



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

At the Wendell Meetinghouse
Page 6



WASTE NOT

Harry Potter: Product of Recycling
Page 14

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 41

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 9, 2007

Defending the Public's Right to a "Clean and Pleasant Environment"



PHOTO BY TONY D'AMATO

A stand of old-growth hemlocks in the Mohawk Trail State Forest in Savoy. These hemlocks are part of the oldest known old-growth forest in the state.

BY IVAN USSACH PETERSHAM - The status of the state's upcoming Environmental Bond Bill and its old growth forests were the focus of presentations at the recent Land Conservation Forum held July 24th at the Harvard Forest. The meeting was organized by the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership. Bernie McHugh, director of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC), addressed the audience of roughly 85 people from around the region.

What people refer to as the Environmental Bond Bill is part of a larger pie of funds, typically capped at \$1.2 billion, that the state borrows for capital

improvements every five years and then pays back through tax dollars. These capital improvements are divvied up to fund land protection, parks maintenance, transportation and prisons. McHugh said state funding for land protection averaged about \$50 million a year for the 10 years prior to the Romney administration, when funding levels decreased sharply.

The MLTC is organizing a campaign to restore land protection capital funds to at least \$50 million per year, with \$75 million per year the desired level. McHugh said these funds are used to run several successful state programs that have established the Common-

wealth as a national leader in the field of land protection. These programs include: Self-Help, Urban Self-Help and Municipal Drinking Water Protection, which directly assist cities and towns; Agricultural Preservation Restrictions for farmers; Department of Fish and Game and Department of Conservation and Recreation land see **BOND** pg 20

PUTTIN' THE POWER IN POWERTOWN



LISA DAVOL PHOTO

Montague electrical inspector Rich Kuklewicz installs six 120-volt power outlets at Spinner Park on Tuesday in preparation for Saturday's Block Party in downtown Turners. Kuklewicz, on one day's notice, installed the outlets after work with equipment donated by Gettens Electrical Supply in Greenfield before leaving on vacation the next morning. Thanks to his volunteerism, the block party bands, including Unit 7 with Kim Zombik and the Trailer Park Horns, the Alchemystics, the Jen Tobey Band and MC Kip Dresser will have plenty of juice for their amps. The parade starts at 3 p.m. and the musicians play until 10 at night. Take it to the street Saturday, August 11th at the Turners Falls Block Party!

G-M School District Passes Budget, by Two Votes



DETMOLD PHOTO

Registered voters of Gill and Montague stand in opposition to the Montague finance committee's GMRSD budget recommendation - \$16,180,901 - which passed 132-130 on July 31st.

BY MATT ROBINSON & DAVID DETMOLD GILL - MONTAGUE

Voters from the Gill-Montague Regional School District voted by the narrowest of margins - 132 to 130 - on July 31st to accept the Montague finance committee's recommended school budget of \$16,180,901, after voting down the school committee's recommended budget of \$16,356,901 by a wide margin, 186 - 71.

At their meeting on Tuesday, August 7th, the school committee decided to study the budget further, to see where - or if - the \$176,000 in additional cuts could be made, before deciding whether to adopt the amended budget passed at the unusual districtwide meeting the week before. Only 267 voters from the towns of Gill and Montague attended the meeting at the high school on the 31st, although preparations had

been made to accommodate a crowd four times that size.

If the school committee agrees on the budget number passed by the district voters, both Gill and Montague will need to come up with additional money to fund it. Ann Banash, chair of the Gill selectboard explained that Gill will need to pass an override to come up with the additional \$112,000 they will be required to expend. Gill administrative assistant Tracey Rogers said the town is already facing a \$27,000 override for departmental allocations above the tax levy passed at annual town meeting.

Jeff Singleton, chair of the Montague finance committee said an override is only one option for Montague. "We can cut the town budget or we see **GMRSD** pg 10

Gill-Montague Bridge "Deficient"



PARZYCH PHOTO

Deteriorated beams at the Turners' end of the bridge. The concrete on which they rest has also deteriorated.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

The Gill-Montague Bridge, built around 1940, has a speed bump

on the Turners Falls side. It slows cars a bit as they enter Avenue A. The speed bump did not get there by design. Rather, it

has gradually developed over the years as the supporting steel beams underneath rust and rot away from the ravages of age and ice control chemicals. Not only are the ends of the beams eaten away, but the concrete piers supporting them show signs of deterioration.

The MassHighway bridge inspection crew has been inspecting the bridge, year after year. About ten years ago, Mackin Construction began rehabilitating the

see **BRIDGE** pg 15

Herrick Room Dedicated



AL MacINTIRE Photo

Marion Herrick

BY MARGO CULLEY Friends and former neighbors gathered last Monday to welcome Marion Herrick back to

Wendell. The occasion was the dedication of the Herrick Meeting Room, named in her honor, in the new Wendell Free Library. Marion Herrick, 97, Wendell's oldest citizen and long-time Library Trustee, came back to town from the Baldwinville Nursing Home where she currently resides.

Mrs. Herrick arrived "in style" wearing a corsage for the occasion and a lovely blue and silver dress. Several who greeted her remarked

that she looked like "the Queen Mother." When shown around the new library, which was dedicated and opened on Sunday, July 15th, she commented, "You have a wonderful library!" Brought into the Herrick Meeting Room where a cake with her name awaited her, she kept murmuring "I never expected anything like this."

Also on hand for the celebration was Dilman Doland whose generous see **LIBRARY** pg 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Warrior Princess



Xena

Xena truly is a warrior princess and her mission is to keep the place she lives mouse free. She's even licking her lips over a catnip mouse! They're just good practice for her. Xena is a year and a half old and since she is an avid hunter, it isn't really easy to keep her as an indoor-only cat. She doesn't like other cats, but she's OK with gentle dogs and children. In fact, she loves people of all ages although she's also the kind of cat who prides herself in her independence. Xena will tolerate being held and she's playful, active and affectionate. She is a short-haired brown tabby with white markings, a cute spot on her nose and pretty eyes. For more information on adopting Xena, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at levrett@dpvhs.org.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Chess Club Meets Tuesdays

The Erving Public Library will be hosting a Chess Club on Tuesday evenings in August, beginning August 7th.

6:30-7:00 beginner instruction, 7-8 open play. All ages and abilities are invited; children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

The club is free, and under the

direction of chess master Andy Morris-Friedman. Registration is required. For more information, or to register, call the library at 423-3348.

The Erving Library is located on Route 63 just south of Route 2 (17 Moore Street). For additional information, please call 413-423-3348.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Mushroom ID Night

On Wednesday, Aug 15th at 7 p.m., Wendell resident and mycologist, Lisa Winter, will give a "show and tell" presentation of common local mushrooms and their place in the grand scheme of things. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own forest picked mushrooms for identification - the

more shrooms, the wilder the presentation. This program will be followed up by a mushroom hunt on Friday, August 7th, where specimens will be gathered for display at the Mushroom Museum at Wendell Old Home Day.

Learn what to eat and what to just look at.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Tarbox Boys Performed



BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - The Tarbox Boys Jug Band of Wendell played at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, July 31st as part of the Catch the Beat at Your Library Summer

was sponsored by the Family Literacy in Montague Project of Montague Catholic Social Ministries, funded by the Community Development Block Grant for the Town of Montague.

Program. The band consists of Perry Howarth, Brandon (age 10) and Colton (age 9) Tarbox. Ninety people attended the concert, which

FACES & PLACES



John Conley, of Conley Services, mixes mortar for employee Doug Smith who is mortaring bricks supporting a manhole cover ring at the Farren in Montague City, in preparation for paving by Felton Construction.

MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEWS

Summer Reading Parties

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE-The Montague Public Libraries End of Summer Reading Program Parties will be held at the three Montague Libraries on August 13, 14, and 15th. On Monday, August 13th, the annual Costume Party will be held at the Montague Center Library from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Summer Reading Program participants and their families are invited to come dressed as a favorite book character. The Millers Falls Library Party is on Tuesday, August 14th, from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Many prizes, including Big E tickets, will be given away at the Millers Falls Party. The Rainforest Reptile Show will be held at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Wednesday, August 15th at 2 p.m. The program includes a wide variety of live reptiles and will be held on the library lawn, or inside, depending upon the weather. The Reptile Show is sponsored by Hillcrest School's Early Childhood Program. The Catch the Beat at Your Library Summer

Reading Program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Regional Library System, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and Waste Management. For more information, call the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

Lake Wyola
TAG AND BAKE SALE
6 Shore Drive, Shutesbury
August 25, 2007
9 AM - 2 PM
Gigantic! 15+ Families

Feel Like a Brand New Person!
With a Haircut at
Ed's Barber Shop
New location:
74 Avenue A • 863-2085
Ed, Denise & KarriAnn
"52 Years on the Ave"

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?
www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA
Buying and selling used books
32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SHELburnE FALLS, MA
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

The Montague Reporter
Published weekly on Thursday. (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.
This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper
Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES August 13th-24th

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, 13th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 14th
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday, 15th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 16th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 17th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Monday, 20th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 21st
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday, 22nd
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 23rd
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 24th
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, 13th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library

12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 14th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 15th
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 16th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool
12:30 p.m. Shopping
Monday, 20th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 21st
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 22nd
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 23rd
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.

We've Got You Covered!
SATURDAY SPECIAL
NO SALES TAX!
COUTURE BROS.
Since 1910
187 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 863-4346

THE SHADY GLEN
Thomas & Elias
PROPRIETORS
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
Weekend Dinner Specials:
Friday: Fresh Clams, Fresh Scallops, Seafood Specials
Saturday: Yankee Pot Roast and Hawaiian Ham
Closed Sundays
42 YEARS ON AVENUE A
863-9636

Millers Falls Poker Run Honors Jimmy Long

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - In Millers Falls, the Millers Pub hosted the first James Long Memorial Motorcycle, Classic Car, and Jeep Poker Run on July 14th. This run was a family effort with a heartfelt purpose. The ride was held in honor of the recently deceased Jimmy Long, remembered as a biker, brother, husband, father and friend. Jimmy's brother Danny Long and family friends John and Charlotte Cook came up with the idea to honor Jimmy, and to raise funds for his surviving wife and daughter. To participate in the ride, which began in Belchertown with stops in Hardwick, Orange, and Millers Falls, participants purchased a \$20.00 ticket, which included a BBQ and party at Pulaski Park at the end of the run in Palmer. Organizers estimate they sold between 200 and 250 tickets. Twenty percent of the proceeds were to go to the central division of Massachusetts for Multiple Sclerosis, and the remainder went to a fund named after Jimmy Long, which will help

take care of his wife Nancy as her illness (multiple sclerosis) progresses, and to help put his daughter Cassie through college. Though James passed away unexpectedly in September, 2006 of complications of leukemia, they decided to raise the funds for MS in hopes to help find a cure for his wife and others who suffer from this disease. Millers Pub also donated ten percent of their proceeds from the run to the MS foundation in support of the family's dream of finding a cure.

The turnout at the pub was huge; the energy and dedication from everyone involved was



Names from left to right, front to back, relationship to Jimmy and home town. Casandra 'Cassie' Long, daughter (Pelham, MA) on her Dad's bike Charlotte and John Cook, family friends (Granby, MA) - Steve Long, brother (St. Jacob, IL) - Nancy Long, wife (Pelham, MA) - Danny Long, brother (Belchertown, MA).

overwhelming! Whether they were close to the family or just veteran riders they appeared to be one strong unit made up of a wide variety of people. Claude Gaudette of South Hadley said this was his first poker run ever. "I had the best time, and I never realized how close bikers really

were." Gaudette is a friend of the Long family who has suffered several losses of his own. He lost all three of his brothers, the latest to a motorcycle accident in 2000. Claude was participating in the ride with his classic 1980 Z28 Camaro. Ed Tolzdorf, owner of the Millers Pub, and manager Tammy Berard said they enjoyed hosting the riders, and they would do it again as long as the community was in support. The Long family was happy with the way Millers Pub hosted the run, and would recommend them for other events. Veteran rider of 25 years plus, Dawn of Bondsville with her dog Little Tourgue drove her jeep on this run, and she said "This is one of the best rides I have ever been on." Way to go Long family and Millers Pub!

Steve Long, one of Jimmy's brothers, made the trip out from St. Jacob, Illinois to ride his late brother's Harley with Jimmy's daughter Cassie riding shotgun.

In memory of Jimmy and in honor of all his family and friends, our hats are off to you in your fight to find a cure for MS and in keeping the memory of Jimmy Long alive.

Best Wishes on the big move, Montague Reporter!
- Mik Muller

Erving Tax Collector New Hours

Effective immediately the Erving Tax Collector's office will be open the following hours: Mondays: 9 a.m. - noon; and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WENDELL COUNTRY STORE
"It's just a stone's throw from reality."
Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods
Beer - Wine - Liquor
MON - SAT 7-9, SUNDAY 8-8
978-544-8646
Lockes Village Rd.
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center

WENDELL OLD HOME DAY AUGUST 18TH

BY KAREN COPELAND

Wendell will hold Old Home Day this year on Saturday, August 18th, and once again we will celebrate the community spirit and experience. The old and the new, the losses and new additions will be honored through our creative expressions, of which Wendell always has an overflow.

Wendell Old Home Day is the annual celebration of the unique flavor that is Wendell. Festivities begin at 11:00 a.m. on the town common with the kids' parade, complete with bikes, kazoos, horses and fire trucks. The town hall will be transformed into an art gallery; be sure to check it out. The common will be filled with tag sales, crafts and a farmers market, food booths and demonstrations, including the spectacular rainbow hula hoops by Shenandoah, (which she will beautifully demonstrate), a sculpture demonstration, and much more!

No matter what changes occur, Wendell remains a musician's mecca.

This year's line-up will include Blame It On Tina, featuring local heroes Bob Rosser, Tina Horne, and Jen Spingla; A Day at the Beach, featuring Wendell's local canary Judith-Anne-Marie, Jeff Bauman, Fred Sweizer and Martha Sandefer; the Perry Howarth Band, featuring local blues hero Perry Howarth; reggae junior superstars GTB - the Green Thumb Band, featuring Wendell's own Simon White and friends; the Adopted Sisters - Julia Burrough, Annie Hassett, Lynne Meryl and Karen Copeland; Kareha - with some of the incredible Morimoto family, and many, many more amazing musical guests, including local musical whizkid Kelliana.

The Wendell Old Home Day Free Box Fashion Show always livens up the day, so bring your favorite free box outfit and join in the fun. Celebrate community, creativity, art, music, friendship and fun at the Wendell Old Home Day on Saturday, August 18th.

More info? Contact Karen

Copeland at kkeepthebeat@yahoo.com or 978-544-7352.

48TH ANNUAL MONTAGUE OLD HOME DAYS
August 17-18-19, 2007
Montague Center, Massachusetts

Friday the 17th: Karen's Dance Recital; food booths, games, craft tables; the Tully Mountain Singers
Saturday the 18th: Mug Race registration opens at 7:30 a.m.; breakfast, the 26th Annual Mug Race at 8:30 a.m. (Registration forms are available at the YMCA, Body Shoppe, Clark's, Montague Post Office or Email: shollow@crocker.com. For more info call Ann Fisk at 367-2812); game booths, craft tables, Montague Historical Society booth; Magic Show with Ed the Wizard, Celtic Heels dance performance; Parade; Montague Community Band and Swift Kicks perform; Bub's Chicken BBQ begins at 5:30 p.m.; Raffle at 9 p.m.
Sunday the 19th: Country breakfast buffet; worship service at First Congregational Church of Montague; Fall Town String Band performs.

FOR MORE INFO: 978-544-8430

Mesa Verde

Eat In or Take Out!

BURRITOS, BOWLS, SOFT TACOS, QUESADILLAS

Now serving People's Pint Beer on tap!

(413) 772-2531
10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Pine Nook Daylilies

Open May 12th - August 5th
Rain or Shine
Weekends 10:00-5:00 Weekdays by Chance
Field Dug Plants, Over 130 Varieties

- 5 & 10 South 1st left onto River Road after the Cheapside Bridge in Deerfield, 6 Miles South
- Or Rt. 116 South last left onto River Rd. before Sunderland Bridge, 3 Miles North

413-665-7137
307 River Rd, So. Deerfield, MA

FELTON CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.

Blacktop Paving since 1958
Compare - There is a Difference

35 Federal Street, Millers Falls
413-659-3013

About Town Taxi

Serving All of Franklin County

(413) 774-4000

Bank Row Greenfield

About-Face Computer Solutions

Veronica Phaneuf
(413) 367-0025
about-face@verizon.net

- ✓ PC Sales & Service
- ✓ MAC Software Support
- ✓ Network Support and Installation
- ✓ Quickbooks Training and Support

Pam Veith Real Estate

75 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

Office: 413-498-0207
Dtc. Fax: 413-498-0208
Home Phone: 413-863-9166
Home Fax: 413-863-0218
Email: bedson1@comcast.net

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
REALTOR

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

Renaissance Builders

Stephen Greenwald

PO Box 272
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413/863-8316
Fax 413/863-9712
www.rebuild.net

The Montague Reporter
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor
David Detmold

Assistant Editor
Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants
Hugh Corr
David Brule

Circulation
Jean Hebdorn
Julia Bowden Smith
Don Clegg

Layout & Design
Kathleen Litchfield
Boysen Hodgson
Katren Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow-Cobb

Photography
Lisa Davol
Joe Parzych

Technical Administrators
Michael Muller
Michael Farnick

Founded by
Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

"The Voice of the Villages"

Safe Swimming for Montague

During the recent heat wave, no one can blame the youngsters of Turners Falls for wanting to cool off in the water. The problem - as recent accidents on the river so graphically demonstrate - is that there is no safe place for kids in town to swim.

