion. Consequently, in the interest of artistic integrity, we walked a little closer. You CANNOT imagine what happened next because it was quite unbelievable.

I was attacked by one of the crows! It happened so fast I was completely unaware I was in danger - fortunately Pat had her camera close at hand to document the whole thing. Now, you might think my friend would put the camera down to help me out but instead she zoomed in for a closer shot of me screaming for help.

Fortunately I managed to pull my arm free from the vicious bird and escape. Pat and I got back to the car and pulled away from the road and were just starting to get up to speed when a state trooper appeared in my rear view mirror.

His lights were flashing and I realized he wanted me to pull over. I handed him my license and

registration and politely asked him if there was a problem. "Yes ma'am there certainly is," was his response. Then he asked me to step out of the car. By now I was getting a little worried but still hoping maybe my taillight was out or something innocuous like that.

The trooper pointed behind us at a sign and asked if I could see it. "Yes sir," I replied. Then he pointed out another sign just about 50 feet further back and asked if I could see that one. "Yes sir," I again replied.

By this time, I had a suspicion that Officer Connor was doing his best not to laugh. I'm quite sure he had suspected he was stopping a couple of drunk or stoned college students instead of a couple white-haired grandmother types on the way home from a mission of mercy. Meanwhile, Pat was still in the car and wondering what the heck was going on with all the questions and gesturing.

"Well ma'am, can you tell me what the signs say?" he asked next. Unfortunately I was stumped on that one and had to confess I had no idea. I was now suspecting the sign might say, "No Cavorting with Crows" or "\$500 Fine for Fooling with Feathered Friends" or something like that.

No such luck!! The officer told me the sign said "Emergency Stopping Only" and then I started to laugh. "Hmmm, I can see your point sir. I've been driving by those birds for about six years and I've never stopped before but my friend has a camera with her and ....."

While he acknowledged the birds were a tempting photo opportunity he did note the signs were quite prominently placed. It was pretty hard to argue with that one. Officer Connor then told me he generally makes offenders take a photo of the sign to put in their photo albums along with the birds.

Since we were past the signs we didn't take one at the time. Later in the day, while stuck in traffic Pat leaned out the window to snap this photo for evidence of our civil disobedience.

Anyhow, I do hope you will consider assessing a fairly minor fine in light of the fact that Pat and I were trying to take some humorous pictures for her young grandchildren, my aging mother and recovering brother.

Sincerely,

Anne Harding

PS: I would like to find out the name of the bird sculptor if possible as I am trying to make a giant sunflower out of an old

satellite dish and have been wondering where to install it. I think it would look fine with a large crow next to it.

Well, my letter was forwarded to the Jefferson County District Attorney's office where the charge was amended from "Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device" to "Stopping/Standing on Pavement." There was still no information about the cost of the violation and I was very tempted to argue that I was actually parking on the grass; however, I did plead guilty and eventually paid my \$50 fine. After all, I had already spent considerable time amusing myself writing the letter and my next trip wasn't scheduled for another month or so.

This summer when I pick up my nephews I think we'll take a detour through town and introduce ourselves to the court officials and explore the town. In the meantime, I believe there are several strategic points in the villages of Montague where a large sculpture and appropriate signage could generate significant income for our town!



### MCTV Schedule: Channel 17: August 17th - 30th

<b>Friday, August 17</b> 8:00 am Senior Center: Senior Aerobics 8:30 am Montague Select Board (8/13/07) 11:00 am Changing Face of Turners Falls 1:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall 6:30 pm NASA Connect: Festival of Flight 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07) 9:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Denise Grendon 10:30 pm Seabrook 1977	<b>Saturday, August 18</b> 8:00 am NASA Connect: Festival of Flight 8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07) 11:00 am Common Man Concerts: Denise Grendon 12:00 pm Seabrook 1977 6:00 pm The Well Being: "Memory - Use It Or Lose It" 7:00 pm Independent Voices #34 7:30 pm Block Party: Part One 9:30 pm Over The Falls: Stan Rosenberg 10:30 pm TFHS Awards Night 2007	<b>Sunday, August 19</b> 8:00 am The Well Being: "Memory - Use It Or Lose It" 9:00 am Independent Voices #34 9:30 am Block Party: Part One 11:30 am Over The Falls: Stan Rosenberg 12:30 pm Turners Falls High School Awards Night: 2007 6:30 pm War Memorial Update with Art Gilmore 7:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription 8:00 pm Wind Changer: Ballet 9:00 pm TFHS Commencement 2007	<b>Monday, August 20</b> 8:00 am War Memorial Update with Art Gilmore 8:30 am Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription 9:30 am Wind Changer: Ballet 10:30 am TFHS Commencement 2007 12:00 pm Discovery Center: Birds of Prey 7:00 pm Montague Select Board (7/13/07) 9:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Denise Grendon 10:30 pm Seabrook 1977	<b>Tuesday, August 21</b> 8:00 am Montague Select Board (7/13/07) 10:30 am Common Man Concerts: Denise Grendon 11:30 am Seabrook 1977 6:30 pm The GED Connection #13: Reading Fiction 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07) 9:30 pm Changing Face of Turners Falls 11:30 pm Independent Voices #34	<b>Wednesday, August 22</b> 8:00 am GED Connection #13: Reading Fiction 8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07) 11:00 am Changing Face of Turners Falls 1:00 pm Independent Voices #34 6:30 pm NASA Connect: Festival of Flight 7:00 pm GED Connection #14: Reading Poetry 7:30 pm Seabrook 1977 9:00 pm The Well Being: "Memory - Use It Or Lose It" 10:00 pm Block Party: Part One	<b>Thursday, August 23</b> 8:00 am NASA Connect: Festival of Flight 8:30 am GED Connection #14: Reading Poetry 9:00 am Seabrook 1977 10:30 am The Well Being: "Memory - Use It Or Lose It" 11:30 am Block Party: Part One 6:00 pm Over The Falls: Stan Rosenberg 7:00 pm Montague Select Board 8/13/07 9:30 pm War Memorial Update with Art Gilmore 10:00 pm Silly Wizard: Balloons	<b>Friday, August 24</b> 8:00 am Over the Falls: Stan Rosenberg 9:00 am Montague Select Board (8/13/07) 11:30 am War Memorial Update with Art Gilmore 12:00 pm Silly Wizard Balloons 6:30 pm NASA Connect: World Space Congress 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07) 9:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Jeff Brewer 10:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson	<b>Saturday, August 25</b> 8:00 am NASA Connect: World Space Congress 8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07) 11:00 am Common Man Concerts: Jeff Brewer 12:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson 6:30 pm The Well Being: "Memory - The Art and Science of Herbs" 7:30 pm GED Connection #14: Reading and Poetry 8:00 pm Block Party: Part Two	<b>Sunday, August 26</b> 8:00 am The Well Being: "The Art and Science of Herbs" 9:00 am GED Connection #14: Reading and Poetry 9:30 am Block Party: Part Two 11:30 am Independent Voices #34 12:00 pm International Rowers At Turners Falls 6:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Denise Grendon 7:30 pm Seabrook 1977 9:00 pm War Memorial Update with Art Gilmore 9:30 pm Montague Update: Mark Lattanzi 10:00 pm Discovery Center: John Root/Wild Edibles	<b>Monday, August 27</b> 8:00 am Common Man Concerts: Denise Grendon 9:00 am Seabrook 1977 10:30 am War Memorial Update with Art Gilmore 11:00 am Montague Update: Mark Lattanzi 11:30 am Discovery Center: John Root/Wild Edibles 6:00 pm Senior Center: Senior Aerobics 7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live) 10:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Jeff Brewer 11:00 pm A Video Portrait of The Montague Plains	<b>Tuesday, August 28</b> 8:00 am Senior Center: Senior Aerobics 8:30 am Common Man Concerts: Jeff Brewer	<b>Wednesday, August 29</b> 8:00 am GED Connection #14: Reading and Poetry 8:30 am International Rowers at Turners Falls 9:00am Silly Wizard: Balloons 6:30 pm NASA Connect: World Space Congress 7:00 pm GED Connection #15: Reading Drama 7:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson 8:30 pm Senior Center: Elder Law 9:30 pm The Well Being: "The Art and Science of Herbs" 10:30 pm Block Party: Part One	<b>Thursday, August 30</b> 8:00 am NASA Connect: World Space Congress 8:30 am GED Connection #15: Reading Drama 9:00 am Senior Center: Elder Law 10:00 am The Well Being: "The Art and Science of Herbs" 11:00 am Block Party: Part One 6:00 pm Sheffield School Play: Dancing Princess 7:00 pm Montague Select Board 8/27/07 9:30 pm Block Party: Part Two 11:30 pm Encore Body Art
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**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

# September 26th Eyed for Special Town Meeting

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

At the beginning of its August 8th meeting to discuss the current numbers of the construction account, town accountant Janet Swem told the board that another three-month renewal of the short term town center building projects loan would cost the town an additional \$15,000. According to Swem the closing on the long term USDA loan should be soon, and will require signatures of bond counsel and town counsel, but will be done electronically without a physical meeting.

Selectboard member Christine Heard went through a list of properties in town that have more than the two unregistered vehicles that town bylaws allow. Most owners are complying with either a special permit or a license, and with some exceptions are keeping the vehicles off the road and neat or out of sight. Both she and selectboard chair Ted Lewis were unsure of the exact number of vehicles that Mark Stewart has on Plain Road, but for nine years he has been saying he had contacted someone to haul the extra vehicles away, that the process was about to start, but the vehicles are still there. The Selectboard thought Stewart might need a financial incentive to get the process moving, and asked Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich to draft and send a certified letter to Stewart reminding him that the bylaw authorizes a fine of \$75 per day per violation if he does not have the vehicles removed within ten days of receiving the letter. He is also allowed to apply for a special permit.

Jim Slavas, and Michael Idoine of the finance committee informed the Selectboard of the effort, mainly by the Orange School Committee, to create a K-12 regional school district. Both Wendell and New Salem have made it clear that they are not interested in leaving the Union 28 elementary school district,

and joining a K-12 district with Orange. The Petersham school committee likes the idea as a way of possibly expanding their curriculum, and the Orange committee is enthusiastic about the proposal. Slavas said that the Department of Education Commissioner would not look kindly at a mixed regional arrangement with Wendell, New Salem, Petersham and Orange in a 7 through 12 district, but only Petersham and Orange in a K through 12 district.

It was unclear how the K-12 subcommittee was formed, since a representative from Wendell was not appointed to the committee. Heard suggested that the committee was formed by the people who liked the idea. A draft proposal that was supposed to be ready for towns to vote on in October will not be offered until spring, and a unanimous vote from the four towns is needed for the change.

