



MONTAGUE ELKS
Win a championship
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GONE FISHIN'
Ain't a gremlin in sight!
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3
No. 38

50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 14, 2005

Conflict of Interest Charged AT BOARD OF HEALTH HEARING

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - WENDELL - On July 12th the Wendell board of health, with newly elected member Martha Senn absent, completed the continued hearing on proposed septic and groundwater regulation changes, with five residents in attendance. Under question was the board's proposal to reduce separation requirements between a well and a septic leach field from 150 feet to 100 feet, and the minimum distance to high groundwater for a new system from 18 inches to 12 inches, the lower distances all that is required by the Commonwealth's Title V regulations.

Bob Ellis commented that any change to the septic and groundwater requirements should be justified by scientific understanding. He said, "I fail to see how these changes would improve protection of groundwater."

Stephen Broll brought up the potential for conflict of interest on

see **WENDELL** pg 8

Dry Hill Road Paved with Good Intentions

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE MONTAGUE CENTER - In a surprisingly brief exchange of words between the selectboard, Wendell Road resident James Senn and his lawyer Michael Pill, agreement appears to have been reached in the long-standing dispute over access to the Dry Hill Cemetery. After years of legal wrangling and posturing, the road will once again be open to the general public, if a verbal settlement reached at Monday night's selectboard meeting at the Montague Center fire station holds good. While a number of issues remain outstanding, a course of action has been identified pointing the way to resolving one of the thorniest standoffs in recent town history.

With two surveys in hand, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio reviewed the progress of accurately mapping Dry Hill Road at the Wendell Road intersection, by Senn's house and property. He added the town was now looking for a solution to opening



PHOTO: JOHN REYNOLDS

access to the public cemetery "one way or another".

"What we would like to do is establish a drivable and passable road to the cemetery. We have a historical right to the road," said board chair Allen Ross. Ross did offer

Senn the possibility of opening an alternative access route to the Dry Hill Cemetery, which would require an exchange of land. However, Pill stated that his client would not challenge the town's authority over the historical roadway, and await-

ed the surveyor's visit to determine the placement of the new fence posts.

"It is down to the mechanism," Pill said. "Mr. Senn doesn't want to give up land,

see **DRY HILL** pg 10

THEATER REVIEWS

PVST and Country Players Summer Shows Sizzle

Pioneer Valley Summer Theatre Presents **Blithe Spirit** ~by Noel Coward
Reviewed June 29th
BY SUDI NIMMS EASTHAMPTON

Theatre for young and old is alive and well among the well-groomed gardens of the Williston Northampton School in Easthampton. You just can't beat this fantastic line-up of theatre favorites - a new one every week - to round out your season's entertainment. The Pioneer Valley Summer Theatre's third, traditional summer stock season is currently well underway and delighting audiences from near and far.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PVST

Mayhem and mischief abounded in Blithe Spirit.

Already passed with lightning speed are performances of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* and Alfred Uhry's *Driving Miss Daisy*, which closed July 9th. If you happened to miss either of these wonderful shows, don't worry; there are six more awaiting you!

The spectacular remaining line-up is: *Educating Rita* by Willy Russel, *After-Play* by Anne Meara, *Beau Jest* by James Sherman, *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* by Jane

see **BLITHE** pg 11

The Country Players Presents **The Music Man** ~by Meredith Willson
Reviewed July 8th
BY SUDI NIMMS TURNERS FALLS

Back in Turners Falls, the Country Players are trumpeting the onset of the summer season with seventy-six trombones at the Shea Theater. The Music Man opened last Friday with all the pomp Meredith Willson's famous musical affords.

The Music Man is the must-see story about how traveling salesman Harold Hill (Alan Maynard) gets his "foot caught in the door" by the lovely Marian Paroo (Stephanie Devine). During all the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COUNTRY PLAYERS

The State Line Barbershop Quartet also played the Town Council in the Music Man.

excitement Hill stirs up in sleepy River City, in Iowa's whilom Fourth of July season, the two fall madly for each other, despite themselves.

Highlights of the production include the harmonizing talents of the State Line Barbershop Quartet who kept the pre-

show lobby guests enthralled. After the final curtain, Jack Arnot, Tim Cornwell, Rob Lafond and Alan Shippee also delighted folks as they strolled from the show with a few more numbers, and even took requests. The expert blending of

see **MUSIC** pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Dream of



Genie

Genie is a 2-year-old tortoiseshell cat in need of a good home. She's a curious and friendly cat with new people and loves petting anywhere and everywhere. She is an independent kitty and you have to admire her moxie. She would prefer a home without dogs. To learn more about adopting Genie, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Upcoming Events

BY ELIZABETH GARDNER GILL - The Summer Reading Program is off to a great start at the Slate Library! Over 80 kids have registered for this year's summer reading program, *The Amazing Reading Race: What's Going on Around Here?!*, which takes participants, and their families, friends, and neighbors on a fun, interesting, hands-on journey back through time, with local history explorations for all ages all summer long! Our Growing Readers have been doing a great job making reading a part of their everyday activities, keeping track of their reading as they make their way around their game boards, and collecting prizes at the library along the way. All participants are encouraged to keep reading, and finish their game boards by the closing party on Saturday, August 13th, when we'll celebrate the summer with a Bicycle Day, with activities and fun for everyone. Read on for details! There's plen-

ty of summer left!

SATURDAY, JULY 16TH, 10-12: Super Summer Saturday ~ Harry Potter Party with Magician Fran Ferry! Help us celebrate the release of J.K. Rowling's latest sure-fire hit, *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. Come dressed as your favorite character in the series, try your hand at Harry Potter trivia, and listen to excerpts from the new book. Prizes for winners of Harry Potter Spelling Bee and Trivia Contests!

THURSDAY, JULY 21ST, 7-8 PM: Stories Under the Stars ~ Native American Legends.

FRIDAY, JULY 22ND, 10-11:30 AM: Story Adventures ~ The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush. We'll read the classic Tomie de Paola picture book, and take to the outdoors to paint our own stories. Participants are encouraged to bring in their own stories to share, and we'll be spending time creating new ones.

FACES & PLACES



Jim Vias and Shawn Mazur take a break from skateboarding at the corner of Avenue A and 4th Street.

FRIDAY, JULY 22ND, 6 PM: Double Feature Friday Movie Night ~ Brother Bear (G) at 6 p.m. and The Last of the Mohicans ® at 7:30 p.m. Bring something comfy to sit on. Popcorn and drinks available.

SATURDAY, JULY 23RD, 10-12: Super Summer Saturday ~ Native American Toys & Games! Come join Liz Gardner for a morning of making and playing traditional Native American toys

and games. We'll explore the Native American roots of many of the games we play now, including lacrosse, or "amtah," and field hockey, or "shinny." We'll decorate our own sticks and shells for different games of dice, make feathered darts, "buzz", and see if we can outwit each other with a fun, fast-moving hand game, much like the one we see today on the streets of New York.

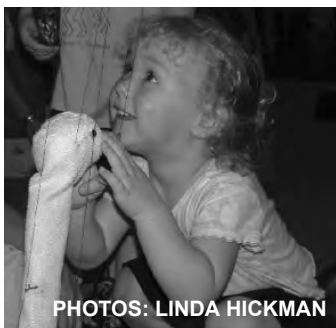
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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS



PHOTOS: LINDA HICKMAN



Left: Siobhan Davis of Turners Falls enjoyed being kissed by the goose that lays the golden eggs puppet from *Jack in the Beanstalk*. The show, sponsored by the Community Partnerships for Children, was performed at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on July 6th. Center: Sara Crowell of Turners Falls and other children helped release 10 monarch butterflies that emerged from their chrysalises at the library. The butterfly project was part of Bev Whitbeck's Preschool Story Hour curriculum. The story hour meets at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. Right: Debbie O'Carroll and numerous young assistants performed "The Irish Magic Show" at the library on July 7th. The program was sponsored by the Montague Cultural Council, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Montague Public Libraries.

LANDMARK PHOTO CONTEST



What is this downtown Turners Falls landmark? Come to the

Carnegie Library and fill out a raffle ticket with the correct answer and you may win a prize. The mystery photo contest is part of the Montague Public Libraries' Going Places at Your Library's Adult Summer Reading Program. For more information: 863-3214.

Carriers Needed!

For paper routes on the Hill near Sunrise Terrace, and for the Central Street - Prospect Street neighborhood. Routes take approximately 1 hour on Thursday afternoon or Friday mornings. Contact *Montague Reporter*, 863-8666 for more details.

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
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 July 18th - 29th

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

Monday, 18th
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 19th
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Writing class at Father Casey Hall at St. Anne's
Wednesday, 20th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 21st
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 22nd
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Monday, 25th

9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Tuesday, 26th
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Writing class at Father Casey Hall at St. Anne's
Wednesday, 27th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 Bingo
Thursday, 28th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 29th
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (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 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 18th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, 19th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 20th
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 21st
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Craft class with Tina
Monday, 25th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 26th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 27th
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 28th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:00 Noon Annual Senior Picnic. The meal will be a cold-cut platter of assorted meats and cheeses, coleslaw, potato salad, dessert and a drink. Live entertainment will be by Amherst artist John Porcini who will sing and tell humorous stories. The donation will be \$2 per person. For more information or reservations call Polly at 423-3308.

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

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Friends In Deed of the Montague Reporter

BY EILEEN TRUMBLE

The Friends of *the Montague Reporter* is a group of people who are fans of the newspaper, and are interested in seeing this small, community paper soar to new heights.

Formed in March of 2005, this group consists of about 17 people all of whom share the common goal of making this paper become sustainable for the long term and as popular as possible. So far, it seems to be working, at least a little. The group has already held bake sales, t-shirt sales, and a subscription drive. *Montague*

Reporter prose and poetry readings are in the works.

As a Friend, I can tell you first hand this group is a diverse and interesting bunch. We have writers, and photographers, regular members of the community, and people that don't even live in the area the paper covers. Some *Montague Reporter* staff attend, but mainly we are volunteers. We all have a few things in common though, we all want what's best for the paper, and none of us regret coming to the meetings.

Anyone can come to the meetings, even if you have

never come to one before. They are usually held at the Brick House, downstairs from the *Reporter* office (so no stairs need to be climbed), at 24 3rd Street in Turners Falls. At the meetings we discuss many things about the paper's needs and goals, and plan upcoming events. Meetings are limited to an hour and a half, at the most. Everyone is welcome, teens like myself, even preteens if they're interested.

I've been in this group since it started, and I can't say enough good things about it. In my mind, it has a great goal. I get to

meet, talk to, and work with a lot of absolutely wonderful people. We are flexible as to when we meet, so it's convenient for me. Everyone is really focused and works hard.

Despite the success we have had forming this group, we still need help, your help. You can help in many different ways. You don't have to become a Friend. You can help by simply telling a friend, family member, or neighbor about the paper. You can also get t-shirts at our stands at public events. Or at the *Montague Reporter* office. Same address as the meetings,

the office is on the 2nd floor. You can also subscribe to the paper by sending an e-mail to: Reporter@MontagueMA.Net. Subscription rate is \$20 for six months. New writers and contributors are also welcome. Hope to hear from you soon!

The next meeting of the Friends of the Montague Reporter is on Sunday, August 31st, at 6 p.m., upstairs at the Book Mill in Montague Center.

The brief meeting will be followed by a Montague Reporter Poetry and Prose reading, featuring David Lovelace, Paul Kennedy, and Pagan Kennedy.

The Write Place at the Write Time

BY RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE CENTER - *The Montague Reporter* is starting a reading series for mostly local writers and local lovers of literature. Or would-be lovers of literature. The first reading will begin on Sunday, July 31st, at 7 p.m. Our host for this reading will be the Montague Book Mill, and our MC for the evening will be the local wit and village oddball David Detmold.

Here's how it's going to work. If you'd like to read a poem or work of fiction or non-

fiction that's close to your heart, and you'd like to share your heartfelt words with others, show up at the mill and sign up between 6:55 and 7 p.m. Everyone who signs up will have five minutes of fame, and those whose works are well-received may be invited to come back for a longer reading at another venue.

Next, the featured readers: Paul Kaufman, David Lovelace, and Pagan Kennedy. Paul is a first-rate novelist in the tradition of Gabriel Garcia Marquez,

David Lovelace is a much-loved poet who runs the Bookmill in his spare time, and Pagan Kennedy is famous. Not only that, but she's coming all the way from Boston to help raise a little money for the newspaper.

That's Write! The reading series is a benefit for *the Montague Reporter*. There's no admission charge, but a hat will be passed around the room after everyone has read. You are free to toss in a coin, or just toss up, depending on how the reading goes down.

Brick House, Agricultural Commission Team Up to Help the Farmers Market

BY MICHAEL BOSWORTH AND ROBIN SHERMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Small community farmers' markets face a "chicken-or-the-egg" problem. Frequently, small markets do not have the number of vendors or diversity of products to draw a significant number of customers. Producers are reluctant to devote scarce time and resources to attend a market without a significant customer base.

The village of Turners Falls has had a Wednesday afternoon farmers market since 1995. The market runs from 3 to 6 p.m. at the corner of Avenue A and 6th Street, next to Peskeomskut Park. Historically, there have

been approximately six to eight vendors at the market. Many Turners residents do not have access to a private vehicle, and could therefore benefit from greater availability of fresh produce and other products at a market within walking distance. Youth unemployment and under-employment are also significant problems in the village.

The Brick House Community Resource Center, in combination with the newly formed Montague agricultural commission, has proposed a new pilot program to enhance the Great Falls Farmers Market and provide youth employment. If the program is successful, it can be applied in other communities with small farmers' markets.

The idea would be to provide a sales outlet for producers of farm products and crafts who cannot spare the time themselves be at the market, while at the same time providing employment and entrepreneurship training for a local youth. Additionally, the youth support person would help to increase the customer base at the Great Falls Farmers Market by adding variety and new producers, thus generating additional traffic and helping all participants.

Under the proposal, the youth support person would provide their own transportation, pick up goods from local farmers and producers, and sell them at the market, returning

unsold items afterward. A markup on the cost of goods would contribute to running the pilot program. If no youth with their own transportation can be found, a more limited version of the pilot - where the farmers and producers would have to drop off goods ahead of time and the youth would work just at the market itself - will be considered.

