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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 14, 2011

Future of Wendell Meetinghouse Discussed

BY KATIE NOLAN - On Tuesday night, July 12th, Chris Queen, self-described meeting convenor for the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, led a brainstorming session, and adroitly kept a group of very individual Wendell citizens focused on the future use of that landmark building, centrally located on the town common, as ideas bubbled up from the floor.

The former Wendell Congregational Church building on the center of Wendell common at the four corners has been owned by the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse since 2002. It has not been open to the public since that time, due to the need for structural repairs, and because the Meetinghouse lacks insurance coverage for public access.

Before the assembled Wendellites could take flight and share their dreams for the future of the building, they see **FUTURE** pg 12

Unity Park Improvements Funded Second Try for \$652,000 for Phase I Successful



Ready for a whole new playground! Unity Park in Turners Falls received \$652,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - "Wonderful! Fantastic! It's going to bring a much needed improvement to a great park. Now, it's going to sparkle from a regional perspective."

That was how an elated

Jon Dobosz, director of the Montague parks and recreation department, reacted to the news this week that Montague had been one of just three towns in Franklin County awarded funds in a highly competitive round of

Community Development Block Grant applications. In Montague's case, the long planned improvements to Unity Park, which had scored high but just missed funding for a first phase of renovations in 2010, got the go ahead

in the form of \$652,000 in CDBG funds to finally get the project underway.

"Thankfully," said Dobosz, "we'll be able to focus on the most popular aspect of the park, which is the playground." The park director said the plan

is to retire the ancient playground equipment in favor of, "new swings, new play equipment, and a water spray element," perfect for weather like we are experiencing now.

Additionally, the federal funds, disbursed through a competitive state grant program, will allow Montague to purchase new playground surfacing material to make Unity Park more accessible to handicapped users, along with new signage, a crosswalk to the nearby bike path, new picnic tables, accessible trails, and a new, expanded parking area.

"It's going to be so much more of a welcoming park. It's going to appeal to so many people, so many kids. It's going to be fantastic."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio cautioned the town will likely, "try to avoid putting the project out to bid in the fall. It may be next June before the work is completed. At which point, the town will know more about the timing of the application for Phase II of the park renovations.

see **PARK** page 9

Theater Review - The Country Players' De-Lightful Production of *Anything Goes*



RICK ROY PHOTO

Michael Starr as Sir Evelyn Oakleigh and Beth Turner as his mother-in-law-to-be, Mrs. Harcourt, are among the leading lights in the Country Players' *Anything Goes*

BY SAM LETCHER TURNERS FALLS - *Anything Goes*, the irrepressible Cole Porter musical about a half dozen passengers who get crazily entwined on a transat-

lantic journey, has been on and off Broadway since 1934 in a number of different versions. It's making headlines in the Big Apple again this summer, and now it's making head-

lines here, as the Country Players bring a sparkling production to the Shea Theater stage. The show takes place sometime during the early 1900s and see **THEATER** pg 18

First Light Repairs Gates on Gill-Montague Dam



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

A diver surfaces at the coffer dam as FirstLight repairs leaks in the Gill-Montague dam.

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GREAT FALLS - FirstLight has installed a coffer dam on the Turners Falls end of the Gill-Montague dam in order to change the rubber gaskets on a leaking Pelican gate.

The gates, which appear to be slightly flat-

tened tubes, are made from about one-half to three-quarter inch steel, and are referred to as Bascule gates, or Pelican gates.

According to an engineer at Rodney Hunt, in Orange, they are called Pelican gates because an

end view resembles a pelican's beak.

The amount of water leakage was not particularly significant, but continued leakage could erode the concrete, making the leak worse as time goes by. A problem arises see **REPAIRS** page 17

PET OF THE WEEK

Cute as a Button



Blinkin'

My name is Blinkin and I'm a three-year-old male domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. When my mom was in labor with me and my brothers, I gave her the hardest time. Please read a blog about me and my family at www.dpvhs.blog-spot.com/. The blog called "Opening Day... of the Kitten Season" talks about the adventure that my brothers and I went through during our birth. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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Week of July 17th in Montague

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SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Fabric, Folktales and Yo-Yos

GILL - The One World, Many Stories Summer Reading Program continues on Saturday, July 16th at 11:00 a.m. with "Fabric Collage". Listen to stories from *The Fabrics of Fairytale* and create a fabric collage made from a variety of beautiful materials.
Storyteller Diane Edgecomb

visits the Library on Monday, July 25th at 11:00 a.m. Listen to *Around the World Folktales* as Ms. Edgecomb spins a web of fantasy and fun.

Coming soon at the library this summer - a Yo-Yo clinic! Learn some new tricks at Yo-Yo Day, Saturday, July 30th at 11:00 a.m.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Sci-Fi Film Series Showing Starcrash

The film *Starcrash* will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, July 16th, at 7:30 p.m. This is the another film in the monthly series of science fiction, fantasy, horror and monster movies at the Wendell

Free Library, located in the center of Wendell. Admission is free, but seating is limited.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit wendellfreelibrary.org or call 978-544-3559.

Wendell COA Film Series

The Wendell COA Film Series presents *The Straight Story* plus the Betty Boop cartoon *Snow White* on Sunday, July 17th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Showing is free and all ages are welcome.

From director David Lynch comes a lyrical portrait of one man's real journey across America's heartland. Upon hearing that his estranged brother is seriously ill, Alvin Straight (played by Richard Farnsworth) is determined to visit him. With little money and no car, Alvin sets out on his riding lawnmower. Filmed along the 260-mile route that the actual Alvin Straight travelled in 1994 from Laurens, Iowa to Mt. Zion, Wisconsin, *The Straight Story* (1999, G-rated, 111 minutes) chronicles his odyssey and those he meets along the way.

Most of you are familiar with Disney's animated feature *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937). A very different version of the old fairy tale was done

several years earlier (1933) starting the incomparable Betty Boop. This short (7 minutes) cartoon will be shown before *The Straight Story*. This *Snow White* features Cab Calloway singing the *Saint James Infirmary Blues* and is a fascinating historical and artistic artifact from the early days of animation.

Correction

Due to a reporting error, the article in support of 1st Sergeant Chris Demars, wounded in Afghanistan on May 9th of this year, and now recovering in Washington DC, incorrectly stated that he had joined the National Guard after 9 - 11. In fact, Demars joined the National Guard in 1988; this was his second deployment to Afghanistan. Letters can be sent to Demars at Mologne House, 6900 Georgia Avenue N.W., Building #20; Washington, D.C. 20307-5001.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - July 18th - 29th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter.

• **Reservations are still being taken for our July 24th trip to Warren's Lobster House and the Broadway musical *Hairspray*.**

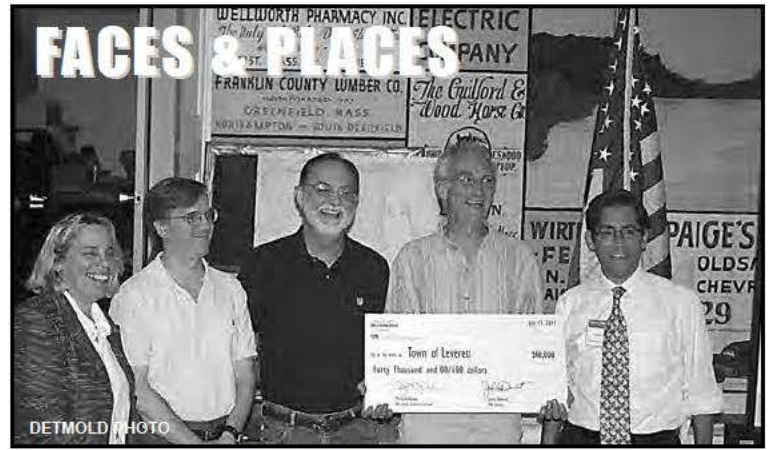
• **Tickets for the COA summer picnic on July 26th are available now at the Senior Center for \$6.00.**

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, July 18th and 25th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
7/18 - 12:00 noon Potluck & Bingo
7/18 - No Knitting Circle

7/25 - 1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, July 19th and 26th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
7/26 - 11:00 a.m. Senior Center Picnic, no lunch served at Senior Center
Wed., July 20th and 27th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
7/20 - 11:00 a.m. Book Review Group
7/20 - 12:45 Bingo
Thursday, July 21st and 28th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, July 22nd and 29th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm summer activities schedule and to find out when the



On July 13th, Massachusetts Broadband Institute director Judy Dumont presented a big check for \$40,000 to (l-r) Leverett Wired West rep Rob Brooks, select-board members Rich Brazeau and Peter d'Errico, as MBI deputy director Jason Whittet looked on. Dumont said planning grants like the one Leverett received will be used as models for other towns to prepare for "fiber to the curb" high speed internet access for unserved residents. Dumont said the "middle mile" cable MBI is preparing to run to 1400 schools, hospitals, libraries, town halls and anchor institutions in 123 underserved communities in Central and Western Mass will be complete by the summer of 2013. A partial list of local firms that have gone out of business waiting for high speed access is pictured on the wall at rear.

Soapbox Race Gearing Up for 2011

TURNERS FALLS - The wheels will be spinning again when the Second Annual Montague Soapbox Races comes to Unity Park on Saturday, September 17th, at 12:00 noon.

"The race last year was amazing and surprised everyone, including me" said organizer Mik Muller, referring to the crowd numbering in the 1000s.

Applications for racers are being accepted right now, with the deadline coming soon. Those

interested in racing are asked to go to the official website, MontagueSoapboxRaces.com, download and print the form and send it in with \$25 entry fee.

The race organizers are also looking for vendors, especially food vendors, and race sponsors and underwriters.

Forms for vendors and sponsors and underwriters are also available on the website. The deadline for these forms to be turned in is August 15th.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill - Montague bridge.

- Greenfield - Crossing the Connecticut River before the bridge was constructed was by way of ferry, a slow and inconvenient mode of travel and the only means of commerce from shore-to-shore prior to 1802, when the Montague City toll bridge was formally dedicated.
- A 1762 map of Montague shows Bissell's Ferry below Mayo's point at the area where the Upper Suspension Bridge abutments stand today. The road to the ferry ran down the ravine at the site of the old town dump to the shore. This would be Ferry Road as we know it today.
- The ferryman would load passengers and goods on the flat-bottomed boat. Using an apparatus attached to the wire that ran from shore-to-shore, he would move his cargo to the destination side of the river.
- The location of the ferry at this point was necessary as the dam had not yet been built, and rapids made crossing hazardous lower down river.

More bridge facts next week!

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Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The new Handsome and Gretel puppet show with No Strings Marionette Company will be held on Friday, July 15th, at 10 a.m. Depending upon the weather, the show will be held in Peskeompskut Park across from the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, or inside the library if weather is inclement.

On Friday, July 22nd, starting at 1:00 p.m., join the **Boston Museum of Science** in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center in Turners Falls for a live animal program featuring reptiles! What makes a reptile a reptile? Are snakes slimy? Come find out when the museum's live animal center visits the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners. Call the GFDC at 413-863-3221 for more information.

Help save the Connecticut River from a plant invader on Saturday, July 30th, from 9:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m. Water chestnut is a pretty, but serious plant pest that can take over shallow waterways, obstructing boating and other recreational activities and crowding out native plants and the wildlife that depend on them.

Staff from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Northfield Mountain are organizing a "plant-pulling day" in and around Barton Cove in Gill.

Participants will canoe to locations where plants have been found in previous seasons and look for new infestations. The plants, easily recognizable from their floating leaves, will be carefully pulled and put in trash bags for removal by truck to a place where they cannot do any more damage. After pulling, there will be a gathering in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. where participants can relax and enjoy desserts. A confirmation email with what to wear and what to bring will be shared with registered participants. Pre-register by calling 413-548-8002 ext. 115.

The 2nd Annual **Brian "Bubba" Whiting Memorial Golf Tournament** will be held at the Meadows Golf Course in Greenfield on Saturday July 30th. To register your team or to help sponsor the tournament please contact Jim Zellmann at 413-475-

2150 or Janice Smith at 413-773-9778. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the American Heart Association, Franklin County Technical School Scholarship and the Turners Falls High School Scholarship Funds.

The average American child laughs 200 times a day while adults only laugh 15 times. What happened to our sense of humor? Find out in **"Remembering How to Laugh"** on Tuesday, July 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Community Crisis Response Team, 277 Main Street, 4th floor in Greenfield. Explore what tickles out funny bones. Join CCRT staff, actress Suzy Polucci and professional clown, Dagen July to experience the physical and emotional benefits of laughter. Registration is requested by contacting CCRT at 413-773-5090 or ccrt@communityaction.us

Beard Contest. Yes! A beard contest. This is just one of the many events that are scheduled for the celebration of the Franklin County 200th Anniversary. The contest will be held on Saturday, July 23rd, on the Greenfield town common. The categories include, but are not limited to: longest, nice try, most historically accurate, most creative, best sideburns and mustaches. The full schedule of events for the 200th Anniversary Celebration is available at www.greenfield-ma.gov Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.

Join the Discussion on Wendell Meetinghouse

BY CHRIS QUEEN - The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse is sponsoring a series of open discussions this summer on possible uses of this historic building.

The Meetinghouse is no longer a church, though it will always welcome "gatherings of a spiritual nature, such as weddings, funerals, religious services and celebrations," as stipulated in the gift letter transferring the building to the Friends. When fully restored, it could become a uniquely beautiful space for activities related to health and wellness, music, arts and crafts, social service and activism, and regular meetings of Wendell's spiritual groups.

Thanks to the devotion of Molly Kaynor, who passed away this year, and Jerry Eide, a specialist in historic building preservation, structural repairs to the Meetinghouse began some years ago. Now it is time to invite Wendell residents to help answer important questions, such as:

- How can a restored Meetinghouse, standing proudly in the center of our town, be a

resource for everyone?

- How can the Meetinghouse host activities that will generate income for townsfolk and contributions for the maintenance of the building?

- Should we open up the main room by removing the ceiling and exposing the old beams? Should the Meetinghouse be fully insulated, heated and cooled for year-round use? Should there be a kitchen, as well as a modern bathroom? What kind of furnishings would serve the most uses?

Come join the discussion and share your vision for a new Wendell Meetinghouse on Wednesday, August 10th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Wendell senior center, or at our booth on the town common on Old Home Day, August 20th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you have questions or suggestions in the meantime, please call or write Chris Queen, convenor, 978-544-0216 or csqueen@post.harvard.edu or Melinda Godfrey, clerk, 978-544-0278 or wannabefarm@localnet.com.

Wendell Food Coordinator Update Plan the Edible Forest Garden

BY LIZ CARTER - On July 31st, from 2-6 p.m., meet at the Wendell town hall to help design the Wendell Permaculture and Edible Forest Garden.

Lisa DePiano, certified permaculture designer and co-founder of the Montview Neighborhood Farm in Northampton, will introduce the design principles of Edible Forest Gardens, and integrate community members' ideas into a vision for the Wendell Permaculture and Edible Forest Garden; a proposed community edible perennial garden at the town office building.

Donations are requested to help make the garden happen. Nobody will be turned away for lack of funds. If you have plants to contribute, please bring a list to the workshop.

The workshop will be followed by a community potluck; bring a dish to share!

WENDELL FARMERS MARKET UP AND RUNNING

Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wendell Country Store, 57 Lockes Village Rd, Wendell.

Saturday, July 9th, marked the first day of the Wendell Farmers Market, featuring fresh produce, herbs, starts and flowers from the Roots, Fruits and Greens Growers Collective (Wendell) and Laughing Dog Farm (Gill). Families came out with their misunderstood treasures as part of the community tag sale (email adamsteelezucker@gmail.com to learn more). Craft vendors sold beautiful hand crafted clothing and accessories, native species

bonsais, and exotic plants.

The Wendell Local Foods Project will continue to set up a booth with information on gardening, upcoming events, and area resources; and will provide a space for community members to sell surplus from their farms or gardens on consignment (email Wendell.localfoods@gmail.com to learn more). We're expecting the produce selection to increase as the season advances. New vendors are welcome.

Come shop the market this upcoming Saturday. Bring your friends, bring your zucchinis, bring your banjo, and leave with some local food so delicious you'll be reminded of why you call this area home. WIC and Senior Farmers Market Coupons accepted.