Idoine said that the interest of the finance committee is focused on each town's per student assessment, and that their objective is to get the method for reaching that assessment changed to be fairer toward Wendell. He thought the regionalization vote might give Wendell some leverage for influencing other towns. The committee member he spoke with seemed shocked that Wendell's per-student cost was so high.

In order to set a date for a special town meeting, Aldrich looked forward on the calendar and saw that September 26th is the first possible non-Selectboard night available. The warrant will include closing on the USDA loan, and transferring money left from the demolition account for the former house at 9 Morse Village Road to town property cleanup.

Larry Ramsdell, the new town custodian, asked to set up a meeting with the Selectboard to prioritize the work that he will do to clean up around and

behind the stage at the town hall. According to Ramsdell, the mess consists of a range of items from unwashed dishes to the property of former town hall employees. Aldrich said that in New Salem the Selectboard set a date for the removal of items, and anything remaining after that date was thrown out.

Robbie Heller, substituting for Marianne Sundell, reserved the town hall for Saturday December 1st 10:00 to 4:00, and Sunday December 2nd 12:00 to 4:00, for the annual holiday craft fair. Set up will

be Friday November 30th but the fair committee will pay rent for only the two days that the fair is open.

Franklin County hazardous waste collection day will be Saturday September 8th at the Montague Highway Garage, the Orange Transfer Station, and at the Charlemont Route 2 Park and Ride. Pre registration is required by August 31st, and can be accomplished at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org) or by mail. Forms are available at the town office building.

Mass Recycles would like

Wendell to support a resolution in favor of recycling.

Dennis Harris submitted his resignation from the Conservation Commission as of August 1st. Ward Smith of Montague Road volunteered to fill the vacancy, and Charles Smith of the Con Com recommended that the Selectboard appoint him because of the ability he demonstrated delineating wetlands. The Selectboard appointed Smith.

# GCC

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG**

## Moose Still on the Loose

<p><b>Wednesday, 7-11</b> Depot Road resident reported 2 flags stolen from front yard.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 7-12</b> Medical assistance needed at residence on Gate Lane.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 7-14</b> 1-car accident on Depot Road; no injuries.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 7-15</b> Domestic problem on Jennison Road.</p>	<p><b>Thursday, 7-19</b> Individual called to report he backed into another vehicle on West Street. Info was exchanged.</p> <p><b>Friday, 7-27</b> West Street resident reported striking a moose on Montague road. Driver and moose uninjured.</p> <p><b>Friday, 8-3</b> Storm, high winds result in wires down at 417 Farley Road.</p>
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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Trash Sticker Price Increasing to \$3

## COMPILED FROM STAFF REPORTS

At the Selectboard meeting on August 13th, Highway Superintendent Tom Bergeron told the Selectboard that trash stickers will need to be increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00 beginning October 1st. According to Bergeron, the costs to the town have been rapidly rising, and despite efforts to combat the increases, the town has reached a point where the \$2.50 sticker fee does not cover the cost of disposal. According to Bergeron, the only alternative to raising the sticker price is to cut services. He did note, however, that he has managed to convert the recycle truck to be more efficient by combining the pick-up of both cans/bottles and newspaper/cardboard. Previously, two recycle trucks, one for paper and cardboard, and another for bottles and cans, traveled the entire route. Now each truck travels only half the distance, reducing the trip by 300 miles per week. This translates into savings in terms

of both fuel costs and wear and tear on the trucks. Bergeron credited his drivers and co-workers for coming up with this cost saving and time saving plan.

Bergeron also notified the board that the DPW will no longer be picking up commercial cardboard after October 1st because the cost to the town to do so is too high. In a follow-up conversation with The Reporter, Bergeron said that he will be sending notices to businesses in town advising them of the change. Businesses can choose to contract with a private hauler or transport their own paper and cardboard to the recycling facility in Montague.

Not only are trash stickers going up --so, too, will sewer bills. Robert Trombley, superintendent of the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility announced that he wants the Selectboard to schedule a public hearing on the rate increase. The Board is expected to set a date for this hearing soon. The hike, however, may be less than what was expected due to lower actual

costs for phase one of the CSO (consolidated sewer override) project.

The notices above may well lead you to drink. If so, Montague is working on a policy to govern that, too. The issue of restaurants or bars serving liquor on the sidewalks outside their establishments was a topic of lengthy and lively discussion. The timing of the discussion couldn't have been more right, coming as it did on the Monday after the highly successful River Culture/Turners Falls Block Party. Although only Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt, who was part of the organizing committee, actually attended the party, the board was clearly pleased with the success of the party, and took the opportunity to stress how the Avenue could and should be used for open-air activities.

According to Frank Abbondanzio, town administrator, the proposed regulations would require that at least seven feet of sidewalk remain open for pedestrians,

though the Selectboard could waive the distance to four feet on a case-by-case basis. The ordinance would also require that food be served along with alcohol, and that the area be roped off so that alcohol could not be transported beyond designated areas. Licenses would be granted on a year-to-year basis, and at each relicensure, the Selectboard would take into consideration the concerns of abutters and neighborhood residents.

The proposed regulations were generally well received by restaurant owners in downtown Turners Falls. Denise DiPaolo, owner of Ristorante DiPaolo, the only restaurant in town that has so far received permission to serve food and alcohol on the sidewalk, noted that "everybody wants to be outside in good weather. It's very appealing to people." Bill Holbrook of Jake's Tavern, agreed with DiPaolo, though he didn't feel he would be needing a license since he already had an enclosed patio but did agree that it was a good

thing since it brought people to town. Pam Kostanski of JK Liquors on Avenue A, who hosts wine tastings during special downtown events, also indicated interest in moving the tastings outside. Lou Collins, from Second Street Café, who supports outside drinking, did express concern that regulations might restrict his ability to hold outside events. At present, he noted that he applies regularly for a temporary license to host a one-day outside event. So far, all ten have been enjoyable, well attended and problem free. He felt that the new regulations requiring food to be served along with drink would force him to change his way of doing business; he also was concerned about a proposal that would eliminate the use of advertising logos on umbrellas or tables that he said help offset his expenses. The Selectboard said that they would take up the matter of temporary licenses at another hearing.

## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Construction Affects Transportation

## BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK

The main topic of discussion at the Gill Select Board meeting on Monday concerned ongoing road work in the town that has affected transportation and commuting in the area. There has been some confusion over both the progress being made on repairs for the road and the billing for these repairs. A representative from the company contracted to do the work was present at the meeting, and the three parties involved - the select board, the Gill DPW and the company - all agreed that the work itself was going well, and that any financial

concerns - such as double billing - could be easily cleared up.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, select board member Leland Stevens, Mickey LaClaire of the Gill Highway Department, and Jeff Howe, who represented Greenman-Peterson Inc. (the company that had been contracted by the town to do the work) had visited the worksite to survey progress on the project. Both Stevens and LaClaire were happy with GPI and Howe for making the effort and the trip to view first-hand the work on the road.

"I have the utmost respect for

GPI, and we are not looking to throw you [Howe] under the bus. We just had some questions about the project and I think it's simply a matter of being out there to understand it," LaClaire told Howe. "It's good that you actually came out," seconded Stevens.

LaClaire and Howe also made arrangements to review invoices for the company and to make sure that the town was not paying for the same services twice.

The consensus from both the town and company was that the project had gone on for so long with so many different people

involved that the chance for error on both sides had increased, especially as far as paperwork was concerned.

Also on the table was the issue of a new truck for the Gill DPW, something that has been under discussion since April of this year. "When we know what the school is going to do, we'll go forward on this," said select board member Ann Banash. Prior to the Monday night meeting, there had been some talk of a special town meeting to vote on a new truck, but both LaClaire and the board agreed that it wasn't necessary for Gill townspeople to

turn out to vote just on this one issue, albeit an important one as the current DPW truck is well over seventeen years old.

In other town news, Rene Jenkins was appointed by the board to the Council On Aging, just in time for the COA's Wednesday Night Ice Cream Social. The select board also is going to be beginning a complete review of current sewer regulations in the coming months. "We're going to look at other towns and see what they're doing, rather than reinventing the wheel," said Banash in reference to these regulations.

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**NUKE** from pg 4

cities throughout the state that Vermonters now have the power to act to create a truly Green powered future for the Green Mountain State, to put enough windmills on their ridgelines, harvest the sun, invest in conservation and efficiency, to replace and reduce the demand for the electricity VY produces, put Vermont's energy dollars to work for a healthy, sustainable local economy, and shut down their old reactor before it blows a gasket and shuts down our Franklin County for good.

And believe me, there is plenty of wind on those ridgelines. I found that out the first day, cycling up Searsburg Mountain with 70 pounds of leaflets in my saddlebags, past those gracefully turning wind turbines in Readsboro.

Speaking to potluck gatherings, talking with local legislators, passing out 3000 flyers, patching flat tires, speaking on statewide radio, avoiding barking dogs, it's all part of the struggle for positive change. In the end, it is just one drop in a gathering stream of energy turning this state into a leader for a green, renewable, safe energy future. As we criss-cross the state, learning again and again the subtle mystery of the slogan "Vermont Ain't Flat," I wonder, did Cervantes have it right? In the final analysis, can we expect nothing but labor for our pains? Or was Gandhi closer to the mark in saying, "Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is most important that you do it?" The final word, on that subject, is not yet in.



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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Movable Violations . . .**

**Thursday 8-16**

1:43 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Dell Street at Turnpike Road,

was arrested and charged with illegally attaching license plates, operating with a suspended license, operating with number plates improperly displayed, operating an unregistered motor vehicle or trailer, illegal possession of class D drug, registration not in possession, registration sticker missing, operating with license suspended for operating under the influence of liquor.

11:00 a.m. Report of a larceny from a Coolidge Avenue address. Medication and money missing from house. Report taken.

7:56 p.m. Report of a fight in the alley between 3rd Street and 4th Street. A group of people were yelling

at each other. Found to be a neighbor dispute. Peace restored.

**Friday 8-17**

1:57 p.m. Report of illegal dumping along the canal near G Street. Kids were throwing bikes into the water. Under investigation.

11:59 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Turnpike Road, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, minor transporting alcohol, cracked windshield.

**Saturday 8-18**

1:40 a.m. Report of a fight at a Henry Avenue address. Everyone went inside on arrival of police. Alcohol may have played a part in argument.

10:22 a.m. Report of a fight at an

Oakman Street address. Father and daughter were arguing. Found to be verbal only.

6:32 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road near the airport, was arrested and charged operating with a revoked registration, uninsured motor vehicle, operating with a suspended license, and no inspection sticker.