The new Montague agricultural commission hopes to be instrumental in helping the salesperson make initial contact with local farmers who might be interested in participating. The Brick House will help run the program by overseeing the search for the youth support person, helping the youth with procedures for tracking inventory and cash management, and will oversee the conduct of the program, including assurance that procedures are followed. The youth will have to be 18 or older because of labor laws that prohibit younger persons from loading and unloading items.

Total cost of the program in the first year is estimated at \$600. The Brick House has committed \$200 in funding; the agricultural commission has secured an additional \$200 in donations. The remaining cost - \$200 - is still being sought. Anyone willing to help, to apply for the youth support position or to participate in the pilot project, please call the Brick House at 863-9576.

Wendell Friends to Gather, July 25th

On July 25th, friends will gather to consider how to improve news coverage in Wendell, and how the *Montague Reporter* can help. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the home of Jonathan von Ranson and Susan Dunlevy, 6 Lockes Village Road (next to the library). Writers, former

Wendell Post contributors, and all interested residents of Wendell are invited and encouraged to attend.

It is likely that with more involvement, better coverage of Wendell news and issues would result.

For more information, call 978-544-3758.

Memorial Bench Dedicated at Rau's Sunoco

BY JEFF SINGLETON - **MONTAGUE CENTER** - On Thursday, July 7th, the Montague

a service station," according to Larry Peters, a member of the fire department. The Rau's purchased



Ralph Rau Jr., left, Rusty, center and Shirley Rau try out the new bench at Rau's Sunoco.

Center Volunteer Fire Department presented Rau's service station on Turners Falls Road with a "memorial bench" in honor of the late Ralph Rau Sr. Rau, who died a year ago, on July 11th, is survived by his wife Shirley and his son Ralph Rau Jr. He had been a member of the fire department and a number of other community organizations, including a bowling team called "Ralph's Harem," of which he was the only male member.

Rau's service station, which is located just north of Montague Center, on Turners Falls Road, is "more like a destination than just

the station in 1965, when it was a simple structure that resembled a barn. They renovated the building in 1967, but it has retained its homey atmosphere and community feel.

The memorial bench, prepared by Andy's Oak Shop in Greenfield, has been placed right in front of the station, where Ralph Sr. could often be seen talking to neighbors and friends on a hot summer day. According to Peters, Rau was "not a big AC man," preferring real fresh air. "You always saw him sitting out there," Peters said, "when he wasn't working, of course."

Montague Parks and Recreation Summer Programs

Registrations are still being accepted for the following programs:

Children/Youth Programs - Summer Playground Program, Tennis Lessons, Soccer-Mania Soccer Camp, American Red Cross Babysitting Course.

Teen Programs - Tennis Lessons, American Red Cross Babysitting Course.

Adult Programs - Tennis Lessons, Tennis Doubles-Mixer League.

For more info: call the MPRD Office at 863-3216.

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

Editor David Detmold	Layout & Design James Damon Boysen Hodgson Katren Hoyden Karen Wilkinson	Photographers Sarah Swanson Joseph A. Parzych Anne Vadeboncoeur et al.
Assistant Editor Kathleen Litchfield		
Circulation Jean Hebden Julia Bowden-Smith	"The Voice of the Villages"	Technical Administrator Michael Muller
Founded by Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold August, 2002		

Good Old Fashioned Self-Reliance

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

Need relief? In today's hectic society, we communicate at a rapid rate via email and cell phones; some lack "land lines" all together. We absorb report after devastating report of deaths from "terrorism" around the world, blaring out of our car radios and living room televisions. Gas and fuel prices are soaring as the war in Iraq rages on.

Each August, there's one place where thousands of people find solace from the inundation of computer technology, dire news and the hectic lifestyles many of us lead from week to week.

It's at the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)'s Summer Conference. For three decades, the NOFA Summer Conference has fueled individuals with a sense of optimism, ideas of how to set things right in the world and practical ways to enhance their lives through good old-fashioned self-reliance and Yankee ingenuity.

Want to learn to raise goats for fiber or cows for free-range beef? Spin wool or weave a rug? Discuss the politics of organic food or national security? Grow amazing annuals and perennials? Purchase handmade goods from soap to socks and immerse yourself in a small town country fair? Dance the night away with new friends inside a barn or enjoy an organic beer by a campfire beneath the stars?

It's all waiting for you at the NOFA Summer Conference, from August 11th to 14th at Hampshire College in Amherst.

The NOFA Summer Conference carries a renewable energy theme this year --

"Celebrating Our Bond with the Earth and Each Other" -- featuring the Pre-Conference on "Appropriate Uses of Biodiesel and Recycled Grease in Vehicles and Furnaces" on Thursday, Aug. 11th and the morning of Friday, Aug. 12th.

The main conference from Friday the 12th through Sunday the 14th features what is sure to be a lively debate on "What Price Renewable Energy?" with proponents and opponents of the Berkshire wind tower proposal along with an advocate of radical simplicity, Jim Merkel of Vermont.

In addition to 198 intensive educational workshops -- for all ages -- on topics ranging from farming, gardening, homesteading and activism to organic land care, spirituality, health and politics, the conference also boasts a Saturday evening meal comprised entirely of locally-produced, organic foods.

The keynote speaker on Friday evening is internationally renowned peace and simple living activist Satish Kumar, founder of Schumacher College and editor of *Resurgence Magazine*.

There is something quintessentially New England about the idea of learning how to make do with the resources available in our own hills and farms and woodlots. No mass call-ups, no invasions of foreign lands are necessary.

For many, the four-day conference is a special haven, a place to get away from it all, but also to challenge assumptions, to feel inspired, and to hear the call of the simpler ways of life.

Visit www.nofa.org to register or for more information!

Notice to Readers

As in past years, the *Montague Reporter* will publish biweekly during the months of July and August

There will be no paper next week.

SIGN ME UP!
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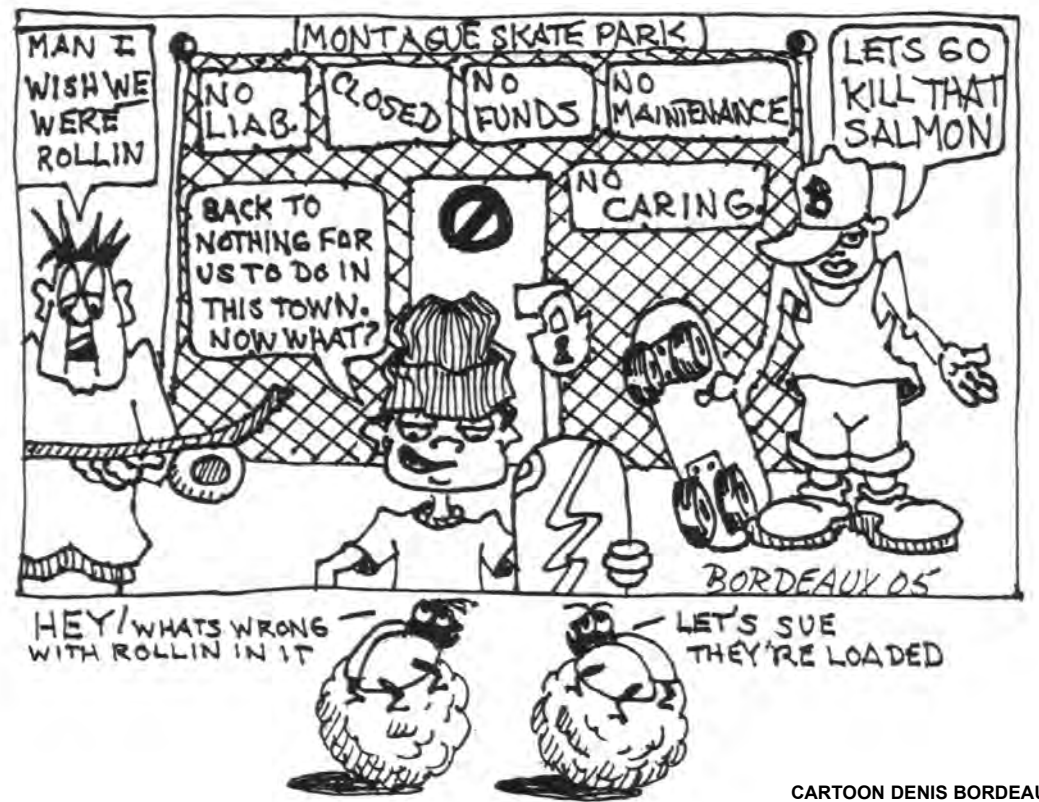
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MEANWHILE, BACK IN MONTAGUE...



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bear Sighting in Montague Center

On Tuesday, July 5th, a baby bear walked in our driveway and went past our driveway and onto our yard. It went out of our yard and into the neighbor's yard. Then it walked across Mik's yard and climbed over the fence and across the road and went across another person's

yard and then past their yard. Then it went past the compost and into the swamp. And me and Jackson saw all of it.

The bear was cute and it stayed away from us. You don't have to be afraid of the bear. It's more afraid of you than you are of him. It was exciting to see the

bear.

- Lucia Mason, Age 6
Montague Center

(The bear was sited at Jeanne Weintraub's house, next to the Congregational Church on the common at about 6 p.m. July 5th.)

The Montague Reporter is Goin' Places

I attended the wake of Mildred Campbell, recently. She was 100 years and one month old. She was my niece's mother-in-law. At the wake, I was introduced to her son who lives in Florida. He said, "Joe Parzych? I know that name. I love reading your articles in that Montague paper."

Someone sends the *Montague Reporter* down to

him, and he sends them on to his brother in Arizona.

At Anna Viadero's writer's workshop, a woman said she sends her *Reporters* to someone living in a distant city, who then forwards them to someone else. She likes the recipes.

I just thought you'd like to know.

Joe Parzych,
Gill

We welcome your letters.
The Montague Reporter

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FAX (413) 863-3050 reporter@montaguema.net

**American
Dead in
Iraq
as of 7/13/05**



The Only Acceptable Solution on Dry Hill Road

BY SUE SAN SOUCIE

MILLERS FALLS - After Monday's (7/11) selectboard meeting one can only wonder what is behind the seemingly simple resolution for access to the town owned Dry Hill Cemetery. Access to this historic cemetery has been blocked for many years by cable barriers and No Trespassing signs. The once direct route from Wendell Road up Dry Hill Road to the cemetery now has electric fencing and seems to be located very close to existing buildings. James Senn of Wendell Road admitted that his grandfather closed off the road years ago and no one from the town seemed to care until recently.

Members of the Montague cemetery commission, Montague selectboard, Montague highway department employees, and interested citizens of Montague have made several treks via other roads and paths to clean out the overgrown brush at the cemetery over the last several years. The route over Dry Hill Cross Road and down Dry Hill Road is barely passable by a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Walking is the only safe way to traverse this route. Dry Hill Cross Road has large boulders and pieces of ledge in the roadway. It is very isolated, and not a route one should take alone.

On my first trip to the cemetery, selectboard member Pat Allen and I were standing directly in front of this historic site, and we did not even know the cemetery was there.

It was so overgrown with brush that no gravestones were visible. We certainly should have realized we had discovered it, though, as the entire surrounding landscape was a beautiful mowed meadow.

So here was this overgrown patch of land with very well maintained acreage around it. At our complaint, Mr. Senn did clear some of the brush from the entrance to the cemetery so it could be found by future



A broken gravestone marks one of more than 100 untended graves in the town-owned Dry Hill Cemetery.

expeditions. Pat and I went back. We brought others who helped clean the cemetery out.

And you cannot get a gravestone specialist there with equipment to fix the broken

It has been cleared out several times since then, only to have the brush grow back due to the lack of continued maintenance.

Some adventurous folks have hiked and biked to the cemetery from Route 63 in Montague, up Dry Hill Road to the top, across washed out areas of roadway. This route is not passable to any vehicle.

And so the story goes, "You can't get there from here." You cannot drive your car to the cemetery to visit a gravesite. You cannot drive a truck there to take in equipment to clear out brush. You cannot get a truck with a trailer and a mower there to mow the lawn.

stones or reset the bases that are in dire shape due to neglect.

After continued negotiations with Mr. Senn and his lawyer, and discussion back and forth about the consequences to the town if the road were reopened, where the road really is located, who will rebuild the road, who will maintain it, where it will go, who will suffer, who will gain, and so on and so forth, Mr. Senn seemed perfectly willing to allow the old town road to the cemetery to be marked out again, through his land. I can only wonder where this is all leading. Monday night's resolution seemed all too simple.

A walking path to the cemetery will not change the cemetery's landscape. Nice to visit, but not maintainable. In the cemetery commission's viewpoint, access means vehicular access, directly up the "historic" road from Wendell Road. No other solution is acceptable.

Sue San Soucie is a member of the Montague cemetery commission.

AN EYE ON TOWN FINANCES

What if the Sewer Override Fails?

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

MONTAGUE - On August 1st, Montague voters will be asked to decide whether to approve a debt exclusion of \$2,280,000 to fund 40% of a total \$5.7 million worth of improvements at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). According to handouts from the town's engineer on this project, Camp Dresser McGee, the average homeowner's tax bill, at the peak impact of borrowing, should experience something on the order of a \$48 increase in their tax bill as a

result.

A positive vote would mark a significant change for funding projects at the WWTP, since for over a decade they have been funded entirely by sewer users' fees. The decision to go to a debt exclusion vote raises several interesting questions.

The first question - whether all town taxpayers should pay for a portion of the proposed sewer work, instead of just sewer users - has already been answered, at least for now. In a decisive majority, town meeting

members decided the answer to that question is "yes". That deci-



sion has led to the second question, to be answered August 1st: should taxes be raised to cover

those costs?

But there's a related question I hope will enjoy lively discussion in the weeks before August 1st, and that is whether the outcome of the vote will determine the fate of the project or simply the mechanism for paying for it. In discussions I've heard, the importance of a "yes" vote has been stressed because the project is necessary. The implication is that a "no" vote will make the repairs and improvements to the sewer system and the treatment plant impossible. I agree that the

town needs to do the project, but I'm less convinced that a negative vote will stop us. All it will mean is that we won't be raising our taxes to pay for it.