On one recent 93 degree day, 15-year-old Donovan Murphy went down to the Rock Dam with his parents, dove in at the wrong spot, and emerged with a severe head injury, paralyzed from the chest down. Despite the support of his family and community, Donovan remains in a children's hospital in Boston, facing tough odds in his recovery.

The spot where he dove into the river is not far from where Winter Orion Clark and Chris Gallagher went in swimming in 1998. They drowned. The currents in that part of the river are tricky, as they are further downstream, where the Deerfield River enters the Connecticut. Yesterday's accident there, in which a 48-year old Louisiana man, Kale Schwartz, is still missing, is yet another tragic reminder of the River's danger.

At town meeting, residents

are frequently heard to say, "Montague is a poor town," whenever the cost of some new initiative is mentioned. Many of these same residents grew up enjoying the public swimming area at Green Pond, now, sadly, gone. Why it is gone, and whether it is gone for good, is a question that still deserves a comprehensive answer.

But how much poorer our town becomes when our young people - or even adults - drown, or wind up disabled, as a result of trying to cool off on a hot summer day. Why can't we at the very least strike a bargain with the G-M schools to open up the expensively renovated swimming pool to town residents at no cost in hot weather? After all, we are being asked to pay more for the schools than town officials say we can afford: there should be some quid pro quo.

The failure to resolve the question of where Montague residents can safely swim is not merely a question of available resources or alternatives, it is primarily a failure of leadership, and it is exacting a terrible toll.

Reporter on the Move

After five years cohabitating with the Brick House in the old firehouse on Third Street, the Montague Reporting is pulling up stakes and moving to the basement of 60 4th Street, next door to Sokolosky Real Estate. If all goes well, we should be set up in our new office as of Tuesday, August 14th.

Many longtime residents of Turners Falls will recall these quarters as the dental office of Dr. Charron. To make you feel

more comfortable, we plan to leave the old dental chairs in the waiting room, in case you want to lie back and reminisce while you visit the newsroom.

The renovation of the new office is nearly complete, and there are too many community volunteers who have helped with the sheetrocking, the painting, and the move to thank by name. You know who you are. Thank you!



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Preserve Citizen Participation in Wetlands Decisions

I'm writing concerning a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection proposal to eliminate citizen appeals of wetlands decisions.

Such a proposal is frankly appalling!

The regulations allow ten citizens to appeal wetland decisions. The age-old principle of a balance of powers, so necessary to good and honest government, requires citizens to be able to petition to have grievances heard, and to appeal adjudicatory decisions. It is this fundamental right which is threatened.

I am told that the year 2006 was the occasion for only four such appeals. None can claim

over-use of this fundamental right.

Furthermore, it is proposed to weaken procedural protections, and to limit administrative hearings to a single day, regardless of circumstances.

Historically, Massachusetts has led the way in preserving wetlands. Governor Patrick was elected promising to increase citizen participation in state government. But now, contrary to our constitution, and our Wetlands Protection Act, it is proposed to greatly reduce our right to participate in the management of our precious wetlands.

This ill-conceived proposal must not be allowed.

In times of global warming, wetland protection takes on new urgency. Massachusetts is fortunately situated with an adequate supply of drinking water, if we take care of our wetlands. Elsewhere, failure to heed the need for water conservation has brought catastrophe.

As chairperson of the Wendell Conservation Commission, I wish to go on record as solidly opposing these changes which are proposed.

- Charles Thompson Smith
Wendell

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 16th, and 30th. Weekly again in September.

We welcome your letters
Montague Reporter
24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA 01376
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues (local)
 \$25 out-of-area subscribers

The Montague Reporter
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apologies to Emily

Apologies to Emily. In the Montague Reporter of July 26th, the picture of a handsome mallard drake accompanied the tribute to mallard mother Emily and her diving ducklings.

The real Emily is inconspicuous brown with a patch of blue on her side. Like most female birds, she is soberly-dressed so that she does not attract attention to her family. It is the males who sport gay

colors and lively songs. Such attributes are supposed to help them attract the lady of their choice. The mallard drake has a patterned appearance: his shiny green head and chestnut breast with white neck ring and gray back is eye-catching. But it is a little brown duck who comes each year and brings up her ducklings with skill.

- Fran Hemond
Montague Center

American Dead in Iraq
as of 7/25/07

US FORCES
Casualties in Iraq
as of this date
4,071

Afghanistan **412**
Wounded in Action **34,032**

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

GUEST EDITORIALS

Many Reasons to Oppose a Bottling Plant

BY PAUL LIPKE

MONTAGUE - As a citizen of Montague and an expert on sustainable strategies, I wish to urge the Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife Board to oppose Nestle's exploratory efforts at siting a water bottling plant here. I have numerous reasons:

- At the most strategic level, the whole idea of privatizing a critical, irreplaceable public resource for short-term commercial profit seems unwise. Montague needs to ensure that this resource is available to its citizens and adjacent communities in perpetuity, not sell it off to a corporation with an international bad reputation for irresponsible social and environmental practices, one that will in all probability draw down the resource as fast as the market and our rather weak regulations will allow.

- In fact, the whole concept of selling bottled water in a country that has one of the best public water supplies in the world is absurd. We've already paid to develop public infrastructure to deliver high-quality potable water to our communities, at very low energy and environmental impact, and at modest annual cost. By comparison, the energy and material intensity of bottling water to ship all over a region for corporate gain is financially irresponsible and environmentally unsustainable.

- In addition, the Turners Falls water department has been working for years to establish a test

well and likely a backup system - in the exact northerly area desired by Nestle - for the specific purpose of ensuring a safe water supply for the town should the southerly aquifer become depleted in time of drought - increasingly possible due to climate change - or contamination. To even allow Nestle to explore tapping this supply is contrary to our common interests.

- The bottled water industry likes to present itself as a clean business. As you very probably know, this is not the case.

- The World Wildlife Fund argues that the distribution of bottled water requires substantially more fuel than delivering tap water. Nationally, the bottling, processing, storing, shipping, sale, retail transport and disposal of bottled water burns fossil fuels - contributing to climate change - and results in the release of thousands of tons of harmful emissions.

- Most water bottles are made of the oil-derived polyethylene terephthalate, PET. The Berkeley Ecology Center found that manufacturing PET generates more than 100 times the toxic emissions - in the form of nickel, ethylbenzene, ethylene oxide and benzene - compared to making the same amount of glass. The Climate Action Network concludes, "Making plastic bottles requires almost the same energy input as making glass bottles, despite transport savings that stem from plastic's light weight." A 2002 study by Scenic Hudson

reported that 18 percent by volume of recovered litter from the Hudson River (and 14 percent by weight) was comprised of beverage containers.

- Pat Franklin, the executive director of the Container Recycling Institute (CRI), says nine out of 10 plastic water bottles end up as either garbage or litter - at a rate of 30 million per day. According to the Climate Action Network, when some plastic bottles are incinerated along with other trash, as is the practice in many municipalities, toxic chlorine (and potentially dioxin) is released into the air while heavy metals deposit in the ash. If plastics are buried in landfills, not only do they take up valuable space, but potentially toxic additives such as phthalates may leak into the groundwater. "It's ironic that many people drink bottled water because they are afraid of tap water, but then the bottles they discard can result in more polluted water," says Franklin. "It's a crazy cycle." CRI estimates that supplying thirsty Americans with water bottles for one year consumes more than 1.5 million barrels of oil, which is enough to generate electricity for more than 250,000 homes for a year, or enough to fuel 100,000 cars for a year.

- A great many peer-reviewed articles have clearly established that bottled water is typically not purer, safer, or better for human health than tap water, and bacterial and other contamination is not uncommon.

- An industry operating many dozens - if not hundreds - of tractor-trailer trips per day in our town to sell an energy intensive product to people who already have a cleaner, safer choice for the same product cannot be defined as "clean."

- Furthermore, Montague would lose between 80 and 100 acres of prime "green space" that would be irrevocably altered to create Nestle's processing and bottling plant. I don't think we can afford to lose more fish and wildlife just to satisfy distant corporate shareholders.


Please tell Nestle to save themselves much time, trouble and expense. Suggest they look for other, more sustainable ways to meet their corporate goals. Please oppose this potential destruction of our common future. We must protect our natural resources.

Montague will find safer, better paying work for our citizens than Nestle ever will, and we can

establish more enduring revenue streams.

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Washed Stone, Assorted Sizes
- Sand - Title V & Mason
- Red Rock Stone - in 50 lb bags or bulk
- Brick Red Bark Mulch
- Gravel, 3" 1-1/2" 3/4"
- TRG - Dense Grade
- Loam, screened, unscreened



(413) 773-3622

Your Clear Choice

QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

SUNRISE

(413)498-4318

Fully Insured
Free Estimates

Honest Work
Honest Prices!

Mass. Contractor Reg #107141
Mass. License #059565



JOE GRAVELINE


www.turnersfallsriverculture.org
Arts, Culture, Recreation in Turners Falls. Log on and find out what you are missing.

Meeting on Nestle's Potential Bottling Plan

On Thursday, August 16, at 7:30pm. there will be a meeting at the Montague Grange Hall, (on the Montague Center Town Common) on Nestle's potential plan to privatize the Montague Plains aquifer for a water bottling operation. The imminent threat of the corporate privatization of our water is no longer taking place someplace else.

For more information email: enviroshow@valleyfreeradio.org.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666



A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

Negus & Taylor, Inc.
Monuments

NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.
fine memorials since 1893

We engrave memories that last forever

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.
- Gary and Nancy Melen

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

"The perfect remembrance"

Simply Computing
computer set-up
training
QuickBooks



Debbe Dugan
774-5451
Your Pace at Your Place

They're In!
And they're cool.
Get yours on the website or send \$12 and a smile to



MontagueMA T-Shirt
24 3rd St. TF 01376
Include return address and your choice of sm, lrg or xlr. One color.

AJ's
CYCLE

MOTO GUZZI
NORGE 1200
BREVA 750

274 Rt. 2, Gill

- parts & accessories
- helmets
- books
- apparel

(413) 863-9543
Allan • David
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

THE TEXTILE CO. INC.
Retail Fabric Store

• Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material
• Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions

CASH & CHECKS ONLY
Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Fri. til 8:20 • Closed Mon. • June, July, August

Power Square
Greenfield **(413) 773-7516**

GUEST EDITORIALS

Ice Cream Social at the Wendell Meetinghouse

BY MOLLY KAYNOR

WENDELL - Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse hosted a festive and refreshing Ice Cream Social on the meetinghouse lawn Saturday afternoon, August 4th. It was another hot and muggy morning, but just after midday a breeze began to stir on the Wendell town common. Tables were set up and laden with ice-cream sundae makings, drinks, flowers and balloons.

People dropped by for refreshments throughout the afternoon. The event attracted a steady stream of shade lounging picnickers, Frisbee tossers, Hackey-sackers and people who all screamed for ice cream on their way to and from the town dump, the Wendell Country store and the new library.

It was a wonderful way to enjoy some ice cream, catch up with neighbors and support the

Wendell Meetinghouse, all at once! More than \$300 was contributed to the restoration of the building. Donations were gratefully accepted, but the ice cream was free, thanks to Wendell's postmaster, Charlie O'Dowd, who won an essay contest. He donated his prize, an "Ice Cream Block Party" compliments of Edy's Ice Cream, to the Wendell Meetinghouse to help restore the building.

Wendell's historic Meetinghouse is in the process of being lovingly restored by community members. It was the perfect place for such a spontaneous and informal get-



The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse Board (left to right): Melinda Godfrey, Molly Kaynor, Charles Thompson Smith and our guest of honor, Wendell's Postmaster, Charlie O'Dowd.

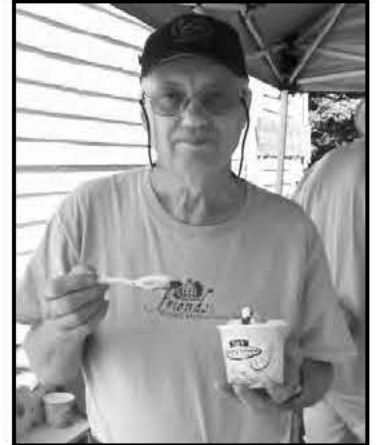
together. The old building seemed to smile as the front lawn filled with well-wishers and ice cream lovers that day.

Many thanks to Charlie O'Dowd for winning the contest and donating his prize to the meetinghouse restoration

project! Thanks to Edy's Slow Churned Ice cream for sponsoring their "Neighborhood Salute" essay contest and for making such delicious low fat ice cream! And cheers to all of those who made donations at the ice cream social last Saturday. This was the first of many annual summer lawn parties at the Wendell Meetinghouse.

If you have questions, or would like to get more involved with efforts to restore the Wendell Meetinghouse, you may speak with Charles Thompson Smith, Melinda Godfrey, or Molly Kaynor, at the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse booth on

Saturday, August 18th at the Wendell Old Home Day. You may also send inquiries or donations to PO Box 171 Wendell, MA, 01379.



Professor Paul Godfrey eating Edy's ice cream and sporting our Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse T-Shirts!

Low Power FM Update

BY MICHAEL MULLER

MONTAGUE - In August of 2005, Montague Community Cable, Inc., (MCCI) was awarded a construction permit for a Low Power FM (LPFM) station for Montague. At the time, MCCI was bidding on the RFP for the public access cable station, and subsequently we were busy setting up the TV station, so we had to put off any work on a low power radio station until we were settled in, and had the resources. We are

now in a position to start an LPFM station for Montague, but there's one small barrier.

According to current law, the location of the antenna on Dry Hill Road we hope to use is too close to WGAI in Deerfield, by about 20 km. But the FCC says there's no technical reason for the law, and in the past has actually admonished Congress for maintaining the legislative barrier to stations such as ours.

However, there is now a bill going through both the House

and Senate aimed at changing the law on LPFM. This bill -- H.R. 2802 in the House and S. 1675 in the Senate - is what we have been fighting for for years - a chance for community radio hopefuls across the country to get new licenses to build their own low power FM radio stations.

The Senate spoke up in 2005 and 2006 in support of low power FM - passing bills out of the Senate Commerce Committee to expand the service twice. This is the first time in seven years the House of Representatives has considered supporting such a bill. Since June 21st, 2007, 23 members of Congress have signed on to cosponsor H.R. 2802, the Local Community Radio Act.

Your grassroots support is critical. For example, because local community radio supporters at WRFU-LP contacted their representative, Congressman Tim Johnson, a Republican from Urbana, Illinois, and asked him to expand

Illinois' access to great community radio stations like WRFU-LP, Rep. Johnson will be signing on to the legislation to expand low power FM radio.

Because Jay Inslee (D-WA), the Democratic Congressman who represents the Seattle area, heard from so many great local folks that they want low power FM in the Northwest, he has moved to cosponsor this vital legislation.

And in July, Congressman Mike Doyle asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) if they continued to support expanding low power FM radio to America's cities - all five commissioners agreed.

Please help us to continue this momentum and get more members of Congress to support low power FM radio. If we are able to get more co-sponsors, this bill will be in great shape for a vote in the fall. No one will do this work for you - we need you to make this call, or write a letter, for community radio, today.

You can contact Congressman Olver at 413-532-7010, and when the staff for the office picks up, say something like:

"Hi, my name is _____, and I'm a constituent of Congressman Olver and Senators Kennedy and Kerry. We need access to more local media to support workers, families, and communities across our area and across the state. Senators John McCain and Maria Cantwell, and Congressman Doyle and Congressman Terry, just introduced legislation to expand Low Power FM radio to our area and to many of America's biggest cities. I ask Congressman Olver and Senators Kennedy and Kerry to cosponsor this bill, the Local Community Radio Act of 2007 - HR 2802, and Senate Bill 1675. Thank you!"

We need you to do this today. Please make this call to your congress member now, and forward this article to others who care about community radio!

Thanks for supporting low power FM radio in Montague. We will keep you informed as we receive updates.

Want more background info? Go to: www.MCTV.us/Low_Power_FM

Montague Central
View thread (2) | View only this post
Posted by PCD
Reply to this post
Moving Forward? (Reply)
...with no disrespect...
Talk about the town!
MontagueMA.net
ENTERING on MONTAGUE

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE
Call **TIM PREVOST** @ (413) 773-8984
Exclusive lender for West Ridge Condominiums in Greenfield. The area's newest, ultra-affordable condo development.
• Experience • Construction/Rehab Loans
• Great Service • 100% Financing / FHA/VA Loans
Whatever your needs, call Tim for a Free Pre-Approval
MA LENDER #0544 **413-773-8984** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Dillon CHEVROLET
54 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301
JOSEPH CANUEL Sales Representative
(413) 773-3678 Fax (413) 774-5746
HHR AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

RISTORANTE Di Paolo

REYNOLDS PROPERTIES
256 North Pleasant Street Amherst, MA 01002
Lynn Reynolds ABR GRI CRS
"Aiming for Astonishing Service"
413-367-2425 lynnreynolds@verizon.net

EDL Dealer in Used Home Furnishings
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTABLES • DECORATIVES
374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets Cookery Figurines End Tables
Open 7 Days a Week
GOOD USED USABLES

RISTORANTE Di Paolo
FINE ITALIAN DINING
Denise DiPaolo, Owner
Hilton Dottin, Chef
TEL 413-863-4441
FAX 413-863-4421
Open 5-9 Sun - Thurs
5 - 10 Fri and Sat
Closed Tues
Reservations Accepted
166 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
WWW.RISTORANTEDIPAULO.COM

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Box Turtles not Blocking Police Station Progress

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio opened the July 30th selectboard meeting with a quick update on the proposed new police station. The meeting with representatives of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (Mass Heritage) regarding the possible presence of Eastern Box Turtles on the Tumpike Road land went well; they do not perceive any major issues or concerns. Mass Heritage would approve the building area for the new police station at this time. However, they were not as receptive to the idea of the planned access road, which has raised concerns about possible turtle mortality. Mass Heritage will allow the proposal

for the new police station to be divided in two, so the new building can be passed, and the access road handled at another time. Overall, Abbondanzio said, the meeting was favorable.