**Sunday 8-19**

12:15 a.m. Walk in to station reported loud noise disturbance at a 2nd Street address.

was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and malicious destruction of property under \$250.

9:10 p.m. After a motor vehicle

stop in the alley between 3rd and 4th Streets a 16 year old juvenile male was arrested and charged with failure to stop for a police officer, operating to endanger, and 3 violation on a moped, speed in excess of 25 mph, failure to signal, failure to stop at a stop sign.

**Monday 8-20**

2:48 p.m. Report of an accident with personal injury on 3rd Street. A man rode his bike into a car. Subject refused ambulance. Report taken.

8:14 p.m. Report of suspicious activity in front of 118 Avenue A. Two subjects were summonsed.

**Tuesday 8-21**

7:44 p.m. was arrested on 3 default warrants.

10:18 p.m. Report of a drug violation near Avenue A on 4th Street.

was arrested and charged with possession of a class D drug and possession of cocaine to distribute.

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TOWN OF RESIDENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE AND AMOUNT OF WASTE (Please be specific!)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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*the*  
poetry  
page

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

Poetry Page edited by  
**Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno,**  
**Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger**

Readers are invited to send poems to the  
Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street,  
Turners Falls, MA 01376;  
or email us your poetry at  
reporter-poems@montaguema.net

design by Boysen Hodgson

**Light (b'hind y'r'i'yelids)**

Th'apt. is cluttered  
-white

y'r'asleep  
y'did burn out th'light w/ th'flick of'a switch  
y'did scumble a room'n th'apt.  
y'did obscure th'light

brighter white on white vent'a'light  
brighter white on white  
"Then I saw th'light go"  
"A cloud must've pass'd in front'f th'sun"  
"Clouds move-quick today"

[Following: eight a. in concord w/]  
th'cardinal number after  
[That's: nine ways (at thrice) asquint askew]  
[which usually supplied from context]  
[figure or symbol representing-]

sprint back + forth before'th window  
sprint th'steady apt. light cor-  
coruscate'afore th'light brighter  
white on white vent'a'light alight be-  
low th'apt.window before'th  
window light apt. light

asleep-  
love you like light  
closed eyes coruscate  
light th'view b'hind y'r'i'yelids

Outside I  
sprint back + forth before'th window  
w/n you  
sleep/asleep I love you like light/light

--Adam Golaski



**Strings**

Dissolution state:  
Point of severance =  
Point of entrance

En trance  
En train de  
without meeting boundaries

Not the because of  
origin

Infinity broken  
into

Invisible light strings  
Rimbaud's guirlande, chaine  
d'or

Being both cause and  
dance

Struggle of a shadow  
with a wall

"The passive fantasy  
of spaces yet unfilled"

calling jaune  
in the woods now

without shape or  
matter

The spirit of something  
left over

and mistaken for an  
absent person

owning 3 shirts,  
an eggplant, an orange,  
a blueprint, a lack

of magnesium

The cut widened each day:  
to have a room or exile

Not the narrative of that  
but the space beyond

Where the gossamer thread  
might catch

at the edge of the chamber

Feeling  
breaks

in the cold gray dawn

At the frontiers  
to exist

like light

touching nothing  
illuminating air

between the streetlamp  
and the sidewalk

That passage

in the extenuating field

revives

the reverie  
of flight

Through the window in  
and out of the eye

where any shadow has  
the thickness of the sea

Inside is let in  
and the dream

runs in a flash  
on the fruited plain

exalting the old claim  
of home,

a translucent paper house

--Patricia Pruitt  
Turners Falls

**Acid Reign, 2004**

Drop by drop  
it saturates the soil  
systematically poisoning  
rootstock that has nurtured  
our orchard collective  
for over two hundred  
years

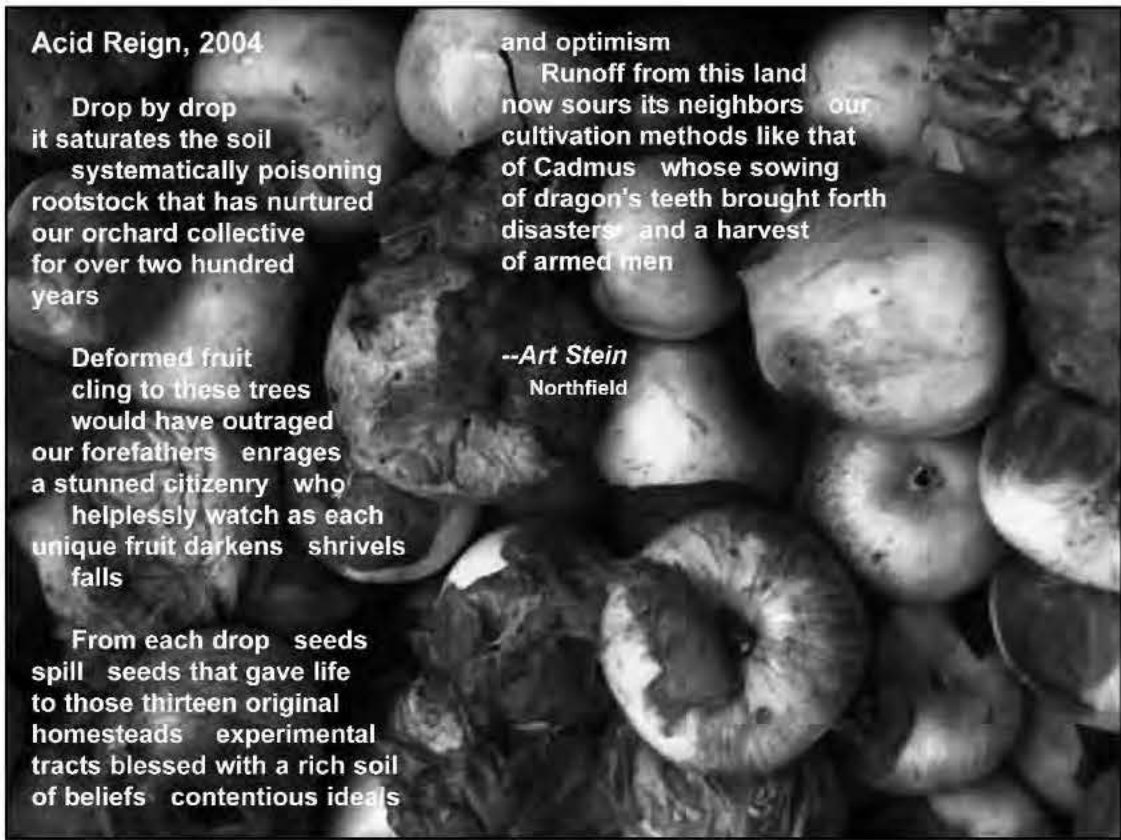
Deformed fruit  
cling to these trees  
would have outraged  
our forefathers enrages  
a stunned citizenry who  
helplessly watch as each  
unique fruit darkens shrivels  
falls

From each drop seeds  
spill seeds that gave life  
to those thirteen original  
homesteads experimental  
tracts blessed with a rich soil  
of beliefs contentious ideals

and optimism

Runoff from this land  
now sours its neighbors our  
cultivation methods like that  
of Cadmus whose sowing  
of dragon's teeth brought forth  
disasters and a harvest  
of armed men

--Art Stein  
Northfield



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**CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:**

Art Stein lives in Northfield and writes poems in the Japanese forms of Tanka and Senryu, in addition to free verse.

Adam Golaski, the other poetry editor for Film Forum Press, is also Horror Fiction Editor of New

Genre (www.new-genre.com). He's published poetry, fiction, and non-fiction in a variety of journals, including Lit, Web Conjunctions, Supernatural Tales, and McSweeney's. This poem was originally published in eye-rhyme: the gold issue.

Patricia Pruitt is a member of the Montague Select Board. Her poems have appeared in a number of magazines including Agni and Talisman. Her most recent book is Windows.

Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno is a writer and artist. In April he was a guest poet at the Mussoorie International Writers' Festival in India. The selection here is from a long poem he began while in India.

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of **The Poetry Page**:

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**My Week in the Sun**

The motel wakes up slowly  
 one t.v. after another tuned  
 to the same channel A gauze  
 moon hangs in the cloudless sky  
 strong sun igniting the crushed  
 shell paths crisscrossing the court  
 By the barbecue grills a concrete  
 angel stands guard over her  
 coin-filled fountain instant sounds  
 of surf drowned by canned laughter

Within the tall palms green  
 parrots chat-up guests moving  
 from hot tub to pool-side then  
 to lazy chaise hours surrounded  
 by semitropical lushness red  
 hibiscus and small talk

Midmorning the first of many  
 long walks on the fine white sand  
 trailing fields of skittering  
 sanderlings pairs of brown  
 pelicans cruising inches above  
 the surf raucous gulls contesting  
 beach scraps my pockets filling  
 with the next perfect shell

Back in the court the bougainvillea's  
 fragrance is smothered by fried  
 onions drifting from the barbecue  
 circle now resounding with more  
 canned laughter tall tales and  
 weather predictions A nap  
 and dog-eared paperback wait

My day ends with the unvarying  
 ritual watching the sun ease below  
 the horizon freighter silhouettes  
 framed like Thai shadow puppets  
 Night settles the songs of small birds  
 diminish blue lights behind patio  
 doors begin their flickering dance sand  
 dumped from sandals sunburn soothed  
 the alarm clock turned to the wall  
 my rumpled bed and Danielle

--Art Stein  
 Northfield



**From Mussoorie Miscellany**

I do not know much about rivers  
 but I'm pretty sure that the Connecticut  
 is not a strong brown god.  
 The Ganges water is considered  
 so sacred  
 that in Old Delhi notion shops  
 vials of bottled Ganga sell for 8 rupees.

Nobody yet has put  
 the Connecticut in glass jars  
 though Nestlé might.

But that's another story.

So to today:  
 My little white dog  
 pokes along the river's edge  
 her nose sniffing out a thousand scents:  
 dogs, raccoons, field mice, cats, birds, porcupines.

I envy her ability to distinguish what is gone  
 And what's still here  
 And yet always be in the moment that is:  
 "the way the light stood on the water that time."

Transience equals radiance  
 but memory revives the past  
 revivifies the present  
 confuses tenses.

I try to be more doglike--  
 to be here now--  
 by making my own inventory:  
 blue water going to green,  
 dank smell of rotting leaves  
 nestling in pools along the shore,  
 seven swans (really) swimming,  
 four mallards,  
 a hawk overhead,  
 one motor boat,  
 no eagle.

--Christopher  
 Sawyer-Lauçanno  
 Turners Falls



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DAYS from page 1

the craft tables selling bargain-priced stuffed animals did a brisk business; Ed the Wizard, the old trickster-dressed in suitable wizard garb right down to his curly-toed shoes-kept children and adults alike enthralled with his legerdemain.