From what I can tell, the decision to recommend funding the taxpayer portion with a debt exclusion was made pretty much at the last minute. In fact, the decision to use tax monies at all seems to have come late in the game, as evidenced by the unusual situation - unique, in my experience - of having two

see FINANCES pg 6

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Housing Grant Approved

BY IVAN USSACH

The Erving selectboard was notified by the Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) that its community development block grant (CDBG) for housing rehabilitation has been approved by the state. Erving was the lead agent for the seven-town joint grant, which totals \$1.2 million, and includes the towns of Bernardston, Leverett, New Salem, Northfield, Warwick and Wendell. A similar proposal had been denied funding last year by the granting agency, the Mass Department of Housing and Community Development.

Paul Douglas, HRA's executive director, said the state approved all five of the proposals the HRA submitted, covering 14 towns in Franklin County. "That made us very happy," Douglas said. The five grants total \$3,655,960. Speaking of the "Erving" grant, Douglas said it received the #1 ranking in the state, which he said "speaks to the credit of our staff." According to Douglas, grant funds will be

made available to individual homeowners and multi-family properties where tenants are income-eligible and owners agree to keep units affordable.

HRA director of community development Donna Cote said the grant covers a total of 30 units for the seven towns, with the goal of an equal number of units for each community. Erving is slated for five units. A maximum of \$30,000 will be available for each unit. Cote said the grant also includes \$24,000 for lead paint risk assessment inspections.

After receiving official notification of the award and getting the contracts in order, Douglas said the HRA will conduct extensive marketing to publicize the availability of the program funds - hopefully within the next three months. In addition to the media, this may include direct marketing, Douglas said. The HRA submits a similar application every summer.

The selectboard voted to approve the purchase and sale agreement for the Mitzkovitz property located in Erving near the French King Bridge. The

town will purchase the 8.23-acre parcel for \$165,000. A closing date of July 29th or sooner is expected. The parcel is located in the town's Zone II aquifer recharge area, and is expected to be protected from development to ensure the safety of local water resources.

The board received a copy of correspondence sent to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by engineering consultants Tighe & Bond, concerning the Maple Avenue Landfill in Farley. The new round of testing required by DEP to determine the safety of the landfill has begun. On July 7th, contractors installed a half-dozen or more test wells to detect potential leakage of liquid from the landfill. In addition, air testing was done inside the two town highway department buildings currently located inside the gate of the old landfill, at the end of Maple Avenue. The memorandum also stated soil gas monitoring was conducted on July 7th, with no methane detected at any of the monitoring sites.

In other news:

The board is in the process of forming a search committee for the police chief position. Town residents interested in serving on the search committee can contact town administrator Tom Sharp at 413-422-2800, ext. 100.

Town moderator Richard Peabody informed the board of two applicants for the vacancies on the town finance committee. However, with both applicants being town employees, it was determined they are not eligible to serve on the committee due to potential conflicts of interest. The town still seeks residents to fill the two vacant slots.

Under the Employee Fuel Oil Program, the board approved a pre-paid price of \$1.95 for town employees who choose to participate in the program; the 30-day payment price will be \$1.98. The applicability of extending the program to retired town employees will be investigated.

The board received a letter from Verizon inquiring about possible cell tower placement on

Mountain Road. However, board member Jeff Dubay stated that the desired location is not in an area zoned for cell tower placement.

Bob Bitzer has notified the board of the need for structural improvements to the French King Bridge, to repair or replace decaying material. Jeff Dubay will check into the matter.

The board approved a one-time payment to MIAA for town insurance for FY '06. By making a one-time payment the town will save \$347.

Bill Bembury was recommended as the point person for submitting requests for CORI checks on recreation commission summer employees who will be working with children.

The board will submit paperwork to the state to become eligible for grant funds through the Commonwealth Capital program. The program ranks applying municipalities according to criteria that reflect adherence to the sustainability principles developed by the Romney administration.

FINANCES

continued from pg 5

motions for one article, with the final wording passed out moments before the vote. Whatever the merits of those decisions, I think it's fair to say that they hadn't been very thoroughly thought through before town meeting, and I think the discussions on town meeting floor confirmed that.

Although I have expressed doubts, as someone who is not on the sewer, about the fairness of asking all taxpayers to fund this project, I'm quite willing to accept the majority's decision in this case. But I'm less willing, at this point, to simply accept the notion that a debt exclusion is the only way to pay for it.

Personally, I think we are far

too willing as a town to assume the only way to fund large capital projects is by raising taxes. Perhaps I'm being too simplistic, but it seems equivalent to thinking that in our personal lives the only way we can buy a car or take on a mortgage is to get a pay raise. Of course, for most of us, that's not how it works. If we need to pay for a big expense over time, we find the money in our regular budgets, and if it means cutting back on something else, then that's what we do.

It's purely a matter of opinion, but my experience on the finance committee and on the capital improvements committee has led me to the conclusion that as a town we should be spending more on capital projects than we are, and I think the results of not doing so are

all around us. From our sidewalks to our highway department fleet to our town buildings, I think we have invested too little and deferred too much. There are exceptions - the annual purchase of a police cruiser is an obvious example - but I think their rarity proves the general point.

From what I understand, the annual cost of this project to the taxpayers will be about \$150 thousand. That seems like a lot of money, but I'm reminded that we just added about \$115 thousand a year to the operating budget for what were described as long-overdue and well-deserved pay increases for town employees. Nobody spoke up at town meeting of the need for a tax increase to cover employees' pay raises.

This was the same meeting

that agreed the only way we could afford the \$4,735 portion of a dump truck lease not covered by Chapter 90 funds was by dipping into the stabilization fund. In fact, I don't think we funded a single capital item from taxation, a clear break from past practice. But barely a month later, we voted to add \$10,300 to the DPW budget, all of it coming from taxation, and again there was no mention of an override.

I'm starting to think there's something wrong with this picture, and I think we as a town need to talk about it. I'll credit Clark Edwards with saying for years that we need to look at our priorities and compare them to the amount of money we have to spend. I think he's right, and I think the longer we put it off the harder it will be. If

the upcoming debt exclusion vote fails, the town will be left facing some hard choices, but part of me wonders if that might not be a good thing in the long run.

Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974, a capital improvements committee member since fiscal 2002, and a Precinct 2 town meeting member before that. He served on the finance committee for several years. He can be reached at mjnaught@crocker.com, or by looking in the telephone book. The views expressed here are his own and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government, or anywhere else for that matter.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Library and Town Office Projects Advance; Complaints on Fiske Pond Heard

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

On June 29th the selectboard heard reports of progress on the new library project, the proposed new town offices on property recently purchased from Anne Marie Meltzer, and the new town property at Fiske Pond. The board also met with an applicant for town accountant, and discussed the position of half-time assessor with the board of assessors.

The board received word the Massachusetts Historical Commission has approved a grant to help restore the front two thirds of the present town office building, to make way for the construction of the new library, with some conditions. Librarian Rose Heidkamp was delighted that all the commission required was:

- An archival photographic recording of the demolished back third, inside and outside, ("including one picture of Ted Lewis in his chair?" asked selectboard member Dan Keller) with a set of prints going to the Historic Commission, and another set of prints staying in Wendell.

- A public interpretive exhibit of the old town office to be kept on display in the foyer of the new library.

- The mothballing and stabilization of the old library under Mass Historic's review, and according to the instructions on their website.

Regarding the site of the proposed new town offices, Keller reported that hazardous materials, mostly paint, will be removed from Anne Marie Meltzer's house by the date the town closed on that property, Friday, July 1st. He said the fire department is planning to burn the structure.

As for public swimming at Fiske Pond, administrative assistant Nancy Aldrich reported she had not yet gotten an opinion from the Department of Public Health about testing the water at that recently acquired town property. The local board of health thinks weekly water testing is required for public swimming, but a sign posted at the pond might make that unnecessary. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said there was a Pittsfield company that would test the water for \$35 instead of the \$100 fee the town had been considering.

A neighbor of Fiske Pond, Kim Smith, came before the board with several complaints about the public's use of the pond, especially on the night of the summer solstice, June 21st. She said there were 21 cars parked along both sides of the street, drums were being played at the road until 9:00 p.m., and there were still 11 cars - and noise - at 10:00 p.m. She said she called police chief Ed Chase about the problem.

Keller told her that "No Parking" signs were on order, and that in another week cars not parked in the lot, or parked after dark, could be towed. Smith asked if she could call Dave Arsenault's Towing, but Keller told her she needed to call the police, and they would call Arsenault. Keller suggested she call members of the selectboard, the conservation commission, or the Friends of Fiske Pond. Heard suggested she meet with the conservation commission if problems persist, and Lewis suggested Chase be at the meeting as well.

Norman Flye met with the board, responding to the open position of town accountant. He

has been working for Buckland one day a week, though not yet as an accountant. He manages a bike shop, and worked as one of Dale Kowacki's team doing accounts for 11 area towns. He said the town of Buckland was hoping that if he were hired in Wendell the two towns could combine the positions and provide benefits.

Heard recommended that the board talk with people in Buckland about him, and the board asked that Flye provide a resume and references to Aldrich, and then meet with them again for an interview in two weeks.

Town assessors Paul Sullivan and Mary McBride addressed the board concerning the position of half time professional assessor, as approved at the annual town meeting. They had reviewed and were basically satisfied with the sample job description from Leverett, and they asked Aldrich to put ads in local newspapers, keep a copy of the job description in her office, and set up interview times. Sullivan asked if the position included benefits, and finance committee member Lee Trousdale said, "Yes." Lewis asked that the selectboard be informed of any interviews, so they could attend them along with the assessors.

Seal Lamadeleine met the board with a request to continue renting the town hall, starting again in September, for dances the first Friday of every month. At the April 6th selectboard meeting, Lamadeleine had arranged to rent the hall twice a month until July, and she considered those spring dances a success; her cleanup satisfied the town custodian.

She also hopes to rent the

town hall for movement classes for children, four weeks in August, charging on a scale that allows low income children to attend, and asked if it were possible to use the town common for those classes in good weather. Keller said the minimum fee would have to be \$15 to cover the largest summer expense: pumping the town hall tight tank, a cost incurred even if she had classes on the common and used only the bathrooms in the town hall. Selectboard member Christine Heard suggested she contact the town recreation committee, Robbie Heller, to see if she could get him to sponsor her and cover the cost of renting the town hall. Keller told her she could contact town coordinator Nancy Aldrich after speaking with Heller.

Sigrid Hughes and William Labich from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (COG) met with the board regarding a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan offered by the COG. Hughes said that the plan was an awareness tool, and that the town was not required to take action on any of the action items, but once the plan is adopted by the selectboard, the town would be eligible for FEMA grants to go towards recommended actions. Road boss Dan Bacigalupo, fire chief Everett Ricketts, and police chief Ed Chase all have copies of the plan. The board voted to adopt the plan provisionally, and allow time to review it more completely before accepting it permanently.

Heard told the other board members she had followed up on a previous noise complaint from Cooleyville Road resident John Cremins, who had come before the board on May 18th to

complain about a band practicing late at night near his home. He told her that since that meeting, the band had continued practicing, but now they stopped before 9:00 p.m.

The board signed a letter thanking Don Chapelle for the years of work he has put into the conservation commission and as representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

Keller reported that he and Lewis walked around a town owned property on Cooleyville Road to see how appropriate it might be for a town public water supply. It is in the Quabbin watershed, and the parcel is large enough so a well can be placed easily within the legally required 150 feet from any border. The whole area is wet, so a road would need to be built for well digging equipment, and the conservation commission would have to be consulted.

Aldrich told the board that the amount of USDA borrowing the town is contemplating will require yearly audits.

A representative of the telephone company met the board with a request to place five poles on Farley Road, going 900 feet beyond the last house on the same side of the road. The poles are already tagged and lying in place with stakes marking their proposed location. The board approved the new poles.

At the close of the meeting, Keller gave a summary of a conversation he had with Lee Trousdale of the finance committee about the effect of all the large capital projects the town is considering. Broadly, the town is retiring a similar debt load, and the resulting change in the tax rate will be relatively small, Keller said.

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continued from pg 1

the board, because, he said, board member Donald Richardson owns hundreds of acres in town which could be developed more easily with less restrictive regula-

tions, and his brother runs a prominent excavation business. He said it would be prudent if that potential conflict were researched by counsel. Former board member Gloria Kegeles added she thought Richardson should recuse himself from the decision

because it was an ethical violation for an official to make a decision that involved money for himself or members of his family. Board member Harry Williston called that comment was out of order, but Mary McBride demanded, "How can you say that?"

Williston said, "We will have to review that with town counsel." He asked if there were any more comments.

McBride said, "I don't think there is anything more valuable than clean water; I think the old regulations were thoughtfully conceived." Ellis asked again what science justified changing the old regulations, and Williston said, "The board will have to

check it out further." Mason Phelps said it seemed clear that more separation would allow more protection.

Williston said that the proposed new regulations established minimum separations, and that a responsible engineer and health agent would insist on more separation if conditions warranted them. Phelps said that developers and sometimes engineers just accept the minimum legal requirement, and protection of groundwater would then be left up to individual homeowners.

Broll said, "I would feel more confident if I knew that things would stay at home, and not travel in a plume of contamination down gradient from a leach field."

Williston said, "I know there are underground streams. Burt Goddard doused to find my well and we located my septic system with that in mind." Broll said that a greater distance would mean it takes longer for pollutants to travel from a septic system to a well, and if you can find information I would love to hear about it.

McBride asked why the changes were being proposed, and Richardson answered that the old regulations make the cost of building excessive. McBride said, "That's it? Just money?" and Richardson answered, "There is no identifiable benefit, but the (added) cost is significant." McBride asked, "Do you consider the cost of cleanup? If you can't drink water out of the tap, it gets really expensive. These changes are like electric heat: it saves money on installation, but the later cost is high."

Richardson said he has not been able to locate any information that convinces him that the larger separation provides needed


protection. McBride insisted this was a matter of common sense.