About-Face Computer Solutions Presents: COMPUTER SEMINARS TO BENEFIT THE MONTAGUE REPORTER!

Presenters: Fred & Bettyann Jennings from Ontario
Location: About-Face Computer Solutions, 151 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Classes run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. with an hour of presentation followed by question and answers.
(Recommended: Bring your laptop with you.)

Tuesday, July 26th:
What and how to back up your pictures, documents, music etc.
(Recommended: Bring a USB thumb drive or external drive with you.)

Wednesday, July 27th:
Picasa - free photo program.
(Recommended: select 20 photos to work with before arriving.)

Suggested Sliding Scale Donation: \$10 - \$90 per person
Sign up using this form, or stop by About-Face to register.
Classes are limited to 12 people per class.

Name: _____
Email: _____ (We may send you info ahead of time)
Phone: _____
Date: July 26th: Backing up your data!
Date: July 27th: Picasa - Using Pictures in this free photo program!
I have my own laptop and will be bringing it. Yes No
My laptop runs Windows 7 Windows XP
Other: _____

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Raw Milk Legislation Filed on Behalf of Mass Farm Bureau and NOFA

BY BRAD MITCHELL - As anyone in the dairy business can tell you, there are a small but growing number of consumers who want to drink raw (unpasteurized) milk.

These folks choose to drink raw milk for a variety of reasons. They feel it tastes better; they distrust modern food technology, or they want to support local farmers.

As it isn't pasteurized, consumption of raw milk is generally considered to pose health risks that aren't normally, or as frequently, associated with pasteurized milk. Because of these risks, many regulatory bodies in the U.S. have imposed strict regulations on raw milk, including outright bans in some places. In some instances, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), bans the shipment of raw milk across state lines when it is not intended for pasteurization or processing. Many states ban or restrict the sale of raw milk.

Advocates are challenging bans and restrictions on raw milk in courts, regulatory arenas and through civil disobedience. In many cases, producers and consumers are simply ignoring laws and regulations that limit sales.

Under current restrictions in Massachusetts, raw milk can only be sold from the farm on which it is produced, and only if the local board of health allows the sale. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) oversees the production of raw milk through inspections and testing in a manner very similar to the way in which the MDAR oversees production of milk destined for pasteurization. Labels and signs are also required for raw milk, to help ensure that someone does not unknowingly buy and drink raw milk.

While this approach has worked for years, it started to become clear several years back that this system no longer

meets the realities of the current market. With fewer dairy farms and more raw milk drinkers, it's been getting harder for many consumers to get to the farm.

In response, a number of buying clubs popped up. Buying clubs are made up of consumers who band together to take turns going to the farm and picking up raw milk. They then deliver it to a more central, convenient location for pickup by other club members. In a few cases, buying clubs have been operated by third parties, rather than by consumers.

The legal status of buying clubs is somewhat nebulous. With no provisions for oversight of buying clubs, MDAR issued a cease and desist order to larger buying clubs - namely those which were run by third parties. This has led to something of a crisis in the raw milk community, with many consumers unable to get to the farm, and many farmers uncertain about the stability of their market.

In response, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau and the Northeast Organic Farming Association in Massachusetts (NOFA Mass) worked together to file legislation that would allow farmers to sell raw milk, off the farm, directly to the customer. Farmers could deliver the milk to the customer or to a designated location, either themselves, or through a contractor. The farm would be required to maintain a contractual relationship with the customer - essentially maintaining the purchase as a farm sale. In addition, MDAR would have the ability to regulate these activities, ensuring that milk is transported and stored in clean containers and at the proper temperature.

This effort has wide support of the Farm Bureau membership. It has, however, been a little bit controversial among

our membership, particularly with some dairy farmers who believe that raw milk is inherently dangerous, and that it is only a matter of time before someone gets sick from it. Part of their concern is simply a personal belief that pasteurization is a good thing and should be embraced whole heartedly. Beyond this, there is also a concern that any illnesses attributed to Massachusetts milk could reflect negatively on the whole market and erode the consumer's confidence in Massachusetts producers, and Massachusetts milk in general.

I have to say that philosophically, I am not a fan of raw milk either. My background is in public health, and I have spent most of my career working with issues around agricultural technology. I don't see any downside to pasteurization. I have seen some widespread impacts on markets from relatively small food safety incidents, such as with cyanide and Chilean grapes. However, I have come around in my thinking to where I think

the Farm Bureau/NOFA bill is in the best interest of both consumers and farmers and public health.

First, while I would contend that the risks are higher with raw milk than with pasteurized, that is really not the issue. I suspect that risk of injury is higher if you drive a Mini Cooper rather than a Hummer, but no one is suggesting we ban Minis. The real issues are whether the risks are low enough to be acceptable, and whether the consumer is aware of the risk. Labeling and signage should largely address the issue of awareness. Statistics show that the illness from raw milk is relatively low, and occurs infrequently, particularly where the milk is produced legally, with oversight.

Second, from what I have seen, bans and severe restrictions do very little to curb raw milk consumption. Many raw milk advocates are adamant that it is their right to consume raw milk and they will go to great lengths to get it. Bans and severe restrictions simply drive the trade underground where there is no oversight. From a public health perspective, I think we are far better off allowing raw milk consumption with oversight of production and transport rather than

driving it into the black market.

Finally, many dairy farmers are making a pretty good return on raw milk sales. Small dairy farms - which include most if not all dairies in Massachusetts - have been struggling with prolonged periods of low milk prices for as long as I can remember. Fruit and vegetable farmers have made a tremendous comeback by selling directly to the public through farm stands, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares and farmers markets. Raw milk sales offer the same opportunity to dairy farmers. This bill would simply allow them to expand their market to consumers who want their product.

House Bill 1995 - An Act Relative to the Distribution of Raw Milk - was filed by Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) on behalf of MA Farm Bureau and NOFA Mass. It will likely be heard by the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture in the next six months.

For more information, contact MA Farm Bureau at www.mfbf.net

Brad Mitchell is the Director of Governmental Relations for the Massachusetts Farm Bureau. He is the former director of public affairs at Monsanto Company in St. Louis, MI.



Note to Readers: Summer Print Schedule

As a small town weekly, the *Montague Reporter* follows the news of local boards, many of which switch to summer schedules this time of year.

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on July 21st, August 4th or 18th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 7/13/11



Poets Wanted!

to submit original poems. Please email: reporter-poems@montaguema.net for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to *Montague Reporter*, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. No prior experience necessary, as a poet.

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Leverett in the Revolutionary Era

BY JEFF SINGLETON - On July 3rd, Dan Bennett – philosopher and local historian – spoke at the Leverett Historical Society on the history of Leverett during the Revolutionary era.

Leverett was a new town when revolution broke out in the spring of 1775 – so new, in fact, that it was the next to last town approved by the General Court (the colonial legislature) before martial law was established by the British in response to the Boston Tea Party.

The General Court approved an act of incorporation separating Leverett from Sunderland in March of 1774.

The residents of the sparsely populated hill town (Bennett estimated not more than 60 families lived within the new town's boundaries at that time) had to both establish viable local insti-

tutions and react to the revolutionary events in the colonies.

The first Leverett town meeting was held in a barn on Long Hill Road on March 24th, 1774. Eight more meetings were held in the summer and fall of that year. Perhaps they had difficulty gaining a quorum during harvest season.

Meanwhile the British had established martial law in Boston under the so-called "Intolerable Acts." Massachusetts colonials established a "provincial congress" independent of imperial authority; and the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia (September, 1774) to oppose British policies toward the states.

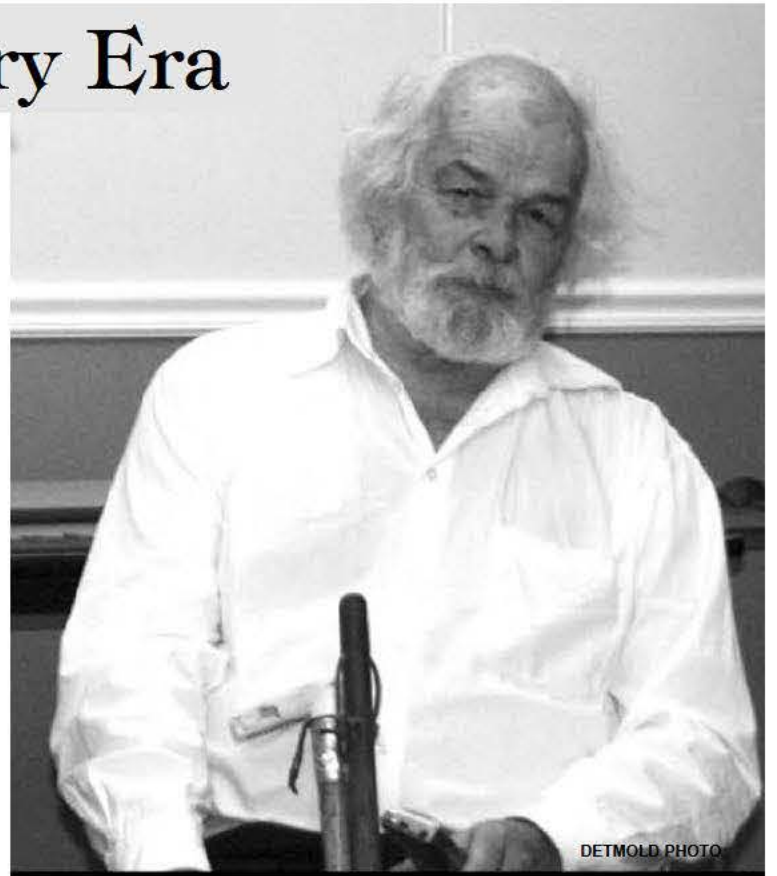
Bennett believes many of Leverett's early leaders were anti-British radicals, or "Sons of Liberty." This group was led by

Major Richard Montague, tavern owner and founder of the North Leverett Baptist Church. Montague traveled to Boston for the siege that followed the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April of 1775. He served on Washington's staff for a time. For the remainder of the war he was a recruiter for the local militia and the continental army.

Bennett quoted a number of town meeting records which, while a bit sparse concerning revolutionary events, are revealing:

- In October of 1774 town meeting established a "committee of correspondence" to communicate with the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia on strategies for resisting the so-called "Intolerable Acts."

see WAR ERA page 13



Dan Bennett, at a Leverett Historical Society talk in April of 2008

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

No Cellphones, No Internet, But a Much Reduced Tax Bill 'Life in Leverett 100 Years Ago'

BY EDITH FIELD - The Leverett Historical Society has unveiled a new exhibit – entitled 'Life in Leverett 100 Years Ago' – at the Family Museum on Shutesbury Road. The exhibit, which opened July 2nd, features the writings of Israel Taylor, who was the town clerk for a number of years and the father of Fannie Taylor, who held the same position for 40 years after her father's death.

The items on display give us an inside look at what life was like in the 1900s in this area. The main attraction is the 30 years of diaries written by Israel from 1894 to 1926.

The family has a farm of some 44 acres, including horses, chickens, pigs, and cows; an orchard and gardens which produced an abundance of home grown vegetables. Their property taxes were around \$40 a year. The neighborhood was close, sharing good times and not so good, and work – such as hauling manure, pounding bones for the hens, bringing in the hay and the apples for cider, traveling to Amherst or Greenfield and even to Prescott and Enfield (towns now under the Quabbin

Reservoir), going "over East" to get a grist or some middling, cutting and hauling cakes of ice from the pond and sawdust from a local mill to cover it with.

Electricity and telephones were uncommon until after 1910; if they had had access to national news townspeople would have known that groundbreaking for Fenway Park took place in 1911, along with the entrance of Chevrolet on the automobile market to give the Model T a run for its money. Entertainment was 'home grown' for the most part – chicken pie suppers and sugar on

see TAX BILL page 13

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Re-Use Committee: Usher Mill Building and Chimney Should be Preserved

BY KATIE NOLAN - "Do we own it or not?" asked Gary Burnett of the Usher Plant re-use committee at the July 11th selectboard meeting.

The seven-acre former Usher Mill on Arch Street was bought by Patriots Environmental, a Worcester salvage firm, in 2007, after a number of the buildings on site were burned in an arson fire that same year. Patriots has not paid any taxes on the property since 2007, and has failed to obey orders from the building inspector to clean up and secure the property, after they removed salvageable debris from the property in the 2008. Since then, the town has been proceeding with taking the property for back taxes.

Town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp told Burnett he had spoken with Erving's tax title attorney, James Coppola of Coppola and Coppola, who told Sharp that final title paperwork will be available to town treasurer Margaret Sullivan to sign later this week. However, Sharp quoted Coppola as saying that before Erving becomes the legal owner, the state Land Court will appoint a title examiner to examine the property title. That examination could take as long as 11 months.

Sharp also told the board that, according to Coppola, any money the town spends on cleanup of the property can be added to the amount owed by Patriots for back taxes.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said he would prefer to have that conclusion in writing, because it seemed different from earlier information from town counsel Donna MacNicol that the

town might not be able to assess the present owner for cleanup costs.

Re-use committee members shared some of their vision for the property with the selectboard. Linda Downs-Bembury said the re-use committee agreed the former Boiler Building and the brick chimney on the property should be preserved.

She also told the board, "I'd like to see Shelburne Falls there."

Sarah Vega-Liros suggested the town should consider buying an adjoining five-acre parcel of land on the other side of Keyup Brook to "make it a cohesive area," thereby "doubling the beautiful areas along the river."

Jeanie Schermesser observed that Erving doesn't have a town center, and if the riverfront property is preserved and re-developed, it might function as a town center. "This could be huge," she said.

Gary Burnett recommended working in stages, starting with "cleaning up the biggest eyesores." Burnett also recommended talking with the contractor who demolished a burned building on Chapman Street in Greenfield, in what appeared to him to be a very efficient process.

The board set the following action items for the former Usher Plant property:

- Sharp contacting the owner of the adjoining five-acre parcel;

- Sharp determining the contractor who demolished the building in Greenfield and getting information about the demolition process;

- The Usher re-use committee developing a

formal presentation showing their vision for the property; and

- Setting up a meeting with Coppola and MacNicol to discuss legal issues for the property, most likely at the July 25th selectboard meeting.

Erving Paper Emerges from Chapter 11

Sharp reported he had received a call from Erving Paper Mill CEO Morris Housen, telling him the mill had emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Housen said he was grateful for the support the selectboard had shown his company during the bankruptcy period.

Senior Center Tour

Owner's project manager Bruce Hunter led the Erving selectboard and other interested citizens on a tour of the partially completed senior center, showing the mixed purpose room with adjacent kitchen, the game room, the lounge, the crafts room, and office space.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin, mindful of a recent request from Erving Elementary School for a new air conditioning system for their computer hub, questioned Hunter about air conditioning for the senior center's computer hub. Hunter and contractor MCM USA's project manager assured Goodwin air conditioning had been provided for the computer hub. At 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., the building remained well-lit by the solar tubes that provide natural light to the interior, without the need for using electric lights.

The selectboard was told the building will be completed on schedule

see ERVING pg 7

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Highway Projects Outlined

BY DAVID DETMOLD Highway superintendent Mick LaClaire updated the Gill selectboard on some of his department's current projects on Tuesday, July 5th. LaClaire said the highway crew has installed a new sign for the Gill Elementary School at the corner of Main and Boyle Road. The funds for the sign were donated by an alumna of the school.

LaClaire plans on resurfacing more streets in the Riverside section of town, putting down new oil and stone on Boyle Road, as well as a binder coat on the existing oil and stone section of Barney Hale Road.

LaClaire said he had hoped to repave the driveway and parking area at Gill Elementary this year, but as it turns out delivery vehicles for the boiler replacement project at the school will be putting that area under heavy use, so he may push repaving forward to next year, and just apply minor patches this summer.

Lynde Well Drilling of Brattleboro, VT has been awarded the bid to maintain the well at the elemen-

tary school. That project is heading for permitting with the conservation commission.

The selectboard approved spending \$3.188 a gallon for heating oil for town buildings for the coming season - up from \$2.31 a gallon last year.

The board approved the fire department's request to spend \$9,335, for service on engine pumps and airpicks, and other standard maintenance and computer software purchases.

Selectboard chair John Ward met with the Montague energy committee later on July 7th, to formulate a common approach on the subject of excessive lighting on the reconstructed Gill-Montague bridge.