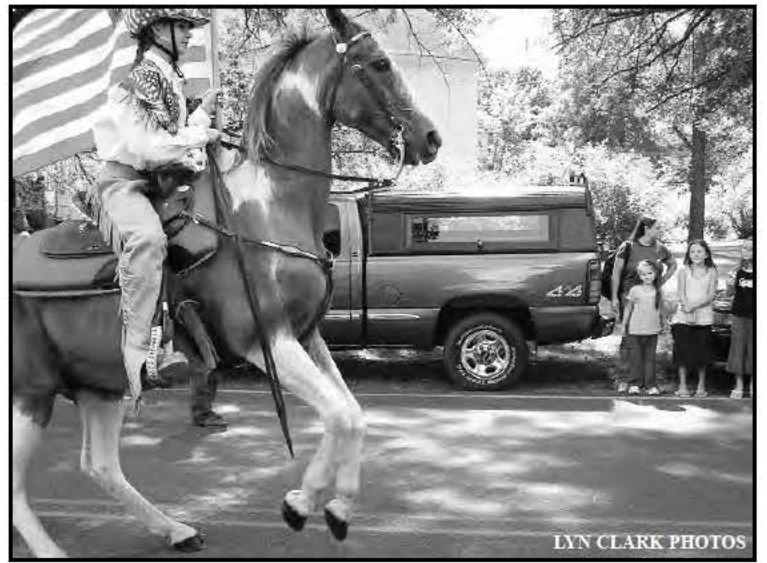
What was perhaps most

Runners had no sooner gone home to shower when our Wizard could be seen drawing children to his slight-of-hand like some Pied Piper, well before he settled down to the serious business of magic-making. And then in another area, suddenly there were teams of Celtic Heels from the School of Irish Dance. These young ladies.-whose legs

the blare of music in the distance, and soon a colorful parade appeared with Grand Marshall Anna Garbiel and her husband, Marc Green at its head, swinging past the common with enough élan and noise to suit the child in all of us. Down the street came horses, llamas, dancers, bands, surreys, trolley, motorcycles, military veterans, and of course the obligatory police and fire department vehicles pulling up the rear with raucous, bone-shaking sirens and horns. All this was followed by the Montague Community Band playing rousing marches, gentle oldies, and some get-up-and-shimmy music to round out the afternoon.

Still to come was Bub's barbecued chicken, and I understand that the raffle drawing for a queen-sized quilt and a mountain bike followed the barbecue. What an exhausting and thoroughly satisfactory day for Montague's faithful. I couldn't stay to the very end - more's the pity - but I understand from overhearing remarks during the day that the famous Tully Mountain Singers on Friday and the Karen's Dance Recital were not to be missed (which of course I had), and many were looking forward to Sunday's breakfast buffet and church service with music by the Fall Town String Band.

It's nothing short of remarkable when a community as small



Shawna Lee Williams from Happy Time Farm in Montague carries the American Flag while riding her pinto Dakota Dancer



Ed the Wizard performs a magic trick with the help of four branny young men.

impressive was the way the organizers kept the crowd's interest from flagging by scheduling one event after another, a logistic feat that must have taken a great deal of coordination. On Saturday, for example, there was the early morning Mug Race, and then the awarding of prizes.

seemed to have lives of their own, quite apart from their upper bodies - high stepped and kicked their way along the common. The dance was intriguing and highly entertaining, and from all appearances required great discipline and precision. Enough? Not by a long shot. Next came



Gramma Winnie, Stacy and young Zachary are in the cart pulled by a llama. They are from Apple Crest Farm in Millers Falls.

as Montague Center can stage as complete and memorable an event as Old Home Days, and not only pull it off seamlessly, but maintain the simple, heart-warming traditions of a small-town festival for even the most

jaded among us to enjoy. Congratulations to Peg Bridges and all the other fantastic volunteers who had a hand in it!



Volunteer Watershed Photo Documentation Training Session Aug. 25th

Volunteer Watershed Photo Documentation Training

Session: Aug. 25th, 2-5 pm. This training session will introduce volunteers to the Millers River Watershed Council's Photo-Documentation Survey protocol. This survey allows volunteers to make a permanent, archival record of important watershed sites for viewing and storage on a MRWC database. Volunteers are shown how to find a permanent reference point from which photos are taken at the eight major compass headings. Volunteers are asked to take a set of photos at the same point on a quarterly basis to record conditions and any changes over time. Volunteers should bring a digital camera and tripod, and compass if possible. Meet at Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA. Contact MRWC for details: council@millersriver.net or 978-248-9491. Rain date: August 26th.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Sapristi, c'est le smoothie!

BY FLORE

A newcomer among the gourmet crowd is this friendly beverage. At last it is being served either for a "mise en bouche" (appetizer) for the "hors d'oeuvre" course, or for dessert. Since I have returned to my eagle's nest village of Provençal origins, the race is neck and neck, with the traditional "vin d'orange," normally the "retious" serve and indulge, while throwing a few hits around "la pétanque" It is due to heat waves? To the simplicity of the recipe? Having practically available fruit, within reach? Anyhow, it is time to catch and imitate the French delicate palate: you'll honor these visiting guests, "en personne le Président de la République, Monsieur et Madame, la famille Sarkozy" and friends, vacationing guess where? In nearby . . . New

Hampshire!

These are my famous recipes, while vacationing in Bezaudun, they have been a hit here!

Julia Child would simply melt of "convoitise" (envy!) declaring this brew, worthy of the Gods!

Happy Sipping, you'll be hooked too on this succulent ambrosia! For six people: you will need, 1 ripe canteloupe ready to process without seeds and skin, 4 ripe peaches, 2 bananas. Put the canteloupe in the blender It will give you sufficient liquid, for the other fruit to be dropped in. this smoothie is of golden "allure." You can include pineapple.

Love a green version? Substitute instead, honey dew melon, 6 kiwis, add 12 seedless ripe green grapes. Serve with floating mint leaves.

A red version? 1 seedless-

round tasty small watermelon peeled, add berries in season like 1/2 pound strawberries, cherries (without the pits) raspberries etc. always start by the juiciest fruit, as you mix the rest of the fruit. The consistency will be creamier.

Put to cool in the icebox, a good hour, before pouring into goblets or crystal rounded glasses, or bowls, floating edible flowers, too.

For a swizzling kind? Your creative talents are now at stake! Mixing lightly the three ingredients together, you have created a visual masterpiece called a "flore royal swizzling smoothie!"

PS - For those who feel something is missing - add a "soupera" of "crème de cassis," or "myrtille," or "Cointreau."

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**USHER** from pg 1 with overlaying levels of complexity and even mystery: a fire emergency and response in a small town at midnight, environmental regulations and bureaucracy, demolition and disposal of hazardous debris, convoluted financing, business deals, and \$194,000 in unpaid back taxes, hi-tech police work pointing to arson and leading to the prime suspects. Where will further investigation lead? The plot thickens. Stay tuned.

## Hallmark Museum Raises Over \$13,000 at Spring Exhibition

**TURNERS FALLS** - Over \$13,000 was raised at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography's Spring Exhibition and Print Sale, June 21st through July 1st, 2007. All proceeds from the collaboration between the museum and volunteer students of the Hallmark Institute of Photography will go to the international humanitarian aid organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières.

The second annual Spring Exhibit and Benefit Print Sale showcased over 170 professional-level photographs donated by the students. Students worked with museum staff to prepare, make sales and host the event, which drew nearly 800 people to the museum during the two-week benefit exhibition. Founded in 1971, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières is an international non-profit organiza-

tion that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters or exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries. Visit [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org) for more information. The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography is located at 85 Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls. Hours are Thursday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

## Truck Fire at Gas Pump; Power Lines Down

#### Tuesday 8-14

7:53 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint on Oak Street, operator threatened resident.  
 8:20 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on West Gill Road near Bernardston town line, checked area, unfounded.  
 9:10 p.m. Called to Greenfield PD to take report of past assault and battery that occurred in cornfields off of River Road. [redacted] was subsequently arrested by Greenfield police for the assault and battery that occurred in Gill.  
**Wednesday 8-15**  
 11:30 a.m. Riverview Drive resident at station regarding ongoing neighbor dispute. Advice given.  
 4:05 p.m. Assisted Montague

Police with disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Subject was attempting to break into an apartment.  
**Thursday 8-16**  
 1:10 p.m. Alarm on Barton Cove Road, checked all o.k.  
 4:20 p.m. Assisted Northfield Police with out of control youth on Warwick Road  
**Friday 8-17**  
 10:29 a.m. Truck fire at gas pumps at Gill Mobil, extinguished with fire extinguisher  
 12:05 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Stoughton Place  
**Saturday 8-18**  
 8:30 a.m. Neighbor dispute with malicious destruction on Oak Street, criminal charges to be sought in court.

10:45 a.m. Power lines down on Main Road near Munn's Ferry assisted with traffic control.  
 11:55 a.m. Report of subjects with metal detector on town property at Main Road and West Gill Road, advised to leave area.  
**Sunday 8-19**  
 12:40 a.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with possible fight at Bella Notte. Also assisted with a hit and run accident, and an OUI accident on Purple Meadow Road  
 9:45 a.m. Report of vandalism at Main Road residence  
 10:30 a.m. Report of someone placing detour signs on Main Road. Roadway was open, signs taken down  
 2:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted], for

an assault and battery that occurred in Greenfield. Subject was transported to Greenfield Police.  
 4:35 p.m. Report of an erratic operator on Gill - Montague Bridge Unable to locate  
 6:35 p.m. Report taken of a golf ball that damaged a vehicle on West Gill Road  
**Monday 8-20**  
 11:45 a.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with structure fire, traffic control  
 12:55 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Stoughton Place.  
 10:10 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with assault and battery on Main Street.



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THIS WILD PLACE



ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

# Hummingbird Wars

BY KARL MEYER

Long ago I didn't know how to look for hummingbirds. I often mistook them for bees and rarely saw one. I had no understanding of their "zingee" wing sounds, or the tight arcs and bee-lines of their purposeful flight. There's a knack to it, and I finally mastered the learning curve. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are miracles. There is magic to how they operate. I'm never not entranced when I see one. I don't use a hummingbird feeder, but most years a Fuschia hangs from the deck here as a lure. Still, I most love seeing them in wilder, more natural settings--nectaring at a May columbine; or in the white sprays of horse chestnut trees in June. In spring light they can be easy to spot, zipping back and forth between shrubs and the flowering wild cherries. Sometimes they perch on branch-tips--watching their territories above the North River.