Kegeles said that the role of the board of health was to protect the environment and public health, not to contain short term costs. All these changes will cost more in the long run, requiring homeowners to replace shallow wells with deep wells, allowing widespread pollution that will require chlorine to be added into drinking water, she cautioned. Chlorine combines with organic compounds in water to make carcinogens and compounds that cause birth defects, she said. She submitted two names for the board to confer with: Marcia Benes, of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, and Paul Nietupski, a Title V engineer, and the DEP in Springfield.

Ellis reiterated his opposition to the changes, especially the idea of valuing short term costs over long term protection. He said there was a good reason why the town has never had more than 2,000 residents; the land will not support more.

Williston said prior to the meeting the board had received four written comments post-marked on time, and one post-marked late but received on time; three of the five supported the changes, and the other two opposed them.

Phelps suggested that the board hold off on changes until they can demonstrate, using available science, what their effect will be. He questioned if this second part of the hearing was legal since the entire board was not present. Williston said Martha Senn will listen to the tapes made in the second evening of the hearing, and he closed the hearing citing other business the board needed to attend to.

Broll asked if there was a way for the public to keep up with the decision making process without attending every meeting. Williston answered that a decision would not be made tonight, and probably not at the next meeting either. At Broll's suggestion he said the board could post the information. 

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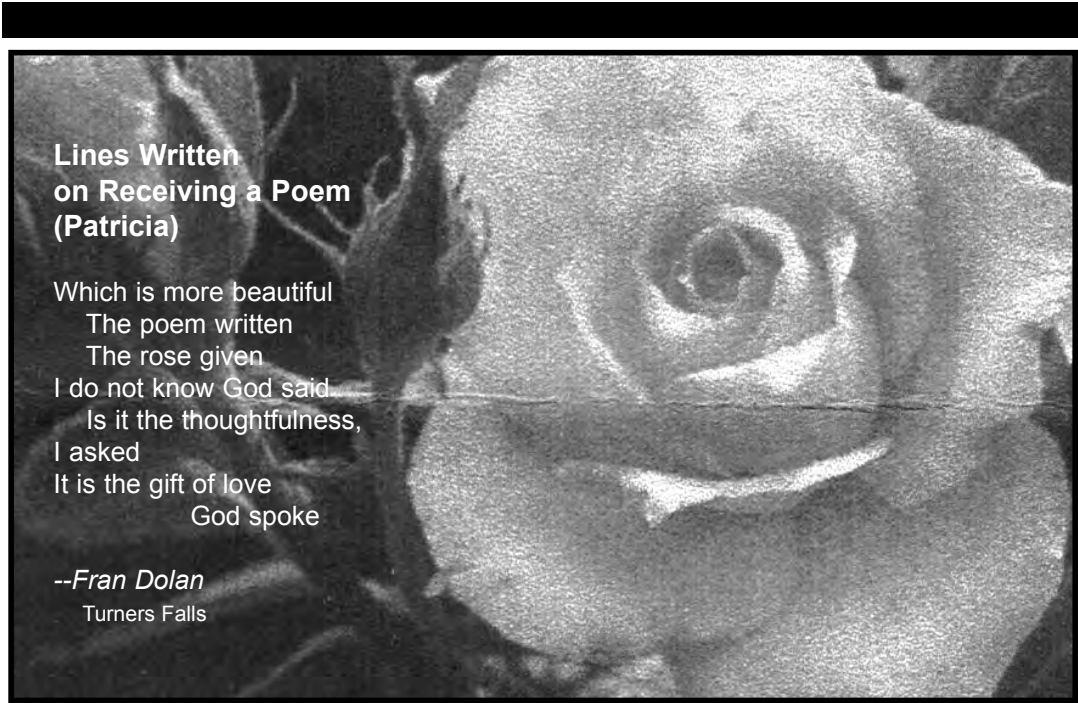
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Is it the thoughtfulness,
I asked
It is the gift of love
God spoke

--Fran Dolan
Turners Falls

*the
poetry
page*

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

- William Carlos Williams

What I Had Missed

There were circus elephants
coming down Main Street
gray and wrinkled and
triumphant
noses in the air stingray
ears undulating
bright red blankets with
gold embroidery such
flamboyant finery so
out of place on
mountainous gray backs.

a war were finally over
or some anniversary
were upon us but I
could not recall seeing anything in
the newspaper or
hearing anything on
the radio.

I could only stand
gaping in silent confusion
as the great gray beasts
paraded by
wondering what
I had missed.

--Paul Kaufman
Montague

Banners and pennants
fluttered on lamppost
and telephone pole as if

Thanks to all who submitted
poetry for this issue. The
Poetry Page will return in
August.

In the end we know
less than all the things we found.
Start cleaning today.

STUFF
--Sita Lang

Readers are invited to send
poems to the Montague
Reporter at 24 3rd Street,
Turners Falls 01376; or
reporter-poems@montague-
ma.net

POND FREEZING

Still spirits awaken near dawn,
their voices rise entwined
from underworld currents,
searching solid form.

Deep dead winter whips
slash through the pond;
a haunting, hollow, sorrowful song.

Snapping in anguish,
short shallow gasps,
then long high wails; a thin wire
winding tight.

Ghost babies giggle
and glass shards tinkle
forming ice crystal fingers
that play a dead sand shore.

Now desperate groans roar
and fall toward daylight,
spitting, hissing, gasping. Still.
Frozen.

--Sita Lang

Summer

What news will the summer bring,
now that spring has past?
While blossoms rise and sparrows sing,
and verdant fields grow fast.

What news, then, will tomorrow share,
but that spring's affairs won't last?
That the labors upon which lovers dare,
shall ripen, and spoiled, be cast.

-- Raymond DiDonato

Saxophone Sadness

Downstairs afternoon
saxophone sadness
Hitchcock's Rear Window,
dark cloud caps

never no sun come
out of her perhaps
tropical get away
from it all naps

downstairs saxophone
beret type taps
afternoon saxophone
solitary jazz maps

beatniks brooding
in a turtleneck flat,
afternoon downstairs
saxophone sadness

downstairs afternoon
saxophone sadness,
subterranean glimpse;
beards, brass and poets

downstairs saxophone
fluttering gladness
upstairs prose prone
typewriter claps

Ti Jean sitting
surrounded by cats
downstairs afternoon
saxophone sadness

- a poem in memory
of Jack Kerouac

--Doug Turner,
New Salem

"The Old Red Bridge"

(Turners Falls)

Battered and worn, you creak, you sigh,
A guarded beggar soon to die,
Sentenced for crime it did not know,
Unless it be a sin to grow
Too old for service, much too old
To brave another winter's cold
And the wild rage that March may bring
To herald the approach of spring.

Return you ghosts of long ago.
Return and sing his requiem low,
Come back along the lamp-lit way,
Horse-drawn carriage, coach and shay,
Acclaim him - a good bridge can
Be such a royal friend to man.
The old must ever give way to the new
Old friends must die, old bridges too.

--Johanna Dolan
Turners Falls



[This poem was written by Francis Dolan's mother, Johanna, after the bridge was dismantled in 1942. The Old Red Bridge, built in 1878, was a smaller version of the Brooklyn Bridge and built by the same engineer - both were suspensions. The abutments stood some 400 feet above the dam.]

Raymond DiDonato lives in
Wendell with his wife and two
children. He is a researcher at
UMass and enjoys writing.

Doug Turner, 53, married to
Sue, father of two, recently a
granddad, housepainter,
reporter, writer, poet, navy veter-
an, resident of New Salem since
1987.

Fran Dolan, distinguished
defense attorney and master
rose gardener, was the last mod-
erator of Montague's open town
meeting.

Sita Lang, originally from
Minnesota, has resided in
Turners Falls since 2003. She is
the owner of Plow Frau and Bow
Wow, and writes for her own
amusement.

Paul Kaufman lives in
Montague Center and likes to
write fiction and poetry.

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

the poetry page

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Mary Lou Emond
CRS, GRI, CBR

DRY HILL continued from pg 1

nor put a fence in the public way," he added.

Ironically, it is the location of such a fence that has been a major sticking point for the town all along.

Pill wanted the selectboard to understand that Senn approved of working with a surveyor, adding that his client could hire one of his own should there be differences of opinion as to the exact location of the road.

"Should there be a divergence on the map, the town is prepared to move forward. Let's not let the atmosphere be misleading," replied Ross.

While the discussion remained focused and respectful, some issues may yet prove to be stumbling blocks on the road ahead. Cemetery commission member Sue SanSouci asked whether the town was planning to make the road accessible to vehicular traffic. She reminded the selectboard that getting maintenance equipment to the cemetery could be difficult otherwise.

"The town will have to look at it. It's a steep road up there," replied Ross.

"The goal is to get access by the average citizen," added Pat Allen, member of the selectboard.

Finally, in what appeared to

be a test of the evening's pleasantries, John Reynolds asked whether existing drainage could be used by the town to handle the issue of runoff. In a split second response, his finger raised to make the point, Pill declared, "There are no drainage easements!" This may pose a problem, because Senn has repeatedly stated he will not allow his land to be affected by runoff or by road surfacing materials spilling onto his property.

"Why should the town after so many years bear so much of the burden? We were blocked off, couldn't maintain the road. Now we have to fix the decay," asked Mark Bander, reflecting the exasperation of many present.

"They blocked the access, but never damaged it themselves," responded Pill. While Senn and his attorney were thanked for their time, it was apparent those present doubted whether a smooth road lay ahead on the oft-contested Dry Hill Road.

Cable RFP Affirmed

In other matters, the selectboard once again considered the issue of local cable access and a request for proposals (RFP) to determine a local access provider. Two months ago, in a two to one vote, the board agreed to issue an RFP to determine what entity would best serve the town's needs for local

cable access. For the past three years, Greenfield Community Television Inc. has been the town's local access provider, working within the framework of a letter of intent, which has been the subject of sometimes conflicting legal interpretations. Monday night, in a letter read aloud at the selectboard meeting, town counsel William Hewig, of the law firm Kopelman and Paige, gave the green light to move ahead with issuing the RFP, stating that any legal challenge to the board's decision would be unlikely to stand up in court. When the former selectboard made the decision to give GCTV rights to serve the town of Montague, stated Hewig, it should have gone to town meeting to ratify its decision. If it did not do so, Hewig said, the town's agreement with GCTV is not legally binding.

At a special town meeting called by citizen initiative petition on December 5, 2001, town meeting overwhelmingly passed a resolution asking the selectboard to "extend the contract of Montague Community Cable, Inc. (also known as MCTV) as the community access provider for the town of Montague, with service provided to Gill and Erving, through 2003." Town meeting has taken no other vote on the issue since then.

Before December, 2001,

MCTV was the town's cable access provider for 11 years.

Ross, who voted against issuing an RFP (which is not required for a town to choose a cable provider), made it clear differences remain over the decision and over the specific content of the RFP prepared by the town's cable advisory committee. But the board agreed to reach a final version of the cable RFP at its regularly scheduled August 8th meeting.

Montague Center Concerns

John and Lynn Reynolds spoke for the preservation of agricultural land. "We're going to lose farms. It is tough to keep marginal farms from going under," said John Reynolds. "Tax assessments are too extraordinarily high," added Lynn Reynolds, referring to the fact that the tax rate for farm buildings is the same as for other commercial uses in Massachusetts. She urged town leaders to be proactive, although this aspect of the tax code is governed by the state legislature. The town's new agricultural commission will meet on Tuesday, July 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall. It is open to the public and seeking members.

The Greenfield Road bridge was also raised as an issue of concern for local residents. Abbondanzio said he was engaged in ongoing dialogue

with engineers from the Massachusetts Highway Department about the bridge.

Town planner Robin Sherman reported on the problem of road erosion along the Sawmill River, north of the intersection of Meadow and Greenfield Roads. According to Sherman, damage from storms during the period of March 27th - April 14th, 2004 were responsible for the erosion. As a result, the town is eligible for funding from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, a federal program which will reimburse the town for 75% of the cost of the \$205,000 needed for mitigating the erosion.

"The problem doesn't threaten the road now, but it will," said Sherman. The Montague DPW would pay for the balance, likely out of Chapter 90 monies, according to Abbondanzio. The board approved the application for federal funding, contingent on the written approval of DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron.

Landfill Update

Abbondanzio also provided an update on the proposed Turnpike Road landfill project. Following the approval of town meeting to issue an RFP for the project, the engineering firm of Camp Dresser and McKee has completed a draft request for proposals. The revised document will be presented to the selectboard - and to the public - for televised hearings. The final decision to approve a vendor and project would be up to town meeting, Abbondanzio said.

Abbondanzio said he hopes to have a decision about the vendor made by January or February, and - with town meeting's blessing - a contract by March. However, he cautioned the current timeframe could be hasty. He said it might be years before groundbreaking could actually occur at the landfill.

In other business

Revisions on the town's new noise regulations will soon be completed. A public hearing will be scheduled for input at a date to be determined.

The Turners Falls streetscape beautification project is making great progress. Most of the planters have been adopted by local businesses and individuals. A competition will recognize the best efforts.

The Northeast Foundation for Children has closed on its 66 2nd Street property; renovations have begun there.