After that meeting, Ward said the Montague energy committee and the

Gill selectboard hope to communicate with Massachusetts Department of Transportation District 2 director Al Stegemann, and then take the matter up with local legislators and the governor, if need be.

The reconstructed bridge will feature 52 lamp poles, up from the previous nine, and is expected to cost the taxpayers \$5,000 a month for electricity, up from the previous \$1,500.

Ward spoke directly to Governor Deval Patrick about the lighting issue during Patrick's tour of the reconstruction project last month. Patrick said the additional light poles offered an opportunity to test new energy saving lights on the bridge.

Last Tuesday, Ward said, "I'd like to take him at his word. I'd like to see them use LED lights."

Gill Road Work Schedule

On Wednesday, July 20th, weather permitting, and possibly on Thursday, July 21st, the highway department will be paving in the Riverside section of Gill on Oak, Myrtle, and Meadow Streets, and Riverview Drive between Oak and Walnut. Resurfacing will also take place on North Cross Road and the paved section of Barney Hale Road.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

WiredWendell

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - On July 6th, the Wendell selectboard chose the name, "Wired Wendell," for the town's new 'lighting plant' authorized at the June 6th annual town meeting. The selectboard then appointed themselves as the lighting plant board, and adjourned to open a new meeting as the board of Wired Wendell.

The authorization of a lighting plant is a means by which towns like Wendell will join in the Wired West consortium in hopes to achieve high speed internet

access for all residents who would like to have it.

As the governing board of Wired Wendell, the selectboard chose Nan Riebschlaeger as alternate, and Robbie Leppzer, as manager and representative to the newly formed inter-municipal cooperative. Wired West is working to provide last mile high speed fiber optic internet connections to every house in the underserved towns of Western and Central Massachusetts that join.

Leppzer in turn asked how many miles of road Wendell has, and more to

the point, how he can find out how many miles and along which roads in Wendell the Verizon and National Grid wires already run.

Leppzer said Wired West recently received a \$50,000 planning grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), and that MBI's official projected date for completing the middle mile run of fiber optic cable to town offices and community anchor institutions is the summer of 2013. He said MBI actually hopes to have that work

see WENDELL pg 13

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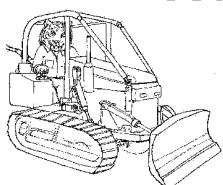
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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Options Considered for Treating Wastewater from Millers Falls

MATTHEW SMALL – On July 5th, Bob Trombley, superintendent of the Montague wastewater treatment plant, provided an update on the analysis by engineering firm Camp Dresser and McKee (CDM) on a proposed pump station and rerouting of wastewater from Millers Falls.

The town is examining the possibility of pumping wastewater from Millers Falls up to meet the existing lines that flow to the Montague treatment plant, rather than continuing to send wastewater from Millers Falls under the Millers River to Ervingside (where Montague now provides about 50% of the flow). Montague is contractually obligated to share the cost of maintaining the upkeep of that plant with the town of Erving in proportion to the amount of flow it contributes, and a dispute arose when Erving proceeded with a \$5.6 million upgrade of the Ervingside plant without prior notification to the town of Montague.

Last year, after the treatment plant upgrade was substantially complete, the Erving selectboard discovered the existence of the decades old contract, and sought to enforce the terms retroactively, to which the town of Montague objected.

On July 5th, Trombley said further study would be needed to make sure there was enough capacity to handle the wastewater from Millers in the sewer line that runs along Old Northfield Road (across the Montague Plains). This line already handles the discharge from two other pump stations.

After the meeting, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said,

“We’re looking at whether the capacity exists in the lines to safely send the Millers Falls waste to the Montague plant. Due to the capacity in the line that goes down Old Northfield Road to the Plains, they are now revisiting the idea of taking it through Turners Falls, from the Industrial Park. There may be some excess capacity there we can tap.

On Tuesday, Roy Gregory of CDM notified Trombley that a modeling study Montague commissioned in 2000 showed there would be enough capacity in the line that runs down Turnpike Road to handle the Millers Falls waste, Abbondanzio said.

He added, “We’re getting close to the information we need for the board to make their determination, before the 25th.”

On July 25th, the Erving selectboard has invited the Montague selectboard to come to Erving to discuss the joint contract for maintaining the Ervingside treatment plant, and the Montague selectboard plans to attend that meeting.

Though the informational gathering process is proving to be more time consuming than anticipated, selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother said on July 5th the town would rather “have it done right” than to have it done quickly.

In other news:

Holy Smokes BBQ was granted permission to place three tables and chairs outside their storefront on the sidewalk at 52 Avenue A.

A utility pole relocation hearing detailed the need to adjust utility poles to an appropriate height on South Prospect Street in Millers Falls.

Save the date! Mik

Muller attended the selectboard meeting to gauge the board’s opinion regarding scheduling the 2nd Annual Soap Box derby for Saturday, September 17th. With the tentative date approved, Muller will now work to put together the necessary paperwork and insurances for the board to give final approve for the event, which drew more than 1000 spectators to the inaugural run down the hill to 1st Street at Unity Park.

Bob Trombley provided an update concerning the installation of the new Fournier press sludge dewatering equipment at the Montague water pollution control facility. He described the process as “experiencing some birthing pains,” but reported overall progress.

The board approved a change order request for the installation of four new lighting fixtures at the WPCF at the cost of a little over \$6,500.

Trombley also presented a revised memorandum of understanding between the town and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, naming New England Organics as the contractor for the processing of sludge, after the previously named contractor was deemed unacceptable.

The long awaited first phase of energy efficiency improvements to town hall and the Carnegie Library is finally moving forward. Installation of a new gas boiler at town hall will be completed by late August.

Abbondanzio reported on a recent meeting involving the four towns participating in a long established revolving loan program. The towns of see **OPTIONS** pg 18

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Seeks MEMA Grant to Install Underground Water Tank

DAVID DETMOLD – The town of Leverett is pursuing a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) grant to install a 40,000 gallon water storage tank underground in the field between the Leverett Elementary School and the library, to be used for fire suppression of wildfires and structure fires.

Leverett has no municipal water lines. When fighting fires, the fire department currently relies on drafting water from fire ponds, which can become choked with weeds in summer or blocked by ice in winter.

If successful, the grant would help fund the \$75,000 project, which would require a 25% (\$18,750) local match.

The selectboard directed fire chief John Moruzzi to seek letters of support for the application from county and regional fire fighting associations, as well as the superintendent of schools for U-28.

The water tank, which would be centrally located on the town-owned field, in proximity to 419 homes and public buildings, would be fed by a currently unused artisan well. The tank would be sunk below frost level and connected to a fire hydrant on Montague Road.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau asked town administrator Margie McGinnis to contact local legislators and Congressman John Olver to build support for the proposal, which may fall outside the normal guidelines for MEMA pre-disaster mitigation grants, but scored well on a FEMA cost benefit analysis prepared for the town by the consulting firm

Milone and MacBroom.

Moruzzi took the opportunity to ask the selectboard whether the town intends to ever loosen zoning guidelines governing the placement of cell towers in town.

“I have had a number of occasions where I’ve needed a cell phone on emergency calls,” but no cell phone service is available, the fire chief said.

Meanwhile, the town is moving ahead with plans to dredge silt from the temporarily drained fire pond above the North Leverett dam, while that dam is under repair by owner Lance Curley.

The town hopes to get the Cave Hill Road bridge over the Swmill River sandblasted and painted within the same 30-day window allowed for emergency repairs to the dam.

Brazeau suggested the turbine shaft for the old hydro turbine at the sawmill could be cleaned and inspected at the same time, with an eye towards possibly getting the historic mill operational again.

Julie Shively said the historical society has some money set aside to help the mill owner install a lever to manually operate the sluice gate, which could help prevent silt build up behind the dam in the future.

In other business, the board accepted the resignation of Clay Delano as a part time police officer. Delano has moved to Minnesota. Police chief Gary Billings will post openings for two part time police officers.

The board expressed thanks for the North Leverett Baptist Church youth group that painted the North Leverett fire

station, with considerable help from highway superintendent Will Stratford, who bought the paint and scraped all the windowframes.

The youth group also held a car wash at the safety complex, which raised \$200 for the Leverett historical society.

The selectboard is sending a letter to the Leverett school committee urging them to hold the line against any raises for Union 28 staff in the coming budget cycle.

The board is seeking parity between the raises town employees have received, and the more generous raises the board said U-28 staff have received over the last three years.

At 8:00 p.m., the meeting went into executive session, with members of the zoning board and assessors, along with town counsel Donna MacNicol present, to discuss strategy for litigation in the gravel pit lawsuit brought by Roberta Bryant against the town

ERVING from page 6

opening in October.

The open meeting closed and the selectboard went into executive session “for the purpose of considering the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health and/or discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual, where an open session would have a detrimental effect and further details would compromise the reason for going into executive session.” This is the seventh executive session the selectboard has held in 2011.



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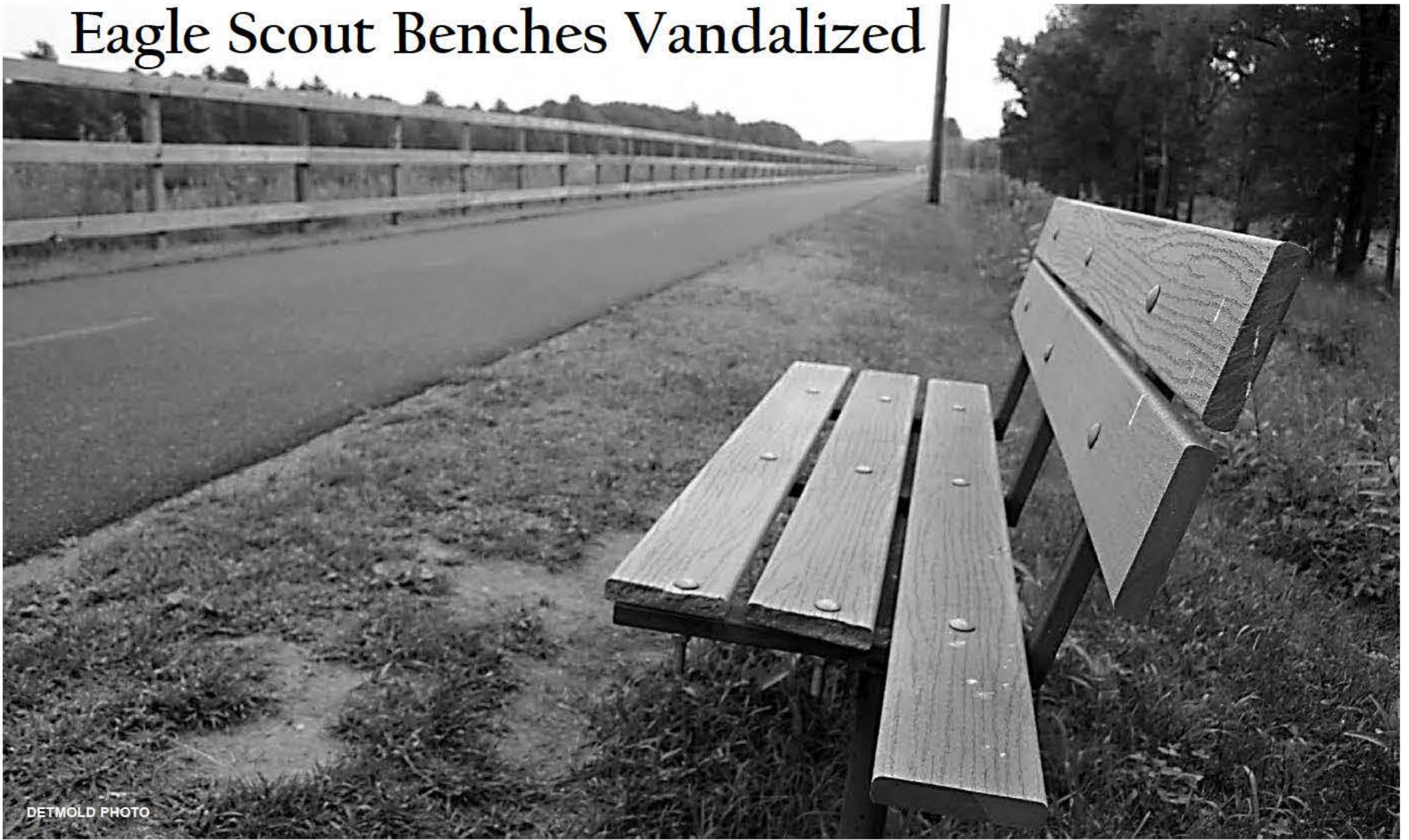
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Eagle Scout Benches Vandalized



DETMOLD PHOTO

One of the benches Patrick Cote built as an Eagle Scout project last year, installed with help from other Boy Scouts along the bike path in Montague, vandalized over the 4th of July weekend.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CITY - The bike path that runs between Turners Falls and East Deerfield is known as an ideal place to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Connecticut River. Last year, Eagle Scout candidate Patrick Cote decided to put up five benches to give people a place to sit and rest along the bike path.

Sometime over the 4th of July weekend, two of these sturdy benches, built with donated materials and the labor of up to a dozen Boy Scouts from Troop 16 in Greenfield were vandalized, and their composite boards damaged.

"I put my hard work into

them," said Cote, 18, who lives in north Greenfield and volunteers for the Leyden fire department, when he is not on the job at Sisson Engineering in Northfield, where he operates a computer numerical control machine. "People are just ruining them. Those benches are for people to sit or take a break while they're on the trail walking or biking."

Every season of the year, the bike path sees steady use from hikers, joggers, bikers, rollerblade enthusiasts, and even cross country skiers. But it seems to get the most use on the night of the year when Greenfield sets off fireworks from Poet's Seat Tower, a monument clearly visi-

ble from the Montague City end of the bike path.

This year was no different.

"The Discovery Center is responsible for upkeep of the path from here to East Deerfield," said Diane Clark, seasonal supervisor for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (Mass DCR). "It's roughly four miles long." On July 3rd, the day after the fireworks display in Greenfield, Clark said her crew found the path littered with beer cans and bottles, the remains of bottle rockets, melted candle wax that she had to scrape off the path, and by the next day - two badly damaged benches that had stood by the side of the path

for less than a year.

It looked like someone had jumped up and down hard on the ends of the boards that form the seat until they snapped.

Cote worked on permitting the benches for his Eagle Scout project for two years. He got galvanized steel donated from the Franklin County Tech School, where he was enrolled at the time, and persuaded the Steel Shed in Greenfield to donate the welding to form the steel frames. Home Depot and Mass DCR donated the composite boards. Cote said he spent hours after school putting each bench together, drilling the bolt holes through the steel by hand. His entire Boy

Scout troop helped to install them.

"It's a shame the bike path was vandalized when these scouts had worked so hard to get these benches installed," said Clark, who added that DCR intended to repair them. Some of the other benches show scars from graffiti tags.

Asked for his comment on the vandalism, Cote's message was clear. "I'd like it to stop. These benches are all donated materials. I put my hard work into them."

So why not let people use them for what they were intended for - sitting down for a breather and enjoying the beauty of nature?

Ferry Meadow Farm - Part I

Turners Falls, Massachusetts - 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - The alarm goes off in the dark. I reach one reluctant arm out of the warm nest of covers and pat the bed table until I find my phone. I could easily roll over and go back to sleep.

I'm afraid I will, so I get up pretty quickly. I pull a thick sweater over my t-shirt, then shuffle into the kitchen to start the coffee-maker on my way to the bathroom. While I'm there, I look in the mirror, arranging my hair into a ponytail at the same time, then splash some water on my face.

I have to stop and think about what day of the week it is. I'm relieved when I remember that there will be no video conferences today. "Guess I look OK

then," I say to myself.

Even though I didn't bother to take a shower, I am still eating my bagel with cream cheese when 9:00 a.m. rolls around. I stuff down the last bite, slurp some coffee, and run to get a thicker pair of socks. I grab some more coffee on my way back, and log into work at 9:04. Instantly there's a message from Diana.

diana722: is again?

I laugh as though we are in the room together and hope that she is the only one at Case Pearman who pays attention to the time that I log in each morning.

thersam: it's dark and cold in massachusetts

diana722: all the more reason to move back to phila

thersam: i think i remember

It's six years into the future in Montague, Massachusetts. The recession has turned into an all-out Depression. Our protagonist, Theresa, is one of the few people still making any money....

that it's cold there 2

The phone rings. It's Diana. I pick up. "Hi," I say.