But there was no Fuschia on the deck this spring, and by July

I felt I was missing one of summer's treats: hummingbirds close-up. But I began focusing more attention on the wild foods of these nectar-and-insect feeders, and as July turned to August, things began heating up. I owe much to the wild Jewelweed--a.k.a. Impatiens or Touch-me-not, hugging the banks of the river terrace here. It grows in a swatch nearly a hundred feet long. It is hummingbird nirvana. The Ruby-throats began putting on a show. They pointedly hoard nectar sources - battling each other for feeding territory as late summer approaches. The practice continues on their southward migrations.

As Jewelweed came into flower, individual birds guarded my patch as if it were the Denver mint. At times as many as five fought over that nectar field at once. Inevitably one was chasing others at the tip of its menacing spear. They would zip and wrestle, charge and strafe--they'd hide, bolt and tumble. These were warriors, fearless in their defense. Again and again a single sentinel would wait, watch, meet, and

defend. At times the battle seemed to mean more than the food. Flight paths wove invisible webs on the air: perch, guard, elevate: charge. Other contests displayed lightning-quick angles worthy of an Etch-a-Sketch. Across, down, over, through.

And it wasn't just other Ruby-throats that were kept at bay. These sprites examined every intruder--menacing birds five and ten times their size. They'd challenge blue jays and send warblers scrambling. One needle-nosed bullet banished a crow from the premises. Another bird was so deftly out-manuevered at the end of a hummingbird's bill it looked like a zig-zag stitch was being performed on its tail. Once, glancing at a spruce that different species used for perching, I saw a dazed chickadee and a confused blue

jay clinging on either side. They looked drunk. They'd just been strafed by a hummer.

I never saw a contest the hummingbird didn't win. Yet some species, including the Catbirds, escape harassment here. Apparently they don't threaten food or young. I was also surprised to see



a hummingbird zip up to examine a flycatcher from a foot away. Satisfied, it went back to its perch. Nor do they bother the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

In August, the grosbeaks here get down in the thick of that Jewelweed--hopping stem to stem, feeding nearly upside down at times. Watching carefully I discovered the grosbeaks ate the ripe, shooting seeds that "Touch-me-not" is famous for. Once the nectar of those flowers has passed into seed and fruit the hummingbirds seem just fine


with grosbeaks getting the gleanings.

My favorite hummingbird view came in maritime Canada at a little spruce-fir campground along a bay. The hummingbirds nectar on the July lupine and August fireweed, and make thimble-sized nests in camp side evergreens. One summer afternoon a crow came by the campsite. It was a fairly usual occurrence-but not this day. Apparently it crossed the sight line of a territorial hummer. In an instant that crow was pumping, pell-mell, away from those spruces like they were on fire. An inch from its tail was the needle-sharp bill of one of nature's true magicians. I don't imagine that crow came back.

These are some of the best weeks to enjoy hummingbirds. You can store up a little of their magic for winter. By mid-September most will be heading south-to the Gulf Coast and then a non-stop flight for many across the Gulf of Mexico. Watch for them in gardens, or in patches of wild jewelweed, or visiting cardinal flower along streams.

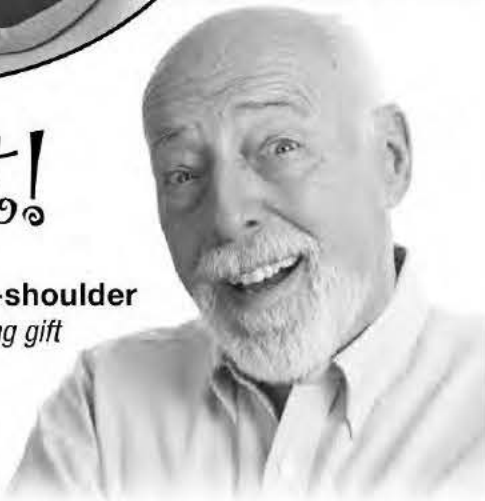
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## Jep's Place Reviewed in Boston Globe



PARZYCH PHOTO

Bill Shanaban in the doorway of Ed's Barbar Shop under the awning that proclaims, "Books & More," with a copy of best seller *Jep's Place*, now back in stock at the shop

It's not just the locals who appreciate our own Joe Parzych's *Jep's Place*. Katherine A. Powers, book critic for The Boston Globe, took it upon herself in the entire review at: Sunday August 12th Book Review to heap bushels of praise on Parzych and his book. Calling the book "excellent" and "powerful" she went on to note that it "serves up a vanished way of life in matchless physical detail." You can read the review at: [http://www.boston.com/ae/books/articles/2007/08/12/young\\_hearts\\_crying/?page=2](http://www.boston.com/ae/books/articles/2007/08/12/young_hearts_crying/?page=2).

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IRISH SKETCHBOOK

# Séamas Begley and The Captain

**BY DAVID BRULE**  
**COUMINOOLE, DINGLE, COUNTY KERRY-** Séamas was a hard one to get to know. A fierce-looking Kerryman, yet short enough, with a tangle of hair the color of the weathered hay stacked in mounds in his field. He lived alone out here on the edge of Western Europe. The headland that was his home and field faced the uninhabited Blasket Islands, considered the furthest-most western point of Europe. Séamas lived on the mainland, but it was his house that was the furthest west in any case. Considering that he most likely slept in the west end of the house, with his feet in the east as is the traditional Irish custom among country people, his own head was the one the farthest west of any of the hundreds of millions of Europeans living behind him in the rest of Ireland, the British Isles, and the Continent. Sort of like standing out over the bow of a ship plowing through the North Atlantic, like the Queen Mary, or the Titanic. But I don't think he ever thought much about that. This bachelor farmer thought mostly about his hay, his sheep and his land, way out here on the western tip of Europe.

I got to know him, in an indirect way, thanks to John Crohan. These things take time in Ireland, as does this story. John Crohan was an elderly gentleman who, at the end of his life, stayed with Séamas, where the two old gents probably fixed their simple meals and watched the sea just beyond their kitchen window. However, whereas Séamas rarely smiled and usually had a stern look on him, old John was gentle and poetic. We first met John when he appeared out of nowhere on the cliff above Couminooole beach and warbled a sweet song in Irish to Monique while she waited for me to come back along the cliff where I was off walking. I heard a bit of it, he had a fine thin and reedy voice like old people do, but it was as clear as limpid water. He told us who he was, and how the government moved him off the island in the 50's. He was glad to go, but still longed for the deserted village across the Sound. That's why he

was finishing his days in Séamas Begley's house, where he could see his island every day. It was he who took us down to the strand and showed us how to find Kerry diamonds twinkling in the cliff, and he introduced us to the seal who came along the shore, a dark gray shape underwater, every evening. I'm sure there was a connection between the seal and the old Islandman, but when he spoke to the seal, his ancient Gaelic was too hard for me to follow. So whatever had gone on between the seal and him, I could never make out, but there was a connection.

Well, after five years of my spending a week or two in the B+B next to Séamas' house, I came one June and there was no Old John. I asked Séamas about it, the first words we'd exchanged in five years, other than nods and grunted hellos. He seemed surprised that I was asking about John, and he explained to me that the old man was now over in the cemetery of Dun Quin, facing the islands, not far from Peig Sayers, the legendary storyteller from the village. I uttered in Irish, "*Tá brón mór orm air*" (There is great sorrow on me for him.) A quick light came into Séamas' fierce little eyes and he said something like "You know a bit of our language, do you?"

"Only a little bit," I answered in Irish, concerned that he would break into a flow of words that I could never fathom. Instead, he smiled briefly and said goodbye. And off he went up to Dunmor Head.

The Head, rising up from a field at the edge of the sea, resembles the head of a whale. The sloping back humping up like the hills do in Kerry, and coming to an abrupt round crown overlooking the Sound



*Haying in Couminooole on the Dingle Peninsula. In the background are the Blasket Islands.*

and the islands like a big green Moby Dick. This headland was the pride and bane of Séamas Begley. It belonged to him through his family, going back into the ages, except for the time of the English landlords. He hayed the foot of the head and he grazed sheep on the rest of the slope. It was a bane to him because tourists often trespassed there, knocking down the old stone walls, letting their city dogs chase his sheep, and sometimes those sheep broke their legs in the furrows and rabbit holes in their panic to get away from the dogs. I always asked him if he minded if I went up there for an evening walk to watch the seabirds coming through the Sound on the way home to roost. He said he didn't mind. But every time I was up there he'd appear out of nowhere, apparently examining a sheep or looking at the sea, but he'd be watching me out of the corner of his eye. And he never went anywhere without The Captain. You see, The Captain was his dog. Black and white of course, but bigger and more calm than the hyperkinetic border collies we see here in Massachusetts. I loved the Captain at first sight. I'd been a long time without a dog and I began calculating how to get a dog like him back to the States. That never happened, but every summer for years I did visit Séamas and The Captain, watching them work their sheep and walk the hill, silhouetted against the sunset and shining sea facing the Blaskets.

Then one year, the

inevitable happened. I got there a week after Séamas had been put in the ground. A too-early death, from cancer. On my first evening walk going west along the road past Séamas' empty house, I heard a bark. I had to look hard. But there was the muzzle and forepaws of The Captain. He was peering out through a space under the shed door where he had been locked up. Was he calling me? I had had my share of old dogs dying one by one back home, and here I was, faced with another old dog, an old acquaintance, locked up and abandoned in the dark for all I knew. The Captain, who had spent a life time running free in these hills and fields in this corner of Kerry, proud of his work, was now locked up in the dark with barely any room to stretch his legs, only a few feet from the doorway where his master should be. Now this was a dilemma. Why had all those years come down to this? Was

this some kind of destiny that I was supposed to be here to help The Captain escape? Was this part of some inexplicable plan the Irish fates had conjured up? I called to him and he just barked. Maybe he recognized me, or maybe he was half crazy with fear, grief, hunger or was he going to protect his home until his master got back? I promised him I'd come back that night with a plan to get him out of there, but it turned out I was never able to help him escape. My landlady at the B+B, Columba, told me that some farmers up the road were looking in on him. That wasn't good enough for me, but not being from here, I wasn't sure that I could free him, and if I did, then what? Columba was sure he'd attack me, but I didn't think so. Be that as it may, I never got to find out. The next day he was gone, and although I asked around, I didn't get a straight answer from anyone. I'd like to think he lived out his days working the sheep, and lounging in the sun, but there's no knowing.

That western-most house is still there but abandoned, like many of the houses of the Old Ireland, and in a few more years no one will remember this small story of Séamas and The Captain except me, and now, you.