Discussion of the school budget was high on the agenda, and sparked a major and at times heated discussion between the selectboard and members of the finance committee, in an attempt to reach consensus on a budget recommendation for the upcoming district meeting. In the end, the two boards could not agree, and each forwarded their own budget recommendation to the voters, the finance committee's \$66,000 higher than the selectboard's. (Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt voted

against the selectboard recommendation, preferring the finance committee's higher figure.) The district meeting sided with the finance committee as well, by the narrowest of vote margins, 132 - 130. The budget approved at the district meeting still leaves the G-M schools short about \$176,000 from their most recent '08 operating budget number.

The selectboard agreed to allow town facilities to be closed on July 31st between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., so that as many town employees as possible could attend a Group Insurance

Commission informational session. If Montague joins the state GIC, the town will still be able to set the amount their employees co-pay for insurance. The town plans to continue covering 90% of the cost of health insurance, and the employees' contribution will remain at 10%. In order for the town to join, a decision needs to be made by October 1st, 2007 for plan implementation on July 1st, 2008. There has to be agreement from the public employees' committee - a minimum of 70% of employees participating - in order to join GIC. Once the town

decides to go with GIC for their health coverage, they will have to commit either for a three year or a six year period. All town employees, including retirees, will have to use GIC as their insurance company.

The selectboard also renewed a lease at the Colle Opera House with the N.E. Foundation for Children, approved a contract for the fiscal year '07 Community Development Block Grant, and signed a contract for a feasibility study for access to the Dry Hill Cemetery on Dry Hill Road in Millers Falls.

Brick House Hosts Healthy Start Back to School Event

TURNERS FALLS - The Brick House Community Resource Center, at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, will be hosting its second annual Healthy Start Back-to-School event, giving families the opportunity to begin the new school year in a positive way, on Saturday, August 18th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Child participants can receive free dental screenings with Lynne Bennett of the Community Health Center of Franklin County and Dr. Dara Darabi of Avenue A Dental in Turners Falls. Children can also create Child ID packets with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, which include photographs, fingerprints, and physical descriptions. Children should have such packets created annually throughout childhood in order to assure that the information is up-to-date. Activities with the outreach staff from the Community Health Center of Franklin County will teach children and

parents about healthy food choices and portion control, and The Brick House will be offering delicious free healthy snacks to everyone who attends the event. Free school supplies and face painting will also be available.

In addition, fire prevention information and activities have been supplied by the Turners Falls Fire Department, along with information from several local non-profit organizations and programs, including the Community Health Center of Franklin County, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Montague Parks and Recreation, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Gill-Montague PTO, the Community Partnership for Children, Greenfield Even Start, and the Brick House. So give your kids a healthy start and come by the Brick House on August 18th.

For more information on this event or other Brick House programs, please call 863-9576.

Montague Mug Race

The 27th annual Montague Mug Race and Mini Mug Race will be held on Saturday, August 18 at 8:30 am. The Mug Race is a 5.5 mile road race and the Mini Mug is 2 miles. Registration is held at the common in Montague Center, the race begins at 4 North Street and heads south down Main Street to Old Sunderland Road. Both races will end at the ballpark on Station Road. The course features plenty of water stops, great views of Mt Toby and the Connecticut River. Pewter Mugs are awarded to the top male and female finishers of the Mug Race, tee shirts to the

first 100 runners and a raffle is held for all runners.

In tribute to Tracy Turn, there will be a sign placed at the corner of School Street and Station Street naming that Tracy's Turn as an official landmark of the Mug Race and Mini Mug Race Dave Kaynor will perform his fiddle tribute also. Tracy was a participant in both races. Registration forms are available at the YMCA, Body Shoppe, Clark's, Montague Post Office or Email: shollow@crocker.com. For more info call Ann Fisk at 413-367-2812.

GCC

No plans yet? We can help.
Look what's new for Fall Semester!

On-Line Classes

- Introduction to Medical Terminology
- Art History I
- Human Anatomy and Physiology I
- Relational Database Design and Application
- Programming Principles and Concepts
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- A Introduction to Special Education
- English Composition I: Expository/Writing
- English Composition I: The Impact of Language
- English Composition II: Exploring Literature
- British Literature I
- Western Civilization to 1500 A.D.
- History of the American People Since 1865
- Women in American History
- Introduction to Human Services
- American Politics
- Principles of Psychology
- Human Growth and Development
- Principles of Sociology

NEW!

Renewable/Sustainable Energy Classes/Workshops:

Sustainable Living/Energy

- Sustainable Culture & Harmonious Systems.*
- Hands-on Introduction to Permaculture Design*
- The Ecological Home Landscape*
- 100 Native Plants for Your Home Landscape*
- Solar Domestic Hot Water*
- Passive Solar Technology*
- Energy Conservation and Efficiency*
- Introduction to Photovoltaic (Solar Electricity) Technology*
- Tame Your Home Energy Expense Beast*
- Solar Electricity (PV) for Home and Business*
- Solar Hot Water Heating*

Did You Know ?

- 23 Classes meet UMASS Social & Cultural Diversity Requirement*
- CEU's available for Massage Therapists, Bodyworkers and other Health Care Providers*
- Professional Development for Educators*
- Criminal Justice Program is PCIPP Quinn Bill Accredited*

GCC & MCLA: 2 + 2 = BA

An academic collaboration between Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts & Greenfield Community College provides a part-time option towards a B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with Teacher Licensure in Elementary Education.

MASSART at GCC

The Massachusetts College of Art, in collaboration with Greenfield Community College is offering Bachelor of Fine Arts level classes at GCC.

Community Education

- Easy Access to Dance, Massage and Music classes on a credit-free basis
- ESL Study Skills and TOEFL iBT Prep
- Intermediate French Conversation
- Massage Made Easy for Friends and Family
- 25 Practical Strategies for Coping with Attention Deficit Disorder
- Attention Deficit Disorder in the Workplace
- Women and Attention Deficit Disorder
- Holistic Approach to Hypoglycemia & Diabetes
- Sleeping Well Without Drugs
- Self-Care to Health Care: Be an Effective Healthcare Consumer
- Art & Film for Seniors
- Handmade Gifts for the Holidays
- Advanced Beginners Salsa
- Quickbooks for Small Business
- Writing Funny
- Ants in Their Pants: Helping Kids Put to Words What's Bugging them w/o Going Buggy Yourself

Workshops in Northampton

- Ideas & Inventions to Market
- How to Get Debt Free
- Journeyman Electrician
- Socially Responsible Investing
- Journeyman Plumber
- Blacksmithing

Workforce Development

- Quickbooks for Small Business Owners
- Advanced Quickbooks Modules
- Prepare for the Mass Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL)
- Overcoming Negativity in the Workplace
- Service in the Hospitality Industry

REGISTRATION NOW IN PROGRESS

Day and Evening classes begin September 5

Greenfield Community College • gcc.mass.edu • (413) 775-1801

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Board of Health Objects to Fast Move for Food Pantry

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Harry Williston, chair of the Wendell board of health, came to the selectboard meeting of July 25th, to bring his board's objections to the selectboard's effort to hasten the move by the Good Neighbors food pantry into the cellar of the old library. Although he agreed the ongoing warm food storage at the highway garage was not a good situation, he said unequivocally that nothing should move into the old library basement until renovations are complete.

At the previous selectboard meeting, board member Dan Keller told Wanita Sears from Good Neighbors that the selectboard would try to speed up the move by contacting a plumber and an electrician to make necessary improvements to the basement space. Keller told Williston that only dry goods in sealed containers had been moved to the cellar.

Williston said no one should have allowed any food to be moved to the new location, because food concerns belong to the board of health. Keller suggested that someone from Good Neighbors would be happy to meet selectboard and board of health members at an emergency meeting to discuss the situation, but Williston said that meeting would have to be posted, and it would be better to meet at the next scheduled board of health meeting, Tuesday, August 7th. He was

willing to look at the present storage situation at the highway garage with someone from Good Neighbors on Saturday July 28th.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis told Williston, "We did say we would work fast (to Good Neighbors)," that the electricity is already in, but there is still a long way to go before the cellar is finally ready. A flush toilet and drains in the old library cellar will need a grinder pump to move waste and water up to the septic connection, and the hole required for a grinder pump may undermine the ramp that leads to the first floor of the building.

Williston said the board of health's first concern for Good Neighbors in the old library basement is a washing station.

Keller said the priority at that building is to move Good Neighbors into the basement. Work on the Senior Center upstairs can come later.

Before Williston left, Lewis asked him as Highway Commissioner about having the road crew move the memorials away from the front of the old library building to their new location by the bandstand. The selectboard will pick a time after board member Christine Heard returns from vacation.

Lewis said students from Lake Grove School are painting the cemetery fence, which is a step towards improving relations between the town and

the school, which have been strained in recent years. He asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to draft a letter thanking the school for the students' work.

Steve Gargone met the selectboard about an agreement he said he had made to clean up the property at 58 Mormon Hollow Road, which the town has acquired for back taxes. After spending a morning of hard work gathering metal debris from the property, he brought it to Greenfield to sell as scrap, and was met there by a police officer who told him the scrap was stolen property. He was detained until a Wendell police officer arrived, and the check he expected was written to Wendell instead.

Gargone said that in a July 18th telephone call with selectboard member Dan Keller, he had agreed to remove the metal from the town property for its value as scrap. Apparently that information did not reach the person who saw him working on the property and reported him. The board agreed that he should be paid, but the check went into the general fund, and a check could not be given to Gargone until the warrants are signed at the next selectboard meeting. Town accountant Janet Swem said the money could come out of town property maintenance. Gargone was willing to wait for the money, and said he would

remove the remaining metal for its value as scrap, and would remove the trash for his cost in gasoline. He has a place to take the pallets.

The board accepted a grant from Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts for \$12,500 to the Friends of the Wendell Library, to use for the library's collection.

The town has reached an engineering agreement with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (COG) for the replacement of the Cooleyville Road bridge over the Swift River. The bridge there now is serviceable, but the stringers are 40 years old and the walls are deteriorating. The bridge weight limit is three tons. Working separately from the COG, engineer Jim Toth can work on the design after he returns from vacation. The selectboard forwarded a message to road boss Dan Bacigalupo, asking if he could use another project.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said New Salem recently bought a new generator and offered its old one to Wendell. Keller thought it might be useful for parts at least. Williston said that after last summer's tornado, the one in the highway garage started, but died quickly. He said he would contact Bacigalupo to make arrangements for bringing the generator from New Salem.

The board reluctantly accepted Pru Smith's

resignation from the planning board, and asked Aldrich to draft a letter thanking her for her service. The planning board is now one member short. Myron Becker is not accepting reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals as of July 1st, leaving the ZBA with only two members. Ted Lewis, as alternate, is unable to attend the ZBA hearing on August 16th.

After a lightning strike, alarms for both relays of the septic system went off and the smoke beam (fire alarm) stopped working. The repair estimate was \$2,050. Keller wondered if the alarms are required by code. Lewis said lightning routinely destroys his garage opener at home, at \$65 a pop, and he can't get insurance to reimburse for it. He asked Aldrich to check whether the town's insurance would cover the septic repair.

The town got an estimate of \$2900 to repair the fence around the basketball courts at the library. Lewis asked Aldrich to get an estimate for materials only, and the selectboard will compare that estimate with the cost of buying materials and having the highway crew do the work.

The 24th annual North Quabbin Fall Festival will be held in Athol September 15th and the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce asked Wendell to help with its list of

see WENDELL pg 9

LIBRARY from page 1

gift in honor of Herrick, his former teacher, made the occasion possible. Both Herrick and Doland are from Maquoketa, Iowa, and both independently found their way to Western Massachusetts.

Herrick came to Wendell in the 1940s when her late husband Louis, who had attended Amherst College, wished to retire in the Valley.

Doland, who was a professor of psychology at Smith College, discovered the Herricks were also in the area and their friendship resumed.

When the new library project was first announced, Doland challenged the Friends of the Wendell Free Library to match his gift of \$25,000. Donations large and small poured in to the Herrick Fund as contributors met his challenge and more. Today the meeting room is

beautifully appointed thanks to him and these many, many donors.

Among the familiar faces greeting Herrick were librarian Rosie Heidekamp, library trustees Sylvia Wetherby and Phyllis Lawrence, selectboard chair Ted Lewis, and postmaster Charlie O'Dowd. Herrick smiled when she also recognized others in the group, Anne, Faith and Lynn Diemand, Laurel Brenneman, Jonathan

von Ranson and former Wendell resident Cheryl McLain.

As the group gathered in the meeting room, the guest of honor was thanked for her many years of service to the library and remembered for her life-long love of books and politics. She was presented with two tee-shirts created by Kathleen Swaim, each with digital images of the new library and of the interior of the Herrick Room.

Monday's trip was made possible with the cooperation of the Templeton Council on Aging, who provided a wheelchair van and driver, and the Baldwinville Nursing Home who provided an aide (also named Marion!). Accompanying Herrick on the trip from the nursing home was her devoted "guardian angel" for the last four years, Maria Ard.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

BAKER
Office Supply

Buy 5 cards at 50% off, get the fifth one free!

310 Main Street
Greenfield

www.bakerofficesupply.com
(413) 774-2345 Call Bonnie today!

**PLOW FRAU
SOW WOW**
SITA LANG
(413) 834-7569

CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING & Snow plowing!

We help you sort through or haul away unwanted stuff in your attic, basement, garage, barn, yard, or entire estate. Removal of just about anything! **FREE estimates.**

Reusable goods are donated to those in need.

THE COUNTRY JEWELER

Traditional and Contemporary Jewelry
Diamonds
Watches
Anniversary Bands

Custom repair
work done on premises

Old-fashioned service!

Call Larry:
772-0859

Mon. - Sat.
9:30 - 5:30
www.countryjeweler.com

Corner of Main & Chapman Streets, Greenfield

DEMERS' LANDSCAPING

Landscaping & Excavating
Estimates Given - Fully Insured

136 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376

COMPLETE TREE SERVICE • LOTS CLEARED • WOOD CHIPPING
WOOD CHIPS • MULCH • LOAM • LAWNS AND SOD INSTALLED
PLANTING • MASON AND STONEMAN
ALL TYPES OF FENCING • DOZER AND BACKHOE WORK
SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSTALLED

Edward A. Demers, Prop.
Since 1970
Tel. 863-3652

Sokolosky Realty

56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376

Jean Donovan, CRS, ABR
BROKER

OFFICE (413) 863-4393
HOME (413) 367-9970
FAX (413) 863-4949

**CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING
PERMS & COLORS**
Men, Women & Children

CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS

You can get there from here...
863-2022
74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Numerous Motor Vehicle Accidents

Wednesday 8-1

8:10 a.m. Alarm sounding at elementary school, all checked o.k..

1:45 p.m. Two vehicle accident at Gill traffic lights on French King Highway, no injuries.

5:58 p.m. Assisted Erving police with missing 5 year old child.

10:10 p.m. Noise complaint on South Cross Road, subject spoken to.

10:50 p.m. Pedestrian vs. motorcycle accident with injuries on French King Highway at Main Road.

Thursday 8-2

3:02 p.m. Unattended and abandoned motor vehicle towed from French King Highway.

10:31 p.m. Annoying telephone call complaint from Riverside resident.

Friday 8-3

11:36 a.m. Motor vehicle rollover accident with injuries on Rt. 10.

4:03 p.m. Report of intoxicated subject staggering on Main Road. Subject located and assisted to residence.

9:45 p.m. Report of a suspicious subject on Oak Street, checked area, unable to locate subject.

Saturday 8-4

1:52 a.m. Welfare check of Main Road resident.

2:11 a.m. Arrested [redacted], charged with; assault with intent to murder, intimidation of a witness, assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

3:45 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident on Main

Road, near Gill lights.

11:40 p.m. Report of subject urinating from French King Bridge onto subject fishing below.

Sunday 8-5

12:10 a.m. Report of possible injured subject in wooded area adjacent to French King Bridge, checked area unable to locate subject. Later located in Turners Falls.

1:50 p.m. Report of racing motorcycles on West Gill Road near South Cross Road, unable to locate same.

6:58 p.m. Emergency

restraining order and service on French King Highway.

9:17 p.m. Assisted numerous other agencies with vehicle pursuit and apprehension of subject in New Hampshire near Northfield town line.

Monday 8-6

9:45 a.m. Single vehicle accident on Main Road, car over embankment, no injuries.

11:30 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Main Road residence.

1:50 p.m. Assisted with civil complaint in the Riverside area.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Stolen Lawn Angel; Rifles in Woods

Wednesday 8-1

11:55 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue by Bob's Auto Body, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Thursday 8-2

3:49 p.m. Walk-in to station reports a larceny from a 5th Street address. A bike was stolen. Report taken.