Great Falls Middle School 4th Quarter Honor Roll for Grade 7

FIRST HONORS

Juliana Aprileo
Ashley Bailey
Jill Bernard
Emma Butynski
Katelyn Flaherty
Lucas Foley
Matthew Garber
Ashley Gibson
Megan Grimard
Olivia Nicotra
Carlyn Perry
Sergiu Placinta
Evan Pleasant
Cayla Pollard
Kathleen Rinaldi
Dustin Rivard
Elena Rushford
Christopher Shattuck
Sarah Underwood
Alex Westfall
Matthew Wozniak

SECOND HONORS

Donna Lee Bettencourt
Kayla Breor
Jaryd Buzzell
Amanda Carlisle
Samantha Horan
Cassandra Kazar
Jacob Lapean
Melani Sicard
Yaritza Torres

THIRD HONORS

Eric Bastarache
Meagan Beauregard
Hannah Brown
Nataliya Buhakova
Daniel Cruz
Joshua Cruz
Christopher McMahon
Justin Pacheco
Cassandra Rounds
Kathleen Sikoski
Amanda Smith
Chelsea Tela

Great Falls Middle School 4th Quarter Honor Roll for Grade 8

FIRST HONORS

Yekaterina Alimova
David Bennett
Leah Booker
Samuel Colton
Julianna Coyle
Theodore Dunbar
Nadezhda Filobokova
Joshua Gammon
Jodi Hallett
Nicholas Imbimbo
Kelsey Kane
Erin Kelley
Atma Khalsa
Kimberly Nelson
Sara Pease
Shelby Sayer
Nicholas Skarzynski
Jeremiah Wawrzyniak
Jessica Westover
Lindsey Wilson
Samantha Wondoloski

SECOND HONORS

Kimberly Arsenault
Emma Banning
Christopher Humphrey
Danielle Moore
Erika Romashka
Gaige Tencati

THIRD HONORS

Raegene Abbott
Benjamin Banash
Jake Benedict
Justin Bernard
Brandon Breault
Ashley Costa
Jay Demers
Adam Felton
Allison Giknis
Tyler Hagmaier
Tanishia Heath
Amber Henry
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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Assessors Find a New Member; Planning Board May Hand Off Special Permitting to ZBA

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The sole remaining member of the Gill board of assessors appeared before the selectboard on July 11th to recommend a replacement for Fred Rutz, who resigned from the assessors post last month. (Don LaChance, who was elected to the third, open, seat on the assessors declined to accept the position.) Greg Snedeker, elected with LaChance at the May town election, placed the name of JoAnn Greenleaf into nomination, and she was approved by unanimous roll call vote of the selectboard and Snedeker. Greenleaf will bring considerable experience to the role; she is currently the director of assessing for the town of Montague.

Assessors' clerk Harriet A. Tidd, who officially retired last month, is still working to keep the files in order in the assessors'

office, until her successor can be hired. According to administrative assistant Deb Roussel, the town has received four applicants for the position. Since one of the applicants is Greenleaf's son, Greenleaf will be recusing herself from the interview process, Roussel said.

On Monday, July 11th, the selectboard sent a letter to the planning board, endorsing proposed revisions to the town's zoning bylaws to transfer special permitting authority from the planning board to the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). After a peer-to-peer consultation with Deborah Dachos, director of planning for the town of Agawam, the selectboard agreed with the recommendation to revitalize the largely moribund ZBA, expand it from three to five seats, and grant it the power to authorize special

permits for various land uses in town. Taking this task from the planning board, it was felt, would allow the planning board to spend more time actually engaged in long range planning for the town.

The planning board would have to hold a public hearing on the proposed bylaw changes. The planning board will begin to consider the selectboard's recommendations at their meeting Thursday evening, July 14th at 7 p.m. In their letter, the selectboard said, "We look forward to working with you to effect positive changes for the future of Gill."

Also at the Monday, July 11th meeting, the selectboard accepted bids for stone and gravel and bituminous concrete (\$37 per ton from Lane Construction). Trew Corp of Sunderland won the bid for

traprock (\$9.80 per ton), Warner Bros. took the bid for 5/16ths inch crushed stone (\$8.65 per ton) and Mackin took the remaining bids for a variety of crushed stone and gravel at anywhere from \$4.06 per ton for bank run gravel to \$8.88 per ton for 1 1/2 inch crushed stone. The board remarked on how the rising price of gas seemed to have affected the bids from contractors farther afield.

Sergeant Redmond of the Gill police stopped by to ask the board to authorize a Homeland Security grant application, for \$1200, for more radios. He remarked that the federal grant money available for the town's emergency preparedness was \$840 less than last year. The grant will be split with the fire department, Redmond said.

The selectboard signed purchase orders from various

departments, including \$20,000 for a new Jaws of Life extraction tool for the fire department, (an expenditure approved at the June town meeting), and \$500 for repair of a clutch and spring on fire engine Number #3.

Roussel reported John McDonough of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department had personally assured her that help was on the way for painting the Gill town hall, through the prison's community service work program. "Maybe by fall," said Roussel, "but definitely by spring."

"Fall would be better," replied board chair Phil Maddern. "The church is getting painted, the store is getting painted..."

"...We've got to keep up with the Joneses," finished Ann Banash.

BLITHE

continued from pg 1

the Universe by Jane Wagner, and *The Nerd* by Larry Shue. Each show runs Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Being fortunate enough to attend *Blithe Spirit*, I was entirely engaged by the period set and professional acting. The more one attends theatre, the more one may find it difficult surrendering to the suspended disbelief good theatre requires. There was no problem leaving the real world behind as I was swept up into the Condomine's living room in 1941 Kent. The tennis match dialog kept all of us on the edge of our seats waiting for the next domestic zinger to end the match 40s/Love.

Not only does the PVST provide excellent, local shows for adults, this season has three outdoor performances for children. The classic stories of *Charlotte's Web*, *Stone Soup*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, presented by the Theatre for Young Audiences, will captivate the hearts and minds of younger audiences whose willing belief is more easily available. Their performances run Wednesdays through Saturdays at 10 a.m.



MUSIC

continued from pg 1

The expert blending of these gentlemen's voices alone was worth the price of admission.

Another strength of the show was the singing quality of the chorus. Usually not a standout of local productions, the quality of sound produced by River City's townsfolk won the audience with its strength and sweetness. Who cared if the kids could play their instruments, after listening to the parents sing?

The Costume Crew was in fine fettle. The combination of Deb Closson, Gail Villeneuve and Sharon Weyers should be added to the list of modern-day superheroes - The Thrilling Three, or something. They really outdid themselves outfitting every cast member to the nines with the utmost care and authenticity.

Alan Maynard devoted his considerable talent to the lead role with wit and energy. His Harold Hill was at all times a solid presence on stage, his sound singing voice enchanting, and his charm enough to loosen the stays of the starchiest librarian. Maynard is one of the local greats who has given himself to various theatrical organizations and their shows over the years. He is always a delight to watch - never steps out of character for a second - and can give a look or raise an eyebrow with more eloquence than most declaimers utter lines.

Other outstanding performances were turned in by Andrew Boivin as "delinquent" Tommy Djilas; Stephanie Devine as Marian Paroo who sang so sweetly; Alex Fortune as Winthrop Paroo, who tickled all of us with his rendition of "Gary,

Indiana"; Sara Gibson as Zaneeta Shinn, giddy daughter of the town's mayor; David Grout, a natural in the part of Marcellus Washburn, who generously shared his good pacing and humor; Marvin Shedd, the bumbling but well-intentioned Mayor Shinn; and Amber Sumner who portrayed a graceful and humble Ethel Toffelmire.

Directed by Richard Martin, this production, like any gem, had a few minor flaws. Some awkwardly long scene changes, for example, could have been eased by the orchestra playing a few riffs while we waited.

The cleverly devised set design by Ivan Park and Richard Martin enhanced the experience and well utilized the limited space at the Shea. The orchestra was placed in view atop the scenery, interesting to observe. The single, solid backdrop had a swivel

panel in the middle, changing Main Street into the Paroo porch in nothing flat. And a portion of the orchestra seating area was cleared to make way, as needed, for the interior of a train, part of Marian the Librarian's workplace and a footbridge with ingenious, simple devices.

Theatre is a genuine gift to the human experience. It makes us laugh, cry, think, sing and applaud. We can forget our daily hassles and become emerged in a story not quite our own, but not entirely someone else's. For those reasons and more, you will enjoy treating yourself to a live theatre performance or two wherever you go this summer.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Theatre's 2005 season will run through August 20th at the Williston Northampton School in Easthampton. For tickets and information, please visit their website at www.summertheatre.net, or call 413-529-3434. The Country Players' The Music Man will continue this weekend on Friday and Saturday nights, July 15th and 16th at 8 p.m., and there will be a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, July 17th. For reservations, call the Shea Theater at 413-863-2281.



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Inflow and Infiltration a Burden for Wastewater Treatment

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE is facing federal and state EPA mandates to clean up its act on combined sewer overflows (CSO), which allow untreated sewage to flow into the Connecticut River from three different locations in town. If voters approve the proposed debt exclusion to help pay the cost of the \$2.2 million repairs needed to solve the CSO problem, they will raise the tax levy, on average, about \$150,000 a year.

Some have protested it is unfair for non-sewer users to pay for anything having to do with the town's sewer lines, even if it is the town as a whole that faces federal fines for failing to correct a major environmental problem. But town administrator Frank Abbondanzio puts this argument on its head by arguing that Montague taxpayers are already realizing a subsidy from sewer users for the treatment of rainwater and groundwater that finds its way into the sewer lines - and is treated at the wastewater treatment plants in Montague and Ervingside along with metered sewage. The town receives a discounted bill for this unnecessarily treated rainwater and groundwater - termed "inflow and infiltration" - but the per gallon rate is a fraction of what sewer users pay to treat metered sewage.

Bob Trombley, director of the Water Pollution Control Facility, could not say exactly how deep this discount to the taxpayers was. But he said inflow and infiltration makes up a huge percentage of the flow received at the treatment plants in Montague City and Ervingside. "In Montague, the percentage of 'I & I' at the Greenfield

Road plant is approaching 45%," said Trombley. "At the Ervingside treatment plant, Montague contributes 55% of the flow (since the paper mill there shut down), and 55% of Montague's flow comes from inflow and infiltration."

Ervingside treatment plant operator Mike Pierce seemed surprised to hear Trombley's "I & I" estimate. "Are you sure he got the percentages right?" he asked. Most of the sewer pipes in Millers Falls were replaced in the 1990s, which should have eliminated a large portion of the groundwater leaks and old storm water drains connected to the system. But Trombley stuck by his earlier quotes, although he could offer no concrete explanation for the high inflow and infiltration flows in Millers.

"There's defects in any system put into the street," Trombley said. But in the 90s, when the new pipes went in, the town surveyed homes throughout Millers Falls to identify sump pumps that might be connected to the system. These sump pumps, removing unwanted groundwater or runoff in homeowners' basements, are one likely source of unwanted - and unmetered - inflow to the sewer lines. "Wherever we found a sump pump connected to the system, we ordered the homeowner to disconnect," Trombley said. But he admitted no follow up survey had been conducted since.

Trombley said the total cost to Montague taxpayers for inflow and infiltration was estimated at \$121,369 for Fiscal '06. Abbondanzio pegged the number even higher - over \$145,000 - nearly equal to the annual

increase taxpayers will face if the debt exclusion vote passes August 1st.

If the combined sewer overflow remediation is coupled with planned improvements to the Montague wastewater treatment facility, the combined repairs will cost the town roughly \$5.7 million. But this money will buy very little in I & I abatements, Trombley warned.

"There's some money in there for smoke testing roof leaders," he said. Roof leaders from flat roofs in downtown Turners, still connected to the sewer system, are another source of I & I, but Trombley said they likely provide only a small fraction of the total flow.

A much larger portion of I & I flows come from the 10% of Montague sewers that still combine metered sewage with stormwater lines. "We're not going to be separating these," said Trombley.

Still, the wastewater boss said anything the town could do to focus on and reduce the problem of inflow and infiltration now would reduce the impact of added debt service for the upcoming CSO and treatment plant repairs. Fixing leaking manholes, sending TV cameras up pipes to search out groundwater leaks or uncapped storm water lines, and checking for excessive flows in the system are ongoing projects for the WPCF. But average citizens can get involved too. So, if your neighbor's basement stays dry all through a rainy spring while you have to wear rubber boots to walk down to the laundry room, take heed! Maybe that intermittent humming noise you hear is the sound of a sump pump adding to your tax bill.

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST The Old Toll Bridge



The Old Montague City Toll Bridge

COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY LIONEL GIRARD

MONTAGUE -In February 1792, Lyman Taft and other interested men petitioned at the General Court in Boston for a bridge across the Connecticut River, between Montague and Deerfield, above the mouth of the Deerfield River.

Finally, in June 1796, by virtue of an Act for them, a corporation was formed and shares sold to pay the cost of the bridge.

On November 26th, 1802, the bridge was opened to traffic between Montague and Deerfield. The bridge, according to specifications, had to be at least 25 feet wide, the flooring of plank and the sides boarded up to four feet for the security of travelers.

It was a wooden bridge, consisting of four arches, each 120 feet long. The arches were ten inches wide and twenty inches thick, made up of planks placed one above the other so as to break the joints, and held together

er by large iron bolts.

The whole unit, all connected by huge timbers, was supported by two abutments and three piers, all of stone. The length of the bridge was 620 feet and cost about \$11,000.

The bridge was destroyed or partially destroyed in the following years: 1813, 1824, 1828, 1838, 1859 and 1861 and was totally rebuilt in 1869. This last covered bridge across the Connecticut River, between Montague and Greenfield, was built by H.A. Wright and Brother in the year 1869. It was built with tracks across the top. The first train crossed over this new bridge on November 16th, 1869.

It was not until the greatest of all floods hit the Connecticut River on March 18th - 20th, 1936 that this old bridge, the largest of its kind in the country, succumbed to the pounding waters and ice rushing down from the north.

North Quabbin Garden Tour

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Mount Grace, Tully Lake and numerous small streams and garden ponds can be enjoyed.

The tour is from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and are available that morning at Maple Valley Farm or outside the Wheeler Public Library in Orange. Tix in advance from: the Miller's River Environmental Center, Lu's Florist in Orange, and Athol Agway. Lunch available at the North Orange Church, established in 1781. There will be plants for sale at the Maple Valley Farm Stand.

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Psychic Fair, Spiritualist Workshops Highlight 93rd Annual "Camp Week" at Lake Pleasant

BY DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT - The National Spiritual Alliance will observe its 93rd Camp Week program July 15-24. All events except TNSA's annual meeting and election of officers are open to the public and will be conducted at Thompson Temple across from the post office.

The Camp Week 2005 schedule includes:

Friday, July 15th, All-you-can-eat community dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16th, Psychic Fair from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., featuring mediums using various divination techniques to obtain information for those who consult them, including astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, spiritual-counseling, and tarot cards.

Sunday, July 17th, Sunday services at 3 p.m. with Rev. Betsy Newton, speaker, and Caroline Grinnell, moderator.

Monday, July 18th, Medical Intuitive Workshop from 2 - 5 p.m. with Judy Marz. Developing your Psychic Abilities Workshop from 7 - 9 p.m. with Katherine Mayfield.