"Seriously, Resa," she says, "why are you still there? Rick's been gone for - like - a year?"

"Not that long," I say.

"Right, fine, and, OK, you don't have any friends there. Right? Do you?"

"Well, I--" I hesitate.

"My point, exactly," Diana interrupts.

"Diana, I could never sell this house now. No one has sold a house in five years at least."

"Rent it. Listen, promise me you will talk to a realtor today. Meanwhile I'll just look at what's available here. Shoot, I've gotta go."

I glance at my screen. My

work is piling up, too. "K bye," I say.

"Bye," she says and hangs up fast.

While I am reading the messages that have come in since 9:00, I open Facebook on desktop 1 and start StreetLevel on desktop 3. The login screen comes up fast. "Hello theresam," it greets me. "Please enter your password." I do. "Where do you want to go?" it asks me. I don't know, so I scroll down to "most popular." People are looking at earthquake damage in Indonesia. "4,209,044 people watching," it says next to the lat-lng for the camera. A few of the top ten are in the same basic area. The others seem to be political protests in different cities, and a war

zone. I click on a place in Paris, number four in "most popular." There is a sea of protesters on my screen.

Then I get back to work. Another message from Diana pops up.

diana722: what r u watching?

I copy-paste the lat-lng numbers for her. Her reply is a different lat-lng, not far from the camera I'm looking at, probably the same street. I click on the location she gave me. It's another view of the same crowd in Paris.

Then I see him. He's standing up on something, so you can see him above the crowd. It seems like he is giving a speech. "Jason," I say his name out loud.

- Continued Next Issue

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Turners Falls Homeowners Dunned to Purchase Water Line Insurance

BY DAVID DETMOLD – Phone calls have been coming in to the Turners Falls Water Department at a pretty steady clip since last Thursday, when homeowners in parts of Turners Falls began receiving letters from HomeServe USA offering coverage for potential water line breaks – at the cost of \$59.88 a year.

The letters begin, “Our records indicate your home is not covered by Water Service Line Coverage from HomeServe.” No argument there.

The letter continues, “Without this coverage, you are responsible for the full cost of maintaining and repairing the water service line that runs under your property...”

But according to Mike Brown, superintendent of the Turners Falls Water Department, there is very little maintenance or repair the average homeowner will ever have to face for the section of the water line that runs from the property line to the foundation of the home.

“I tell them, ‘You don’t have to worry about it,’” said Brown on Tuesday. “I’ve looked back

over my records, and in the last two years, there’s been only one break recorded on the homeowner’s side,” anywhere in his department’s service area.

Brown said more than 80% of homes in the villages of Montague covered by the Turners Falls Water Department – Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, Montague City and Turners – have copper pipe running straight from the department’s water line to the home. “Only about 10% to 15% have the old brass pipe,” said Brown. “That’s where you may run into problems.”

Brown said some older homes in downtown Turners and in the Crocker Avenue – High Street neighborhood on the Hill do have brass piping, and brass water pipes are more prone to failure.

Water department clerk Nancy Holmes said the department requires one inch diameter copper piping for all new residential hook-ups.

But Brown said he would not recommend any homeowner buy insurance for a problem that so rarely occurs.

“I’m a homeowner, too,” said Brown. “I put aside a nest egg for

any unanticipated problem – like if your refrigerator breaks down.” If someone does have a water line break on their side of the property line, Brown said the water department has a list of “two or three local contractors” to recommend “who are legit and can get the job done for them.”

What if the homeowners who received the letter from HomeServe choose to go with that company’s insurance option? If a break occurs, how would the company, with mailing addresses in Boston and Miami, respond?

“We do work with local and insured contractors in every area,” said Levar Joseph, a supervisor for HomeServe USA at their call answering center. “In the event, god forbid, something happens, we are generally out to their home extremely fast. Someone from our repair department will call the customer and we assess the problem, and one of our contractors will contact the customer to set up an appointment.”

Joseph said the company’s marketing team’s method is to send letters such as the one that arrived in the mailboxes of numerous Montague residents

over the last week, “to one specific designated area at a time. It’s not something that’s required. If you’re not covered at the present moment, we do provide coverage.”

Joseph said HomeServe has been in business for “almost a decade,” and is a member of the Better Business Bureau. More information can be found on the company’s website: www.homeserveusa.com.

Concerned residents who received the letter, which states that a homeowner has just until the end of July “to ensure your coverage benefits,” by responding with payment for HomeServe’s water line insurance with payment by check, debit or credit card, have also been calling town hall to complain.

Tax collector Patti Dion said her office has fielded a number of these calls. “I don’t even know if it’s legitimate or not. If they need any more information, I tell them they should call the Turners Falls Water Department” (863-4542). Dion added, “Hopefully, no one has signed up for this.”

Brown said he worried that the letter from HomeServe may have been targeted directly toward elderly homeowners in town.

“None of my employees have received this letter,” Brown said.

Brown also noted that homeowners who are considering doing any excavating work around the foundation of their house can call the Water Department to come mark out their water line – at no charge.



PARK from page 1

Waiting in the wings, the Great Falls Skate Park committee, is hoping to use funds from a subsequent Unity Park improvement block grant to provide the town’s 30% match for a concrete skate park on the former Williams Way, now part of Unity Park, for another competitive grant. Town planner Walter Ramsey said if the town can come up with \$103,000 to \$138,000 (depending on whether a concrete bowl is included in the final skate park design) in matching funds from a CDBG grant (or other sources) to provide the local match, then the skate park would be eligible for funding through a Land Grant from the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) – formerly the Self-Help program.

Skate park proponents cheered the success of the town’s application for the first phase of the project.

“We’re thrilled the town got the first part of the project funded,” said Brian Dolan, a member of the skate park committee.

“This keeps the skate park moving forward,” added Mike Jackson, another skate park committee member. “We hope this will make it easier to raise additional funds for the skate park component of the project.”

Abbondanzio said a decrease in federal funding for the CDBG program may force a change in the state funding cycle. For the

first time, communities like Montague that are awarded funds in one year, may have to wait an entire year before applying again. Up until now, towns and cities could apply for CDBG funding each year regardless of grants awarded.

Abbondanzio said he was hoping legislators could be persuaded to try to keep the program the way it was, despite a reported 25% decline in federal funding. “It’s been a competitive program – the best projects win,” Abbondanzio pointed out.

If the change goes through, Montague may have to wait until 2013 to apply for Phase II of Unity Park improvements – \$450,000 to fund a fitness path around the entire park perimeter along with renovations to the ballfields and other amenities.

There is some disagreement among skate park proponents and town officials whether funding for the town’s match for the concrete skate park – a half million dollar project that could be eligible for 70% grant funding under the Land Grant program of DCS – would have to wait for a possible third phase of CDBG funding – potentially pushing the start date for the skate park out to 2015, or beyond.

The grant award also included \$248,000 for zero interest housing rehab loans and for the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to administer the grant.



2nd Annual Arts Elective

GREENFIELD - Are you culturally omnivorous? Then the Greenfield Arts Elective in the Greenfield Energy Park is the place for you to be on Saturday, July 30th from 2 to 9 p.m.. This year, the menu is expanding.

In addition to an eclectic mix of live music, poetry, and fiction readings, the Elective will also include live theatre and a Small Press Fair. In addition, several small presses, literary journals, and literary collectives from Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York will be setting up shop. You can meet their editors and authors and purchase their books and magazines.

Curated once again by Daniel Hales, this year’s Elective features an especially eclectic mix of music. Guitar deities Ed Vadas and Sue Burkhart will perform authentic acoustic delta blues as Ameri-MF-cana. The Ambiguities will bring the indie rock to poems by Wallace Stevens, Charles Baudelaire, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti (as

well as perform their own odes to shape shifting dragons, etc.). The Harmaniacs are a harmonica trio unlike all those other harmonica trios you hear on the radio. The same could be said of the sitar and air synth duo: Paradise Camp 23. The uniquely freaky and psychedelic folk of Patrick Porter is a new kind of awesome.

Featured readers include Wyn Cooper, Dennis Finnell, James Grinwis, and Mark Leidner, along with short readings showcasing some of the

Small Presses present.

The New Renaissance Players, who recently wowed you with their version of “Macbeth” (seen through the lens of the Enron scandal), will present three one acts by the brilliant and hilarious playwright, David Ives: The Philadelphia, Long Ago And Far Away, and Variations On The Death Of Trotsky.

A seat at this feast is totally free and open to everyone, thanks to a grant from the Greenfield Cultural Council.



The Ambiguities will perform at the 2nd Annual Arts Elective

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STUDENTS TAKE TO THEIR BIKES IN CLIMATE SUMMER



Marina Stevenson, April Bello, Kaia Zimmerman, Sara Orvis, and Lisa Purdy of the Mass Action Climate Summer team.

BY SAM LETCHER

GREENFIELD - "It's up to us to take action" said Kaia Zimmerman of Amherst, who is spending her summer riding her bicycle across Massachusetts along with other student interns, spreading the word about the dangers of fossil fuels, and ultimately releasing a 'State of the Movement' report summarizing their findings of best practices in environmental sustainability.

Zimmerman is part of Climate Summer, an internship program sponsored by the Better Future Project, a non-profit organization devoted to reducing the country's fossil fuel addiction. With four companions (Sara Orvis, of Clayton, NY; April Bello of Los Angeles, CA; Elisa Purdy of Pittsburgh, PA and Marina Stevenson of Charlottesville,

VA) Zimmerman will spend seven weeks "connecting, supporting and documenting sustainable initiatives" in cities and towns as they cycle across the state.

Zimmerman and her four companions are one of six non-competitive teams taking part in Climate Summer throughout New England. Three such teams are touring Massachusetts, Zimmerman's Mass Action and two others, while at the same time teams are touring New Hampshire, Maine, and Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Before setting off, the riders went through an extensive two week training course on bike safety and human relations, focusing on diversity awareness. Upon completing the training, the teams set off on their seven

week journeys, planning to stay in a total of 42 different towns and cities for a week at a time.

Despite the care taken in preparation, once the teams set off they are truly on their own. Though they each have an itinerary with rough arrival and departure dates for each town, it is up to the riders themselves to find food and lodging along the way.

According to Stevenson, each rider has just five dollars per person per day to spend on meals, so instead of buying fast food they purchase ingredients and make their own meals wherever they are staying. Their goal is to stay environmentally friendly while on their journey, so they try to buy locally grown food whenever possible. Unfortunately, unlike mass produced food, locally grown food is usually more

expensive than trucked in counterparts.

Still, the benefits of supporting the local economy are wide and varied, the riders maintain. Farmers markets and community gardens support the local economy and lead to greater social interaction and a stronger sense of community. Buying local grown organic products is also better for the environment. Importing foodstuffs from other states - or even other countries - carries a huge hidden environmental burden in fossil fuels for production and transportation, the riders say.

When they arrive in a town, each team sets up meetings with town leaders and community members who are taking steps to reduce their environmental footprint. The cyclists take note, and will include these examples in their final report.

Prior to arriving in Greenfield, the Mass Action team spent a week in Fitchburg, a much larger city. Bello, who hails from L.A., said that in big cities, the barriers between rich and poor are more pronounced, compared to cities the size of Greenfield, where she said it is hard to tell one social class from another. The group agreed that smaller municipalities often seem to have a greater sense of community than stratified cities.

Similarly, and perhaps because of the better sense of community, in smaller towns green initiatives are more often lead by the members of the community rather than by the town's officials. Bello discussed how, in

cities, there is usually a much more distinct group of environmentally conscious activists who spearhead the reform movement.

Though the team was only two weeks into their journey, they had already documented some instances of environmentally sound practices in both Fitchburg and Greenfield.

In Fitchburg, the riders worked with the Montachusett Opportunity Council, an organization that works with low income families to improve the quality of their lives, as well as conducting street audits to improve safety for citizens on the roads.

In Greenfield, following along with the theme of their trip, the group mentioned Just Soap, a local manufacturer based in Ashfield that uses entirely organic materials and bicycle power to make soap. The team met with Alden Booth owner of The People's Pint, which uses only local ingredients. The Pint composts as much as possible, and recycles whatever they can, reducing its waste stream to a minimum.

While in Greenfield, the riders were staying at the First Congregational Church in Greenfield, before cycling south to Holyoke. Once the riders complete their journey they will work cooperatively with the other five teams to produce the State of the Movement report, which will summarize the findings of the entire project and will be made available in each of the towns where they stayed, and possibly on the internet.

Water on the Avenue!

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Despite the unrelenting drought gripping much of America, Kurt Richardson and helpers, of Snow and Sons Landscaping in Greenfield, brought water to the Avenue on Wednesday.

It was a long time coming.

Richardson said he has been working on the irrigation system that feeds the planters up and down Avenue A since the late 80s. During that time, Richardson said he has either owned or managed three different landscaping companies, but the town has always turned to him when the water lines for the

planters are in need of repair.

"I'm thrilled. That's incredible!" said Avenue A Gardeners' coordinator Anne Jemas, as she turned on a freshly installed water tap in front of the Kharma Salon, on the corner of 4th Street Wednesday afternoon. "The gardeners will be thrilled. It's been a long season with no water."

Jemas has been working for several years with an ever changing group of dozens of community volunteers and business owners to beautify the downtown business district by weeding, improving the soil,

see WATER page 12



DETMOLD PHOTO

Kurt Richardson at work installing hose bibs for the planters along the Avenue on Wednesday

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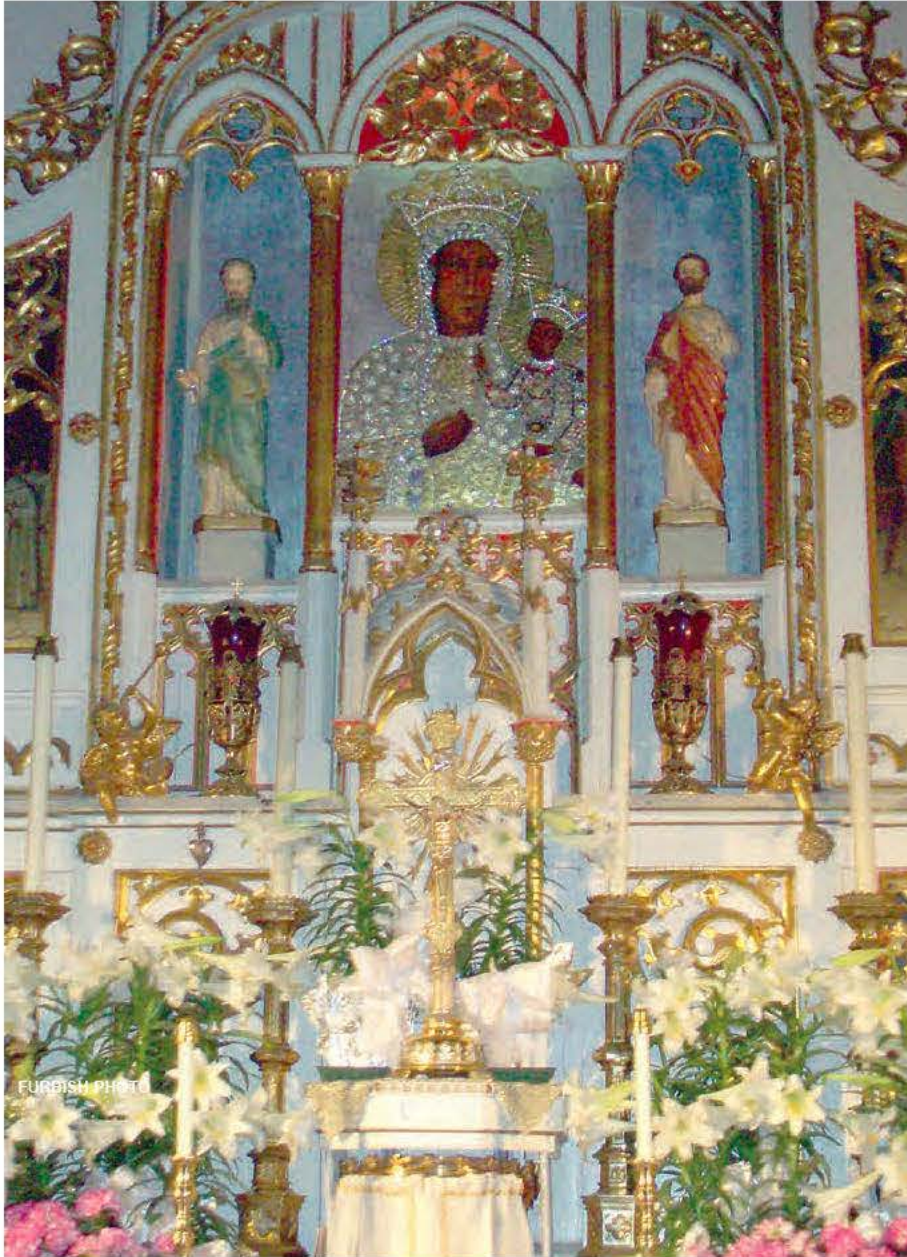
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The Back Madonna crowns this "reredos" (decorative screen) hand carved in oak in a high gothic style by parishioner Joseph Schab in 1918. The four sections of the screen can fold to two (and reveal figurative carvings behind the four 1914 paintings), and were first used this way behind the altar at the L Street Parish. Presently the screen is kept permanently opened behind the altar in order to fully display the paintings and statues. In this picture, it has been adorned with lilies blessed in the traditional Polish manner.