## Montague Reporter On the Move



PHOTO BY NAN RIEBSCHLAGER

Montague Reporter staff, hard at work on Wednesday night in their new office

Jack Nelson supplied his pickup and muscles. Kathy Litchfield and Lyn Clarke packed and cleaned and schlepped; David Detmold fretted and paced and packed and hefted; Ivan Ussach, Suzette Snow-Cobb, Steven Snow-Cobb, Mik Muller, David Brule and Chris Sawyer-Laucanno cursed, lifted, maneuvered and sweated. And in the end the

Montague Reporter got moved from the second floor of the Brick House around the corner to 58 Fourth Street. The address may be different but the spirit (not to mention phone and fax) are the same. And our commitment to covering your community remains as steadfast as always. Come by and see us in our new digs.

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# For the Love of Mushrooms

BY NAN RIEBSCHLAEGER

The first class at Wendell University was a workshop on mushrooms led by Lisa Winter, a Wendell mycologist. About 40 people gathered in the Marion Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library to learn about local mushrooms, what to eat and what to leave alone.

Lisa's enthusiasm for mushrooms is demonstrated by the smile that lights up her face whenever she talks about them. Her love of mushrooms began when she was involved in a biodiversity mapping program at Oslo University in Norway, where she was a mushroom controller. Mushroom pickers bring their mushrooms to the officially designated mushroom controller, who examines them to remove the poisonous ones. Incidentally, she also learned about mushrooms from her mother-in-law who was in a prisoner of war camp in Germany, where mushrooms supplemented the diet.

We began at a table in the front of the room that was covered with plates containing a wide variety of mushrooms. As different characteristics and types were discussed, the plates were passed around the room allowing the audience to examine, touch, and smell the mushrooms. Many people also had brought mushrooms for identification.

A safe mushroom, the black



Wendell Mycologist Lisa Winter, left, leads a workshop on local mushrooms at the Wendell Library on August 15th.

trumpet mushroom, was passed around. Lisa had recently found a large collection of them, (at a place she refused to reveal.) She did say that to find them you had to look within 5 feet of a stream bed and that you had to keep your head down or you'd miss them. An unusual variety of corn smut, the trumpet is a fungus that forms black kernels on ears of corn. It did not look like a particularly appetizing sort of mushroom. The mushroomers in the audience were not in agreement as to its desirability and appeal as food.

A gentleman from town brought in an oak log that had been carefully prepared and sown with shiitake mushrooms which

he raises for sale. They were stunning. Lisa had already said that the mushrooms in the stores are often very poor specimens, but these Wendell-raised shitakes were beautiful. Someone else brought in lobster mushrooms that were the color of cooked crustaceans! These are white mushrooms that have been coated by a red fungus. Proudly, I brought in a bright blue specimen, very pretty. Too bad that it turned out to be extremely deadly!

We saw chanterelles and morels and boletes, which have pores instead of gills. There was one called a hedgehog mushroom, you can imagine what that looked like. Lisa told us about the

tinder shelf mushroom that was used to start fires. When someone asked why a patch sometimes disappears Lisa explained that mushrooms are the fruit of a web of microscopic cells called mycelium and that this web is at work underground in the forest providing trees with water and nutrients in exchange for sugar from the trees. When there is no more sugar production a patch will not survive. And where there is no mycelium the trees will not survive. The same holds true for a lush green lawn. It is dependent on mycelium.

Lisa had a plethora of books that she consulted as she talked, confirming the Latin names for each of the specimens. She confessed that one of the reasons she loves doing workshops is that it keeps her from getting rusty with the Latin names. Two guides mentioned were: Peterson's "A Field Guide to Mushrooms: North America", and "Mushrooms and Other Fungi of North America" by Roger Phillips. "Even with a guidebook in hand, do not eat a mushroom you've picked without running it by someone who knows." Lisa cautioned, "There are some bad mushrooms out there that could kill you."

Lisa also spoke about the importance of mushrooms in the grand scheme of things. Mushrooms have the ability to

heal our environment. She is excited that "we have learned so much about mushrooms in the last 30 years." The Oyster mushroom breaks down petroleum in the soil and the turkey tail mushroom absorbs metal from the soil. A book called "Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save The World" by Paul Stamets talks about this and more.

Stamets' book is a manual for the mycological rescue of the planet. The book describes mycoremediation's five components: mycofiltration, mycoforestry and micogardening, mycoremediation, and mycopedestics. The book shows how to use the digestive power of myceli for the sustainability of habitats and to provide biological benefits. Stamets' website is <http://www.fungi.com>. Two other internet sources of information are <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mushroom> and <http://www.dmoz.org>.

I called Lisa to ask some follow-up questions, and I interrupted her cooking. She was working up those beautiful black trumpets she had displayed at the workshop and at her Mushroom Museum at Old Home Days in Wendell. She was also excited by a specimen she had just found. So if you are ever driving behind her in Wendell, beware! Lisa brakes for mushrooms!

## Pow-Wow Wows Youngsters at Montague Parks & Recreation Department

BY BRIDGET SWEET

A pow-wow was held twice on July 19th for Montague Parks & Recreation Department. The campers participated at either Unity Park or at Sheffield School sites. "Crow" of the Mohawk tribe, dressed in traditional clothes, opened with having the campers assemble into a circle. The children watched as he smudged, with Eastern Sage, the tables and then his drum. He spoke Iroquois while holding the Sage to the sky. "It was making a phone call to the universe for a good pow-wow," he stated. The campers sat interested and curious.

Crow's traditional clothes were a turkey feather headdress, war paint on his face with nose ring, brown shirt, pants, and moccasins. He also wore rings on his fingers and dried animal toes on his knees. He explained why Mohawk men decorated themselves: "They wore shiny things

to reflect the bad spirits away and to have others (traders, other tribes) look at them versus look at the women in the tribe."

Crow informed the campers how the Mohawks were a matriarchal society. Women sat on council boards. Women were givers of life. Men possessed weapons while women owned everything else. Some of the fifth and sixth grade girls smiled along with female staff members.

In Mohawk tradition, boys could not use a bow and arrow until they learned how arrow feathers flew in the wind. Therefore, they practiced by attaching a weight to the quill and throwing it into a turtle shell. Crow had the campers assemble into lines and compete. When one person got the quill in the shell, they had to back up. Crow watched and praised the victorious campers.

Crow repeatedly reminded the campers how important children

are to the Mohawk tribe. "Children did not attend school but learned from their parents, grandparents and other relatives. Children are the future, become the village, which the elderly will depend on," Crow explained.

Four tables displayed Mohawk pieces for the campers to investigate and touch. "The beaver skin was why the French settlers landed here to trade. Any gentlemen from 1700 through the 1800's wore a beaver skin hat," Crow said. The English and Dutch introduced the musket into New England. The Mohawks considered it to be "a great spirit to kill" and it slowly eliminated the bow-and-arrow. Wampum bead belts and bracelets made of seashells were exchanged like money. Another item of intrigue was the (snapping) turtle rattle women made with shell, four squash seeds, four beads and a deer antler handle. It was used in harvest ceremonies.

Crow had Krystal, 10, and Troy, 7, stand up to demonstrate what would happen if a girl or a boy was captured (by a loose "leash") and brought to a new village some three hundred miles away. The campers problem-solved what would happen. Crow set the scene. The "newly adopted" captured person would have different jobs. A girl had to learn how to cook, collect firewood, skin animals, tan the animal hide, make instruments and moccasins. A boy learned to hunt by learning how to sneak up on animals small and large. Both learned the language and dressed like their captors. The campers grew silent upon thinking that this actually had happened.

Crow intertwined music into his explanations. Kristen chose the small water drum. Crow had her get the top wet from the dew to get the drum to sound true. Crow told how Mohawks played the water drum on a canoe and it

could be heard for a mile or so. For the Mohawks, there was a song for everything. As an example he sang the "Mosquito Song." Mothers would burn sage or sweet grass in the lodge while the children danced outside the lodge singing to keep mosquitoes at bay prior to bedtime. The campers were encouraged to dance in a circle to his drumming.

Crow closed by thanking everyone. He added, "Mohawks do not believe in saying goodbye rather until we meet again."

Crow resides in New Hampshire and teaches seventh grade science and math. He has a two-year old daughter. He was chosen by MPRD to further educate Montague residents during their multi-cultural week.

Contact MPRD at 413.863.3216 for more information on Crow or future events.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, N.J.** - Q. I watched a man fall unconscious on the sidewalk. A woman rushed up and started to do CPR on him and later, I heard she may have saved his life. It made me sign up for a CPR course. You should tell your readers to take one of these courses.

If you would like to learn CPR, contact the American Heart Association at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) or by phone at 1-877-AHA-4CPR. Another CPR resource is the American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Or,

you can try a local hospital.

Here's a troubling fact that is a motivation to take a course: About 80 percent of cardiac arrests happen at home near family members who often do not know CPR.

CPR, which stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, employs chest compression and mouth-to-mouth breathing to treat cardiac arrest, heart attack, drowning and electrocution. CPR can keep some blood flowing to the brain and heart during an emergency.

Maintaining blood flow can prevent brain injury and save a life. The brain suffers irreparable damage in a few minutes if it doesn't get oxygenated blood. An unaided victim of cardiac arrest will die in 5 to 10 minutes.

The most common cause of

sudden cardiac arrest is an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF), which can be treated with a shock from a defibrillator. Defibrillation is not effective for all forms of cardiac arrest.

There are devices called automated external defibrillators (AEDs) that are about the size of a laptop computer. AEDs analyze the victim's heart rhythm, determine if defibrillation is needed, then deliver a shock. There are training programs available that teach both CPR and operating AEDs. These portable defibrillators are available in many public places such as shopping malls, airports and stadiums.

To learn CPR properly, take an accredited first-aid training course that includes CPR and how to use an AED.

There is no substitute for taking a course from a trained instructor, but it would be helpful to understand the basics of CPR.

The University of Washington School of Medicine offers a free public service that explains CPR. Go to: <http://depts.washington.edu/learnpr/>

There are helpful illustrated guides and online videos on this website. The following is from one of these guides:

1. CALL. Check the victim for unresponsiveness. If there is no response, call 911 and return to the victim. In most locations, the emergency dispatcher can assist you with CPR instructions.
2. BLOW. Tilt the head back

and listen for breathing. If not breathing normally, pinch nose and cover the mouth with yours and blow until you see the chest rise. Give 2 breaths. Each breath should take 1 second.

3. PUMP. If the victim is still not breathing normally, coughing or moving, begin chest compressions. Push down on the chest 1 1/2 to 2 inches 30 times right between the nipples. Pump at the rate of 100/minute, faster than once per second.

Continue with two breaths and 30 pumps until help arrives.