7:14 p.m. Report of a larceny from a 2nd Street address. An angel lawn statue was stolen. Report taken.

Friday 8-3

12:55 a.m. Report of a fight in the 3rd Street alley. [redacted] was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a ring).

5:12 p.m. Report of an assault at an L Street address. Caller states he was assaulted by ex and daughter. After an investigation it was determined no assault took place. Dispute over property. All parties advised of options.

Saturday 8-4

8:22 a.m. Report of a larceny at an Oakman Street address. A purse was missing. Caller later called to report she had put her purse in the back of her husband's truck and forgot. It was found when he returned home.

2:03 p.m. Walk in to station reported fraud at a 4th Street address. Someone was possibly stealing her identity. Under investigation.

Sunday 8-5

9:18 p.m. While assisting other police departments with a multi-town high speed chase

that ended in Winchester NH,

[redacted] was arrested and brought to Montague to face charges of three counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, failure to stop for a police officer, operating to endanger, operating with a license that had been revoked as a habitual traffic offender, marked lanes violation, red light violation, and failure to stop at a stop sign.

Monday 8-6

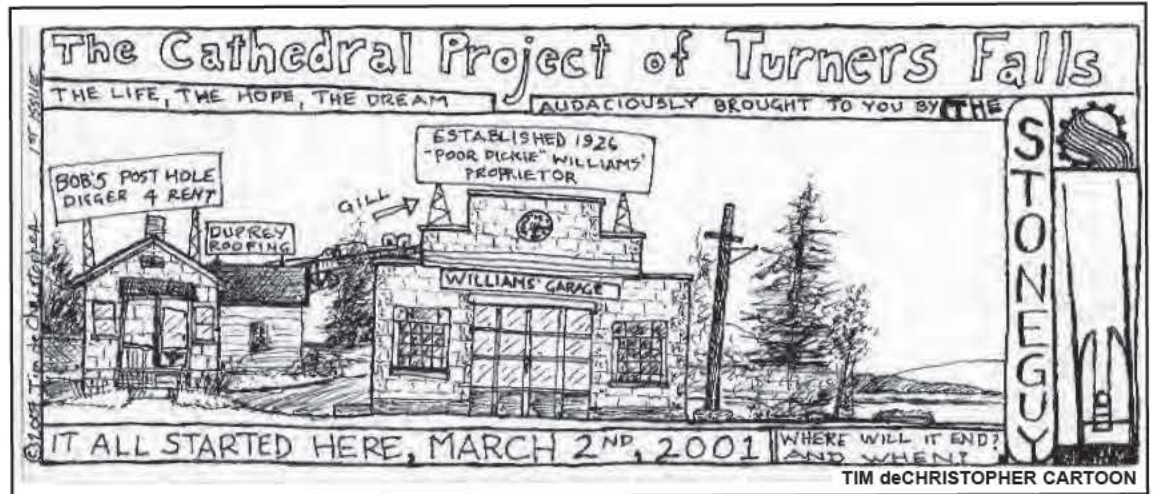
1:54 a.m. Report of an assault at a Massasoit Street address. Caller reports having a

problem with her boyfriend. Gone on arrival. Caller later called back and stated everything was fine.

5:29 p.m. Report of a weapons violation in the area of Dell Street and Turnpike Road. Caller states a man and woman went into the woods with rifles. Found to be BB guns and people were over 18. No violation found.

Tuesday 8-7

1:43 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Turners Falls Road. A car hit a horse. Driver uninjured. Horse's owner to make arrangements for veterinary care.



WENDELL from pg 8

local vendors. Board members asked Aldrich to contact Karen Copeland, who has a list of vendors for Old Home Day, so that list can be given to the chamber.

Melinda Godfrey sent the selectboard a letter recommending Charles T. Smith as Citizen of the Year, citing his work behind the scenes at Good Neighbors, where he is first to arrive and last to leave on distribution days, and his long tenure on the conservation commission.

Aldrich forwarded a bill from the highway department that will require a special town meeting for payment. The board tentatively set September 12th as the date for that meeting, which also should include closing on the USDA loan for the town building projects.

Finance committee member Jim Slavos was away, but he reported that the building account has \$66,000 left, and only some small bills to pay. He said he doubted people would be upset if Wendell spent less on the buildings than the original estimate. Architect Margo Jones has refunded some of her payment into the town office construction account.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

HK Power Town Apartments
 152 Avenue A
 PO Box 48
 Turners Falls, MA
 413-863-9433

professionally managed by:
HallKeen Management, Inc.
 rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.
 Sharon Cottrell
 Property Manager

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE
 Your Automotive Answer

Check Engine Light on? We Can Help!

TELE: (413) 772-8862 -- CELL: (413) 512-0413
 409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

Diemand Farm

- Farm Fresh Eggs
- Whole Roasting Chickens
- Pot Pies
- Homemade Soups
- Desserts
- Products Vary Weekly

Farm Store Open Every Day
 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
 Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
 Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236
 10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

Summer Camps
 12 different camps to excite all children ages 3-15

- Camp Apex (now with a heated pool)
- Sports Camps (two per week)
- Gymnastics Camps (air-conditioned comfort)
- Camp Allen (Academics and P.E.)
- Summer PreSchool and Specialty Camps

www.ymcaingreenfield.org • 773-3646

CASH PAID FOR YOUR CDs LPs DVDs

TURN IT UP!

NORTHAMPTON • EASTHAMPTON • BRATTLEBORO • KEENE • TURNITUP.COM
 413.502.1005 413.527.3850 802.251.6015 603.350.6033

GMRSD

continued from pg 1

could use reserve funds," to come up with the additional \$300,000 Montague will have to contribute, he said. After voters agreed to back the finance committee's proposed figure - \$66,000 more than the Montague selectboard had recommended in a divided vote, - Singleton said the finance committee recommendation, "was the best we could do with what we could appropriate."

The school committee, the finance committees and selectboards of each town presented the case for their favored budget figures. Mary Kociela, school committee chair said the G-M schools were only able to arrive at their budget after first eliminating all the Massachusetts Department of Education recommended staff increases, raising student fees, and cutting 8.5 actual staff positions, (including two elementary school teachers, three paraprofessionals, a counselor and a tech support specialist, a special education teacher and some lunchroom staffing). She reminded voters that "a few short years ago we reduced 24 staff positions and lost 140 students to school choice out of the district." G-M schools lost \$700,000 in state aid in the process.

Interim superintendent of schools Kenneth Rocke asked rhetorically, "Have the towns done their share?" for the schools. "You bet, and more." He said the towns have seen double digit increases in their school assessment totals "while state aid has declined."

He said the GMRSD was undertaking a complete budget review, and an administrative reorganization, "to do more with less" while pulling out the stops to meet an October 1st deadline for enrolling in the state's Group Insurance Commission, should that be determined to save the GMRSD money on health insurance increases. He also warned the meeting the state was poised to take over the school district as "chronically underperforming" for financial reasons, and for the lack of adequate administrative support to meet educational goals. He cited the difficulty the G-M schools face in meeting yearly MCAS targets with a 25% special needs student population ("that's compared with a statewide average of 14%") and a 42.8% free and reduced lunch population of children attending G-M schools from poverty. Rocke contended the district had done considerable belt tightening even as the cost of heating school buildings had risen \$179,388 since 2004, while utilities have risen more than \$118,000. Health insurance increases have been in the double digits.

Barry Levine, of Precinct 3 in Turners Falls, said the percent Montague spends on the schools keeps rising each year, to the point where it now takes up 52% of the annual budget. "This keeps escalating and escalating. What will we run the town on?"

Paul Seamans, of Gill, said "I was going to vote No," on the school committee's budget, "I've changed my mind. What we are doing is for our kids. At

the same time, has there ever been a voice raised with equal vigor calling for the grandparents? Those of us in our 70s and 80s have overlong carried the burden of ever rising town taxes. We actually have to borrow to pay our town taxes. Notwithstanding, I will vote to give our committee the money they have requested. Theirs is a thankless task, yet they do it honestly and competently. They must have a strong vote of confidence."

In response to a query from Art Gilmore, Precinct 2, of Millers Falls, Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town had already allocated \$850,000 in reserves to meet this year's school assessment. That amount of money will now be built into next year's budget, although the tax levy will not necessarily be able to support that increase in years to come. (Town meeting may be asked to determine whether some degree of an override will be necessary for Montague to meet the budget number agreed to at the district meeting.)

On the Gill side, Banash said, "The town doesn't have the money to meet any of the budgets (under discussion) except possibly the one approved at town meeting. It sounds like Gill doesn't even have the money to do that."

Singleton said, "If people from the town of Montague support a higher budget they should support an override. That's the only realistic way to do this. Hope is not a plan."

In response to a question from Jim Mayrand of

Montague City about what effect the state's reimbursement of 90% of the \$29 million cost of the high school and middle school renovation had on local tax rates, Banash said Gill reduced the tax rate from \$17 per \$1000 to about \$13 per \$1000 when the reimbursement came through last year.

But Abbondanzio said the simultaneous loss of the Indeck plant from the town's tax rolls last year left Montague with little choice but to maintain the tax rate at its pre-reimbursement level.

"This is typical politics," replied Mayrand. "I'm not very happy with it."

Rita LaPierre, of Turners Falls, whose husband served as principal of the high school for 22 years, said she and her husband are now considered low income. "We cut corners everywhere we can. But as far as I'm concerned, our children and our grandchildren are our future."

She continued, "Some people don't have enough to eat; they can't pay the rent. But most of us have more than we need and we just want to keep ahold of our comforts. School choice hurts us. The less we give to our schools, the more we lose. It bothers me when kids move away on school choice. Art is important. Poetry is important. Reading is important. I'd like to ask everyone, even though we think we can't give any more, if we can afford to do the very best for our children and our grandchildren."

The meeting itself was well organized and civil. "I felt the discussion was collegial, intel-

ligent, and there was a good debate," said Singleton.

Rocke echoed his sentiment. "I'm impressed. It was a good meeting. Civility is very important."

Even though the budget passed by district voters is \$176,000 smaller than the school committee's requested figure, superintendent Rocke tried to look on the bright side. "I'm disappointed but hopeful," he said. He was unable, however, to say where he will find an extra \$176,000. "At this point, we haven't decided. We will have to discuss it at our next meeting."

If the school committee agrees to the budget approved by the district meeting, the operating budget for the upcoming school year will have been decided by two votes. Just two votes.



Great Falls Farmers Market

Wednesdays

3 - 6 p.m. Rain or
Shine

May to October -
Avenue A & 2nd Street
PEACHES

Fresh Farm Produce
Baked Goods
Perennials

New Vendors Needed!

Call (413) 863-9026

Ad sponsored by Green
Fields Market

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Specializing in unique hair designs

Bella THE SALON

312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003
Stylists seeking booth space encouraged to call!

DON SKOLE
PRESIDENT

Skole Insurance Agency

AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL • MOTOR CLUB
LIFE AND HEALTH PLANS

91 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
(413) 773-7349
FAX 774-6938

(508) 544-5431

SUPER DEALS ON
CDs
DVDs
LPs
TAPES
VIDEOS

TURN IT UP!

NORTHAMPTON • KEENE • BRATTLEBORO • EASTHAMPTON • TURNITUP.COM

Original designs
in clay
by Artist
Jaye Pope

GOOD DIRT
POTTERY

38 Main Street
Montague Center
Next to the Montague Grange

Clay is good dirt!
www.gooddirtpottery.com 413-367-0155

Sand Hill Ranch

♥ We're Horse Crazy ♥

Reasonable family-friendly fun
Lessons & Sales (carriage rides, pony parties)
coming soon!!!

Manager/Instructor
Lisa Matosky

374 Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351
413-834-3978

Simons & Simons

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Thomas G. Simons • Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury

77 Fourth Street • Turners Falls, MA
(413) 863-9506

GREENFIELD IMPORTED CAR SALES

Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

AUDI • VW • VOLVO • BMW
Large selection of diesel and all-wheel drive vehicles
Locally Owned for 27 Years

413-774-5517
335 High St., Greenfield
LALautosales.com

**Northfield
Barber Shop**

Mon, Tu, Wed: Noon-5
Thurs, Fri: 8-5 • Sat: 8-Noon

74C Main Street • Northfield
413-498-5166

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Angry Outburst over School Budget Meeting

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK

An otherwise routine and quiet Gill selectboard meeting on August 6th was the backdrop for a tongue lashing by Martin Yarmac, who had come to voice his concerns to the board about the results of the July 31st regional district meeting between the towns of Gill and Montague dealing with the Gill-Montague school budget.

What started as impassioned commentary by Yarmac quickly spiraled into a free-form attack on local school boards, area teachers, the MCAS, the ACLU and the Supreme Court. Yarmac also questioned the legality of the district meeting, and suggested the town of Gill should separate itself from the Gill-Montague school district.

Yarmac came to the selectboard meeting on the invitation of the board. He began with this statement, "I was not very happy with the meeting. I felt like a second class citizen at that meeting. My wife, who is from the Philippines, had said to me that Marcos [the late Ferdinand Marcos, president of the Philippines, whose time in office was marked by scandal and corruption] could have learned a thing or two from the way it was run. It excluded working people and people on fixed incomes."

Yarmac continued, "Is there a chance we could separate from the Gill-Montague school district? I think we're paying for the problems of Turners Falls and Montague. There were people at that meeting who were not voters in the area, and there was no recount of the votes. Those [non-voters] could have voted and no one would have known. Why weren't the police barring those people at the door?"

Selectboard member Ann Banash reminded Yarmac that non-voters were allowed to view any public meeting, and

that they would know better than to vote. She also stated that meeting chair Ray Godin had been within his legal right to end the meeting and voting when he did. When Banash began to enumerate the complicated logistics of Gill withdrawing from the district, an already emotional Yarmac became irate.

"Kids today can't give you change back from a buck. That's sad. What are the teachers doing? My daughter, who speaks English as a second language, knows more than kids born here. Again, what are the teachers doing? They wouldn't have to worry about the MCAS if they were doing what they were supposed to be doing... I could have taken that test as a fourth grader and passed it.

"I'll tell you what happened," Yarmac continued. "The Supreme Court and the ACLU gutted the school system. They took away the prayers, the values, the pledge [of Allegiance] and the discipline, and now what do you have? I'll tell you what you have. You've got men marrying men and women marrying men and men marrying chickens and people wonder what's wrong. Well, it doesn't take an Einstein to figure that one out."

Yarmac reiterated his view on the MCAS and the ACLU and Supreme Court ruining the schools several more times before leaving the meeting, and also alluded to a hard upbringing in the Grand Trunk area of Turners Falls.

"I'm a concerned citizen. I walk the walk and I talk the talk, although I can see it won't make any difference," Yarmac said as he got up to go. He then thanked the selectboard for listening to him.

After he left, Banash commented, "There was a lot of disappointment that there wasn't a recount, since the vote was so

close. However, Ray [Godin] was within his right and legality to do what he did."

The vote to approve the school budget figure recommended by the Montague finance committee - \$16,180,901 - a \$347,000 increase over the amount approved by Gill and Montague at town meetings in June, came on a vote of 132 to 130. Yarmac, one of the first to speak, had urged the district meeting to wrap up business quickly so working people could get to their jobs in the morning, was also among those demanding a recount at the end of the meeting, when the vote came out so close. But Godin, as moderator, defended the counters - two for each section

of the auditorium - saying each pair had to agree on the number of voters standing before they announced the totals.

Andrew Rewa, of Montague, asked for the total number of Gill and Montague voters in attendance that evening to be calculated and announced, to see whether 262 voters were indeed present and accounted for. An earlier vote on the school committee's budget request for \$16,356,901 had failed by a wide margin: 186 - 71, but some noticed the total of these votes equaled 257, and wondered whether there were in fact 262 voters in attendance for the subsequent vote.

Following the meeting, a canvass of the precinct sign-in sheets conducted by GMRSD

assistant to the superintendent Robin Hamlett, with Godin looking on, revealed that 267 registered voters of Gill (71) and Montague (196) were in attendance that evening.

Upinngil

food you need from the land you love

NOW!

Sweet Corn, Famous Upinngil Melons, Watermelons, Raspberries and More!