BY JOHN FURBISH
TURNERS FALLS - Summer was hot and bright when I went inside Our Lady of Czestochowa for the first time to look at the stained glass windows.

Heading along the Avenue past the library, I started up the concrete steps of the 9th Street sidewalk, heading up to K Street. Looking up above the trees at the top of the hill, I could see the dark red ceramic roofing tiles of Our Lady of Czestochowa, but a tall ever-

green obscured a view of the taller steeple. Halfway up, I paused for breath by the exposed rock face to the right of the steps.

I thought of the history of some of the less recent immigrants to Turners Falls. At the end of the 1800s, there was a great Polish relocation, when 2.5 million Poles came to the United States. Hundreds of them

scaled down plans for the K Street site from a larger church in the monastery at Jasna Gora.

The magnificent church has

an imposing 120-foot high steeple, girded by a military style parapet, a fortress of the faith.

A year after the fire and on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the St. Kazimierz Society, the new church was finished. It was blessed in October 1929, just before the great stock market crash of that year. The Pontifical Institute in Rome, known for fine drawing and vibrant color, crafted the stained glass windows.

Entering through the high, heavy carved bronze doors, I walked through the vestibule into the nave. I was stunned. There were no lights on and I thought I would be going into darkness, but instead a cloak of bright colors and light enveloped me.

It seemed magical, like walking through a kaleidoscope. I tried to identify the images from an undated booklet called "A Stained Glass Litany" (by Robert Heath, with black and white illustrations by Annette Krejmas).

I found the many windows representing saints from the Middle Ages, such as Frances of Rome who brought consolation to the afflicted in 14th-century Italy, Thomas Aquinas (the 13th-century theologian), and Francis of Assisi. As befitting the church of a Polish congregation, there are window panels for Saint Wladyslaw, Kazimirz, Adalbert, Stanislaus, Jadwiga (Hedwig), and Stanislaw Kostka.

I found many images from the early church, starting with Saint John the Baptist. "The Window of Saint Anne with the Young Mary," shows Anne as an older mother and the young Mary as a consecrated daughter.

Also from pre-Christian Roman times were several saints: Sophia (who was killed while she prayed over the bodies of her martyred daughters

Faith, Hope, and Charity), Cecilia (patroness of musicians), and Dorothy, who was cruelly tortured and executed in the early fourth-century because she refused to accept the Roman gods.

My personal favorite is a small window on the west wall that shows Saint Joseph, who holds a flowering staff to represent purity. His features speak of a patient, humble, and hard-working man with a childlike trust in and obedience to the deity. The Kuklewicz family sponsored this panel.

The overall effect of the stained glass, with their predominant hues of purple and blue, serves to create a calming aura of peace in the church. Parishioners were coming in to pray and I thought the soft light of the windows made a perfect atmosphere for lighting candles and bowing heads. Church pastor Charles DiMascola simply adores his church's windows. "Even on a dull day, they just

see GEMS page 16

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TFHS Inaugurates Hall of Fame

BY LARRY CADRAN - On October 14th this year, Turners Falls High School will conduct ceremonies to induct nine individuals and one athletic team into a Hall of Fame, adjacent to the school library.

The primary purpose of the Hall of Fame is to promote student motivation towards higher goals. The secondary purpose of the TFHS Hall of Fame is to display honor to all students, alumni, and administrators whose individual achievements in any field of endeavor merits recognition. Such individuals can be nominated by anyone and must provide backup information to the Hall of Fame committee.

A Hall of Fame committee

has been chartered by TFHS to find, assess, nominate candidates, and assist in the induction ceremony. Larry Cadran, Class of 1949, is the committee chair.

The high school principal and the committee intend to have an annual induction ceremony in the high school theater. The ceremony will be held during the last hour of class on a Friday to allow all high school students to be present. The public will also be invited, and attendance will be free.

Presently, the Hall of Fame committee is working to establish its own website.

For more information, contact: Larry Cadran, Hall of Fame committee chair, 978-458-1177.

Nominated by the committee to be candidates for the Year 2011 induction are:

- Lieutenant Colonel Nina Baker, Class of 1930
- Professor George R. Richason Jr., Class of 1932
- 1942 TFHS Baseball Team
- Governor Philip Hoff, Class of 1942
- Representative Walter Kostanski, Class of 1942
- Goldie Florence Haigis Luippold Christianson, Class of 1947
- Doctor Therese Mann Hinkell, Class of 1948
- Olympian Ted Farwell, Class of 1948
- Professor Jane Allen Weiner LePage, Class of 1949
- Reverend Father Stanley Aksamit, Class of 1969

WATER see page 10

and planting showy annuals and perennials in the dozens of raised planters that line both sides of the Avenue.

When the planters were originally installed in the mid-80s, they came equipped with pop-up plastic sprinklers that watered the beds each night, on a timer system.

Those soon got kicked over and broken, during a period of time when the Avenue was overrun by drug dealers, who would stake their turf on top of the planters, for a better vantage point on the trade. A town wide drug bust in the mid-90s cleaned up that action, but failed to clean up the planters at the same time, which were often knee high in crabgrass by August - not a good look.

Even prior to that bust, a small group of downtown residents attempted to weed and plant flowers along the Avenue. Those efforts really took off under the guidance of folks like Mike Bosworth, former director of the Brick House, Linda Hickman, children's librarian at the Carnegie Library, naturalist Dawn Ward, and many others,

including Jemas, the present coordinator of the effort.

"It's been a good group that's been involved over the years," said Jemas. "What I see is people really taking pride in their particular planters. Each planter is pretty individual in all kinds of ways, which I think reflects how Turners itself is eclectic."

Looking up and down at the gay prospect of orange trumpeted day lilies, the ranks of red and white impatiens, begonias, marigolds, bee balm, hosta, and all the other blooms, Jemas said, "I think the Avenue overall looks great, even without access to water."

Each planter has a sign telling the name of the volunteer sponsor or business caring for it, and Jemas said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio tells her he gets frequent comments from visitors to town praising the evident community involvement and the beauty of the Avenue.

Melica Van Steenburgh, who has owned and operated the Turners Falls Pizza House at 119 Avenue A for the last 41 years, said she has never seen the Avenue looking so good. She has been buying plants for the volunteers who tend the planter in front

of her pizza shop for the last five years or so. She said sometimes people bring perennial plants down from their own gardens; sometimes folks ask permission to divide one of the perennials in the planter and take it home with them. It's like a community give and take, and it's leading to an even more bountiful display.

After installing a new hose bib in the corner of each planter, easily accessed by the volunteer gardeners, Richardson paused to consider the progress over the last three decades on the Avenue.

"They've been encouraging people to make each storefront look good, but there's been no water. This should solve that problem (except for the two planters in front of the Subway and Beijing Station, where the water line is broken).

"There's an added impetus now, with so many street festivals. It looks great," said Richardson. "People are really trying hard."

To get involved, or to take a turn helping to coordinate the downtown gardeners (now that the water problem is solved, Jemas is ready for retirement) call: 834-0777.



FUTURE from pg 1

received a grounding in down-to-earth practicalities: the physical condition of the building and the requirements of foundations and agencies that grant money for restoring historic structures like this one.

Jerry Eide, who has worked with the Friends on maintaining and restoring the historic building for several decades, told the group that a lot of repairs had already been taken to preserve the Meetinghouse. A concrete step that collected rainwater has been removed, the front sill has been replaced and the stone foundation restored, structural repairs have been made to the bell tower, the exterior paint has been scraped and a primer coat and one additional coat of finish paint has been applied, and a new roof has been installed.

Eide suggested missing window glass at the Meetinghouse should be replaced before winter, the building should be tightened to

evict the pigeons that have taken up residence in the bell tower, and some minor repairs should be undertaken on the roof.

He said the steeple frame built for the Meetinghouse by historic restoration students and stored outdoors in front of the Meetinghouse for several years was "salvageable" and could potentially be raised into position over the bell tower.

"You need a bathroom if you want state or federal grants," said Jean Derderian, a New Salem resident who has worked on restoration of New Salem's 1794 Meetinghouse and, more recently, a former New Salem Academy building.

The Wendell Meetinghouse building does not have plumbing, but has a small room housing a commode and a camp-style basin.

According to Queen, the Meetinghouse may be eligible to connect to the water and sewer mains constructed for the town-owned buildings in

Wendell center.

Derderian said it would be essential to get a historic structure report from a preservation architect, including drawings and a cost analysis before applying for grants for the Meetinghouse. She said the Friends of the Meetinghouse will also need a Chapter 34 analysis (for repair of an existing historic building), specifying what the building will be used for and which sections of the building code need to be met.

An additional restriction on the potential use of the building is the requirement of the Wendell Congregational Church, which gave the building to the Friends group. The congregation's letter of gift stated the building should be available for "gatherings of a spiritual nature, such as weddings, funerals, religious services and celebrations."

With that introduction, Queen invited people to present their ideas for balancing

historic preservation of the building with visions of "who will use the building and how it will be used."

"I want to see it restored to be a beautiful place," said Jeffrey Baumann. Karen Copeland recommended low-cost drumming classes and drum circles. Adrian Montagano said that Wendell needs the building to have "a spiritual focus, where a person could go to focus and express spiritual energy. The entire community benefits from having that, whether they know it or not."

Rosie Heidkamp suggested the building could house "an appropriate cottage industry, [providing] employment day to day creating a Wendell product, while still maintaining open space in the building for other activities."

Other suggestions included storage for historic items and documents and providing Tai Chi classes. Queen said he thought that "massage, coun-

seling, and health and wellness services" would fit well in the building.

Queen told the meeting he is not a voting member of the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, because he has not yet met the requirement of attending three consecutive meetings. However, he said, "becoming a voting member is my ambition." With the two current voting members, Melinda Godfrey and Charles Smith, in attendance, Tuesday night's meeting counted toward meeting that requirement.

The group agreed to spend the summer rebuilding support for the Friends group and getting additional information about restoring the building for re-use.

The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse will meet again to continue the community brainstorming session on Wednesday, August 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the senior center.



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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

WENDELL from pg 6

completed a year earlier.

The MBI plan includes running cable in Wendell to the town office building, the police station and library, but does not include the senior center, or the highway garage and fire station. Since the town garage has been established as the Wendell emergency management center, the Wired Wendell board of directors said that is an omission that needs to be corrected. Otherwise, they seemed heartened by Leppzer's report.

The Wired West founding convention will be held at the Cummington Community Center on July 16th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Leppzer said 47 towns have joined Wired West to date.

The selectboard meeting began with two requests to rent the town hall. The first was made by the conservation commission, to hold a second Clamshell Alliance "No Nukes" party on October 8th, and no fee was required. The second request was made by Sharon Wachslar for a private event on July 16th.

Librarian Rosie

Heidkamp submitted a bill for Edward's Tree Service for taking down a large dying ash tree with branches that threatened the library roof and skylights. She had expected the bill of \$1,720 would be paid from the \$2,193.70 that remains in the library construction account. But the town accountant, Brian Morton, came in to the selectboard meeting objecting that the construction accounts should have been closed within three years after the buildings were completed. He felt the tree work should be paid from the annual town building maintenance line item.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the tree removal was conceived as part of the original library construction project, delayed because of objections raised by an abutter, but completed this year as the tree weakened and the neighbor agreed to having it removed.

Morton replied that as long as Keller could produce evidence of that fact, such as the minutes from the building committee meetings, the auditor should allow paying the tree cutting bill out of the construction account.

He wanted the other construction accounts closed out: \$4,441.50 in the office building account, and \$421.02 in the septic system account.

Keller noted that all three projects were completed under budget.

Morton said the building money can be appropriated at a town meeting towards debt service of any other 40-year loan project, but selectboard chair Christine Heard said the town is not looking at another 40-year loan project at this time. The septic system account was taken from stabilization, and a town meeting vote can return that money to stabilization.

Morton wanted, if possible, to close out other accounts that have been carried forward from year to year, and as he listed them the selectboard gave reasons why each account should be closed, or carried forward another year.

Accounts that will be closed and returned to the general fund include moneys for the open space plan budget (because the plan has been updated), town property cleanup (because the properties involved were cleaned and sold), the town hall

stage door account, the police station exterior paint, windows, and gutters, the highway garage and fire station furnaces, and the backup server for computers in the town office building.

Ongoing accounts the town will carry forward include the tax title account, the veterans memorial account, the account for cleaning mold out of the town vault, the energy committee account, water heaters for the town office building, the Swift River School capital fund and roof and boiler green repair account.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Orange Oil submitted the low bid, \$3.39 per gallon, for winter heating oil. She said that Pam Harris from Orange Oil said there are no guarantees, but she expected the price would drop before winter. (Of course it could go up as well.) The town budgeted \$3.50 per gallon, and paid \$2.50 last year.

Once the town accepts a bid, it is locked into that price, just as Orange Oil will be locked into their price.

Heard wondered, "Who do we know who

has a crystal ball?"

Keller suggested talking with the finance committee before rolling the dice and committing to a set price, or hoping for the price to drop further. The bid is not good forever, but should hold until the next regular selectboard meeting on July 20th.

Keller said five interested parties came to the June 25th walk-through of the town owned Marion Herrick property, in response to a recent request for proposals from the town. One person went into the cellar and reported that most of it was free of standing water.

The selectboard will hold a special meeting on July 13th to open proposals for the property received by then. Wendell acquired the house and 39 acres after Herrick passed away, and taxes were not paid by her heirs. Many townspeople are interested in the property because it is one of the oldest houses in town, built in the style of the early 1800s.

The town of Framingham recently voted to petition state and federal legislators to pass a bill that would prohibit

unfunded mandates. The Framingham selectboard sent Wendell and other towns a letter requesting that the other towns follow suit.

Aldrich reported that after chasing down the supplier of the office building outside bulletin board she got a quote of \$920 plus shipping for another enclosed bulletin board.

The town needs to increase outside bulletin board space at the town offices because town meeting agreed to designate that location as the only official posting place in town, and more space is needed to post meeting agendas and town meeting warrants in accordance with the relatively new state open meeting law.

Heard noted that assistant tax collector Del Williston has resigned. Board members signed appointment slips for town financial consultant Janet Swem, financial director Nancy Aldrich (adding to her duties as town coordinator), and to the three members of the reduced website committee, Robert Heller, Ray DiDonato, and Christine Texiera.



from **WAR ERA** page 5

On January 26th, 1775 the town meeting resolved to "strictly adhere" to the resolves of the Continental Congress. A committee of safety was appointed to enforce the policies promoted by the congress (no doubt a boycott of British goods) and an appropriation was made to support members of the local militia, or "Minute Men."

In 1777, with the Revolutionary War in full swing, Leverett voted unanimously that "we risque our lives and fortunes in defense of our rights and liberties wherein God and Nature hath made us free." (a version of the Declaration of Independence's reference to the laws of "Nature and Nature's God").

In August of 1779 Richard Montague was made a delegate to a convention in Cambridge to create a new state constitution.

There were several appropriations in 1781 for provisions for the local militia serving in the revolutionary cause. The method was to establish special committees to raise and distribute funds.