Tuesday, July 19th, Past Life Regression Workshop from 2 - 4 p.m. with Rev. Betsy Newton. Psychic Development Circle from 7 - 9 p.m. facilitated by Rev. Betsy Newton and Katherine Mayfield.

Wednesday, July 20th, Spiritualist Runology Workshop from 2 - 4 p.m. with David James. All Message-All Healing service from 7 - 9 p.m. with Rev. Betsy Newton, Katherine Mayfield, and other TNSA certified mediums.

Thursday, July 21st, Multi-Culture Meditation Workshop from 2 - 4 p.m. with Rev. Charlotte Gordon. Healing Pyramids Workshop from 7 - 9 p.m. with Rev. Susan Ferency.

Friday, July 22nd, Walking Tour of the History of Spiritualism in Lake Pleasant from 6 - 7:30 p.m. with Louise Shattuck and David James, followed by a narrated slide show of the history of Lake Pleasant from 8 - 9:30 p.m. Shattuck, 85, is a third generation resident of Lake Pleasant and her family roots reach back to the beginning of the village in 1870.

She and James are authors of "Spirit and Spa," a pictorial and anecdotal examination of the "glory days" of Spiritualism in Lake Pleasant a century ago.

Saturday, July 23rd, TNSA Convention, including Annual Meeting and Election of Officers from 10 a.m.-noon; Annual Banquet at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 24th, Services at 3 p.m. with Rev. Eileen McGrath, speaker, and David James, moderator.

Participants in afternoon workshops will be eligible for a drawing to receive a free Spiritualist Runology reading by David James to follow each afternoon workshop.

Lake Pleasant was founded as a summer recreational community and initially drew thousands of visitors from numerous religious faiths, as well as fraternal and political organizations.

The New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association was organized in 1874 and Spiritualists from around the country and around the world turned Lake Pleasant into a "Mecca" for believers in conti-

nuity of life and communication between those in human form and the formless souls of the spirit world. Lake Pleasant is the oldest continuously-existing Spiritualist community in the United States.

In 1913, Spiritualists in Lake Pleasant parted paths over the issue of reincarnation. Spiritualists who believed that reincarnation was the method by which the eternal soul progressed toward perfection split from the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association and formed The National Spiritual Alliance. While NESCA ceased operations in 1976, TNSA continues to attract thousands of visitors each year for Sunday services, courses and workshops, Psychic Development Circles, Psychic Fairs, and other Spiritualist events.

TNSA tenets include belief in an eternal and infinite creating and evolving energy source, the interconnectedness of everything, the siblinghood of humanity, personal responsibility for thoughts, words, and deeds, con-

tinuity of life of the soul, communication between the worlds of form and formlessness, and reincarnation as the method of progression toward perfection.

For more information, visit the TNSA internet website, <http://www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org>.

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Religious Services

Baptist

Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, Greenfield, 774-6438
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth Bible Club at 6:45 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, 10 Prospect, Turners, 863-9083
Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Christian Science

First Church of Christ Scientist, 110 Federal St., Greenfield, 773-9765
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
25 Bank Row, Greenfield, 772-

8514 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Congregational

Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m.
First Congregational Church, 19 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 659-3430
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Bible study Wed. at 7 p.m.

Episcopal

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Prospect St., Turners, 863-4602
Sunday at 9 a.m.

Friends (Quakers)

Mount Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, Rte. 63, Leverett, 548-9188
Sunday at 10 a.m.

Jewish

Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield, 773-5884
Friday at 6 p.m. (first weekend of

the month) and Saturday at 9:30 a.m.; schedule does vary, it is advisable to call in advance

Lutheran

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave., Greenfield, 773-5242
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Nondenominational

Grace Church, 41 K St., Turners, 863-2771
Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

National Spiritual Alliance
2 Montague Ave., Lake Pleasant, 367-0138 Sunday at 1 p.m.

Unity in the Pioneer Valley Church
401 Chapman Street, Guiding Star Grange, 625-2960; Sunday at 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic

Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K St., Turners, 863-4748

Saturday at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday at 8 a.m.; and Tuesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m. (Confession one half hour prior to mass)

St. Anne's, J St., Turners, 863-4678
Sunday at 8 a.m. and daily at 7 a.m. through February
St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435
Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585
Saturday at 4 p.m. and weekdays at 7 a.m. through October

Salvation Army

72 Chapman St., Greenfield, 773-3154 Sunday at 11 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist

All Souls, 399 Main St.,

Greenfield, 773-5018 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

First Parish Unitarian, Main St., Northfield, 498-5566
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ

Evangelical Congregational Church (UCC),
11 Church St., Erving (978) 544-8658

First Congregational Church (UCC),
4 North St., Montague Ctr., 367-9467 Sunday at 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Turners Falls (UCC), 148 L St., Turners, 863-9844 Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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Homemade Pleasures Abound at the bellybowl

BY AMANDA GARRISON
TURNERS FALLS - The bellybowl restaurant opened just before Christmas last year, on the corner of 4th and L Street in downtown Turners Falls. It is a cozy, comfortable place to eat, and ideal for parents with small children.

The food is high quality, homemade and distinctive. Breakfast foods include items such as homemade wheat blueberry pancakes with real maple syrup. Another hot item I can personally recommend are the "belly fries," homemade fries from potato and sweet potato, sautéed in onion and garlic. Customers can help themselves to delicious Columbian coffee and a variety of teas.

Lunch items vary to include items such as falafel sandwiches, or a portabella mushroom sandwich with roasted red peppers. A variety of made-from-scratch soups and hot specials are served buffet style.

For dinner, customers can enjoy great food served buffet style, priced by the pound. There are also a variety of

homemade baked goods and pastries offered.

The prices are competitive, and the food is one-of-a-kind. Co-owners Elaine and Michele Fournier-LeMay take pride in the

fact that all of the food served is made on premises, even the bread! No pre-packaged or frozen foods here, and the bellybowl offers many organic and vegan options.

The atmosphere is quiet and relaxed. You seat yourself, and order from the counter to have your food brought to your table. The dining area is admirably decorated and serene, with a bit of an outdoor feel. There is local art on the walls, and an excellent kids' corner with an assortment of toys and books to keep



Michele Fournier-LeMay with cooling loaves of homemade bread at the bellybowl

kids occupied while adults linger over coffee. On the day I was there, most customers who came in the restaurant brought one or more children.

"There are so many things that make this unique from other restaurants," said co-owner Michele Fournier-LeMay. "Since it is a small restaurant, we know many of our customers by name, and offer them customized menu items."

They decided to open up the restaurant because they have a "passion for food." Empathizing with her younger customers, Michele said, "I love to play

with food." The Fournier-LeMays wanted to share their recipes with people in the area, along with their love of food and entertainment.

The bellybowl invites local musicians to perform on the handsome semicircular hardwood stage. Every second Friday of the month an open-mic night is held for people to stop by, sing, or read poetry. On Saturday, the restaurant will host a movie night.

The owners are also encouraging poetry readings, and hope to eventually open the restaurant space to yoga classes and child birthing classes.

The bellybowl is located one block off the main street of town. Although parking is limited, there is a municipal lot located halfway down 4th Street towards Avenue A. The restaurant hours are Tuesday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The bellybowl is closed Mondays.

Innovative Forest Landowner Cooperative Unveils HomeGrown Wood™ Products on July 18th

The Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative (MWC) is celebrating the arrival of their new line of green-certified forest products with an event at Hall Tavern Farm in Charlemont. HomeGrown Wood™ products-which include character flooring,

grade lumber and post and beam timbers -are created from trees sustainably harvested from local forests and processed in local sawmills. Guests will see MWC's new product line, meet cooperative members and see a sawmill demonstration. The event starts at 10 a.m. on July

18th. "Our HomeGrown Wood™ floor is so beautiful," says Emily Monosson of Montague, MA. "It's really important to us to know that the wood came from healthy local forests and was made by people in the community."

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Kristina Ferrare at the Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative at (413) 397-8800 or email kristina@masswoodlands.coop.

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Montague Elks Win Newt Guilbault League Championship



BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - On Friday, July 1st, the Montague Elks beat defending champions Pipione's 2 games to 1 in a wild Newt Guilbault League championship series that went right down to the wire. The roller coaster series was filled with excitement and drama, but in the end the Montague Elks prevailed to win the title.

The Montague Elks dominated game one on Wednesday night, June 29th, beating Pipione's 11-2. Derek Thayer was the winning pitcher for the Elks. Thayer also had a big night at the plate with a home run, double, and a single. Zach Bartak also homered, and singled twice. David Garcia had two hits on the night for Pipione's. Brandon Boroski and Jacob Eugin each had one hit for Pipione's.

On Thursday, facing elimination in game two, Pipione's responded with a big 7-5 victory. The team put game one behind them and got back on track. Pipione's was down 4-2 in the bottom of the third inning when Ryan Wilder doubled in two runs to bring the score to 4-4. Later the same inning, David Garcia put Pipione's in the lead, belting an inside-the-park two-run homer.

Garcia was also the winning pitcher on the night, going the first three innings, and helped secure the win with his glove at shortstop. With the game on the



PHOTO: SHAWN WOOLSEY

Teammates of the Montague Elks cheer triumphantly, following their championship victory

line in the sixth inning, Garcia made a sensational diving play to catch the ball in the gap and double off a Montague Elks base runner at second base. The play was so spectacular even the Montague Elks fans were cheering.

Jacob Eugin pitched the final three innings, only giving up one run to get the save for Pipione's. Eugin also had a single, double, and an RBI. Derek Thayer had a triple, single and two RBIs on the night for the Montague Elks. Zach Bartak had a single, dou-

ble, and an RBI. Ryan Wagner had one hit for the Elks.

In Friday night's decisive game 3, the Montague Elks beat Pipione's 11-10 in an exciting game to clinch the championship. The Montague Elks broke a 10-10 game in the bottom of the sixth inning when Skyler Reipold hit a sacrifice fly to left field to score Derek Thayer, who beat the throw to the plate.

It was an emotional victory for the Elks players, coaches, and fans after the team had

squandered a big lead in the top the sixth inning. Pipione's had many opportunities to win the game, but made some crucial base running mistakes early in the game that would come back to haunt the defending champs in the late innings. In the top of the first, with the bases loaded and two runs already in, Garcia tried to steal home and was thrown out at the plate. It cost the team a chance for a huge inning, and killed their momentum. Pipione's had another base runner thrown out at home plate in the third

inning, and two other careless base runners thrown out on the bases in the fourth. The Montague Elks took advantage of Pipione's mistakes and built a 10-3 lead going into the final inning.

The game seemed to be over, but the Montague Elks closer Derek Thayer gave Pipione's new life when he struggled with his control. He walked a bunch of hitters and hit two batters before being pulled from the game. This forced the Montague Elks to rely on two younger inexperienced pitchers (Connant and Zilinski) to get the last outs in the most important game of the season. Pipione's managed to tie up the score on them, forcing the Elks into a make or break situation in the bottom half of the inning.

Colby Zilinski was credited with the win for getting the last out. Derek Thayer had three hits, including a home run for the Elks. Casey Blanchard had a double and two singles for the Elks. Mike Connant also contributed with two singles. David Garcia had 3 singles for Pipione's. Ryan Wilder also had a triple and a single for Pipione's.

Game 3 Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	F
Pipione's	2	0	1	0	0	7	10
Montague Elks	3	0	4	2	1	1	11

Turners Falls Firefighters Babe Ruth Prep Team Takes Championship



DETMOLD PHOTO

Members of the Turners Falls Fire Association receive the championship trophy from the coaches of the Fire Associations' Babe Ruth 13-year-old prep league team. (left to right) Firefighter Kyle Cogswell, Team Manager David Campolo, Firefighter Jason Veaudry, and Coach Bill Phelps. The Turners Falls Fire Association squad bested the rival team fielded by E.W. Martin on the 4th of July at Abercrombie Field in Greenfield. Winning pitcher Ethan Phelps (13 and 1 on the season) batted two for two, as did Jaren Luttenegger. Ethan stole home for the winning run. John Keir got the save, pitching one and a third innings, and driving in a two-run double in the third inning.

June Elk of the Month

At the Lodge meeting on Thursday, July 7th, Doug Brown, Exalted Ruler, awarded the June Elk of the Month Award to Judy Hastings. Judy was chosen for this award because of all the work that she put into making the Montague Elks *Relay for Life* team effort such a success. The team raised more than \$2500 and walked for 24 hours. The money raised from the relay goes for cancer research. Judy's husband, Kevin, walked over 40 miles in the relay.

This is another good example of the motto of the Elks order, *Elks Care ~ Elks Share*. Many thanks Judy!



PAM LESTER PHOTO

Judy Hastings, left, Montague Elks June Elk of the Month recipient, and Doug Brown, Exalted ruler of the Montague Lodge.

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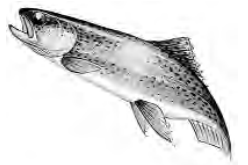
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Learning to Fly Fish Part 12

Independence Days



BY ARIEL JONES

MONTAGUE - July 4th weekend was looking perfect. We finally had glorious weather forecast, warm and dry. I decided to take a long weekend and immerse myself in fly fishing.

Holidays can be tricky for people who live alone. You might be perfectly happy, then suddenly you wake up right before a big holiday and the Lonely Gremlins are sitting there looking smug and satisfied.

"Get up, get up! Ooh, it's a BIG holiday. Families, couples, relatives are all out today having fun! Oh, I forgot. You're all alone here, aren't you?"

Too bad. Of course, it's your own fault. Made some unfortunate decisions along the line, didn't you? I heard, by the way, that ___ has a really nice boat now. Probably taking it out today with the family. And of course ___ is a big city lawyer, VERY successful too. Probably spending the holiday on the Cape. Well, you could always

call ___.
O o p s ,
their kids
are coming
in for a
couple
of days..."

"Shut up! Shut up! I hate Bar-B-Que!" I got up and left the gremlins cackling to themselves, realizing that taking a few days off might be tricky.

I remembered something very important. If I think about myself it can often turn morbid, so I called Tom and discovered that the Swift River was being stocked as we spoke. To hell with gremlins; I'm going fishing.