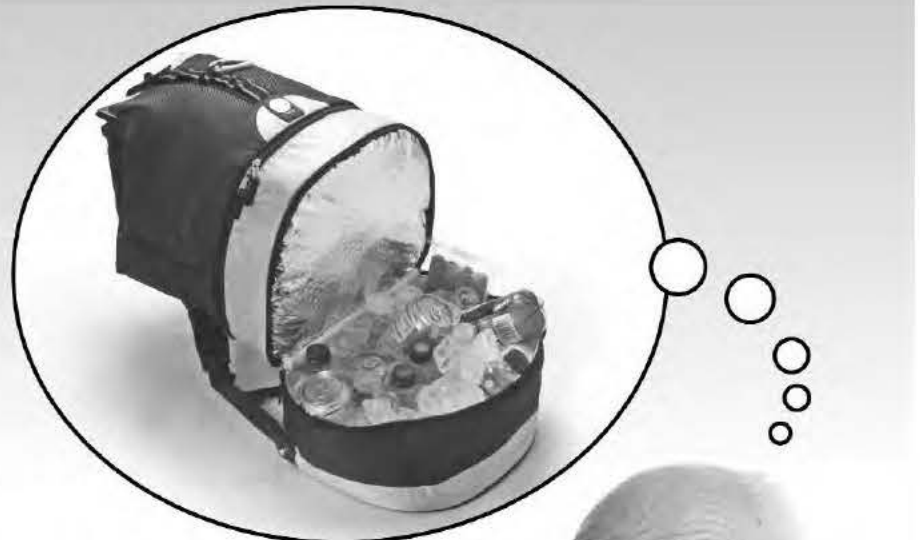
Farm Stand and Store
7 days a week • 8 a.m. - dusk

411 Main Road, Gill
413-863-2297

TotallyFree
Checking

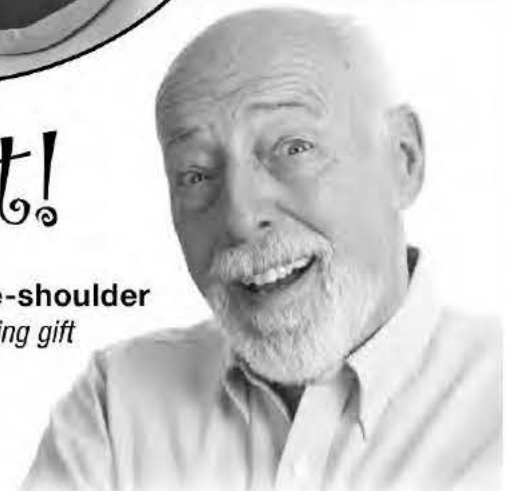
Free Gift!

Free Checking!



Get out!

Northern Gravity over-the-shoulder carry bag—Totally Free Checking gift



GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK

www.greenfieldsavings.com
Connecting all branches 413-774-3191 or 413-549-3660

Member FDIC Member DIF

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

LIEBENOW AUTO BODY

"WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB"

- Insurance Collision Repairs
- We Accept All Insurance Companies
- Auto Glass Replacements
- Shop Rental Car
- Frame & Un body Straightening

Mass Repair Shop #1839
774-4420
163 WELLS STREET GREENFIELD

Quality Work on All Makes & Models
Towing & Rental Cars Arranged

LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY

COUNTRY OIL

SINCE 1988
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

Annual Heating System Cleaning
Plumbing Repairs

LICENSED TECHNICIANS
#M10588 (MA)

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

SALON 107

\$7.00 cuts

to all disabled, veterans, and senior citizens!
We are willing to travel to the houses of elderly who can no longer get out much.
(Now hiring 3 licensed and experienced stylists or barbers to start immediately either FT or PT)

114 Wells Street Greenfield, MA 01301
772-0284

Debra Mathey
owner and stylist

Cup O' Joe

Espresso • Cappuccino • Lattes

- Great coffee, pastries, and breakfast served all day.
- Deli sandwiches and wraps are available for lunch.
- Stand by for Great New Additions!

New Hours, Wireless Internet

Mon.-Thurs. 6am-5pm
Fri. 6am-9ish
Sat. 7am-9ish
Sun. 'til Noon

111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 / (413) 863-2800 / Evelyn Daly • Owner

Patrick Smith
HIC #134741
Insured

Montague, MA 01351

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION

Specializing in Cellulose Insulation
Infrared Quality Assurance Guaranteed

Toll Free 866-262-5361 413-367-2228
FAX 413-367-2212

Got Gas?

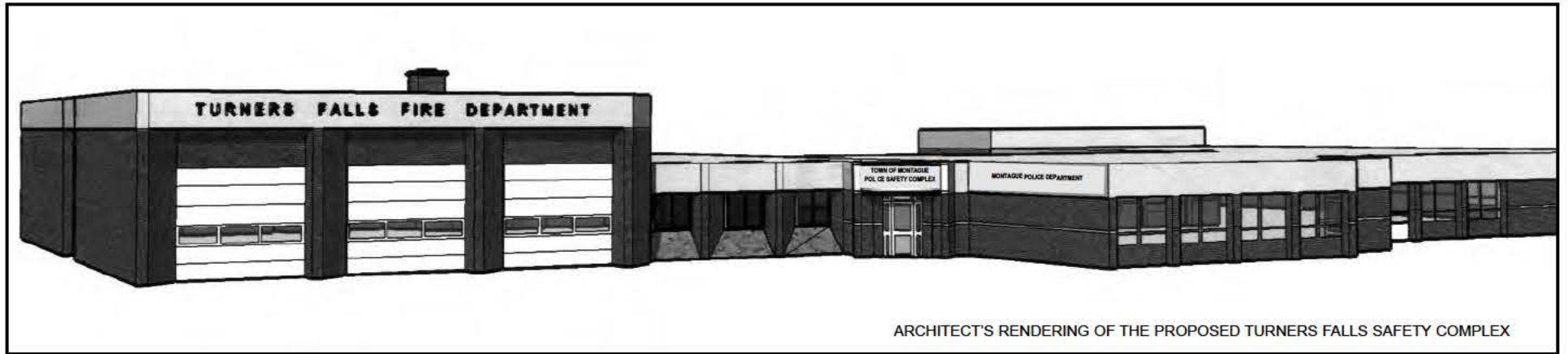
Aubuchon has all the propane you need, all year round.

\$1.00 OFF fill-up with this coupon

Turners Falls Store Only
220 Avenue A
413-863-2100

WellsFallsRight.com
AUBUCHON HARDWARE (expires September 16, 2007)

Cost Estimate in the Works for New Police Station



ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF THE PROPOSED TURNERS FALLS SAFETY COMPLEX

BY PAM HANOLD
MONTAGUE - Since I last posted an update about the progress of the proposed new police station, to be constructed next to the Turners Falls fire department on Turnpike Road, the building committee has focused on submitting architectural plans to a cost estimator. We get only one crack at this service under the design contract, so we want to be thorough in our assessment before sending out the final design. Looking at the plan very carefully was particularly important, as we have cut about 30% of the space from

the initial needs assessment. Cutting that much space from average standards requires vetting to make sure we don't end up with a building that is inadequate for our needs. When we get the cost estimate back in a week or two, we can look at professionally projected costs, rather than the rule-of-thumb guestimates we've been using so far.

Besides continuing to refine our site plan, we have had specialists speak to us about geothermal, photovoltaic, and energy-saving construction. Most energy-wise features are part of the standards

required by the state. Geothermal and solar panels would provide substantial annual savings for the new station into the future, so we included them in the cost estimate.

While the cost analysis is being prepared, we are continuing to look for additional grant sources, as well as rebates, tax credits, and donation programs. Chief Zukowski and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio submitted an application for the new state grant program for police buildings, as soon as the fund became available. In addition, representative Steve

Kulik started politicking for the grant, and invited Lt. Governor Tim Murray out to tour the current police station and see Montague's need firsthand. The Lt. Governor's driver, a state trooper, observed ours was "the worst station he had ever been in."

At our last meeting, we invited members of the Montague police and Turners Falls fire departments to comment on the proposed design from their perspective. They also clarified exactly how some of their daily processes work in terms of space and access and privacy needs.

At our next meeting we will continue looking at funding and start compiling a list of questions we have heard from townspeople. Answers to these questions will be an important part of the information we will be presenting to town residents.

We continue to meet on Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., at the Turners Falls fire station. The public is always welcome. You are also invited to speak with committee members personally, and be assured that any comments or concerns you have about the proposed new station will get reported to the committee for discussion.

Turners Playgroup a Resource for Parents and Children

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - Turners Falls Drop-in Playgroup is free to all and welcomes anyone with children from infancy to five years old. Healthy snacks and juice are served with lots of toys and arts and crafts to keep the young ones busy. It is a great opportunity

for parents or caregivers to interact with the children as well as other adults. Vickie Flynn is the host and coordinator for the Turners playgroup. She has a sweet demeanor the children take to immediately. She helps out in several other areas, with library

project days as well as with the work of the Women's Resource Center.

The playgroup is open throughout the summer. Monday is *Cogui*, a Spanish playgroup offered at the site of the Turners Playgroup from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Regular playgroup hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Mother Goose on the Loose* is a story telling and music program offered on the first Friday of every month, along with brunch; all are welcome. Linda Hickman and Michael Nix are the hosts for *Mother Goose on the Loose* and they intrigue chil-



Vickie Flynn with Aydyn D. Clayton (2 1/2 years old) of Millers Falls.

dren, no matter what their age may be.

The opportunity this playgroup, as well as others in the area, offers to children and those that care for them is extraordinary. It socializes children of a preschool age, assists in getting children ready for school, and helps them in their growth mentally and physically.

The Turners Falls Drop-in Playgroup is located on the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street in the Turners Falls Family Center. For more information, call 863-4805.

JOIN THE SOLAR ROLLERS

On a Bike Trip Through Vermont For a Green, Renewable, Safe Energy Future

Ride with us for a day, or for the whole 2-1/2 week tour, as we go to every county in Vermont organizing, leafletting, and talking to people about the upcoming vote of the Vermont state legislature on extending VT Yankee's operating license for another 20 years.

For more information call 413-863-9296.

Draft Itinerary: (30-50 miles per day)
 Tues, Aug 14: 9 am- VT Yankee Nuclear Power plant, Vernon
 11 am Brattleboro - Bennington
 Wed, Aug 15: Bennington - Chester
 Thurs, Aug 16: Chester-Springfield - White River
 Fri, Aug 17: White River - Rutland
 Sat, Aug 18: Rutland - Middlebury
 Sun, Aug 19: Middlebury - Warren
 Mon, Aug 20: Warren - Randolph
 Tues, Aug 21: Randolph-Chelsea-Barre-Plainfield
 Wed, Aug 22: Plainfield - Morrisville
 Thurs, Aug 23: Morrisville-Hardwick - St. J
 Fri, Aug 24: St. J - Lyndonville - Island Pond
 Sat, Aug 25: Island Pond - Newport - Troy

Sun, Aug 26: Troy - Glover
 Mon, Aug 27: Glover - Enosburg area
 Tues, Aug 28: Enosburg area - Swanton
 Wed, Aug 29: Swanton - Grand Isle
 Thurs, Aug 30: Grand Isle - Burlington
 Fri, Aug 31: Burlington - Montpelier (60 mi)

For more info or to join us, contact:
 Solar Rollers - reporter@montaguema.net
 David Detmold - 413.863.8666 (S.VT)
 Robin Cappuccino - 802.533.3396 (N.VT)
 Debra Stoleroff - 802.476.3154 (CtRI VT)

Co-sponsored by VT Yankee Decommissioning Alliance and Citizen's Awareness Network

Montague Elks Assist Northfield Student to Attend World Leadership Forum

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521, in Turners Falls, donated \$400 on Thursday, July 26th to Tyler Prest. Tyler is a student in Northfield and is the son of Paul and Deana Prest. He has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. Tyler will join a select group of students in Washington D.C., October 8th -14th, 2007 to study leadership and explore some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions, while earning high school credit.

The donation is just a part of the \$2,195 that Tyler had to raise for the trip. Tyler and his family also raised money with a Bowl-A-Thon that took place on April 16th at the French King Entertainment Center.

The program is coordinated by People to People Ambassador Programs, to fulfill the vision Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People to People 1956. Congratulations, Tyler!

PHOTO: JOE ST. PETER

Tyler Prest, left, with Montague Elks Exalted Ruler Pamela Lester. Tyler holds a certificate of acceptance from People to People.

Country Wedding at Cold Brook Farm

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - June sunshine and a light breeze blessed the wedding of Elizabeth Mather Hemond and Ibrahim Rasit Bilgin. They were married in a grove headed by the old Shagbark Hickory tree that was planted 106 years ago at her great grandfather's (Kenneth C. Field) birth. The oldest child born each generation on Cold Brook Farm was so honored.

Sixty guests seated in the tree-shaded evening sun were treated to a lovely prelude of classic gems, played by Susan, violinist, and Stephen McGhee, cellist. Four bridesmaids, Sahra Bilgin (sister of the groom), Emily Walaszek, Julia Shannon, and Christina Mather in shining peacock blue were escorted to their places by the best man and groomsmen, Matthew

Hemond, Sergios Kolokotronis, Craig Starger, and Russ Peterson. The bride, beautiful in a white silk wedding gown, accented in pink and white bouquet and flowers in her hair, came down the grassy walk on the arm of her father, David Hemond.

Solemnizer Hansina Wright, the bride's aunt, conducted a personalized service as marriage vows and rings were exchanged. For the reception, the party moved to the big tent by the South Pond, where the ladies scrambled for the bridal bouquet. Some of the contestants represented the schools the bride had attended, from Andover to Columbia and the University of North Carolina. Christina caught the flowers and the group looked forward to a wedding



PHOTO: BRIAN HEMOND

The happy couple, Elizabeth Mather Hemond and Ibrahim Rasit Bilgin at Cold Brook Farm.

coming up. Champagne toasts to the couple by the bride's father and brother were echoed in the minds of the guests.

The background music melted into the summer evening as the guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and a dinner catered by Jimmy and Betsy Tarr of Hatfield. As dusk turned to dark, strings of lights and citronella

candles took care of light and bugs, and foot-tapping music brought the younger and some older folks to the dance floor. In the sky, a full moon and the planets Jupiter and Venus offered a glorious backdrop.

Friends and relatives from Turkey to California had come to celebrate the marriage. Kimberly Cooke of West Palm Beach, FL created a DVD, and Brian Hemond remembered the wedding in photographs.

The bride is the daughter of Attorney Elissa Wright of Noank, CT, a Connecticut state representative, and Attorney David Hemond of Ledyard, CT. She is the granddaughter of Eva Wright of Noank and Fran Hemond of Montague. The groom is the son of Zeynap Melike Bassa and Hasan Bilgin of Istanbul, Turkey. His grandfather is Cevdet Bassa of Istanbul.

Fire at the Usher Mill

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

ERVING CENTER - Usually when my pager sounds, the Wendell tone that opens the pager to receive is followed by an announcement: "Attention Wendell firefighters, respond to ..." or, "Attention Wendell EMTs and first responders, respond to ..." Around 12:30 Monday morning, July 30th, the series of tones for the towns being called continued for so long that I was fully dressed before the announcement came, "Respond, mutual aid with a tanker to Route 2 in Erving Center for a structure fire." I said as I went downstairs, "I think I will be gone for a good while." I arrived at the station in time to put my turnout gear in the second truck leaving, our new pumper, climb up, buckle my seat belt, and ride to Erving.

A fire of unknown origin had broken out around midnight in one of the buildings of the Usher Mill, formerly a furniture factory, later used to manufacture heels for women's shoes. The mill has been vacant, with no electricity on, since 1990. The building involved was gutted by the blaze.

As we arrived in Erving Center we saw the Wendell tank truck go under the low Arch Street bridge to the spot where several ladder trucks had their ladders extended into the air, with nozzles pouring water on the blaze. I never saw the fire, and never saw the ladder trucks up close. Two dump tanks were located on the south side of Route 2 with a suction hose between them acting as a siphon, and both tanks were supplying water to the Sunderland truck that was pumping water to the ladder trucks. A pumper went up North Street to take water from the stream, but it sounded from

the radio exchanges that the stream was low, and that water supply was discontinued.

Someone from another department attached a clamp to one of the dump tanks, and we connected a 2½" hose to the clamp, then pumped our new truck dry, filling the dump tank. Another truck came and continued filling the two tanks, while Asa and Mark left in our new truck to refill at the paper mill, where there was supposed to be a pumphouse with a pressurized hydrant.

The Wendell tanker came back from under the bridge and we set up its dump tank next to another dump tank on the north side of the street, in front of the store, and tried to establish a siphon between the two. The siphon was not working, so the Gill firefighters, whose truck was also supplying the ladder trucks, ran their suction line over the near tank into our tank. They put a ladder underneath it to keep it from sagging where it crossed over the other dump tank. They pumped water to the ladder trucks for the rest of the night. I did not worry much about it, because we emptied our tank truck into the dump tank and began a tanker shuttle from the paper mill.

It was true. The paper mill did have a hydrant in a pumphouse, with water under pressure. Not only that, there were two hoses connected to the hydrant,

2½" and 4". We even had the right fittings, so all we had to do was connect to the hose, open the valve on the hydrant, the valves on the truck and wait while water flowed until our tank overflowed. A maintenance man from the paper mill was there to help. Then we closed everything and returned to Erving Center, dropped our water into the dump tank and returned to the paper mill for a refill. We shuttled water through dawn, and I saw so many other towns in the shuttle parade that I doubt I can name them all. New towns arrived while we were shuttling, and I thought as they arrived from further and further away that we would be there a long time. Troy, NH, Vernon, Brattleboro, Rindge, Keene, Fitzwilliam, Westmoreland, Chesterfield, Guilford, Bernardston, Pelham, Greenfield, New Salem, Montague Center are a few of those who helped.

The trucks that could dump their water lined up in the west-bound lane of Route 2, took turns backing up to the dump tank and dropping their water. The trucks that had to pump lined up in the parking lot on the other side of the Boxcar and filled a pumper that stayed in place, supplying Sunderland. Rain fell, stopped falling, and fell again, enough to cool us, but never so much it was a trouble. Everyone shuttling water had stripped early to as little turnout

gear as was decent, pants and boots below, T-shirt and no helmet above. It gave us a bottom heavy look, like toddlers. People from town watched during the set up, stayed for a while, and then went home.

The state rehab truck arrived, and at dawn Wendell fire chief Everett Ricketts suggested I take a break and get some coffee, which I was happy to do even if it meant missing some shuttle runs. Then I joined Bob on more trips. We kept the ladder trucks with their snorkel nozzles supplied, and although the dump tanks ran low occasionally, they

never ran dry.