On May 15th, 1783, with the war just ended, town meeting "voted unanimously that the Tories and absentees so called that have taken protection under his Brittanic Majesty shall not return to this commonwealth again."

In the aftermath of the revolution, there was opposition in the region to both the state government in Massachusetts and to the emerging United States.

Local leaders did not support Shay's Rebellion, but signed a petition to the General Court urging clemency for the "misguided brethren" who had joined the insurrection. In 1787, Leverett voted to oppose of the new constitution that formally established the United States.

Bennett portrayed Leverett citizens during the Revolutionary era as highly independent hill farmers, tavern keepers and mill owners, tending to oppose centralized authority whether in England, the newly independent nation, or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Strains of this same contrarian independence can still be discerned in the minutes of Leverett's town meetings down to the present day.



from **TAX BILL** page 5

snow events were popular (the former continued in town until the 70s). Store prices were reasonable. For example, crackers cost \$1.65; tea \$.50; sugar \$.25; peanut butter \$.90; coffee \$.50; cinnamon \$.10; and four and a half tons of coal cost \$14.00.

Even if you don't live in Leverett, and even if you have never heard of the Taylors, this could be a learning experience for some and a trip down Memory Lane for others. Museum hours are Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or by calling Edie Field at 413-548-9452. The Camp Anderson exhibit is still at the museum.

Another chance to relive local history would be to visit the Moores Corner Schoolhouse Museum on North Leverett


Road between 1 and 3 p.m. on Sundays to see the recent acquisitions from the Glazier Family. For further information call Dr. Dan Bennett at 413-367-2656.

Admission is free at both locations, but contributions are welcome.



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The Perfect Pizza Crust

NORMA JOHNSON

MONTAGUE CENTER - I ate my first pizza in California years ago, in a different life. I'm pretty sure it was at a Shakey's Pizza Parlor, and very sure that I loved it at first bite.

Over the years, I have remained a fan, and with each geographical move I quickly discovered where I could find the best pizza in the area. Needless to say (one of those strange phrases like "I probably shouldn't say this," or "I hope this doesn't offend you," always followed by the thusly disavowed statement), the best of anything is a relative and subjective term. In my opinion, the only pizza worth crossing the street for in the greater Pioneer Valley is to be found at Magpie in Greenfield.

Every several weeks, I get together with a group of friends to watch a film and, afterwards, discuss the movie while we share take-out pizza from a restaurant just across the street! We refer to ourselves rather mundanely as "The Movie Group," and imagine that this establishes us as a club.

Early in the evening, we gather at the apartment of the guy with the biggest TV. First we haggle over which one of the several DVDs on hand to opt for; then we settle down to popcorn and wine to watch our film of choice. The club has several rules, determined only after the fact, including the movie is chosen by majority rule or by the loudest minority; one can exercise veto power if the movie includes the kidnapping or death of a child or if Roman Polanski has had his naughty hands in the film or other such personal aversions; the women get the couch; there is to be no talking out loud once the lights are down; one cannot willy-nilly bring a stranger into our midst without first checking it out with the group.

The latter rule is not, however, levied against the guy with the biggest TV. Because he is currently not married, is attractive, well-heeled, well-dressed, and thus appealing to any woman in her right mind, he has serially invited a number of attractive, well-heeled, well-dressed and appealing women, each in her right mind, to our group, but only for limited engagements. There are other colorful things I might add, but my intent, really, is to focus on pizza.

It is an understatement to characterize the Movie Group as willful and opinionated, viz., it takes us at least a half-hour to pick a film, and there is always a prolonged discussion before we can agree on toppings for the pizzas. However, this group process is not combative or uncompromis-

ing. Rather, it is quite jolly, friendly and exemplifies cooperation and personal flexibility. Jeremy Bentham would have been impressed. Decisions get made and we watch our chosen film, mostly respecting the rules of the game. We agree on pizza toppings, sometimes bending to the needs of the one with the sensitive esophagus, and always of those who hate anchovies. The order is called in, there is a short run across the street to pick it up, and we then sit around the table scarfing pizza and offering reactions to the film. It is great fun, with a lot of intellectual stimulation, differing points of view, and emotional exposure offered up. It beats going to war, in my opinion.

At this point, I need to say, I probably should say it, and I don't care if it offends you, the best way to ruin even the best pizza is to put it in a cardboard box readied for home delivery or pick-up/take-out. From that moment, no matter the distance from the brick oven to its destination, the pizza is busily absorbing the moist, warm air generated inside the covered container in which it sits. By the time it's on your table, the crust is indistinguishable from the cardboard, and the once-tasty toppings have lost all their zip. On this fact, I entertain no arguments.

Fortunately, there is a way out. Try making your own pizza, if only once, just for the heck of it. It may not turn out to delight you, in which case you will be even happier to let someone else do the work for you. However, if you are even mildly thrilled with the outcome, a whole new world of do-it-yourselfness will open up. You can explore the many how-to-pizza books, learn the history of and passion for different types of crusts, try endless combinations and permutations of toppings, it's exhausting. It's exciting. It's delicious.

But wait! Unless you are willing to arm yourself with an oven stone and a pizza peel, don't read on. There is no substitute for those pieces of equipment. Period. As Aesop might have fabulized, "Don't try to fell a tree with a nail file," which kind of translates to, "unless you have a baking stone and a wooden peel, head for Magpie."

To the recipe: there are many, many variations of pizza dough, but I include here just one: my personal favorite. I know this is willful and opinionated (has that ever deterred me?), but I do believe it is the Perfect Pizza Crust. It appeared in the fine magazine, *Fine Cooking* (including a nice topping recipe, not noted here). I follow their instructions to a "T". They're the

THIN CRUST PIZZA

- 3 cups (16 1/2 ounces) bread flour, plus more for work surface
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon instant or rapid-rise yeast
- 1 1/3 cups ice water (about 10 1/2 ounces)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, plus more for work surface
- 1 1/2 teaspoons table salt

- ① In food processor fitted with metal blade, process flour, sugar, and yeast until combined, about 2 seconds. With machine running, slowly add water through feed tube; process until dough is just combined and no dry flour remains, about 10 seconds. Let dough stand 10 minutes.
- ② Add oil and salt to dough and process until dough forms satiny, sticky ball that clears sides of work bowl, 30 to 60 seconds. Remove dough from bowl and knead briefly on lightly oiled countertop until smooth, about 1 minute. Shape dough into tight ball and place in large, lightly oiled bowl. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 24 hours and up to 3 days.
- ③ One hour before baking pizza, adjust oven rack to second highest position (rack should be about 4 to 5 inches below broiler), set pizza stone on rack, and heat oven to 500 degrees. Remove dough from refrigerator and divide in half. Shape each half into smooth, tight ball. Place on lightly oiled baking sheet, spacing them at least 3 inches apart; cover loosely with plastic wrap coated with nonstick cooking spray; let stand for 1 hour.
- ④ Coat 1 ball of dough generously with flour and place on well-floured countertop. Using fingertips, gently flatten into 8-inch disk, leaving 1 inch of outer edge slightly thicker than center. Using hands, gently stretch disk into 12-inch round, working along edges and giving disk quarter turns as you stretch. Transfer dough to well-floured peel and stretch into 13-inch round. (Note: NOW'S THE TIME TO ADD THE TOPPING OF YOUR CHOICE. NJ)
- ⑤ Slide pizza carefully onto stone and bake until crust is well browned and cheese is bubbly and beginning to brown, 10 to 12 minutes, rotating pizza halfway through. Remove pizza and place on wire rack for 5 minutes before slicing and serving. Repeat step 4 to shape, top, and bake second pizza.

experts, I'm not.

The choice of toppings I leave to you, with some caveats. (1) Layer in this order: sauce, cheese, toppings, cheese, a drizzle of oil; (2) cook and cool your veggies and meats before adding; (3) less is usually more. Haven't we all had enough of pizza slathered with tasteless tomato sauce, bland sausage, green bell peppers

(ugh, the worst), rubbery mushrooms and unidentifiable cheese? Try surprising combos: feta cheese/baked summer squash slices/garlic puree/a sprinkling of lemon juice; gorgonzola cheese/roasted red peppers/Canadian bacon. Let your imagination be your guide. And if you get lost along the way, call, I'm in the book. If we have

time, we can watch a movie together, as long as you-know-who hasn't had his hand in it.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Bear Sighting, Break In, Vandalism Arrest, Harassment Order Violation

Wednesday, 6/29

6:10 p.m. Electrical traffic hazard at the Montague Water Pollution Control Facility on Greenfield Road. Services rendered.

7:13 p.m. Animal complaint (bear) on Broadway at Lake Pleasant. Services rendered.

Thursday, 6/30

2:09 a.m. Vandalism on White Bridge to Greenfield on Canal Road. Services rendered.

12:34 p.m. Fight on T Street. Services rendered.

1:13 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Eleventh Street. Investigated.

3:52 p.m. Shoplifting at Cumberland Farms on Avenue A. Advised of options.

7:50 p.m. Assault on Central Street. Advised of options.

Friday, 7/1

1:44 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Turnpike Road. Investigated.

3:40 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Third Street. Investigated.

4:25 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED], for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Saturday, 7/2

12:03 a.m. Domestic disturbance on L Street. Services rendered.

6:30 a.m. Vandalism at Turners Falls Pizza House.

Report taken.

9:13 a.m. Missing person reported on Turners Falls Road. Report taken.

12:14 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED], for shoplifting by asportation.

3:19 p.m. Neighbor disturbance in the alley between at the Cutlery Block building. Area search negative.

4:04 p.m. Illegal dumping on Avenue C. Services rendered.

Sunday, 7/3

1:14 a.m. Default warrant arrest of [REDACTED].

3:38 a.m. Domestic disturbance on K Street. Investigated.

6:54 p.m. Assault on K Street. Services rendered.

11:45 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Davis Street. Services rendered.

11:47 p.m. Disorderly conduct at Unity Street and Park Street. Peace restored.

Monday, 7/4

3:15 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Swamp Road. Investigated.

7:40 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED], for speeding, driving a motor vehicle without insurance, a revoked registration, and without registration.

8:08 p.m. Missing person report on Goddard Avenue. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 7/5

1:23 a.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for vandalism, damage, or defacement of property.

Arrest of [REDACTED] for vandalism, damage, or defacement of property, and breaking and entering into a vehicle.

5:51 a.m. Illegal dumping at Greenfield Road and Hatchery Road. Referred to other agency.

7:26 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

9:14 a.m. Hit and run accident on Second Street. Investigated.

4:29 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Bridge Street. Report taken.

7:11 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for violation of restraining order, assault. Investigated.

8:40 p.m. Runaway pooch on K Street. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 7/6

4:33 p.m. Report of soliciting. Services rendered.

11:50 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Randall Road. Report taken.

Thursday, 7/7

6:38 p.m. Assault at Unity Park and First Street. Investigated.

10:20 p.m. Loud noise dis-

turbance at Montague Senior Center on Fifth Street. Verbal warning.

Friday, 7/8

6:55 a.m. Larceny at Farm Stand on Turners Falls Road. Report taken.

12:00 p.m. Vandalism at Peskeumpskut Park. Report taken.

Saturday, 7/9

12:19 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Central Street. Investigated.

4:53 p.m. Domestic disturbance on K Street. Services rendered.

Sunday, 7/10

8:03 p.m. Disorderly conduct at Avenue A and Second Street. Peace restored.

8:38 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [REDACTED].

9:15 p.m. Odor investigation on Center Street. Unable to locate.

Monday, 7/11

7:12 p.m. Harassment order violation at Unity Park Softball Field on First Street. Advised of options.

9:01 p.m. Harassment order violation on Millers Falls Road. Report taken.

11:21 p.m. Structure fire on East Main Street. Referred to other agency.

Tuesday, 7/12

3:51 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on East Taylor Hill Road. Report taken.



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ELEVEN WAYS TO WALK *Ninth in a Series of Walks around West Gill*

West Gill Road South

BYPATRICIA CROSBY

It is a coolish, luxuriant, dewy Sunday morning when I set out south on West Gill Road, bracing myself for a bit of a dull July walk. On the surface of it, once one moves into summer, there's a feeling of everything having happened already in the natural world, not the same sense of budding expectation as in the spring.

We are passing through familiar territory at first: the Upingil home farm heifer pasture with its small roadside vernal pool, bereft now of wood frogs; some quiet neighbor homes. A line of sickly ash trees and a dramatically-leaning cherry mark the blazing-sun border of the golf course. A brief respite of woods and a crisply-running creek, followed by a sudden clump of European bellflower in the shade lift the spirits momentarily: then we are out into the glare of sun and lawns and hot pavement once more. Some goldenrod in an untended bank, getting tall but not near blooming yet, makes me think of long August afternoons of dyeing with spinner friends. The pleasure in lopping off the heads of whole fields of the rich gold, the delight the kids take in loading up baskets of them: then cooking it all on the stove in a big pot, yielding enough shimmering, golden dye to steep a fleece in.

Walking fast, we are already at the glade I had hoped to reach in fifteen minutes. Just past a stand of oaks and birches, a tree frames a view of meadow, small trees, sun, shade, and a red barn on the Underwood property. Glade. Dell. Copse. Dingle. I remember reading an essay by the poet Richard Wilbur that opens with an appreciation of those old topographical terms, well on their way to becoming lost, because only farmers find them useful, and what are farmers now—something like two percent of the population. But the

terms had, still have, relevance for them. Referring to their land, sending a helper to find a hidden calf, a stray sheep, a left shovel, they'll say: Go down through that dingle and you'll come to a glade. Check the far side, by the knoll. That's where you might find it.

Walking back, I see the tall stalk of mullein blooming out now, and escaped red bee balm and orange tiger lilies mixed among the random shrubs and vines along the guardrail. There is a swamp down there, at some times of year more like a river, hidden to most, though maybe not to the people whose land it borders. Maybe they walk it daily, or sit by it in their own woodsy hideaways. In early July, the air is still full-sweet with the sound of songbirds, more than I can count or trace, but rich game for real birders. Soon, in my experience, they will be mostly gone and we'll be left with the repetitive robin, the random catbird, and what the poet C.K. Williams calls "the maddeningly vapid who./who-who of

the doves..." I have my own poem about them, and about the love for words and terms in general that most poets have:

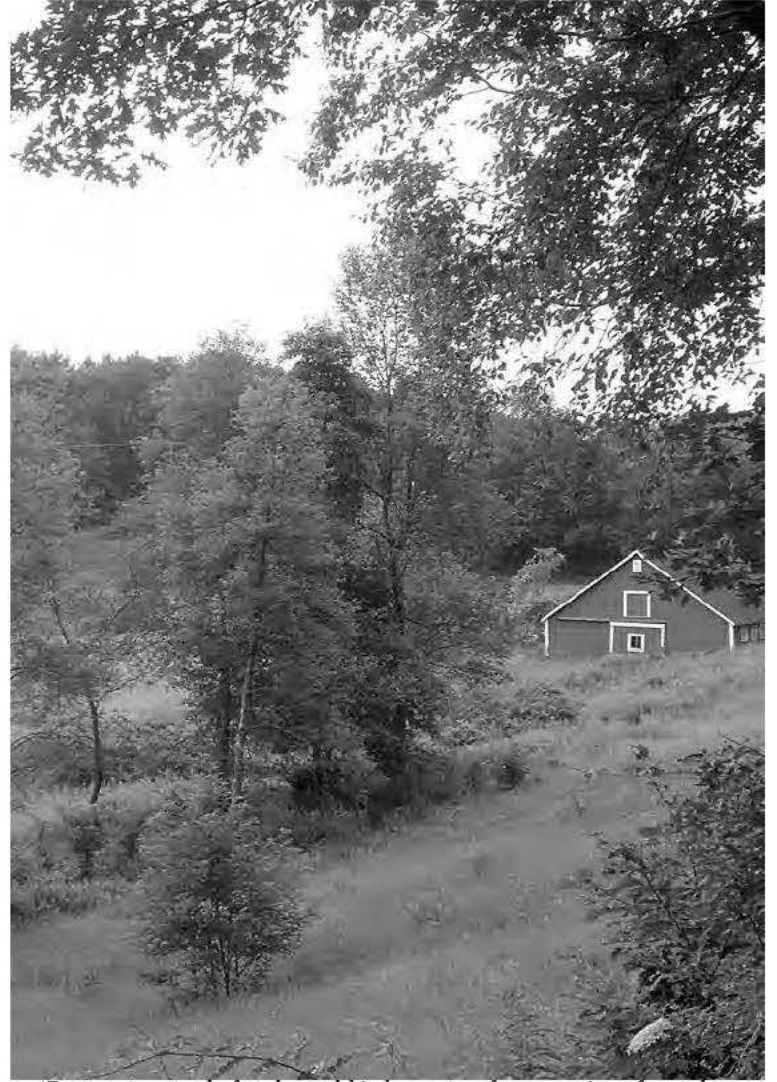
Poets like the names of things: bittern and pastern,
Aqualung, loop, and Abenak;
Lilith, cabal, meander, haymow,
Trefoil, celandine, sumac.