I decided to try a new route to



A great day at the Y Pool on the Swift River

the Swift. The old one took an hour and I was certain there must be a quicker way. Checking the map I went by way of Route 9 and cut 10 miles off. This was a good start to the outing.

Walking up to the Y Pool, I had a great sense of well-being.

for experienced fly fishers to catch 10 or more fish in an afternoon. I have been thrilled to go from zip to one or two. For weeks I spent hours on the river and caught nothing. I probably caught only about five fish all of last summer!

Tom showed up and we

Gremlins never go fishing, and I had made some progress in exploration. There was only one other person fishing at the pool, and within the hour I had caught a nice Rainbow.

It is not unusual

worked our way downstream a little ways to fish the banks overhung by trees. It was getting dark and suddenly trout were rising.

We were getting a lot of strikes on sulphurs. Tom caught some but I wasn't setting the hook quickly enough. It didn't matter. It was a blast knowing that I was using the right fly, the trout were big, and they were biting. It was nearly 9 p.m. by now, and I hadn't caught one, so I waded back up to the Pool before it became completely dark. Almost immediately I got a strike and landed a 12- or 13-inch Brookie. That is rather unusual there, as most of the Brookies are from 4 to about 10 inches. This was an old one with lots of teeth.

It was dark by now and we walked back through the path in the woods with our flashlights on. I felt great, and knew the bedposts would be empty of gremlins. They hate happiness.

Rejuvenators Perform Well at Senior Olympics

BY RICHARD ANDERSEN

The Montague Reporter *Rejuvenators* led every basketball team in fouls and turnovers, but that didn't prevent them from winning the gold medal at this year's Senior Olympics. The Massachusetts State Champion *Berkshires* did.

Every year for the past fourteen years, Springfield College has hosted the New England Senior Olympics. Participants in dozens of individual and team sports compete for fame, medals, and memories in four age categories: 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, and over 70. This year, *The Montague Reporter* sponsored our area's three-on-three

basketball team.

The team, made up of Richard Andersen (58), Vandy Bollinger (58), Darrell Clark (58), and Dennis Swartwout (59), captured the silver, but the real jewels in the crown of this tournament were the two teams from the over-70-but-probably-closer-to-80 category that competed for state

bragging rights. Some of these



Richard Andersen, left, and Dennis Swartwout of the Rejuvenators

players looked as if they were on weekend passes from their

walkers, but once they touched the ball, they metamorphosed into the kind of hoopsters Bad Boy Bill Lambier would be proud of. In fact, they were the toughest players in the Birthplace of Basketball. They contested every shot, argued every

call, and drove every referee from the court. Literally. No

referee would officiate more than one of their games. Their championship match had to be worked by Fred Hale, the Olympic Committee's Director.

Note: If you, or you and some of your playmates, have nothing planned for the final weekend of June in 2006, start practicing.

In the unlikely event that you don't win a medal, you'll still come home with a bag of treats ranging from sugar-free chocolate turtles to low-cholesterol imported brislings and more information on Medicare and Medicaid than you can read in an entire summer.

Local Softball League a Source of Exercise, Socializing and Fun

BY ZACH SCHONBRUN

MONTAGUE - Some places have golf, hunting, basketball, or badminton as their trademark activity, the communal source of exercise and enjoyment. For Turners Falls, that sport is undoubtedly softball.

And it's not just the high school girls. The Montague Co-Ed Recreational Softball League is thriving in, what most people would estimate, it's twentieth season at Unity Park, with twelve teams, three fields, and over 100 local players.

Games are played every Monday and Thursday night at Unity Park in Turners Falls and Highland Park in Millers Falls.

Founded by the Montague Parks and Recreation

Department many years ago, the league has seen its ups and downs, but has stayed active, allowing different companies and businesses to start teams and compete weekly. Some teams are filled with players who all work for the same outfit; others are coordinated simply through word of mouth and a desire to play some ball.

"I love it, it's great just to keep playing," said Joe Goodyear, a former Turners Falls Indian ballplayer. "I never want to stop."

The entire program is filled with ranges - girls and guys, young and old, experienced and inexperienced, uniformed and not uniformed - but the game is simple and carefree. There are

few requirements beyond a willingness to let go of your inhibitions and have a good time.

Truth be told, the league is a far cry from actual softball, or how it is normally played. A Monday night game between LightLife Foods and Millitech featured four outfielders at a time, a catcher without a mask or any protection, and the pitcher falling backward off the mound with each toss. The outfield was overdue for a mowing. Less than half of the players wore cleats. And both teams batted each of their 10 - 11 person rosters. But hey, who's counting?

"It's fun," said Barb Knapp, who's played softball since she was a young girl. "It's not too

competitive. We're just here to have fun, get a little exercise."

The games flow as freely as a July 4th family whiffle-ball game. Sure, some players try hard, play competitively, struggle to get their 40-year-old legs to move as quickly as they used to, or their suddenly uncooperative arms to react to even a slowly pitched softball. It could very easily be frustrating, an unsettling slap of reality. But the league is dedicated to recreation, and the few that really know how to hit, throw, or catch a pop fly while holding a cigarette will share a laugh with those who really can't, and really don't care.

And who could argue? There's no better feeling than

waking up in the morning knowing your boss, and teammate, completed a no-hit, three-whiff, one lost-shoe-rounding-second-base performance the night before, and yet still grinned all the way to the parking lot.

Fun is a term so often lost in sports these days, it almost seems like it doesn't belong. But this league has found a way of putting the fun back on the field, and the pleasure back in the park, teaching kids - and adults - that sometimes it doesn't matter how fine your form is, or how far you can hit the ball, or that the other team just ran up nine runs in the third inning.

But hey, who's counting?

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Hypertension: The Silent Killer

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. When someone says, "that makes my blood boil," does that mean their blood pressure goes up, too?

Probably. Blood pressure tends to spike when you are excited by an emotion such as anger or fear. But high blood pressure - known as "hypertension" - is very sneaky. It's called the "silent killer," because it usually has no symptoms.

Doctors say you have high blood pressure if you have a reading of 140/90 or higher. A blood pressure reading of 120/80 or lower is considered normal. "Prehypertension" is blood pressure between 120 and 139 for the top number, or between 80 and 89 for the bottom number.

The first number represents your "systolic" pressure when the heart beats. The second number represents the "diastolic" pressure when the heart rests. If only one number is elevated, you still have high blood pressure with all of its dangers.

Isolated systolic hypertension (ISH) is the most common form of high blood pressure for seniors. When you have ISH, only the top number is too high. About 2 out of 3 people over age 60 with high blood pressure have ISH. About one in three



ILLUSTRATION J. HARMON

American adults has high blood pressure. In the U.S., high blood pressure occurs more often in African-Americans.

High blood pressure can ravage your body. It can enlarge the heart, create small bulges (aneurysms) in blood vessels, damage the blood vessels in the kidneys, harden arteries, produce bleeding in the eyes.

The possible consequences are heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and blindness.

Your chances of getting high blood pressure are also higher if you are overweight, don't exercise, eat too much salt, drink too much alcohol, don't consume enough potassium, endure stress for too long. Obviously, changing your diet, exercising and altering your lifestyle will help.

When you go to your doctor to have your blood pressure taken, there are a

few things you can do to get an accurate reading. First, don't drink coffee or smoke cigarettes for a half hour before your pressure is taken. (What are you doing smoking anyway?) Wear short sleeves, so you don't have to remove clothing. Empty your bladder, because a full tank can affect the reading. Sit quietly for five minutes before the test.

If you're like me, you have "white coat syndrome." That means your blood pressure jumps as soon as a doctor or nurse approaches you. If your doctor knows this, he or she may recommend a home blood-pressure monitor or ambulatory monitor that is worn around the clock and takes your pressure every half hour.

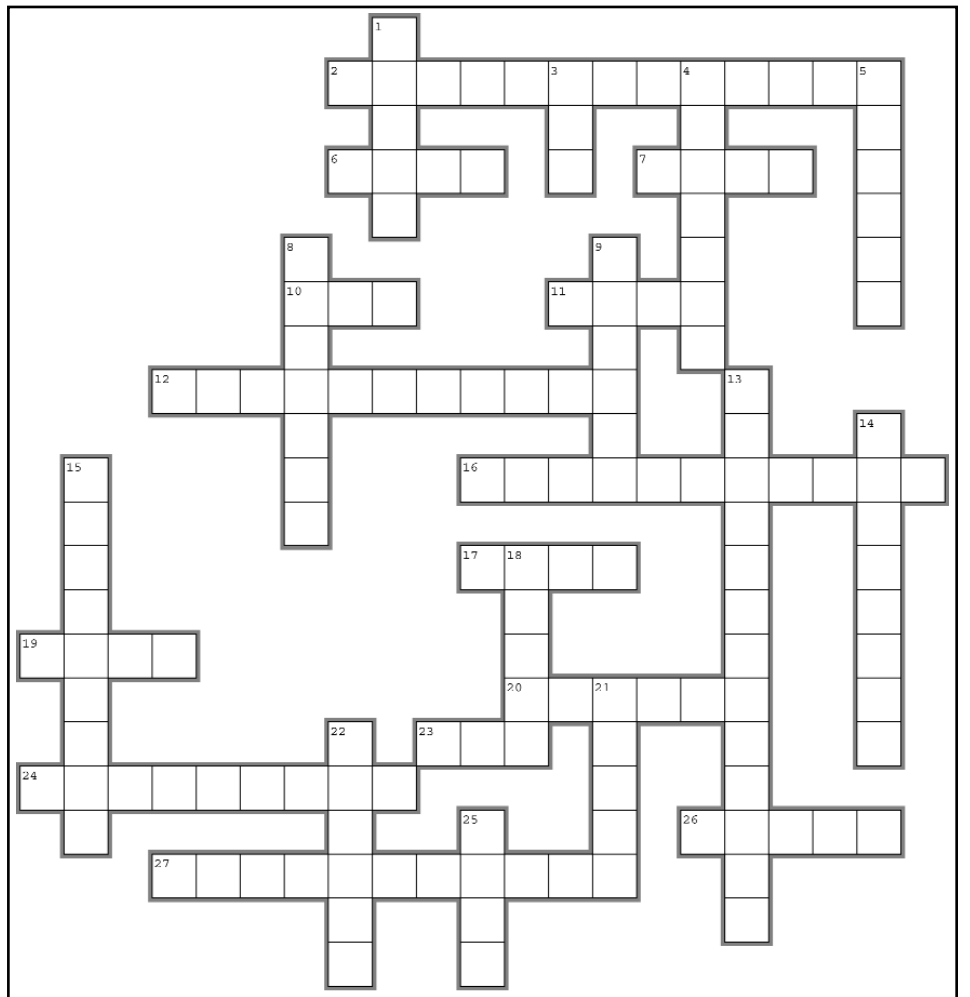
If you have high blood pressure and lifestyle changes don't reduce it, there are medications to treat the problem. Often, two or more drugs work better than one. Some drugs lower blood pressure by removing extra fluid and salt from your body. Others affect blood pressure by slowing down the heartbeat, or by relaxing and widening blood vessels.

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



HOYDEN PHOTO

Turners Falls resident Sita Lang, (left) well known as Plow Frau, with her dog, Bow Wow, beside her, is one of the citizens who have volunteered to help beautify Avenue A by applying her horticulture skills and labor to this planter in front of Chinatown Restaurant. Staff and friends of the restaurant showed their appreciation for her efforts and kept her company during the process. Flowering plants were donated to Sita's creation by Greenfield Farmers Coop. Anyone who wants to follow Sita's example should contact the Brick House Community Resource Center at 863-9576.



Answers to last week's crossword, Page 19.

Managerie

by Bette Black

Across

- 2. Legal proceeding characterized by dishonesty or incompetence.
- 6. Redd who played Fred Sanford.
- 7. Scottish cattle.
- 10. Fly by night.
- 11. Symbolic bird of Peace.
- 12. Film starring Peter Sellers as Insp. Jacques Clouseau.
- 16. Larva of a butterfly.
- 17. Cat born with no tail.
- 19. Eat ravenously.

20. Chatterbox.

- 23. Campy feathered scarf.
- 24. Sobriquet for Jesus.
- 26. Flying she-demon.
- 27. They are in a nervous stomach.

Down

- 1. Boca ____, FL.
- 3. L.A. footballer.
- 4. Cowardly.
- 5. Taw a Puddy-Tat.
- 8. Davy, Peter, Mike and Mickey.

9. Gravel-voiced.

- 13. A rare, expensive possession that is a financial burden to maintain.
- 14. Legendary serpent with lethal breath, contemporary American lizard capable of running on its hind legs.
- 15. Exceedingly harsh.
- 18. The soul.
- 21. Nauseous people have green ones.
- 22. Turned-down corner of a page.
- 25. Homeless snail.

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 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ASCERTAINMENT FOR RENEWAL OF COMCAST'S CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE
 A public hearing will be held on Monday, August 8, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Gill Town Hall located at 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01376 to obtain public comment on the future cable related needs of the Town of Gill in preparation of the renewal cable television license for the community. The public is invited to attend. - Board of Selectmen, Town of Gill.

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MassWildlife Advisory Re: Deer/Elk/Moose

On June 23, in response to recently confirmed incidents of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wild white-tailed deer in New York, the Fisheries and Wildlife Board voted to approve the filing of emergency regulations relative to the importation of deer carcasses from states or Canadian provinces that have confirmed cases of CWD in deer or elk. The Board also voted to hold a public hearing on September 7, 2005 at the Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield at 6:30 pm to consider testimony regarding regulations relating to importation of deer meat/carcasses from other states.

Background: Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurological disorder known to affect white-tailed deer, mule deer and elk. Chronic wasting disease was first identified in 1978 and remained in the states of Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska and in recent years has been found in deer populations in the western and Midwestern United States and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. According to the World Health Organization, this disease does not appear to pose a health risk to people.

On March 31, 2005, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation confirmed that

adult deer from a captive herd in Oneida County, New York tested positive for CWD. CWD was later confirmed in wild deer in the same county. The CWD diagnosis in New York is the first instance of the disease detected in the north-eastern United States.