*If you have a question, please write to [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com).*

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## Montague Mug Race Overall Results

Race results are shown below as follows Last Name, First name, Time, Division, M/F, City, Race #

Stone, Aaron, 0:33:19, Open, M, Greenfield, 361  
Townsley, Michael, 0:33:22, Open, M, Bernardston, 310  
Norwood, Bill, 0:33:23, Veteran, M, Greenfield, 347  
Douglass, James, 0:33:26, Veteran, M, Easthampton, 345  
Morse, Parker, 0:33:35, Open, M, Amherst, 349  
Hopley, Nick, 0:33:38, Open, M, Amherst, 352  
Grinnell, Martha, 0:33:49, Veteran, F, Westhampton, 342  
McNeiece, Brian, 0:33:54, Open, M, Narragansett, 334  
Hoberman, Michael, 0:34:18, Veteran, M, Shelburne Falls, 364  
Collins, Jason, 0:35:03, Open, M, Greenfield, 355  
Postema, Derek, 0:35:44, Veteran, M, Erving, 314  
Wade, Alison, 0:35:58, Open, F, Amherst, 348  
Wheeler, William, 0:36:03, Open, M, Belchertown, 327  
Armen, Chris, 0:37:27, Senior, M, Simsbury, 330  
Belanger, Allison, 0:37:28, Open, F, Greenfield, 337  
Jablonski, Bob, 0:38:03, Veteran, M, Leverett, 321

Caracciolo, Rich, 0:38:18, Veteran, M, Greenfield, 325  
Honderd, Kathryn, 0:38:19, Open, F, Deerfield, 336  
Kaynor, David, 0:38:33, Senior, M, Montague, 339  
Bodkhe, Sri, 0:38:58, Veteran, M, Buckland, 319  
Stone, Carrie, 0:39:59, Open, F, Shutesbury, 359  
Hale, Ted, 0:40:00, Senior, M, Florence, 305  
Farrick, James, 0:40:12, Veteran, M, Northampton, 320  
McKeown, Kelly Anne, 0:40:21, Open, F, Amherst, 335  
Kent, Mike, 0:40:22, Veteran, M, Granby, 360  
Lacey, Peter, 0:40:31, Veteran, M, Sunderland, 365  
Abert, Cheryl, 0:40:37, Senior, F, South Hadley, 315  
Adams, Chuck, 0:40:38, Senior, M, Greenfield, 344  
Armen, Ted, 0:40:57, Senior, M, Montague, 303  
St. Hilaire, Aimee, 0:41:00, Open, F, Turners Falls, 317  
Voiland, Paul, 0:41:22, Senior, M, Montague, 324  
Ryan, Annie, 0:41:31, Senior, F, Florence, 301  
Flinn, Martin, 0:41:50, Elite Senior, M, New Bedford, 350  
Bohonowicz, Janice,

0:42:05, Veteran, F, Greenfield, 372  
Pezzati, Patrick, 0:42:12, Veteran, M, Montague, 322  
LaPierre, Jeanne, 0:42:25, Senior, F, N. Granby, 311  
Currie, John, 0:42:32, Veteran, M, Orange, 326  
Ward-McNeiece, Tammy, 0:42:47, Open, F, Narragansett, 333  
Dean, Mark, 0:42:54, Senior, M, Northampton, 367  
Molongoski, Charles, 0:43:08, Senior, M, Guilford, 308  
Grulenski, Michael, 0:44:27, Veteran, M, Erving, 312  
Duffy, Mike, 0:44:29, Senior, M, Shelburne, 328  
Murphy, Tom, 0:44:32, Senior, M, Montague, 309  
Hayward, Harry, 0:44:45, Senior, M, Charlemont, 329  
Mackenzie, Molly, 0:46:14, Open, F, Shutesbury, 316  
Unger, Larry, 0:46:41, Senior, M, Lincoln, 353  
Katz, Brad, 0:46:49, Senior, M, S. Deerfield, 357  
Hollingsworth, Rebecca, 0:47:12, Senior, F, Montague, 351  
Boutotte, Raymond, 0:47:42, Elite Senior, M, Pepperill, 356  
Johnson, Betsy, 0:47:49, Veteran, F, Amherst, 370

Hoose, David, 0:48:00, Senior, M, Northampton, 332  
Kampf, Matthew, 0:48:04, Open, M, Greenfield, 354  
Kos, Marjorie, 0:48:22, Elite Senior, F, W. Springfield, 340  
Sobieski, Betsy, 0:48:41, Open, F, S. Deerfield, 318  
Putala, John, 0:48:48, Open, M, Erving, 323  
Holmes, Jeff, 0:49:06, Senior, M, Sunderland, 306  
Sculley, Colleen, 0:49:26, Open, F, Montague, 358  
Urbanik, Julie, 0:49:59, Open, F, Montague, 302  
Patterson, Julie, 0:50:41, Open, F, Leverett, 371  
Slocum, Susan, 0:50:46, Senior, F, Millers Falls, 362  
Day, Phil, 0:50:53, Elite Senior, M, Hadley, 304  
Arema, Elizabeth, 0:53:45, Open, F, Amherst, 369  
Sorensen, Janice, 0:54:43, Veteran, F, Shelburne Falls, 366  
VanNatta, Reina, 0:55:24, Senior, F, Northfield, 346  
Codella, Brenda, 0:55:33, Veteran, F, Montague, 363  
Cole, Douglas, 0:56:57, Veteran, M, Shelburne, 338  
Lucia, Tony, 0:57:06, Elite Senior, M, Agawam, 313  
Armen, Iris, 0:58:16, Youth, F, Simsbury, 331

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# JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XLIII

## Pa Mellows

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - During all this time, we had no idea what had happened to Stanley and Walter. They made themselves scarce, figuring Pa was still angry with them for hotwiring the tan Essex and breaking an axle while joy riding. We did not know Walter became paralyzed while boarding with the Maker family.

One stifling hot day, the grandmother applied a hen manure poultice to his paralyzed legs. "The hot stuffy attic was bad enough," Walter said. "With the hen manure heating my legs, I couldn't stand it another minute. Somehow I got downstairs and dragged myself around hanging onto things."

Gradually, Walter regained the use of his legs. The Makers got Walter a job running a moonshine still in Gardner. Walter had considerably better success at distilling than Pa. "That was the best job I ever had," Walter said. "The work was easy, I didn't have to do much walking, the job was steady, and the pay was good."

A former chicken coop next to the railroad tracks served as the base of operations. After mixing a batch of corn and grain in barrels, Walter waited for the mash to ferment, giving it an occasional stir.

"The worst part of the job was tasting the stuff to see if it was ready. After a while, just the smell of whiskey made me feel sick."

The moonshine operation was no great secret. Often, railroad

men, switching rail cars, would stop by to chat as steam rose from the still.

"Keeping them chickens nice and warm, ain't cha?" one of the men said one hot summer day. They'd talk and joke, and sometimes buy a pint or two. Prohibition was not always strictly enforced. One of Walter's best customers was a police chief. The still owner delivered booze to hotels and speakeasies quite openly, which led Walter to suspect the owner was making political contributions. I suspect he gave the police chief a break on the price of his moonshine.

Walter urged Stanley to move to Gardner where there were more job opportunities. Stanley got a job in a junkyard smashing apart engine blocks with a sledge hammer for 35 cents apiece. One day a sliver of steel flew deep into his eye. Pa did not learn of Stanley's eye accident until after he lost the eye.

Meanwhile, Pa's heart condition improved and the mill kept Pa working on a more

regular basis. He mellowed and forgave the boys for joy riding in the Essex and breaking the axle. He even began laughing about it when he told someone the story. To my great joy, he began taking me fishing on the Connecticut River.

A fellow worker at the paper mill let Pa use his boat. I liked being with Pa, just the two of us, alone. I did not speak unless spoken to and sometimes not even then. I just watched and listened. Once we were out on the water, Pa uttered not a word - not even a whisper. In absolute silence, he put a worm on the hook at the end of a fish line tied to a long slim maple pole. He even set the can of worms down ever so quietly. Everything felt serene, calm and peaceful, with only the sound of water gently slapping the sides of the boat. The faint odor of fish, drifting over the water, was enticing. Occasionally, fish jumped out of the water to snatch hovering insects. Seeing that there were fish nearby and that they were hungry got me excited. But Pa never got into fly fishing. He just used worms, with a bobber on the line. I'd want to shout when the cork bobbed and went under. Pa raised the pole and hauled the fish, splashing and wiggling, out of the water. I wanted to take a turn with the fish pole but didn't dare ask. And he never offered.

One day while rowing out into the cove, an oar lock broke. Pa examined the break. He took dirt from the floor of the boat and rubbed it on the break. He saw me watching, and grinned in embarrassment.

"It was an old break that finally let go, just now," he said. "My friend will expect me to buy him a new one if he thinks I broke it." I don't know what his friend said or whether Pa bought a new oarlock, but we never used the boat again.

I felt close to my father during the time he was employed, and I missed going on those fishing trips. Perhaps if the mill had kept Pa employed more steadily, he would have had a better

relationship with Walter and Stanley. During the first few years after Stanley left home, the family seldom saw him and had no idea he had injured his eye, or even knew where he was living, or what he was doing.

After the steel flew in his eye, the junkyard company owner sent him to a doctor who examined Stanley's eye. "I see a hole in the eyelid," the doctor said, "but I can't see anything in the eye - it must have fallen out. Go on home; you'll be O.K."

A few days later, Walter found Stanley in bed, his eye painfully swollen the size of a golf ball. Walter took him to the Gardner Hospital for treatment. The infected eye got no better after several days. Helen arranged to have Stanley admitted to a Springfield hospital. From there, he went to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. By then, Stanley had a headache of major proportions. Two days later, doctors decided to remove his eye. By now, Stanley didn't care - he just wanted relief from the pain.

Because he was then blind in one eye, Stanley dared not apply for a driver's license. But that didn't keep him from driving. He and Walter were on their way to Springfield to see Helen, one Sunday. Stanley was driving - fast - as usual. A policeman stopped him. Stanley blurted out the truth about not having a license. Tears came to his eyes, and he began to cry as he told the policeman he was on his way to see his sister whom he hadn't seen for a long time. The policeman let him go, on the condition that he get a license.

Stanley passed the license eye exam by peeking through his fingers with his good eye when told to read with the blind eye. For many years, he drove cars, trucks, and motorcycles. He successfully operated a taxi business, though his schooling had ended when he failed to enroll in grammar school at the red brick schoolhouse when the family first moved to Gill.