Poet's like the why of things. Who whipped poor Will?

Racheting and rabbit-ed joining.

What makes the shag-bark hickory shaggy?

And why are the morning doves mourning?



"Just past a stand of oaks and birches, a tree frames a view of meadow, small trees, sun, shade, and a red barn on the Underwood property."

PATRICIA CROSBY PHOTO

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Suspicious Vehicles, Harrassing Calls, Lightning Strike

Tuesday, 6/28

1:45 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Moore Street. Subject found to be OK. No problem.

Wednesday, 6/29

2:30 a.m. Lights on at Box Car Restaurant. Same checked OK.

5:15 a.m. Arrested [redacted] of Bernardston, on a default warrant on Route 2.

12:55 p.m. Report of an injured animal on Pine Meadow Road. Assisted Northfield Police.

Thursday, 6/30

5:50 p.m. Report of a suspicious person at Veteran's Park. Same gone upon arrival.

7:00 p.m. Loose dog at a Prospect Street residence. Located same and brought home to Central Street owner.

7:30 p.m. Illegal dumping reported on Arch Street.

Report taken and reported to highway department.

8:30 p.m. Suspicious bag found at Veteran's Field. Same contained railroad spikes. Turned over to railroad.

Friday, 7/1

9:00 p.m. Report of harrassing phone calls to a High Street address. Report taken.

11:20 p.m. Report of fireworks being shot at vehicles in area of Route 2 near the Paper Mill. Area checked. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 7/2

12 a.m. Located juvenile male walking around Northfield Road. Same advised he thought he heard noises. Juvenile returned to parent.

1:30 a.m. Report of fireworks in the area of Church Street. Unable to locate same.

2:45 a.m. Assisted state police at Gill bridge with arrest.

10:00 a.m. Criminal applica-

tion issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without an inspection sticker and after a suspended license on Route 2.

9:30 p.m. Fireworks at West High Street. Spoke with same. Also fireworks at Weatherheads Apartments. Spoke with same.

Sunday, 7/3

2:30 a.m. Report of a subject dressed in all black laying on side of the road on Route 2 at the Pocket Saver Market. Same limped toward railroad tracks. Searched area. Unable to locate.

1:34 p.m. Report of erratic operator. Located same - was tired. Advised to take a break from driving.

Tuesday, 7/5

7:35 a.m. Report of past larceny at Laurel Lake. Report taken.

8:20 p.m. Runaway juvenile reported from North Street. Same entered in computer.

Wednesday, 7/6

11:50 a.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Old State Road. Gone upon arrival.

1:30 p.m. Report of poisonous plant on bank of Millers River. Checked same. Unable to locate.

4:35 p.m. Report of man changing in parking lot of Laurel Lake. Same was nude. Assisted Warwick police. Unable to locate same.

8:01 p.m. Report of pole struck by lightning on Northfield Road. Wire down. Power company advised.

10:00 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] in Erving, for speeding and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Route 2.

Thursday, 7/7

3:30 a.m. Assisted Montague police on Church Street for reported breaking and entering. Area Checked.

1:30 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Old State Road. Unable to locate.

Friday, 7/8

6:05 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and without insurance.

10:24 a.m. Vandalism on Flagg Hill Road. Report taken.

Saturday, 7/9

11:20 a.m. Assisted Warwick police with motor vehicle crash into tree at Laurel Lake.

Sunday, 7/10

9:50 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with motor vehicle crash with injuries on Route 63.

Monday, 7/11

3:45 p.m. Report of ATV riding up and down North Street. Spoke with owners. Advised cannot do that.

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Franklin Area Survival Center Celebrates 30 Years of Giving

BY DON CLEGG

TURNERS FALLS - The Franklin Area Survival Center on 4th Street in Turners Falls held a 30th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, July 9th.

The purpose of the Center, as stated in their website, is to provide free food to needy individuals and families in the Franklin County Area. The Center also maintains a thrift shop where clothing, household items, furniture and other necessities are for sale at low cost.

State senator Stan Rosenberg, who attended the event, reminded the crowd that Massachusetts is one of only five commonwealths

of the 50 states in the USA. Rosenberg explained that commonwealth means community, which is what the Franklin Area Survival Center is all about. Rosenberg is proud of the Center's accomplishments; he presented FASC with a certificate of acknowledgment from the Massachusetts Senate. "We see ourselves as members of a community for the common good," Rosenberg said.

Faith Rockwood, president of the board at FASC, is appreciative of all the hard work that went into the 30th anniversary event. Rockwood also let all volunteers and staff know that the center would not

exist if it were not for all the hundreds of hours of volunteer work and the dedication of the center's few employees.

Chris Boutwell, Montague selectboard member, commented that the Survival Center is a huge asset to the community. Boutwell said he has many "friends that have volunteered at the Center and he is aware of the Center's great work in the county."

A plaque was dedicated with the names of all volunteers past and present who had worked more than five years at the Center. That list has more than 30 names, and is growing.

Call Franklin Area Survival Center: 413-863-9549.



DON CLEGG PHOTO

Jay Fidanza of WHAI, Survival Center board president Faith Rockwood, Senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) and Montague selectboard member Chris Boutwell at the 30th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday.

GEMS from page 11

glow. The drawing is so fine. The color is so sharp. To find these blues and purples and reds is not very common."

The interior of the church is characterized by the dominant features of arches and exposed masonry. The effect of arches was dominant, as a row of these wooden structures along the length of the nave supported the roof and created the spectacular, uplifting feel of a medieval cathedral. They held up the lofty ceiling without any need for pillars.

But looking around, I concluded that very little of the masonry of the walls actually seems to be exposed. Not only did the high stained glass windows take up most of the walls, there were also many designs and decorations at floor level.

Toward the vestibule, the two back walls were shaped like the wooden support arches for the ceiling. These walls were dominated by two large-scale oil paintings, about ten feet high, stretched on canvas with wooden arch shaped frames. They were painted by the well-known artist Bob Eaton at the end of his career, and represented some of his final artwork. (Eaton was best known for books and paintings of Western scenes, particularly those depicting Native Americans.) Here his two heartfelt works were "Vision of

the Mercy of God" and "Mother Angela Truskowska".

Down in the middle of the church, I noticed two paintings, oil on canvas, dating from the late 1980s hanging above the "Shrine of the Infant of Prague" on the south wall. Matthew Brooks, an artist from eastern Massachusetts, painted both the "Miracle of St. Anthony" and the "Death of St. Joseph." Toward the altar and at about the same height over the side doors were paintings of the Annunciation and the Resurrection, done by Annette Krejmas, a Polish-American parishioner.

Above the altar, internationally known Polish artist Josef Slawinski, who had emigrated to Buffalo, NY, was commissioned to paint murals directly on the exposed masonry walls. At the time when he was commissioned to paint these murals, he had already produced art for more than 150 churches, theaters, palaces, and homes in his native Poland.

Slawinski was 73 when he painted the murals at Our Lady of Czestochowa, and it took him and a crew of six men three months to complete the task. The mural was done with a 'sgraffito,' fresco-like technique of applying layers of black, white, yellow, and red colored cement, then sculpting it while still wet. This graphic effect allows the murals to be

easily perceived from ground level, some 30 feet away.

The left side of the mural depicts the Battle of Czestochowa, while the right side shows historical events that commemorate this famous 1655 battle, including the prayer of King Sobieski of Poland and the coronation of the icon by Cardinal Wisinski.

The Battle of Czestochowa was actually the Siege of Jasna Gora, a monastery near the border of Silesia. The six week siege took place in 1655 after a large Swedish army, with German mercenaries, had captured all of the cities and most of lands of Poland and Lithuania, in one of the series of Baltic Wars known as "The Deluge." The monks at the Paulist monastery of Jasna Gora had hidden their famous Black Madonna and other treasures in anticipation of the battle, and under the direction of their Prior, Augustyn Kordecki, had fortified their large monastery. There were but 70 armed monks, 160 hired soldiers, 20 armed nobles, 60 other local volunteers, and a few dozen defensive cannon.

As shown in Slawinski's mural, the 3,200 men in the Swedish army (who were mostly Protestant German mercenaries, along with Muslim Turks and Tartar allies) attacked. They bombarded Jasna Gora and demolished some of its walls. For six

weeks, every sortie the invaders made met with spirited resistance. Then they brought up larger cannon for a final assault.

Legend has it that the image of the Black Madonna appeared on a cloud in the sky, and her shawl seemed to reach down to cover the monastery protectively. In any case, the besieging army withdrew on December 27th, leaving this fortified redoubt unconquered. The morale boost of the Battle of Czestochowa encouraged a resistance that turned the course of the war by 1660 and saved the Polish-Lithuanian coalition.

Slawinski also restored the church's Black Madonna (which had originally been an official copy of the famous painting done at Jasna Gora) as well as the 'reredos' or altar screen carved from oak by Joseph Schab in 1918, which incorporated the famous icon and four other paintings imported from Poland in 1914.

I was looking down at this ornate screen, just as someone turned on the lights in the sanctuary, causing the Black Madonna to gleam and glitter. I sat on a front pew and stared. What an historic, artistic treasure: Mary's glory depicted with Byzantine embellishment and elegance.

In addition to artistic enhancements done by Slawinski and his crew, there were utilitarian improvements

throughout the church. At the front, the 18 steps were replaced with an entrance ramp. The steeple was repaired, the organ reconditioned, and restrooms installed downstairs, along with a kitchen to add a new social center for the church.

Built at the time of the 25th anniversary of the St. Kazimierz Society, the church only seemed complete on the inside with the completion of the Slawinski mural and the various improvements. These coincided with another birthday milestone for the St. Kazimierz Society. At a 75th anniversary celebration, U. S. Congressman Silvio Conte praised this ethnic church and its successive improvements for "introducing Polish culture in the local mainstream, for parishioners to educate their children, but more importantly all of us around them."

Now the church at the intersection of 9th and K Street is regarded as the "Gem of Franklin County." At times, busloads of tourists make their way up the K Street hill on a pilgrimage to admire the beauty of the architecture and of course the stained glass windows. The church is open afternoons for prayers, and guided tours can be arranged with Father Charles Jan Di Mascola, the twelfth and longest-serving priest at the 107-year-old parish, by calling the rectory at 863-4748.



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Is yoga too strenuous for seniors?

If the yoga sessions accommodate personal physical limitations, there's no reason a senior can't take up this 4,000-year-old practice. It's a good idea to find out exactly what you'll be doing in your yoga class and discuss it with your doctor first.

Yoga has been shown to help alleviate many of the health problems faced by older adults. In fact, the many benefits of yoga are supposed to combat the aging process.

There must be something to it, because yoga has become a pop-

ular exercise choice for our older adult population. Yoga classes are found in many senior centers and assisted living residences.

If yoga can end a sedentary lifestyle, it will be a big plus. Too much time on the sofa leads to weak muscles. Not enough weight-bearing activity contributes to osteoporosis. Insufficient movement leads to joint deterioration and loss of flexibility.

All the current scientific evidence shows that geezers should exercise, even though many older people think it could harm them. Study after study demonstrates that seniors hurt their health a lot more by sitting around.

Yoga can help your balance, a serious concern for seniors. About one in ten people over 65 experiences difficulty with balance. More than 40 percent of Americans will go to a doctor complaining of dizziness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that, each year, more than one-

third of people over 65 years suffer a fall. Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among older adults.

Many health concerns have been linked to the sedentary lifestyle. These include: reduced joint flexibility, arthritis/bursitis, high blood pressure, increased body fat, osteoporosis, low back pain, breathing difficulties, poor blood circulation, vision problems, stress buildup and inability to sleep properly.

So, what exactly

proper yoga practice combines: physical postures that participants flow into and then hold before proceeding to the next posture; a focus on breathing techniques that make participants more aware of their bodies, and deep meditation and relaxation, allowing participants to focus on their spirituality.

The physical postures have colorful descriptive names. Some that are recommended for seniors are

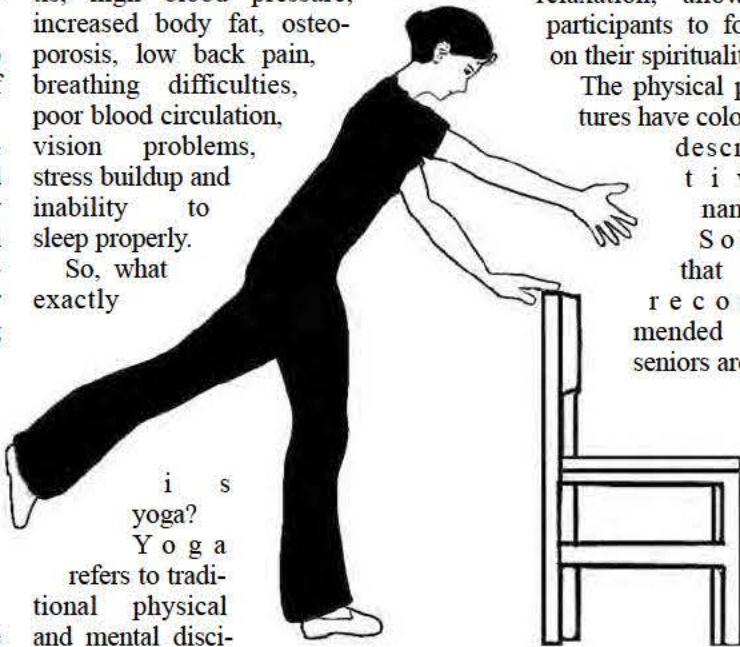
the: plank, cobra, cat, cow, tabletop, warrior, triangle, pigeon, seated twist, tree, shoulder stand, laying twist, happy baby pose, and one-legged downward dog.

Here are some suggested guidelines for practicing yoga if you are an older adult:

- Get into a smaller class so your individual health concerns can be attended to more effectively
- Slow down the transition between poses
- Reduce the holding time for each posture (known as an "asana")
- Focus your gaze in a specific spot to help your balance.
- Consider adjustment options for each pose
- Use props if necessary
- Concentrate on areas that are typically tight or weak in seniors. These include ankles, hips, hamstrings, the low back and chest muscles
- Do not perform a lot of complicated poses

If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of "How to be a Healthy Geezer" at www.healthygeezer.com.

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



is yoga? Yoga refers to traditional physical and mental disciplines that originated in India. The word

REPAIRS from page 1

in winter when the gates are tilted to release water or skim off ice or debris. Two huge hydraulic pistons tilt the gate, which is hinged on the bottom. The gate can be lowered by the force of river water but needs power to return to an upright position. Electric heaters, cast into the concrete dam, are designed to prevent ice from sealing the gasket to the dam's concrete surface.

The problem arises when ice builds up at a point of leakage. The resulting ice berg obstructs the gate's movement. When pressure is applied to the gate with hydraulic cylinders, the steel gate is in danger of becoming distorted, and would then require replacement — a very expensive proposition.

While Commercial Diving Services, LLC out of Hartford, CT, supplied a diver, FirstLight supplied a rough terrain crane sitting on a barge, plus a supply boat. FirstLight workers hoist-

ed H-beams with the mobile crane and lowered them into 10-inch deep square recesses built into the dam. The H-beams are set in place to hold the steel panels that constitute the coffer dam to temporarily hold back the river water while the gates are under repair.

The hired diver cleaned silt from the square recesses in the dam before guiding the H-beams into place. He was supplied with air for respiration from a compressor which could also be used to blow silt and debris out of the recess.

Once the diver had the H-beams in place, he braced them with tubular steel back braces. He attached the braces to the H-beams at the upper end and to steel loops cast into concrete on the dam. The braces use a clevis (a U-shaped double-eyed shackle) providing a place for a (clevis) pin to secure the H-beam. The clevises are threaded into the pipe brace, allowing adjustments

for angle and level.