A fuel truck from Sandri came and refilled the trucks that were running low on fuel, but were still in place pumping.

Later a truck came from McDonalds with 300 sandwiches, and they were gone within 10 minutes. I heard they were all sausage egg McMuffins, but I only checked two.

I heard that a crew went into the building early, but they were called out quickly, and the rest of the attack was surround and drown. Asa figured maybe a million gallons went onto the building.

Rainbow Mural



Shelby, Kerry Kazokas and Jaimie work on a rainbow mural across the drive from the Brick House in Turners on Wednesday. Kazokas, a Shelburne Falls artist whose work on the mural project was funded through a collaborative grant between the Brick House and Power Town Apartments, worked with neighborhood children to design the mural. Kazokas said the children decided on a theme of 'Happiness'.





ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

THIS WILD PLACE

Some Straight Talk about Swifts

BY KARL MEYER

COLRAIN, MA - If you don't look up, you are going to miss them. Your closest neighbors will have left for Peru, and you won't even know it. I'm talking about the swifts, of course, the ones you've been sharing your house with since the first week of May. Spooky? Maybe. While you've slept, they've slept. Before you got up in the morning, they skittered off into thin air, gone for the day. They raised a family, even had an aunt or uncle living with them helping out with the childcare, right under your nose.

The top-most two feet of your chimney has been a veritable squatters' nest for chimney swifts all summer, and they'll be gone in the blink of an eye. By September 10th, you'll be lucky to see one.

If you're tuning out at this moment thinking this is just going to be another dull piece about birds, maybe you should. But let me just leave you with this: it has not yet been proven that chimney swifts don't have sex while on the wing. It has been documented that their cousins, the white-throated

swifts of the American West do mate in mid-air.

So trust me, people are watching.

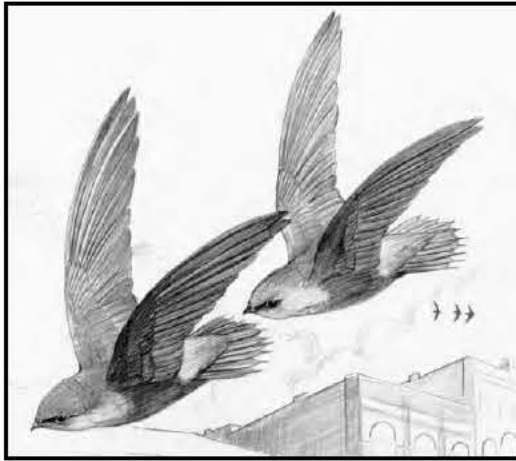
I've had the privilege of observing a family of chimney swifts at close range all summer.

Their brick abode is less than 25 feet from where I sit on the deck in the evening. They are like clockwork as they return just past sunset from a day of foraging, making rapid, chattering, counterclockwise turns about the neighborhood until they've grabbed their last bug, and decided to duck in for the night. Ten minutes later, the bats that roost in the chimney on the opposite side of the porch flutter silently out in the milky dusk.

It's an impressive display of co-habitation. The bats, who set up shop in mid-April, get the west chimney; the swifts, arriving in early May, get the eastside dwelling. We all share the same house, though meals are separate. The chimney swifts get the day bugs, while the bats work the night shift.

Decades ago, chimney swifts received the most succinct and

apt description that any curious outdoors person could desire. Next to Audubon, Roger Tory Petersen remains the most widely known name in popularizing birds. He described the chimney swift simply, "Like a cigar with wings." And that



Chimney swifts.

pretty much says it. Look for a fast, wide, arcing flight, fluttering wings, and an almost incessant, rapid, scolding *tssk, tssk, tssk*, and you've got chimney swifts. If you can't pick one out at this point, well, your chances of someday seeing a bird mate in flight are dimming rapidly.

You will never see a chimney

swift perched on a wire, or a fence, or a branch tip in the dead tree in the yard. You just won't. They just won't. These tiny, five-inch birds have the feet of woodpeckers: three clawed toes in the front, one in the back. They don't perch, they cling.

While you are counting sheep horizontally, they are experiencing REM sleep right next door, only vertically, clinging to brick and mortar on the insides of your chimney. Only the brooding parent (both sexes take turns warming the eggs) and the nestlings get to enjoy a night's rest on the level. And once they take to the skies in the early morning, they are in flight constantly save for trips to the brick house to feed the young ones. They even bathe and drink in flight.

The nest is a whole other wonder in itself. It's not a whole nest. It's quiet literally a half nest, glued to the chimney shaft with swift spittle. Chimney swifts have an exemplary adaptation that enables them to secrete an impressively adhesive salivary cement which both

hardens the half-cup nest together, and anchors it to the side of the bricks. This little feat of bio-engineering takes several weeks to complete, with both parents supplying the gum for the sidewalls. What's more, tipping the scales at less than one ounce, they supply the other main construction material for the nest - twigs - by snapping them off trees in mid-air. That's a pretty handy feat for a bird that can't even catch its breath by perching on the clothesline.

Cooling thought: Do a little home study: Walk into a quiet summer house after being out for a warm evening. How many switches will you have flipped on within a minute of arriving? Think of each as a tiny electrical fire. Open the fridge, a little fire. Turn on a fan, another fire. Flick on the tube; that's a flare-up. Fire up the computer; you're crackling. Air conditioner; you're blazing. Telephone messages, another match lit. We fire up our homes like they're amusement parks. We can all do better by the Earth. Use one room, one appliance, at a time. If it's cool out - why not go back out while it cools? Think, then consume.

WASTE NOT

Your Paper Recycling Became the New Harry Potter Book

BY AMY DONOVAN

GREENFIELD - That's right, Montague residents; one of the top-selling books of all time is encased in your old newspapers, junk mail, and office paper! (OK, so this applies to all of Western Mass.) All of the 32,000 tons of paper we recycle each year in Western Mass ends up at a Fitchburg paper mill that manufactures board games and hard book covers. Millions of hard book covers for the new Harry Potter book were made right here in Massachusetts from our recycled paper and cardboard.

Even though we are doing well with recycling paper, we can do better. Every year in Massachusetts, we throw away 1.5 million tons of paper, enough to fill Fenway Park with a pile of paper as tall as the Prudential Center. Throwing away this Prudential-sized pile of paper, rather than recycling it, costs our towns and cities



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

\$100 million each year.

Paper recycling is easier than ever before. Here are some tips for recycling more paper at home, work, or school:

1. No need to remove those pesky plastic windows from envelopes! Also, you do not need to remove tape, staples, or paper clips.

2. Do recycle junk mail,

magazines, newspapers, white and colored office paper, cereal type boxes, cardboard, books, phone books, and more.

3. Paper or plastic? Paper! Reuse your paper grocery bags to capture junk mail by your front door, newspapers and cereal boxes in your kitchen, and office paper in your office area. Recycling two bags of paper each week adds up: in a year, you will have saved nine trees, 120 gallons of fuel, and will have kept one and a half tons of carbon dioxide out of our atmosphere!

4. Do not recycle any paper or cardboard with food, organic material, or wax on it, or paper that is dirty or wet. Also, do not recycle napkins, tissues, or paper towels, paper egg cartons, or soda or beer holders or cartons.

5. For more information on paper recycling, please visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/recycle.html.

The last step in recycling is buying products made from recycled materials. Office supply stores carry recycled content copy paper that is much higher in quality than it was five or ten years ago. Ask your school or workplace to use recycled content copy paper. When shopping, look for paper

products made with recycled materials. Creating a demand for the paper we recycle closes the loop of recycling and keeps our forests from being destroyed, saves energy, and reduces greenhouse gases.

Amy Donovan is program director for the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

Cruise Night



DETMOLD PHOTO

If you missed the Truck Donna Dennis of Bernardston in the passenger seat of a

1951 Ford pickup, with the original flathead V8 motor at the

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, Incorporated
Insurance

25 Millers Falls Road, P.O. Box 312
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Tel. (413) 863-4331 (413) 773-5673
www.pzinc.com

Matthew Edwards
Owner • Climber
Insured

**EDWARDS
TREE SERVICE**

Wendell • 978-544-7452

Locally owned since 1941

**Foster's
SUPER MARKET**
GREENFIELD, MA

Full Service Market
Fresh Produce in Season
Beer & Wine

70 Allen Street
Greenfield, MA 413-773-1100
FAX 413-773-1105

NOTES FROM THE GILL - MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

More Students Choosing Gill - Montague Schools

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Interim G-M school superintendent Ken Rocke gave the school committee some positive news on school choice on Tuesday, August 7th, telling them 18 more students had decided to choice into Gill-Montague schools for the coming year, along with the 69 students continuing to choice in from previous years, for a total of 87 incoming students to the district. Rocke interpreted these numbers to mean, "People's confidence level is quite high. We're maintaining good schools, and people's confidence level should be high."

Due to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) regulations, students within the district who would otherwise be attending

Sheffield School have the option to attend Gill Elementary this year, since Sheffield has been labeled a school in need of improvement. Rocke said six students had taken advantage of that opportunity, down from the 15 or 16 who had initially expressed interest. For NCLB choice students heading to Gill, the G-M school district is obligated to provide transportation, but Rocke said the small number of students in this category would not require a separate bus, but could probably be accommodated on special education buses already running in the district, thus saving money.

Town meeting voters approved regular intra-district choice earlier this year, and 18 students have decided to take

advantage of that option. The numbers break down as follows: 1 Hillcrest kindergartner is heading to Gill, 1 Montague Center kindergartner is heading to Gill, 5 Montague Center 2nd graders are heading to Gill, 1 Montague Center 3rd grader is heading to Gill, 2 Sheffield 3rd graders and 2 Sheffield 5th graders (not counted as NCLB transfers) are headed to Gill, 1 fourth and 1 fifth grader from Gill are heading to Sheffield, one Great Falls Middle School student is heading to Gill, and three Gill sixth graders are heading to the Great Falls Middle School, for a total of 18 intra-district choice transfers.

Rocke said these students could not rely on the GMRSD to provide busing, since the district

was not required to provide transportation for them by law, and since the district's budget is so tight. But he said some intra-district choice students who live on bus lines where buses with empty seats are already passing by will be provided free transportation.

School committee member Sandy Brown asked whether parents could bring their students to an already established bus stop, if they did not live near a bus line, and Rocke said the district would be responsive to such a parental request.

Rocke offered no statistics about the number of students choosing out of G-M schools for neighboring districts. Last year, the total of choice out students was in excess of 150. Coupled with the outflow of students to charter schools, the net loss of state aid for students leaving the G-M district last year exceeded one million dollars.

In other news, the school committee adopted changes to the student handbook for the

continued next page

BRIDGE from page 1

bridge exterior. They started with the railings. Construction crews dismantled the railings and trucked them to a tent in Mackin's yard where a vacuum system collected dust from sandblasted lead painted railings. The job included welding the ends of the railings where they fit into sockets on the support posts. When the sandblasting removed the rust, there was not enough left to weld.

The ends were so rotted away that the job came to a halt, the crew put the railings back, put up chain link fencing so that someone did not lean against the railing and get a closer look at the river bed below than they really wanted. The next step was to put up "Jersey barriers" on the west side of the bridge to keep cars from ending up in the river, had they swerved into the railings.

There is some question about the wisdom of adding the stress of all the extra weight of the concrete barriers to the aging superstructure. When the bridge did not collapse, a second set of barriers was added to the east side of the bridge against the elevated

sidewalk.


"They were going to put up new railings, but the steel pads and the concrete were so rotten, they couldn't," John Mackin said. "There was nothing to bolt them to. They put Jersey barriers up to keep cars from going through the railings. I was appalled that they would put all that weight on a bridge labeled 'Deficient.' Then they added more barriers on the sidewalk side to keep traffic away, because that side was in even worse condition. The barriers weigh 5,000 pounds each, and there has to be at least 100 on each side."

John Mackin was no longer working for Mackin Construction during the attempted reconstruction, but he has kept in touch with company employees.

After the work came to a halt, a Pennsylvania inspection company arrived to inspect the bridge. After a closer look with Pennsylvania eyes, MassHighway labeled the bridge 'Deficient,' concluding that the bridge needed more than the sprucing up of a bit of welding on the railings and a new coat of paint. All tractor trailer trucks bound for Kramer's scrapyard,

loaded, were forbidden to cross the bridge, though other loaded trailer trucks routinely pass over it.

At a subsequent hearing at the Discovery Center about one way traffic on the bridge during the anticipated extensive reconstruction of the bridge, which had been slated to begin in 2007, a MassHighway spokesman admitted there was a beam that may need replacing on the Turners Falls end, where the road has settled "slightly."

While the Gill-Montague bridge is not identical to the Minneapolis truss bridge that collapsed last week, (also labeled 'deficient,') the Gill-Montague bridge has an American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials rating of 26 out of a possible 100. The Minneapolis bridge had a rating of 50 out of 100. The Gill-Montague bridge is a truss bridge of similar design, with a concrete deck subject to road chemicals that eat away at both steel and concrete, as evidenced on the beams beneath, and the deck surface, which now sports more patches than a  vagabond's britches.

MCTV Schedule:

Channel 17: August 10 -16

Friday, August 10

8:00 am Physician Focus: "GI Health"
9:00 am Montague Select Board (7/30/07)
11:30 am Montague Update: Block Party
12:00 pm Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night
6:30 pm NASA Connect: Who Added The Micro To Gravity
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07)
9:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription
10:30 pm Art Fest 2007

Saturday, August 11

8:00 am NASA Connect: Who Added The Micro To Gravity
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07)
11:00 am Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription
12:00 pm Art Fest 2007
3:00 pm Block Party Live Broadcast

Sunday, August 12

8:00 am The Well Being: "Growing A Green Community"
9:00 am GMRSD District Meeting (7/31/07)
11:30 am Carlos W. Anderson: Passion & Compassion
12:00 pm Encore Body Art
6:00 pm Montague Update: Ray Zukowski
7:00 pm Senior Center: Elder Law
8:00 pm Montague Community Band (7/2/07)
9:00 pm The Well Being: Growing A Green Community
10:00 pm Discovery Center: Tracking The Wily Coyote

Monday, August 13

8:00 am Montague Update: Ray Zukowski
9:00 am Senior Center: Elder Law
10:00 am Montague Community Band (7/2/07)
11:00 am The Well Being: Growing A Green Community
12:00 am Discovery Center: Tracking The Wily Coyote
6:00 pm MCTV Productions: 2007 Kids Video Camp
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)

9:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall
10:30 pm Silly Wizard: Balloons

Tuesday, August 14

8:00 am MCTV Productions: 2007 Kids Video Camp
8:30 am Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall
9:30 am Silly Wizard: Balloons
6:30 pm The GED Connection #12: Reading Non Fiction
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07)
9:30 pm Discovery Center: Open Mic Night
11:00 pm Independent Voices #33

Wednesday, August 15

8:00 am GED Connection #12: Reading Nonfiction
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (8/7/07)
11:00 am Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night
12:30 pm Independent Voices #33
6:30 pm NASA Connect: Who Added The Micro To Gravity
7:00 pm GED Connection #13: Reading Fiction
7:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription
8:30 pm The Well Being: "Growing A Green Community"
9:30 pm Discovery Center: Naturalist Laurie Sanders
10:30 pm People's Harvest

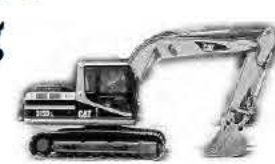
Thursday, August 16

8:00 am NASA Connect: Who Added The Micro To Gravity
8:30 am GED Connection #12: Reading Fiction
9:00 am Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription
10:00 am The Well Being: "Growing A Green Community"
11:00 am Discovery Center: Naturalist Laurie Sanders
12:00 pm People's Harvest
6:30 pm Senior Center: Senior Aerobics
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 8/13/07
9:30 pm Changing Face of Turners Falls
11:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

SINCE 1888
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
159 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
email: tracey@ahrist.com
web: www.ahrist.com
Tracey Kuklewicz 863-4373
Vice President

Renaissance Excavating
COMPLETE SITE WORK
• SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM
MAIN ROAD, GILL
DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462



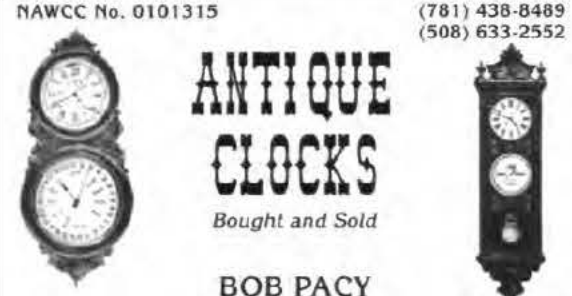
G. VALLEY LANDSCAPING
Serving Franklin County
413-626-9068
Full Service Landscaping
Hedges • Lawn Mowing
Mulch • Projects



Post & Beam Timbers • 14 Pine Lumber Patterns
got wood?
Cowls sawmill does!
134 Montague Road • North Amherst, MA 01059
413-549-1403 x318 • cell: 413-563-7557 • millsales@cowls.com
Get a quote or place an order on line at www.cowls.com

LETOURNEAU APPLIANCE SERVICE
413-863-8291
Washers • Dryers
Refrigerators • A/C
Ranges • Dishwashers
ALL MAKES
ALL BRANDS
24 Hour Service • Paul Letourneau

NAWCC No. 0101315 (781) 438-8489 (508) 633-2552
ANTIQUUE CLOCKS
Bought and Sold
BOB PACY
WILL TRAVEL. STONEHAM, MA 02180



Turners Falls Wins Another Tournament

BY MATTHEW ROBINSON GREENFIELD - On July 29th, the Turners Falls Newt Guilbault under-12 Little League team played against Brattleboro, VT in the Greenfield tournament. A man waited for the first pitch before getting out of his car. It was one-to-nothing before he shut his door. Home run, Michael Conant. He turned to lock the door, Brody Markol parked another one; two-nothing. As he walked toward the field, Zach Bartak hit another dinger. Three-nothing. Then T.J. Meyer walked up to the plate. Four-nothing. Four home runs in a row! The first four Turners Falls batters hit four consecutive

homeruns. And they didn't let up.