... to be continued

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**THURSDAY, AUGUST 23RD**  
Middle Eastern Drum and Belly Dance Night at the Shea, Turners Falls. Eric Peterson teaches Mid-East drumming followed by open drum and dancing to Mid-Eastern rhythms. Ends with performance. 6 p.m. class, \$15 for evening. 7 p.m. open drum and dancing, \$8. Kids free. To register 367-2036 or [www.shimmydance.com](http://www.shimmydance.com)

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Larry Kopp:** Blues, 8 - 10 p.m. No cover.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH**  
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Catamount** - Classic & southern rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 27TH**  
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: final Harley Davidson Night Competition BBQ 6 p.m. *Proceeds help our troops purchase call home cards.*

Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29TH**  
If you like superb fiddling and picking, you won't want to miss this performance of Cajun, Old-Timey, waltzes and two-steps by the **Taft Mountain Hilltoppers** at 7 p.m. Come tap your toes to this performance in the beautifully renovated historic Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. - coffee & homemade baked goods available. Suggested sliding scale donation of \$5 - \$10. The Discovery Center is wheelchair accessible. More information, call 863-3221 ext. 3.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Ottomatic Slim - Rocken Blues Great Harp. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. no cover.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH**  
COOP Concert: Three 40-minute



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gigs each night from the Franklin County Musician's Cooperative. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket/chair and enjoy the music. At Greenfield Energy Park, end of Miles Street, Greenfield. 6-8 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Guys & Gals Rock.** Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 31ST**  
Bouquet of Music Series features Barry Higgins, Native American Flute player, from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden, Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield. The concert is sponsored by the BFMC Healing Environment Committee. The public is invited. Refreshments served. In inclement weather, the concert will take place in the hospital's main lobby. Free.

Mocha Maya's Coffee House,

Shelburne Falls: **Swing Caravan.** Swing Caravan is a Northampton based acoustic Gypsy Jazz group. 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD**  
Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH**  
"To the Village Square." Nukes, Clams and Democracy. Filmmaker Robbie Leppzer will show his historic film, "Seabrook 1977," 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH**  
First Annual Pothole Pictures Shelburne Falls Film Festival. An Evening with Steve Alves. Interwoven selections from his 6 films with music from the Falltown String Band. \$10. This event is co-sponsored by the Franklin Land Trust, Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust & CISA.

Moonlight and Morningstar perform at The Smokin' Hippo, Erving at 6:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**  
At The Shea Theatre, Turners Falls. Kelly Moore & Emerald Dreams Music For Mankind. [www.musicformankind.net](http://www.musicformankind.net)

Deja Brew, Wendell: **A Day at The Beach** with Judi & Jeff Bauman: Folk & Country, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Radio Free Earth:** Acoustic Duo, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25TH**  
**Hymn to the Earth** An exhibit of luminous imagery by photographer Ron Rosenstock, featuring landscapes of beauty and spirit from Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, South America, India and the United States. Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours: Thursday-Sunday 1-5 p.m. 863-0009.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH**  
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography artist's reception and talk: National Geographic photographer Michael Yamashita's **Great Wall of China & The Silk Road.** On display September 27th to December 16th.

**THROUGH NOVEMBER 4TH**  
**Made of Thunder, Made of Glass:** American Indian Beadwork of the Northeast features one hundred beaded bags and hats from the Gerry Biron & JoAnne Russo collection. Accompanied by contemporary paintings of Native Americans by Gerry Biron, of Mi'kmaq descent. Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 774-7476.

**ON GOING** Quinnetukut II Riverboat trips. Reservations, (800) 859-2960. Fee \$5 to \$10 per person.

**AUDITIONS**  
Amanda Community Chorus seeks new members. We perform songs of justice, peace, and celebration from around the world. Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 6:45-8:45 p.m. in Greenfield, Sept. - May. 773-8655.

Shea Young Stage Company will produce Alice in Wonderland with auditions: September 19th, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Casting of 20+ for actors ages 11-14. Audition will consist of warm-up, improv and reading. No prepared piece. Please arrive at 4:30 p.m., unless prior arrangements have been made. Rehearsals will be Monday and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., beginning September 24th.

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

**MONDAYS** - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.  
**TUES & WEDS** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.  
**THURS** - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 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



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DAILY PG13  
12:00 3:00 6:50 9:20
  - SUPERBAD R**  
DAILY in DTS sound  
12:00 3:00 6:50 9:20
  - HAIRSPRAY** PG in DTS sound  
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:50 9:20
  - THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM**  
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15 PG13
  - THE INVASION** PG13 DTS sound  
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
  - STARDUST**  
PG13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
  - LA VIE EN ROSE**  
PG13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30



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**Saturday 8/25**  
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## Upcoming at the Discovery Center

Summer Hours through Columbus Day: Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by special arrangement. (413) 863-3221

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 24TH**  
Learning about Nature through Children's Literature. Reading and discussion of children's books on natural history. Geared to a mixed age audience; adults and young children are welcome. 11 a.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 24TH**  
Web of Life: How are we all connected? Join Refuge staff for a hands-on activity that demonstrates the interconnectedness of all animals. Geared towards 7 - 11 yr olds. All ages are welcome. 11 a.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH**  
Managing Your Woodlot for Wildlife. Join Refuge staff on a visit with landowners who have managed their woodlot for wildlife species. Discover strategies that will enhance the diversity of wildlife on your land or will encourage a desired species to make its home there. We will review the planning process and provide resource materials for participants. Call 863-3221 to reserve and arrange the meeting place. 7:30-9:30 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29TH**  
8 to - 9 a.m. Would you like to start the

day observing nature in Turners Falls? Nature@8 is an early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Participants will meet at the bird bath outside the main entrance to the Discovery Center at 8 a.m.. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes, never more than about 2 miles over level pavement. Nature@8 topics may include "Wing and Water," informal birding and observation of water fowl activity in Barton Cove, or "Riverwatch," an early-morning exploration of Barton Cove and the power canal. Great Falls Coffee House

Series: The Taft Mountain Hilltoppers, 7 to 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH**  
Earth Rangers: Hands-on Earth science education for children 5 years and older and their families. FREE. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Hawks in Migration. Learn about hawk migration patterns, quick keys to ID, and places to go to do a Hawk Watch. This is the kick-off event for a series of Saturdays in the field observing the migration. 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org)

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# ROCKING AND ROLLING AND SWINGING AT WENDELL OLD HOME DAYS 2007

BY NAN RIEBSCHLAEGER

All around the edges of the Wendell town square residents and others had pitched shelters to show off their wares or set up tables to raise funds for a local cause. It was a sunny and cool day and at times the wind competed with the musicians. It was great to walk around and view the booths and experience the fantastic music. Wendell is one of the music capitals of the

ble Morimoto family and friends. They were followed by the Green Thumb Brothers with their rocking rock steady reggae. This band features Wendell's own Simon White, grandson of Rosalie Rosser. The event was dedicated to Rosalie Rosser and Elsie Diemand, two locally loved and admired women whom the town will miss greatly, by MC Karen Copeland. Rosalie's spirit of community

Tina Horne was heard to say, "When I play with Annie, it's just rocking Annie."

Next up, a change of pace with Nuru Dafina and Tambo Ache, from Boston, with student Karen Copeland. Nuru is masterful in her way of sharing her knowledge and music about African and Afro-Cuban culture. Nuru talked to the audience and made us believe the sign by the stage, "Peace Through Music." When they finished Karen said, "Now you know why I travel to Boston." Nuru was followed by Blame It On Tina featuring locals Bob Rosser, Tina Horne, and Jen Spingla. They played many originals and if you didn't get enough you could have heard them again at the local Deja Brew pub that night.

The Adopted Sisters, Julia Burroughs, Annie Hassett and Karen Copeland kept the spirit going. The day ended with an amazing set by The Bear Mountain Boys. Perry Howarth rocked out, accompanied by Steve Crowe, Dave Wertman and grandson Colton Tarbox, the young singing wonder from Swift River Elementary School. During sound checks Colton called out "Hey where's the mike for the washtub?." Nuru joined in on drums, seamlessly moving from Afro-Cuban music to blues.

There were too many booths to mention them all. Arts and crafts, included glass blowers Gabe Drohen and Atticus, Dorothy and Howard, Donna Horne, famous Wendell artist/painter, and many others.

Lisa Winter had the beautiful "mushroom museum" from mushrooms collected locally. William Stallman demonstrated his realistic bird sculptures. Massage under the trees was popular, with Shunji Morimoto, as well as Sharon Gennsler and others.

Nora Gurley had tulasi leaf products, including teas and tinctures. The Robinson family had their own honey products. The Wendell Meetinghouse had an information booth, as did the New Salem Meetinghouse, Temenos and the Montague



AL MACINTIRE PHOTOS

So this is where all those colorful kids came from



The "Kids" parade set the mood for Wendell Old Home Days, have fun!

extended valley and this year's Old Home Days made that point indisputable. The music was wonderful thanks to the musicians, the equipment donated by Klondike Sound, and their engineer Rick's calm and steady attitude.

Karen Copeland, the lady responsible for pulling this all together said, "The beauty of the music at Old Home Days is how we try to share the wealth in a diverse fashion. Many thanks to all of the amazing musicians who helped make Wendell Old Home Days so great."

The musical sets started out with "Kareha" featuring Senn Morimoto on sax (he blew everyone away) and the incredi-

and love was palpable in the square.

Next up was A Day at the Beach featuring Wendell's local songbird Judith-Anne-Marie, Jeff Bauman, Fred Sweizer and Martha Sandefer. I have heard Judith-Anne-Marie's magical voice before. Martha Sandefer is in the same class. The vocals were amazing.

The next group featured jazz bass whizkid Dave Wertman with Lynne Meryl, singing and playing their songs of peace. They were accompanied by our own rocker Annie Hassett, Court Dorsey on "harp," Tina Horne on drums, Bob Rosser on guitar, and Josh Dostis on percussion. It was a wonderful set. After the set



The first band up was the fabulous Morimoto family

Reporter. Two cords of wood were raffled to benefit the Good Neighbors.

The "Agricultural Commission" included Laurel Facey with maple syrup and Sharon Gennsler with produce and herbal remedies. Danny Botkin and The Laughing Dog

Farm crew brought tons of their harvest to share, and "Companions for Health" shared the garden's abundance.

For foods, Deva and Eric cooked up something amazing, and Travis Tolzdorf had his annual cake raffle. There was rice and stew, pad thai, and eggrolls. The eggrolls disappeared in 15 minutes. There was

pizza and corn on the cob. And what summer event would be complete without a lemonade stand? The Wendell Police held their annual community policing raffle of a spiffy bike. Congratulations to Conner Tolzdorf.

It was a happy day for all, including the numerous dogs, who were at Wendell Old Home Days. If you would like to help or participate

next year, call Karen at 978-544-7352. Every year people say "This was the best Old Home Days". Old Home Days 2007 ranked up there in "top ten" that's for sure, and we're still counting.

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