A rounded corner piece anchors the coffer dam to dam pilings on either end.

Once the diver aligned the H-beams, FirstLight's crew lowered steel panels called 'stop logs' into the upright H-beams. They later secured the H-beams and stop logs by bolting strips of steel across the top.

The stop logs are equipped with rubber gaskets at the bottom. Coal ashes or other material, the consistency of oatmeal, is shoveled into the area of leaks on the upriver side of the coffer dam to seal the cracks, much like stop-leak seals a leaking automobile radiator.

The coffer dam allowed FirstLight's crew a relatively dry work area in which to change the seals. The plan is to replace the gaskets and remediate defective concrete beneath the gaskets. The adjoining gate has worse leaks, and is slated

for remediation next.

The discontinued flood gates (big square holes at the base of the dam) are permanently sealed. The Tainter gates at the Gill end of the dam serve to release water from below by raising them. The Pelican gates under repair release water at the top of the dam by tilting forward.

In the past years, prior to the dam's reconstruction, Western Mass Electric crews installed four inch steel pipes into recesses at the top of the dam to hold 'flash boards' to raise the water level beyond the dam's capacity. Each spring, ice floes bent the steel pipes and swept over the flash boards. The name 'flash boards' may have come from the flash in which they were swept away each spring.

Each pipe was about eight feet long. The power company employees attached fir 2x4s to the length of the pipes with Ramset guns that fired a nail-

like projectile through the 2x4 into the pipe. The 2x4s were attached about a foot above the bottom to allow the pipe to be inserted into recesses on the dam. Crews nailed prefabricated panels made from a double layer of hemlock boards to the 2x4s. The panels overlapped to seal them.

Each spring massive chunks of ice swept over the flash boards, bending down the pipes and taking the lumber with them. Western Mass Electric Company sold bent pipes to Julius Blassberg Auto Wrecking for scrap; the shattered lumber headed for Long Island Sound.

My father bought pipes from Blassberg during the Great Depression. We sawed off the bent ends to use the pipes to 'tile' and drain a wet field. Sawing with a hack saw was tedious work, but water still flows through those pipes to this very day.



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OPTIONS from page 7

Greenfield, Buckland, Shelburne and Montague met with the Franklin County Community Development Corporation (CDC) concerning the revolving loan fund, which was originally set up using community block development grant money to encourage business development in the county. Over the course of the program, approximately \$1.5 million has been loaned on a revolving basis, but very little income is currently being generated beyond small amounts of interest. The town of Greenfield drafted a letter to the CDC regarding reducing the administrative money spent on the program, given that the administrative needs of the program are few.

Montague town planner, requested and was given permission to apply for a peer to peer grant through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. The program will give Ramsey access to a peer from another town to come in to help him improve the existing geographic information system used not only by the planning board but by various other departments as well.

Ramsey also brought an appointment request before the select board nominating George Cook of Turners Falls to the planning board to fill the seat vacated by Ted Armen. Frederic Bowman was also granted a full term on the planning board.

of an application for a grant to help avoid a possible natural disaster on a portion of Millers Falls Road which is in danger of washing out. Due to its position at the bottom of two slopes, the stretch of road could cost the town up to \$733,000 in repairs if left unimproved.

Ramsey said the town would seek a FEMA natural hazard mitigation grant for \$308,000, requiring a town 25% match for \$77,000. If successful, the grant would allow the town to "stabilize a rapidly eroding bank and safely reroute any runoff directly into the Millers River rather than down the hillside," said Ramsey. He added that traffic may have to be detoured down Lake Pleasant Road to Green Pond Road during the course

of the construction – or in the event of a potential washout if the road is not improved.

"They've had an issue with that particular slope undermining for years," noted Abbondanzio, referring to the stretch of Millers Falls Road below the Highland Cemetery. "Every time there's a really heavy downpour, I worry about it."

A purchase and sale agreement was signed for a parcel of land in the industrial park, naming Mayhew Steel as the purchaser of the newly created 1.398 acre plot, for \$25,000.

Abbondanzio reported that he received a letter from the Massachusetts Attorney General's office concerning the open meeting law complaint that was filed in connection with the creation of the bylaw

review committee at town hall. The letter simply stated that, due to limited staff time at the A.G.'s office, a decision will most likely not be made within the usual 90 days.

Patricia Allen was nominated and appointed by the select-board as the Montague representative to the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments. Allen is the current chair of the COG and looks forward to continue serving as Montague's liaison to that body.

Montague Public Libraries requested the use of Peskeomskut Park on July 15th for a popular annual puppet show.

The next Montague select-board meeting will take place on Monday, July 18th at 7:00 p.m.

THEATER from page 1

features such timeless songs as "You're the Top", "It's Delovely", and, of course, "Anything Goes".

David Peck does an admirable job at the figurative helm of the show, and does so with an admiral's skill. Peck's directing is top notch, and it shows through his characters' ease of interaction, im-Peck-able timing, and mastery of the material.

After the overture, the Country Players' *Anything Goes* wastes no time in bidding the metaphysical theater "Bon Voyage", casting off quickly and efficiently from modern times and transporting the audience back nearly a century to the deck of the S.S. American.

Each actor seemed to truly live within their character, not merely copy one of the former on – or off-Broadway stars.

The show opens with a disgruntled Elisha J. Whitney (Bob Delaney) barking orders at a hapless crew member. Delaney's portrayal of the angry boss of Billy Crocker (Garrett Grant) is unstinting and complete and sets a precedent for the rest of the performers. Though Delaney's is not as a major character, each line or gesture he delivers he delivers with an excellent and enjoyable panache.

In the leading role, Grant does a superb job keeping the audience's attention tuned to the

plot, which has enough ups and downs to make a less able crew seasick. Grant has the unenviable task of playing the lone straight character among many shady and shifting humorous foils. It's a difficult role, as I know from personal experience. (I played Billy Crocker in the Turners High presentation of *Anything Goes*).

Billy's romantic interest, Hope Harcourt (Dawn Ross) is also brought beautifully to life. Ross's performance is both believable and true, her chemistry with the other actors excellent. Each time Hope interacts with another actor it is easy to believe she is truly at risk of losing her morals or falling completely in love.

However, when Billy dons the various disguises he must in order to avoid detection by both the Purser (Dominic Baird) and Hope's mother Evangeline Harcourt (Beth Turner), Grant is given opportunities to show off the range of his acting ability. He steps into each different role and adopts each different accent with facile grace – he seems to truly enjoy the thrills of acting. And, Grant really comes alive when singing and dancing; filling the entire theater with his voice and the entire stage with the sight of him.

Christine Voytko, taking on the notoriously hard-to-sing role of Reno Sweeney does a great job, especially when considering

the incredible range of Sweeney's songs and the innate dexterity of Cole Porter's tunes. But, contrasting with Grant, Voytko seems to find her rhythm most when interacting with the other characters, adopting her own stage persona to how Reno would actually interact with the passengers on an Atlantic crossing.

Even so, and this should come as no surprise to fans of *Anything Goes*, the supporting characters make a typically bold bid to steal the show: Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (Michael Starr), Bonnie Latour (Ashley Blom) and Moonface Martin (Alan Maynard).

Prim and proper, yet simultaneously aloof, Starr is an extremely believable Oakleigh. Each time he takes the stage he

fills it with his presence, lending energy and authority to his performance and to that of the other actors. His chemistry with the other characters was incredible and added credibility to the entire show. Almost shouting each of his lines into the faces of his fellow actors, Starr truly embodies the foolishly ignorant Englishman he portrays.


Despite the deservedly high mark Starr attains, the interactions between Bonnie and Moonface were even more entertaining. Blom and Maynard play two fleeing convicts; Maynard taking the role of Moonface, (or Moony as Bonnie calls him) the pathetically helpless Public Enemy number 13, and Blom taking the role of his companion and guardian angel. The smallest shake of

Moonie's head or a sensually alluring shrug of Bonnie's shoulders is immediately picked up by the other. Moony reacts to every vocal cue by Bonnie and vice versa, even to the smallest little giggle or sigh, making these partners in crime deliciously and deliriously believable.

So whether it's Grant's and Ross' romance, Starr's deadpan comedy, or Blom and Maynard's raucous interactions, *Anything Goes* is truly a show worth weighing anchor and enjoying for the full duration of the trip.

Anything Goes returns for Friday and Saturday night performances at the Shea on July 15th and 16th, with a matinee on Sunday, July 17th, at 2:00 p.m.

Nature Notes:



Sempervivum 'Cobweb,' a rock garden gem to watch for in a self-guided tour of the Gardens of Petersham, offered by the Athol Bird & Nature Club on Sunday, July 17th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Day-of tickets and plants for sale on Petersham Common. Advance tickets available at Noel's Nursery, Educare, and North Quabbin Woods in Orange, and at Agway and Bruce's Browser in Athol.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Charlie Apicella & Iron City Jazz CD Release Party* for "The Business," 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, Eclectic Harmonic Rock, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, with DJ Bex, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY JULY 16th & 17th
Greenfield Community College: *Green River Festival*. Opens: 12 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 17th
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Ethan Bremner*, tenor, classical opera, 4 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canalside Nature Walk*, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 18th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lush Life Trunk Show*, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, Free, 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: Traditional pipe concert, soloist *Dick Hensold*, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 18th THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 21st
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Junior Rangers*, for ages 8 - 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call to reserve a space, 863-3221.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20th
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley: Wednesday Folk Traditions concert series with *Markamusic*, folkloric, pop and traditional music of Latin and South America. The performance begins at 6:30 p.m. in the museum's sunken garden; picnickers are welcome on the grounds at 5 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, blues based roots music, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nexus*, folk rock, no cover, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 22nd
Montague Bookmill: *The Afternoons and Gregg Might*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Errett*, piano and vocals, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Black Mountain Symphony*, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, electric blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Owls Are Not What They Seem* (A Twin Peaks Party)

FRIDAY & SAT., JULY 22nd & 23rd
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Strangers On A Train*, Alfred Hitchcock suspense classic. 1951. B & W. NR. 101 min. 7:30 p.m. With music before the movie at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JULY 22 - 24 and JULY 29 - 31st
The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Trip to Bountiful* presented by the Thespis Theater Company, 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.



Samirah Evans & Her Handsome Devils, jazz and blues vocalist, at the 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem, on Saturday, July 23, 7:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History: The Patch*. Stories during a leisurely stroll through the little neighborhood with eight streets and paths through the woods and amazing views. Meet at the corner of Avenue A and Eleventh Street in Turners Falls, near the canal side bike path to start our journey.

MONDAY, JULY 25th
Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*, 7 p.m. Free.

TUESDAYS, JULY 26 & AUGUST 2nd
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*, story, activity and craft hour for young children ages 3-6, 10:30 a.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market* at Avenue A and Second Street, 2 - 6 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Franklin County Drawing Posse*, 4 p.m. Free. Draw for fun! No previous drawing experience necessary.

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, every Thursday night, *Dan, Kip and Shultz* from *Curly Fingers DuPree* host. All are welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 7 - 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

NOW THROUGH JULY 17th
Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: Exhibit featuring the graduating class of 2011.

NOW THROUGH JULY 31st
Great Falls Discovery Center: Artist Norm Vexler presents *Underwater Life*, a photographic exhibition.

NOW THROUGH AUGUST 30th
Leverett Library: Photography exhibit of landscapes by Judith Davidov.

THURSDAY, JULY 14th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, Classic rock and dance music, 8 p.m.



Olde Meeting House (1755), Dayville, New Hampshire by photographer Paul Wainwright. "A Space for Faith" exhibit at The Gallery at Hallmark July 22 to September 4th.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Sweetback Sisters*, 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio: features Folksongs and more with singer/songwriter *Michael Orten*, 7 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Rescue Me*, a benefit for Dakin Animal Shelter, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 15th
Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Green River Festival Kick-off Party*, *Kermit Ruffins & The Barbeque Swingers*, *The Primate Fiasco*, *Heather Maloney*, *Jessica Smucker & the Sleeping World*, and *The Sun Parade*. More information on facebook.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, Singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and many more. 9-11 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY JULY 15th & 16th
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Mary Poppins Sing Along*, 7:30 p.m. Special matinee Saturday, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JULY 15th - 17th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Country Players present *Anything Goes*. Matinee on July 17th.

SATURDAY, JULY 16th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Montague Sand Plains Hike*, Explore a unique habitat designed by fire, ice, and sand. Easy-to-intermediate difficulty hike. Bring water, bug repellent, and sun screen. Free. For more information call 863-3221. Registration required. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center to carpool to the site, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



The Thespis Theatre Company presents: The Trip To Bountiful opening night at The Shea Theater Friday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quizmaster Chad's Quiznite*, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Mike Bagetta Duo* with *Nathan Hobbs*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 21st
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Roger Monthey: Mushrooms in Your Backyard*, 7 to 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Nuda Veritas, The Sand Plains Index, and Tongue Oven*, 8 p.m.

Coop Concert Series presents *Pat and Tex Band*, also performing, *Green River String Band* and *Michael Pattavina*, 6 - 8 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Dr Gonzo and his Road Kill Orchestra*: jazz, funk, rhythm & blues, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 23rd
Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: Opening Reception for *A Space for Faith, The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*, 1 to 5 p.m. Photographs by Paul Wainwright on display through September 4th.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Samirah Evans & Her Handsome Devils*, jazz & blues vocalist, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, Chicago style blues band, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Watcher*, rock/pop, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 24th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter*

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St. Kaz wins 10-3 over Booskas for Little League Championship



DETMOLD PHOTO

Tionne Brown slugged a game winning triple in the 7th inning on July 5th to beat Booska's 3-2.

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - In the end, it wasn't even close. But the first game of the best two out of three Newt Guilbault Little League championship series between top ranked St. Kaziemerz (14-1 in regular season play) and third place finalists Booska Flooring (10-5 for the season) was a proverbial cliffhanger.

St Kaz took the trophy just before a thunderstorm broke loose on Wednesday, July 6th, in a hail of out of the park home runs by Tanner Jones (3 hits, 2 homers, 4 RBIs) and Trevor Mankowsky (3 hits, one homer, one triple, 3 RBIs) - beating Booskas decisively 10 - 3.

But the first game on Tuesday was a toss-up - tied 2-2 until the 7th, (Little League games are supposed to wrap up in the sixth)!

Tanner Jones pitched well for St. Kaz on Tuesday, going the first six innings and striking out 10.

Joshua Obochowski started for Booska's relieved by

Quinn Doyle in the fourth. Obochowski struck out three batters, Doyle fanned six.

Booska's took a one run lead in the third after two walks and a couple of passed balls, compounded by a fielding error. They got another run in the fourth when Dylan Mailloux smacked a double down the third base line to lead off. Caleb Milton singled over 2nd and drove him home.

In the bottom of the fourth, Tanner Jones got things going for St. Kaz with a single past the third baseman's glove. Mankowsky got on with a grounder to short, (the fielder used his foot instead of his glove to stop the ball). The runners advanced on a passed ball, and then came home when the pitcher threw wild to first on Kyle Bergmann's grounder down the third base side.

The score stay tied for the next two innings.

Booska's went three up three down in the top of the seventh, with Bergmann on the mound for St. Kaz.

Riley Staiger drew a base on balls to get the bottom of the inning going for St. Kaz. Then Tionne Brown, the catcher, approached the batter's box. Brown is short in stature

but mighty at the plate.

Little League mixes boys (and girls, in Logan Anderson's case) ages 8 - 12 on the same playing field, but Brown was able to hold his head up high with players nearly a foot taller than him. He knocked the ball way down the first base line - it just landed fair - for a triple, scoring the winning run, and putting his team one game up for the series.

In game two, Bergmann pitched four innings for the win on Wednesday; Mankowsky struck out five in relief. Logan Anderson has three hits and two doubles, and scored three runs, proving girls can do anything boys can do, and better, as she helped her team cruise to victory.

Arlo Larange had two hits and a double for Booskas, with two RBIs, and Obochowski had one hit and an RBI.

The tournament was a grudge match, since Booska's faced off against St. Kaz for the championship last year, as well, when they emerged victorious. If both teams wind up going head to head for the trophy next year, it'll be the best two out of three for the best Little League team in town.

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