Turners Falls kept scoring. And the kids at the scoreboard were working almost as hard. An assembly line of kids formed, quickly searching for the correct number to put up on the scoreboard and posting it before the score changed again. But they had trouble keeping up. "Is that 9 runs or 10 runs?" And the runs kept coming.

The crowd cheered and clapped as more and more runs scored. 11-0, 12-0. The first inning finally ended. In the second inning, after two more consecutive homeruns by Ryan Wilder and John Ollari, it was 18

- 0. And in a remarkable act of good sportsmanship, a Brattleboro player clapped too. He smiled and quietly clapped as Ollari ran the bases.

But manager Ted Bartak was in a dilemma. Leading 18 to 0 in the middle of the second inning, his team was in danger of being eliminated from the tournament. Although Turners Falls was undefeated and had scored a tremendous amount of runs, they might get sent home. Only one team from each division can play in the championship game. "We never played Amherst, the game was rained out" Bartak explained during the game. "If we're both undefeated and we didn't play head to head, the next tie breaker is defensive runs allowed."

So Skipper Bartak had to make a decision. Should he put in his second string and risk giving up a number of defensive

runs, or keep his starters in the game to keep the other team from scoring. "You're out. You're out. And you're out." He



Double Play

told his starters. "You three," he yelled to the bench. "You're playing."

And although Turners had a huge lead, their defense didn't let up. The game ended with spectacular fielding, including a very difficult double play, and a final score of 20 - 0.

In the end, the league commissioner allowed a makeup game between Amherst and Turners Falls. And Turners beat

Amherst to go on to the championship game against host Greenfield. The championship game was stopped via the "Mercy Rule."

Turners came back from a 5 to 1 deficit, to beat Greenfield 18 - 7!

So, Turners Falls won another tournament. Three championships in four tournaments for a post season record of 18-2, the two losses coming in the infa-

mous Cal Ripkin tournament in Milford.

This is the future of Turners Falls baseball. They are the farm team for the high school. If they play this well when they're older, who knows how far they will go?

And years from now, when these boys are playing in high school or even college, they will have one war cry to urge them on. "Remember Milford!"

SCHOOL from pg 15

the student handbook for the high school and middle school. The changes will allow high school students to keep their ID cards on their person, rather than wear them on a lanyard. The lanyard IDs have been a source of some contention among the high school student body since the requirement to wear them was introduced four years ago. "We spent too much time on this last year," said Upper School principal Jeff Kenney. "It will go smoother if they just keep them on their person."

Conceding to changes in popular culture regarding cell phones and personal listening devices, Kenney said the handbook would no longer prohibit these devices from being brought to school. Instead, students will be "asked to make sure they don't become a disruption in class, to put them away. But they'll have their cell phones in case of emergency."

Kenney said the GMRSD had received another \$20,000 matching grant to fund a peer mediation program at the high school and middle school. He said the district was working hard to find the additional \$20,000 in grant funds needed to keep the mediation program running.

Discussing the transition of Sheffield fifth graders to the middle school, the first class of incoming sixth graders at Great Falls, Kenney said these students would use their own entrance, have individual classrooms and their own area in the lunchroom, at least at the start of school. A determination about how to involve sixth graders in afterschool sports at the middle school has yet to be made.

"I'd forgotten how small sixth graders were until I saw them when they came to visit," said Kenney.

The school committee agreed to seek help from their attorney, Fred Dupre, in drafting a sample revision to the district agreement, calling for

a change in the method required to close a school. Under the proposed amendment, which would need to be approved by town meetings in both Gill and Montague to go into effect, the number of votes on the nine member school committee needed to close a school would decrease from 8 to 6, but an additional proviso would be added that 2/3rds of the registered voters in the town where the school proposed for closing is located would have to agree before the decision to close the school takes effect. (By regulation, the state Department of Education must also agree before a district can close a school.)

Finally, the committee postponed a decision on whether to accept the revised school budget passed by the voters of Gill and Montague at a special district meeting on July 31st. That budget figure, \$16,180,901, is \$176,000 less than the budget unanimously approved by the school committee on July 24th. Rocke said the G-M administrative team is undertaking a top to bottom review of the school budget to see where \$176,000 in savings could possibly be found, since it is too late, by contract, to lay off any more staff. School budget subcommittee chair Valeria Smith said an additional \$35,000 from the last round of cuts the school committee made to the '08 budget were in the "to be determined" category. "We have still not identified where to find these cuts," she said.

Rocke said it was possible the GMRSD would hear positively about state 'Pothole' money - extra aid to districts like the GMRSD that qualify and have applied for it - before the end of August. By law, the district has 30 days to either accept or reject the amended budget figure passed by the voters of the district. "It will not be reasonable or prudent" to vote on the amended budget "until we locate where these cuts will come from," Rocke said.



THEATER REVIEWS

'The Cocktail Hour'

Produced by New Century Theater; also Peter Pan

BY SUDI NIMMS

NORTHAMPTON -- A trip to Northampton is in the cards for you this weekend, if you enjoy professional theatre. Since 1991, New Century Theatre has been offering some of the best shows around. This is the last week to see A.R. Gurney's comedy, *The Cocktail Hour*. Offered at the Mendenhall Center for Performing Arts on Green Street through August 11th, Gurney paints a semi-autobiographical picture of his nuclear family.

In upstate New York, well-to-do Bradley and Ann, armed with martini glasses, ice, and top-shelf liquor, gather with their grown children to practice their nightly ritual of cocktails before dinner. When their son John, a playwright, announces that his latest work just happens to be based on the family, the defensive barbs and jabs flow faster than the drinks. Like a field anthropologist, Gurney puts the unique lifestyle of the New England WASP under his comedic microscope: A world where buried emotions and deep flowing currents are preferred to confrontation and revelation. The Hartford Courant proclaimed the *Cocktail Hour* "comic, cutting and tender." And this production is no exception.

Focused mainly on the relationship with his father, Gurney asks the tough questions: Why does John have a need to call attention to himself via the vehicle of plays? How much is he like

his father and how is he different?

It's the nature versus nurture questions we all ask ourselves -- what is really our personality, what traits did we inherit, what can be changed and what cannot?

Expertly directed by Zoya Kachadurian, *The Cocktail Hour* is a look at parental legacy. How does each generation become outmoded and what traditions, in hindsight, should be brought along and what laid aside? What are the costs of clinging to the old ways -- and what are the consequences of moving ahead?

The beautiful set, designed by Jacqueline Marolt, is exquisitely decorated and the perfect setting for familial banter. The cast includes the talented Lisa Tucker as huffy sister Diana, goddess to canines; divine Donna Sorbello as John's mother, Ann, who delicately trips down the well-hewn path of old money - without spilling a drop. Bradley, the family's patriarch, is brilliantly portrayed by New Century Theatre favorite Keith Lansdale, and John is played beautifully by NCT's producing director Sam Rush.

If you really need a reason to pop down to Northampton for a great meal and a night on the town, do yourself the favor of making it a truly memorable event by attending summer rep theatre at its best. *The Cocktail Hour* will captivate, delight, and move you in many ways. Enjoy the show!

For ticket information and reservations, call the New Century Theatre box office at 413-585-3220, or log on to newcenturytheatre.org for a more in-depth look.

PaintBox Theatre Presents PETER PAN

Adapted by Artistic Director Tom McCabe

BY SUDI NIMMS

NORTHAMPTON -- PaintBox Theatre for children of all ages is an interactive extravaganza of fun and excitement. The Mendenhall Center for Performing Arts on Green Street turns into the land of Nod, where all dreams come true. In this case, it's *Peter Pan*, a classic tale done the PaintBox way: Peter, Hook, Wendy... and in their version the whole audience flies. How? Strings? Never! You'll just have to meet them in Never Never Land to see.

In its fourth season, PaintBox is currently running its final show of the summer through August 11th. The two-hour show boasts audience participation, songs, improv silliness, artwork from local children, and healthy snacks at intermission.

Tickets are available by phone at the New Century Theatre ticket box office for \$7 apiece. Call 413-585-3220 or log on to newcenturytheatre.org for a closer look. Whatever the weather, it's sunny indoors with PaintBox Theatre.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I seem to get diarrhea more often now than I used to when I was younger. Any ideas why?

Before I offer you some general information about diarrhea, I urge you to see a doctor for a diagnosis. As I tell everyone who writes to me, I'm a journalist, not a physician.

Diarrhea is caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, certain foods, medicines and diseases. Diarrhea is a common malady that usually lasts a day or two and goes away without treat-

ment.

Here's a question for you. Ever notice how often diarrhea is mentioned as a side effect in the package inserts for medicines?

Seniors often get diarrhea from medicine. This is a complex subject.

The first issue is that seniors take a lot more medicine than younger people. The average older person takes more than four prescription drugs and two over-the-counter drugs daily. The high intake of medicine increases the odds that one or more of these medicines could give you diarrhea.

Older people have more health problems, and these add to the mix of potential causes of diarrhea. Older bodies process drugs slowly so that they tend to

stay in our bodies longer. And some drugs work differently on older people.

Then there are the problems of drug-drug interactions and overdoses because we take so much medicine and retain it our systems.

Diarrhea can be much more than an inconvenience. Diarrhea causes dehydration, which can be lethal to older people. With the fluid you lose from diarrhea, you also lose salts that your body needs. Diarrhea can make a victim pass more than a quart of watery stools a day.

Dehydration symptoms include thirst, reduced urination, dark urine, dry skin, fatigue, dizziness, fainting.

You should see a doctor if your diarrhea lasts more than

three days, or if you have dehydration symptoms, severe abdominal or rectal pain, a fever of 102°F or higher, or blood in your stools.

In many cases of diarrhea, the only treatment needed is replacing lost fluid and salts.

Adults should consume broth, non-citrus fruit juices, flat ginger ale and ice pops.

As your condition improves, you can start eating bananas, plain rice, boiled potatoes, toast, crackers, cooked carrots. Smaller meals are recommended because they're easier to digest.

When you have diarrhea, avoid dairy products, fat, high-fiber foods, sweets, spicy foods, carbonated beverages, chewing gum, caffeine, and any food or beverage that is hot.

It is common to get diarrhea when visiting a foreign country. It's so common that the medical community has a name for it: traveler's diarrhea.

The following are some tips for avoiding diarrhea away from home.

- Don't...
- Drink tap water
 - Use ice cubes made from tap water.
 - Drink unpasteurized milk or dairy products made from it.
 - Eat raw fruits and vegetables
 - Eat meat or fish unless it is well-cooked and served hot
 - Eat food sold by street vendors.

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

TO THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH

Montague Joins with Gill, Erving and Wendell for Emergency Planning

BY JOAN PAJAK



MONTAGUE - Emergencies and disasters often strike quickly, with little time to prepare. In the event you need to evacuate, it's unlikely you'd be able to find all the items you and your family would need to take with you, at a moment's notice. If you were suddenly confined to your home, would you have enough supplies on hand to get along for a few days? Planning ahead for an emergency can give you peace of mind and keep your family, pets and friends safe. In case you are

confined to your home or asked to "Shelter-in-Place," the Department of Homeland Security recommends having:

- A three-day supply of non-perishable food and bottled water (1 gallon per person per day) on hand. Don't forget a can opener and eating utensils.
- A portable, battery-operated radio or television with extra batteries;
- Flashlights, also with extra batteries;
- A first-aid kit, medications, eyeglasses, hearing aids, contact lens solution, etc;
- Extra clothing and blankets;
- Photocopies of identification, cash.

Put the supplies in a predetermined location so that everyone in the household knows where to find them, and freshen the water and food items every six months. In the event of an evacuation, you would still need

many of the items listed above, so the Red Cross recommends placing what you can in a duffle bag or a backpack.

The community of Montague is also preparing for a range of possible emergencies, from hurricanes to blizzards to a flu pandemic, act of terrorism, or large-scale communicable disease outbreak. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Homeland Security has mandated that every town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts formulate plans to administer vaccine, and dispense antibiotics or other medications to all of their residents at an emergency dispensing site should there be a bio-terrorism event or large-scale disease outbreak.

An emergency dispensing site is a temporary clinic set up

in a school, church, or other community location to provide medication and vaccine to a large number of people in a short amount of time. In order to

develop such a site locally, and establish a viable plan, people from several entities have been working diligently for the last

see HEALTH pg 18

GCB, a great financial partner.

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
TRADITIONAL PROGRESSIVE
LOCALLY FOCUSED

Supporting Franklin County
for the past 102 Years!

Greenfield, Northfield, Sunderland, Shelburne ATM
Reach all locations...413 772-0293

MEMBER FDIC MEMBER SIF
BestLocalBank.com

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Gerri Johnson
CRB, CRS, GRI

Seniors Real Estate Support

66 French King Highway
Gill, MA 01376
(413) 863-9736
Fax (413) 863-9739

The Smokin' Hippo
A Family Restaurant and Barbecue

20 French King Highway
Erving, MA 01344-4444
Phone: (413) 423-3220

More Than Just Great Barbecue!
Full Regular Menu & Liquor License
Now Serving Our Award-Winning Clam Chowder!

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11:30-9 • Sunday 12-8

Try Our Own Hippo Family BBC Blend of Beer!

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

Propane Filling Station
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Cooling System Specialist
Rte. 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.
- Gary and Nancy Melen

We engrave memories that last forever

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

"The perfect remembrance"

Simply Computing
computer set-up
training
QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
774-5451
Your Pace at Your Place

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

The Library Saves the Day

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - With Helen gone, Emaline had become Pa's favorite. She was spunky and had a sunny disposition. At the end of a long day haying the Scheiding homestead a half mile away, Pa unhooked our horse from the mowing machine and hoisted Emmy onto the old mare for a ride home. Emmy liked the idea of holding onto the brass knobs of the horse's harness hames, riding horseback like a Wild West cowboy. But just as she was ready to leave, the midwife came waddling out, hooting for Emmy to stop. She handed Emmy two jars of pickles.

"Now don't forget to return the jars," the midwife said, "and don't drop them."

With a jar of pickles in each hand, Emmy had no way of hanging on. The horse realized the day was over, and eager to go

home to be fed, he bolted down the steep hill towards home. Emmy tried to hang on with her knees but soon fell off, holding the two jars of pickles safe from harm.

Pa saw, from the odd angle of Emmy's arm, that her arm was broken. He took her to a doctor who splinted her arm, more or less straight, and sent her home. It healed, after a fashion, but bothered her forever after. With her arm in a sling, Emmy did not have to work in the fields and spent time reading.

She got books at the Slate Memorial Library in Gill Center. One of the books was a Western romance novel. I began reading it. But just as I got to the exciting part where the Indians were getting ready to attack the circled wagons, and the heroine was in the arms of a cowboy guarding the wagons, and they were engaged in some heavy duty

snuggling in the dark under the wagon, Emmy caught me reading it. "You wouldn't understand it," she said.

"If I don't understand it, what's to hurt me reading it?" But she did not let me find out what happened to the heavy breathing pair. When I tried to borrow the book from the library, the librarian would not let me check it out. I guess she, too, did not want to corrupt me.

Despite my disappointment, with no television or radio the library was our salvation. The books that lined the walls offered solace and a refuge from the oppression we felt at home. The library was open on Friday afternoons and evenings. It was only a mile or so from home. Library day was the highlight of our week. We'd hike there, together. But we'd have to slip away, one by one, so as to not attract Pa's attention.

"Do you all have to go?" Pa would demand. "Can't one of you go and get the books instead of all of you wearing out shoe leather?" We slipped away from the house, one at a time, to hide and wait to gather together for our joyful jaunt to the library, talking and singing along the way as though

we were walking down a yellow brick road.

The librarian maintained an air of reverence. We tiptoed inside and barely dared utter a word in this hallowed place. Mrs. Blake whispered to us and we answered in whispers or a nod. If anyone began a conversation, even in whispers, she'd clear her throat and admonish us with a stern look and a finger across her lips.

In winter, Mrs. Blake kept a cheerful fire blazing in the fireplace. Sitting on the fireplace benches by the comforting fire, as we browsed through books, created an escape from the world.

Irene found a bonanza in library books. We always needed paper for homework. And the school did not supply paper for that. One day, Irene noticed that there was a blank flyleaf in most books. Using a razor-sharp knife, she'd neatly remove the page, with no one but her and her conscience the wiser, until she confessed the dark deed to me. She hoped Mrs. Blake wouldn't notice. She didn't, and after that we had a supply of paper for homework. We never took more than we needed, though our conscience never ceased to nag.

Browsing through the library,

reading magazines and luxuriating in the quiet atmosphere, amidst the enchanting smell of books and the open fireplace, was a pleasure we could not convey to Pa. Communication with him was difficult at any level. And what made it more difficult was that we were not allowed to speak anything but Polish at home. Ma would let us speak to her in English if Pa wasn't home, but he took it as an affront.