Actions Taken By Mass-Wildlife: In 2002, to minimize the risk of CWD entering the state's wild and captive deer populations, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (Mass-Wildlife), along with other north-eastern state fish and wildlife agencies, implemented policies to help prevent the disease from crossing borders and affecting the health of both wild and captive deer populations by prohibiting the importation of all species of live deer as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of CWD into wild or farm-raised deer. The importation prohibition applies to all members of the deer and elk species, (white-tailed deer, moose, elk, etc.) including those species raised for commercial purposes.

A surveillance and monitoring program was also developed and implemented to test for the disease as early as possible. Since 2002, over 600 brain tissue samples of hunter-harvested and roadkill deer from around the Commonwealth

have been tested for CWD. There has not been any CWD detected in the over 600 samples taken in the past several years. Moreover, any observations of sick deer will be investigated for possible testing for CWD.

Inspections of licensed deer farms across the state were conducted this spring to assess conditions and compliance as well as update deer farmers about deer farming guidelines, regulations and CWD.

Summary of Proposed Regulations: The proposed regulations would make it illegal for anyone to import or possess whole carcasses or parts of deer or elk (from wild or captive deer herds) from states and Canadian provinces where CWD has been detected with the following exceptions: meat that is deboned, cleaned skull caps, hides and taxidermy mounts. This action prevents importation of neurological tissue which is where the disease is found.

Vermont, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have similar regulations in place and are consistent with regulations set or proposed to be set by other state fish and wildlife agencies bordering states with confirmed cases of Chronic Wasting Disease.

Medicare Part D PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT Workshops for Senior Citizens

Lorraine York-Edberg, Program Director for the Franklin/Hampshire Regional SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) Program and Ron Menslage, from Social Security Administration will speak at the Bernardston COA, 20 Church St., **July 20, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.**

For more information or directions to these workshops call the SHINE program at 800-498-4232 or 413-773-5555.

Eagle Watch

BY PAT CARLISLE
BARTON COVE - We're celebrating another successful year with our Barton Cove nest. An egg was laid on Friday, March 4th, and 35 days later, on April 8th, we watch eagerly as the chick cracked the shell and appeared "on the half shell"! Some of us had worried about the cold snowy weather but attentive eagle parents again have nurtured the single eaglet. We are able to watch daily nest activity via local access television on both channel 15 and 17 in several surrounding towns.

We have now watched several weeks of wing flapping with both feet off the nest. On Saturday, July 2nd not eaglet in sight - but on Monday, July 4th,

the chick is back in the nest being fed fresh fish. He now guards a fish and feeds himself! Our eaglets are encouraged to leave the nest territory by the parents to eventually find a nest site of their own when reaching maturity with white head and tail by the time they are five years old.

I will remind everyone the eagle TV can be viewed at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our www.nu.com/eagles can also show live nest activity. I would like to invite everyone to see the exciting dioramas at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JULY 15TH & 16TH

19th Annual Green River Festival featuring musical entertainment, crafts, kids' activities, and hot air balloon launches (weather permitting). Greenfield Community College. For more information call (413) 773-5463.

36th Season Mohawk Trail Concerts - A 30th Year Celebration - Music of American Theatre & Cabaret with Special Surprises. William Bolcom, composer, piano & Joan Morris, mezzo soprano Federated Church, Route 2, Charlemont. Friday open rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday concert at 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening preceded by a chicken barbecue. (413) 625-9511 or (888) 682-6873.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, JULY 15TH, 16TH & 17TH

Country Players presents *The Music Man* at The Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 413-863-2281.

Theater: *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* "...a gangster play that would recall certain events familiar to us all". *Ui* is a witty and savage satire of the rise of Hitler recast by Brecht into a small-time Chicago gangster's takeover of the city's cauliflower trade. Using a wide range of parody and pastiche - from Al Capone to Shakespeare's Richard III and Goethe's Faust - Brecht's darkly humorous parable has relevance wherever totalitarianism exists today. At Deerfield Academy's air-conditioned Reid Theatre, Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. 413-774-7476 ext.10. Also July 22nd, 23rd and 24th.

SATURDAY, JULY 16TH

Third Saturday Contra Dance with *Blue Sky*, Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 774-2830.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JULY 16TH & 17TH

The last weekend of this year's **Vermont Renaissance Festival**, a lush and talent-filled re-creation of an English village festival in the 1580s; an exciting, diverse and family-friendly event just over the border at the town fairgrounds in Guilford, Vermont. VTRF is hosting a Free Coin - Food Drive: Patrons will

receive a free replica coin for each non-perishable food item donated to benefit the Brattleboro Women's Crisis Center and The Drop In Center of Brattleboro Food Shelf, up to 5 coins per person. Admission prices: Adults - \$12, Children (5-13) -\$6, babes in arms are free, no pets please.

Rock River Artists Invite you to the 13th Annual Open Studio Tour - "You can't step in the same river twice," the adage goes. And, come every summer, a 15-member collective of artisans residing along the Rock River likes to prove it. This year's 13th Annual Rock River Artists Tour will once again allow anyone who wonders at the nature of art -- and vice versa -- to come witness how one small river serves as an ever-flowing, ever-stirring source of inspiration. This July 16 & 17, tour participants can step anew into this summer's version of the Rock River artists' homes, studios, and gardens -- 15 places in all within a five-mile radius of Newfane, South Newfane, and Williamsville, VT. "The tour promises to be a *Babette's Feast* for the senses," says Roger Sandes, a Rock River artist, who makes a point that refreshments will be served at each of the studios on the tour. Blacksmith and sculptor Rich Gillis says the sense of peace he feels from the river is augmented by the sense of connectedness with the community. "There's a tradition of old artistry here, and blacksmithing fits in very well with that. There's always a willingness to barter or trade skills and to help each other out whenever needed," says Gillis. The Rock River Artist Studio Tour will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The tour begins at the Old Schoolhouse in South Newfane, where maps will be available and a small exhibit will showcase the work of all 15 artists. All works will be available for purchase, and a percentage of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the Moore Free Public Library in Newfane. The self-guided tour, including refreshments, is open to the public free of charge. A map of the area will be available at the Old School House in South Newfane, and is also available online at www.rockriver-artists.com. For more information please contact Roger Sandes and Mary Welsh at 802-348-7865 or Louisa Sandes



at 212-572-2497 or lsandes@randomhouse.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 17TH

Dog Day at Quonquot Farm. Bring Fido, family and friends for an afternoon of frolic and fun. Quonquot Farm is located at 9 North Street in Whately. Noon to 5:00 p.m. Rain or shine. (413) 575-4680.

MONDAY, JULY 18TH

Parting of the Seas: The Canal Draw Down at Turners Falls. Go down into the bottom of a working river and gain unique insights into both the structure of the River and the animals that live there. Sponsored by Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. For ages 10 and older. Limited to twelve participants. 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. 800-859-2960.

THURSDAY, JULY 21ST

Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative performs folk, alternative rock, classical, reggae, blues and more at the Greenfield Energy Park at the end of Miles Street. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (413) 774-6051 x 14.

FRIDAY, JULY 22ND

Fourth Friday Contra Dance with *David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band*, Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. - midnight. (413) 367-9380.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JULY 22ND & 23RD

36th Season Mohawk Trail Concerts - *ENSO String Quartet*, with guests Hai Zheng, cello & Estela Olevsky, piano, *Haydn String Quartet*, and others. Federated Church, Route 2, Charlemont. Friday open

rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday concert at 8:00 p.m. (413) 625-9511 or (888) 682-6873.

SATURDAY, JULY 23RD

Fourth Saturday Contra Dance with *Tophill Productions*. Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 0 773-1671.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY JULY 22ND, 23RD & 24TH

Ja'Duke Productions presents *John Wayneovich and Friends* performances at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday 2:00 p.m. (413) 863-2281.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 23RD & 24TH

Annual Summer Open House at **CHEE CHEE MAMOOK FARM**. See alpacas & crias, llamas, dairy goats, angora goats, rabbits, draft horses, spinning demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides and more. 341 Caldwell Rd, Northfield. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (413) 498-2160.

FRIDAY, JULY 29TH

A Bouquet of Music Concert Series - Richard Mayer Quartet-jazz Concerts take place in Franklin Medical Center's main lobby or, weather-permitting, in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden. FMC is located at 164 High St., Greenfield. Noon to 1:00 p.m. (413) 773-2573

Fifth Friday Contra Dance at Guiding Star Grange Hall located at 401 Chapman Street in Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. - midnight. 413-367-9380.

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

let's see, I cleaned, made beds, cooked and played bell boy... Vacation, nooo way!!!

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JULY 29TH & 30TH

36th Season Mohawk Trail Concerts - *Steinhardt Family Fest* - Arnold Steinhardt, violin, Natasha Steinhardt, soprano, & Victor Steinhardt, piano/composer Federated Church, Route 2, Charlemont. Friday open rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday concert at 8:00 p.m. (413) 625-9511 or (888) 682-6873.

Hot Spot Teen Center

Monday: - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 - 5
Tues & Weds: - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 5
Friday, July 15th - GirlVenture, 8:30-3:30; Swimming Trip, 1 - 5
Saturday, July 16th - A.I.R. Program Woodcarving, 9 - 4
Monday thru Fridays, July 18th - 29th - GirlVenture, 8:30 - 3:30
Thursday, July 28th - Technology Drop-In, 4 - 6
Friday, July 29th - Open Mic, 6 - 9
Thursday, Aug 4th - Technology Drop-In, 4 - 6; Movie Night, 6 - 8
Friday, Aug 5th - Mini-Golf trip, 1 - 5
Monday thru Friday, Aug 8th - 12th - A.I.R. Program *Seeing Through An Artist's Eyes*, 9 - 12
Thursday, Aug 11th - Technology Drop-In, 4 - 6; Movie Night, 6 - 8
Friday, August 12th - Open Mic at bellybowl, 6 - 8:30
These programs are free (except some trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call Jared at **863-9559**.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House**
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DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00	
2. FANTASTIC 4	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00	
3. DARK WATER	PG13
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00	
4. BATMAN BEGINS	PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15	
5. MADAGASCAR	PG
DAILY 12:15 3:15	
5. MR. & MRS. SMITH	PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
6. CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	PG in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30	
7. WAR OF THE WORLDS	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30	

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|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Across | 22. HORA | 9. GHOST |
| 1. HINES | 23. BREAK | 11. BALLETS RUSSES |
| 2. SWORDS | 26. HUSTLE | 12. HOKEY POKEY |
| 4. ABBA | 27. CHIMNEYSWEEP | 14. WALTZ |
| 7. RECITAL | | 15. RIVERDANCE |
| 8. BOJANGLES | Down | 16. MURRAY |
| 10. SWAYZE | 1. HULA | 18. BALANCHINE |
| 13. TWIST | 3. DUNCAN | 21. FOSSE |
| 17. LINDY | 5. AILEY | 24. VOGUE |
| 19. MINUET | 6. CAPEZIO | 25. VEILS |
| 20. CONTRA | 8. BEALS | 26. HIPPO |

Miner's Catalpas an Enduring Treasure

BY FRAN HEMOND

TURNERS FALLS - The old catalpa was struck by lightning in the last gasp of a horrendous storm on Thursday, June 30th. It had adapted to a changing world for almost a hundred years. It's last intrusion, the chain link fence around the skateboard park, and age had limited its days of glory. By Friday noon, the DPW's cleanup crew was so thorough that only a few stray leaves and the stump remained for identification.

Many of Montague's catalpas, sporting large heart-shaped leaves, clusters of white blossoms, and long green beans - all at once - were planted in the early 1900s by B.F. Miner. We could count the rings on the stump, one per year, and see if this tree was one of his memo-

rials.

The Turners Falls Reporter (this paper's namesake) of February 21st, 1909 confirms Miner's projects with trees. It relates that "B.F. Miner has ordered 3,000 catalpa trees to plant on the Plains near the B&M Railroad 'as a demonstration of what can be done to make such land productive.'" A year later, the newspaper reports that "deer have caused \$100 worth of damage to the plantings." But the Plains project seems to have been only one of his outlets for the 3000



of his outlets for the 3000

catalpas. Family tradition says that some of the trees went home with biology students at the high school, courtesy of B.F. Miner. And the old catalpa here at Cold Brook is one of them.

It stands by the North Pond, big and beautiful, its compound leaves background for a profusion of white clustered upright flowers, worth observing with care. Each flowerlet, delicately fringed, rewards the seeker with a view of purple and orange stripes within the bell. The tree is laden with long brown beans that seem to hang at random, solid and practical. These bean pods split to let out seeds, which have wings to propel them.

The beans hang on through the winter.

Enough sky shows through the branches to give dark and bright shading to the foliage. This June it was memorable. In March the tree showed little promise of beauty. The nearly hundred years had taken their toll; but the twisted trunk and failing branches that caused concern in late winter were quite forgotten in the exuberant blossoms of summer. Even the Indian name 'catalpa' has a lovely lilt. The nickname 'Indian bean' is appropriate to the winter season.

Catalpas grow fast; their wood is viewed favorably by experts in the business. They accept cutting back as a bush or a hedge. The stumps send up sprouts, and indeed one catalpa, having been cut and set in the ground as a pole, produced branches. The wood looks a little like chestnut. And in the early 1900s, the market for railroad ties was large, and catalpas a likely raw material. Miner saw

opportunity for his town.

Miner was a successful manufacturer in Montague, first in the Toileteen Company and later as a partner in the PDQ Soap Company. Quite beyond his local activity, he had been elected to a life fellowship in the London Society of Science, Art and Letters, to honor him for perfecting a method of extracting vanilla from the vanilla bean. He was involved in many activities in town. In 1906 he built the brick house next to Locust Hill Cemetery (where the Phaneufs live now) in Montague Center with careful detail, and a couple of years later extended his own water line to Elm Grove Cemetery as a public service. He doubtless had many other projects and experiments. But his catalpa plantings - meant to demonstrate good use of abandoned land - provide lasting proof of his dedication to his town.

The popular ornamental trees of today seem to be smaller, to fit in a shrinking world, and are less demanding of clean-up. These representatives of a tropical family have brought a bit of southern exuberance to this New England town. See a Montague catalpa, and it is likely one of the myriads planted courtesy of B.F. Miner.

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