Pa seemed to fear we'd learn too much from reading books. He often informed us that since he was older than we were, and since wisdom came from age, he would always have superior wisdom - because he would always be ahead of us in years. To his credit, though he had little formal education, he did learn to read Polish and was an avid reader of Polish newspapers. He reversed his dim view of the library when we brought home a Polish book left by the Bookmobile. When he found we could get Polish books at the library, Friday library nights became as important an event for him as it was for us and he didn't object to the waste of shoe leather when we left in a group.

... to be continued

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050

20 words for \$6. 15 cents each extra word. 3rd week free.

FOR SALE - High-quality legal size 5-drawer file cabinets. Finest domestic manufacture; unbeatable price: \$100. Just Things. Open Mon-Sat. Call First: (413) 498-5043.

CARPENTRY - No Job Too Small - General Carpentry and home repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, 413-863-9296.

TUTOR AVAILABLE - Emphasis on reading, writing and verbal skills. Steady clients only. Must be motivated. (413) 863-5149.

LIVING ROOM YOGA - Individual instruction and small group classes. Find your strength and passion. Serene home studio. Chestnut Hill Road. Certified teacher. 367-2658. www.livingroomyoga.net

CARTOONISTS Wanted for discussion group. Amateur or pro. Call 659-5339 or email klwilkinson@comcast.net.

Suzee says: Hey. Wash it!
Wash big stuff!
Get it all done at once!
 Up to 37 loads at a time!
(whoa.)
Always Hot Dryers!
 Suzee's Gear for sale at : www.suzeeesthirdstlaundry.com

HEALTH
 continued from pg 17

three years. These include: the Turners Falls police and fire departments, Montague board of health, Gill - Montague school administration, technology, maintenance and nursing departments, Montague department of public works, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Kuzmeskus Bus Company, Montague selectboard and our emergency management director. The emergency dispensing site for Montague residents will be located at the Turners Falls High School. In a declared emergency, the Massachusetts Department of

Public Health along with MEMA will respond to local needs for vaccine and medication and medical supplies, and will arrange for their distribution to each community around the state.

While most events requiring the implementation of an emergency dispensing site (EDS) will be relatively controlled and localized, a worst-case scenario may require the ability to administer vaccine or dispense medication to 80% of the population within its jurisdiction within 48 hours, and the rest over the next 72 hours. Large communities have more than one EDS, and most small communities have chosen to

combine with the EDS of communities nearby. Montague is currently working together with Gill, Wendell and Erving to finalize our EDS plan.

For more information on Montague's EDS plan or for a more complete list of home supplies, contact the Montague board of health, 863-2300 x 205 or pick up a copy of the Red Cross brochure on "Preparing for an Emergency" at the town hall. You can also log on to www.fema.gov, www.redcross.org, or www.ready.gov for more information on emergency preparedness in general.

Joan Pajak is public health nurse for the town of Montague.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Jack Nelson

- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.
 TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
 email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com
 65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

ICOUTURE BROS.
 Since 1910
 Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor - Retailer

CALIFORNIA BRAND PAINTS - INDUSTRIAL COATINGS
 PAINTS - STAINS - SUNDRIES - WALLPAPER - BRUSHES & ROLLERS
 COMPUTER COLOR MATCHING - SANDBLASTING MEDIA - GLASS
 ARTIST SUPPLIES - CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING/MATTING & MORE
 187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346
Celebrating our 97th Anniversary!

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO.
SCSC

Tired of that ugly patch of yard the grass just won't grow on? Beautify your property with a patio or walkway of pavers by Ideal.

Complete Masonry Supply
 Stop by and see our complete line of concrete or brick pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and much more.

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA
413-863-4322

Acupressure Massage & Hypnotherapy



Janet Masucci
 413-863-8694

Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage Since 1993
 64 French King Highway, Gill, MA 01376

Rau's Auto
 COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
 Best service licensed Mechanics

Y Full Day PreSchool
 Sign up now for Summer and '07-08!

- Quality Staff
- Beautiful Classrooms
- Exciting Curriculum
- Kindergarten Readiness

PLUS: Weekly swim and gymnastics lessons and daily P.E.

www.ymcaingreenfield.org • 773-3646

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH
 Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Miss Tess*, a modern vintage sound infused with early jazz flavors. Tess strums and picks her way through an array of rhythms, from ragtime, to jump blues, to 30s swing. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*: Rock, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heroes* - rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH
 Camp Northfield Mountain... Song Swap & Stories around the campfire. Family-friendly night of silliness & song, Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. 7 to 8:30 p.m. 800-859-2960.

The Raging Grannies perform songs for peace and justice in the Friedmann Room of the Amherst College Keefe Campus Center. Free and open to the public, 7:30 p.m. Call Diane (413) 548-9394 for information.

Turners Falls Block Party!
 Ave A parade, music and great food in a community gathering. Dancing in the streets! 3 to 9 p.m. Information www.turnersfallsriverculture.org Paraders wanted! Gather at 2:30 p.m. at Food City Parking Lot.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase* : Rock, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Drunk Stuntmen**, need we say more? Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

THROUGH AUGUST 12TH
 The *Green Trees Gallery*, Northfield, "Conceptual Portraiture" Featured are: Gene Cauthen's bronze sculptures, Nayana Glazier's acrylic color-tinted figures against distorted black and white backdrops, Margot

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
 still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA.
 7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
 (413)367-9666



Pat & Tex LaMountain with Deerfield River Junction
 Concert in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls - FREE. Friday, August 17th, 7 p.m. Felix Sonny Boy performs at 8:30 p.m. In case of rain, concerts will be held indoors at St. Kazimierz across Ave A from the park. Please check the Riverculture website for rain updates. www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

Fleck's block printing, Joe Landry's sculptures, Kerry Kazokas' oils, Kevin Slattery's depictions of celebrities, Lauren Watrous' paintings, Robert Markey's oil paintings, and introducing photos by Doug Tibbles.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16TH
 Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*: Roots Blues, 8 - 10 p.m. No cover.

COOP Concert featuring *Russ Thomas, Stephanie Marshall & Seven Mile Line*. Three 40-minute gigs each night from the Franklin County Musician's Cooperative, Greenfield Energy Park. 6-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17TH
 Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie* Johnny Cash Covers, 9 - 11 p.m.

Concert in Peskeomskut Park: *Pat & Tex LaMountain with Deerfield River Junction* 7 p.m. Acoustic guitars accompanied by cello, electric bass, guitar and three female vocalists. At 8:30 p.m. *Felix Sonny Boy* performs. World-traveling street minstrel & poet inspired by street performers of the past - Bessie Smith, Leadbelly, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Blind Willie Johnson.

SATURDAY AUGUST 18TH
 Montague Community Band Concert at "Old Home Days," Montague Center, 2:30 p.m.

Old Home Days in Wendell on the town common.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: **Gregory Douglass with Syd**. Evocative amalgamation of contemporary folk, pop, and rock. Come hear Gregory Douglass and his "lush, sophisticated compositions with underlying danger and foreboding that still seduce your heart, even when you're aware of the darkness." OK. Appearing with Syd, writer of crafty, intelligent pop; Syd won Hanson's opening band contest in 2006, appearing with them in Boston. \$10/\$12, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame It On Tina*: Folk Rock, 9 - 11 p.m.

The 3rd annual **Northfield Summer Arts Festival** on the grounds of the Green Trees Gallery, at 105 Main Street, Northfield. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 25 juried artists, including painters, potters, illustrators and other crafts people, will be displaying and selling their work. Free interactive art booths and face-painting for kids. Live

music all day long. Snacks and luncheon fare will be offered by local service organizations! Info. (413) 498-2133.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
 At The Shea Theatre, Turners Falls. Kelly Moore & Emerald Dreams Music For Mankind. www.musicformankind.net

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.shimmy-dance.com

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.

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.

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 Milkmaq descent. Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 774-7476.

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

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

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

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.

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
Friday & Saturday
August 17th & 18th 7:30 p.m.
School of Rock
 Loser Jack Black gets a job in a fancy private school, and secretly teaches students to be a rock band in this charming, uplifting, yet rebellious comedy. Directed by Richard Linklater. 2003. PG-13. 108 min. Color Special \$4 admission for anyone under age 20!
Music before movie 7 p.m.
Friday Dutchie Rides Again-rock
Saturday TBA
 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
 Main St. Greenfield, MA. 413-774-4881
www.gardencinemas.net
 Showtimes for Fri. August 10th - Thursday, August 16th
Contact Famous Bill's for a Dinner & Movie Deal

1. THE SIMPSONS MOVIE DAILY PG13 12:00 2:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
2. RUSH HOUR 3 PG13 DAILY in DTS sound 12:00 2:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
3. HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
4. UNDERDOG PG DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY PG13 DTS sound DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. HOT ROD PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
7. THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

Dona Doherty
 Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food
 Open Wed-Sun at 4 p.m.
Friday 8/10
 Rock: *Nexus*
Saturday 8/11
 Rock: *Richard Chase*
Friday 8/17
 Johnny Cash Covers: *Josh Levangie*
Saturday 8/18
 Folk Rock: *Blame It On Tina*
 Music 9 - 11 p.m. Weekends
NO COVER ANY NIGHT!
978-544-BREW
 57A Lockes Village Road
 Next to the Wendell Country Store

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 10TH
 Life of a Tree: Refuge staff present the life cycle of trees and the wildlife that depends on trees for food and for their home. Includes craft. Geared for children. 10 a.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH
 Bird Walk/Hike at Montague Sandplains. Free. Pre-register. 8 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.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH
 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

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Newest
IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
 UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
774-7775
 Easy in-town location
 Secure 24-hour access
VARIETY OF SIZES PLENTY AVAILABLE
 OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
 Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

CopyCat PRINT SHOP
 We Specialize in Impossible Deadlines!
 • full color offset printing
 • digital copies
 • oversized copies
 • files accepted via email
21 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!
 up-to-the-minute technology • old-fashioned personal service
 180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

TOGNARELLI HEATING & COOLING
 • Specializing in Repairing & Installation
 • Gas & Oil Systems • Radiant Heat, Gas Piping
 • The Gas Experts
bryant Heating & Cooling Systems
SPACE PAK Central Air - Anywhere
413-863-2295
123 Avenue A, Turners Falls

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The Waiting Season

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - Now is the waiting season. Regular rains and weeks of heat have done their job. The plants are bodacious, full and tall. They top their cages and are heavily weighted with fruit. Like trees, they have shaded out all but the most tenacious weeds. They no longer need tending. The trouble is that the tomatoes remain green. Desperate, I've succumbed to buying a couple of local hothouse fruits. They have disappointed greatly. Although big and red, they have been dry and bland. I'm now holding out for a fruit which drips juice when sliced and tingles the tongue when tasted.

To be fair, the cherries are coming in, both sweet and acidic. I eat them right off the vine and drop a few into spinach salad. They are wonderful in their own way, but absolutely of no use for the seasonal summer sandwich I crave. I'm waiting for the first annual BLT: wheat toast lightly mayoed, turkey bacon or Canadian, spinach or basil leaves, and

most important, a large slice of ripe, juicy, garden-fresh tomato. Since my tomatoes are bright green with no hint of yellowing or tinge of pink, I'm likely to be waiting another ten to fourteen days. Ditto for the sweet peppers.

On the upside, both garlic and onions are ready for the picking. Once you begin to see browning on your garlic leaves, it's time to dig them. Brush them free of soil. You can braid the leaves of several heads together if you're clever, or just store the heads without leaves. The important thing is to keep the garlic in a cool but dry place. A mesh bag is a good environment because it allows for air flow.

Garlic needs to be picked in a timely manner, because heads left in the soil will often crack open and soften, leaving them unfit for storage. Onions, on the other hand, can be harvested any time now - before frost - when they've reached the size you desire. If you want to store them, they should be brushed free of dirt and then air dried for



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

a few days.

As I reported earlier, the carrot tops in my garden were enjoyed by the rabbit. However, while the nibbled tops did not form new leaves, the roots did produce new stems with strong ferny tops, so there's hope for a small crop yet. Even if there are only a dozen or so, home grown carrots are so far from the store variety in moisture and sweetness, it's well worth the trouble. For whatever reason, the rabbit has left the remaining carrots alone. It's probably moved on to greener and more easily accessed pastures.

Unfortunately, the rabbit relocation does not mean a gar-

den free of varmints! Last week I startled a young woodchuck at the edge of the strawberry bed. Two years ago a large woodchuck dug a burrow in the daylily bed next to the vegetable garden. I spread mothballs around the garden perimeter to no avail, and finally ended up buying a gas bomb, which ended the problem. However, I am really a pacifist by nature and would prefer not to kill these critters, so I went online and read that rags soaked in ammonia would deter them. A four day trip out of town gave me the perfect opportunity to test the theory (or lose the bean

patch). I hung strips of ammoniated rag on four poles, one at each edge of the garden. I am thrilled to report that when I returned home from my trip, the garden was fully intact. Since we have had two bouts of heavy rain since then, it is recommended that you re-soak your rags in ammonia to keep the scent fresh.

Speaking of beans, they're ready for the picking. They are delicious steamed and eaten hot with a little butter. With only a little more work, you can make a cold bean salad which is very refreshing on these hot summer evenings.

Summer Bean Salad

by Leslie Brown

Steam a desired quantity of green beans until just still crispy. Chill quickly in cold or iced water. Marinate for twenty-four hours with chopped garlic and the vinegar and oil dressing of your preference. Stir to equalize the dressing, drain off the excess and serve. Enjoy the preparation and the eating while you wait for those tomatoes.

Happy Gardening!

BOND from pg 1

protection, purchased by the state; and Conservation Partnership Grants to assist land trusts with certain costs of land transactions.

These programs are all spent out, McHugh said, except for the Self Help Program, which has \$3.7 million remaining. McHugh said other programs funded by the 2002 Bond Bill, such as the Bioreserves Land Acquisition program, were never funded due to political resistance. Only the Fall River Bioreserve was actually funded; others, like the North Quabbin Bioreserve, exist only on paper.

McHugh said political discussions at the state level have suggested that land protection programs be funded through some other mechanism than the bond bill because of the state's tight credit. But McHugh said he knows of no other dedicated funding mechanism that could get the job done. Noting that Massachusetts is one of the few states to have a constitution that includes the right to a clean and pleasant environment, McHugh

stressed the need to link land protection arguments to "economic revitalization and community stabilization." He referred to a packet of information showing both the economic benefits of natural resource protection and a recent poll showing land protection to be a "top priority" among state residents.

The new bond bill is likely to be taken up by the legislature in September, McHugh said, adding that a two-thirds recorded roll call vote is required in each house for the bill to pass.

Tony D'Amato of the Department of Natural Resources Conservation at UMass, Amherst then discussed old growth forests, defining them functionally as forests never impacted by human activity. In structural terms, they are highly complex forests, with large variations in the size and age of trees and large amounts of dead wood and other coarse woody debris (CWD) on the forest floor. Of course this diversity of conditions produces a wide range of wildlife habitats.

So how old is the oldest liv-

ing tree in the Commonwealth? Would you believe 400 years? 500? By taking pencil-sized bore samples, D'Amato has found several trees to be older than 400 years, the oldest being a 492-year-old hemlock. Most old growth tracts are only 10-15 acres, too small to be considered a true forest, and are located in Berkshire County; several very old trees are in Mohawk Trail State Forest. Mount Wachusett is an exception, containing the only old growth east of the Connecticut River - about 150 acres - pretty much everything above 1,500 feet elevation except for the summit. The state also boasts a 417-year-old red spruce and a 335-year-old black birch, both of which hold claim to being the second oldest in the world for that species.

A very high amount of wood on the ground is distinctive of old growth forests. According to D'Amato's figures, a typical acre of old growth forest contains 15 cords of wood on the ground, compared to four for a second growth forest aged 70-100 years. This high concentration of natural debris on the for-

est floor, together with high numbers of large snags, contribute to excellent wildlife habitat.

Almost all of upland Massachusetts was old growth forest prior to European settlement, D'Amato said. One prominent scientist (Egler) declared in 1940 that "no original pre-Colonial forests remain on the entire Berkshire Plateau." However, old growth patches were discovered by UMass professor Robert Livingston and his students in the 1960s, and Bob Leverett and others continued to popularize their existence and protection in the following decades. Currently about 1120 acres of old growth are known to exist in Massachusetts, mostly on steep slopes and often in hemlock groves, or in low-value commercial woods that were not logged.

As for the future of old growth forests, D'Amato discussed several efforts underway to expand their presence over the long term. Numerous strategies can be employed by landowners to do this, and the

state is currently in the process of setting up 100,000 acres of protected forest areas. Private landowners may find such prospects daunting as they would need to strive to use a variety of harvesting systems, emulate natural disturbances, do thinning, leave permanent legacy trees, and provide a large volume of CWD by felling and leaving lower quality trees of medium to large size. While the ecological benefits of such long-term efforts may prove to be substantial, the economic benefits to private landowners will not.

For more information and a new pamphlet on strategies for managing for old growth forest structure, landowners can contact Paul Catanzaro at UMass Extension, email cat@umext.umass.edu, phone 413-545-4839. Individuals interested in the Environmental Bond Bill can contact their local land trust or conservation group and check the MassLand.org website for updates.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Barlow Landscaping, Excavating & Paving, Inc.
Bryan Barlow, CEO

Demolition
Seal Coating
Treework
Construction Services
Septic Systems
Paving
Snow Plowing, Sanding

P.O. Box 386
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413-772-2155
Cell Phone:
413-775-3376

413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002