



**MONTAGUE PLAINS EYED**  
for bottled water plant  
Page 11



**BLOCK PARTY IN TURNERS!**  
Saturday, August 11th  
See page 20 for the scoop

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 40

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 26, 2007

## GMRSD Reduces Budget Request by \$70,000

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, CURRICULUM COORDINATOR HIRED

Revised Figure - \$16,356,901 - Still Nearly Half Mil More than Towns Approved

BY DAVID DETMOLD

In advance of the July 31st district meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee voted unanimously on July 24th to reduce their budget request to the towns by \$70,000. Although the warrant has already been set for the two-town meeting to take place at the Turners Falls High School on Tuesday at 7 p.m., school committee chair Mary Kociela said the school district will offer a "friendly amendment" to their budget request, reducing it from \$16,426,901 to \$16,356,901. The committee is offering the \$70,000 reduction in anticipation of a recently discovered net gain of \$92,000 in state aid for the present fiscal year.

The reduced budget figure still leaves a gap of

approximately \$493,000 between what the towns of Gill and Montague appropriated in June, and what the G-M school committee says it needs to operate the schools this year. The revised budget already incorporates the loss of 8.5 staff positions. Interim G-M superintendent Ken Rocke told the committee his recommendation to apply \$70,000 of the \$92,000 increase in state aid to reduce the budget gap comes as a result of the need to set the remaining \$22,000 aside to help increase administrative staff at the elementary schools in the coming school year.

The state Department of Education recently labeled the Gill Montague Regional School District

see GMRSD pg 13



## A New Library for Wendell

AL MacINTIRE PHOTO

The interior of the new Wendell Free Library

BY JOSH HEINEMANN & DAVID DETMOLD

Five descendants of Oliver Wendell, for whom the town of Wendell is named, traveled from around the country to join over one hundred Wendell residents and friends at the July 15th grand opening of the town's new library. The architect, Margo Jones, was there; clerk of the works John Flemming was there, former town administrator

Regina Curtis was there from the office of Representative Steve Kulik, Anne Larsen, who steered the project through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), was there. Children went right to the toys in the children's room, to the books and to the playground equipment outside.

The celebration really began a week earlier on

Saturday when dozens, if not hundreds, of Wendell citizens came for two-hour shifts and moved the contents of the old library into the new one. Some stayed longer. Some stayed all day. People boxed books at the old library, unpacked them and shelved them in order at the new library. People carried books, shelves, furniture and fixtures on carts and in cars and organized themselves just to

get the work done quickly and smoothly, and at the end librarian Rosie Heidkamp was amazed at how much had been done. "It's really taken all of us to make this a building that *belongs* to all of us," she said. "It's beautiful!"

After a look at the shelves in the new library, it was amazing to think how much had actually been squeezed into the 1200-square-foot space in see LIBRARY pg 16

## TURNERS FALLS IN BOLD RELIEF:

### Sculpture and Other Media by Tim De Christopher at the Oxbow Gallery

REVIEWED BY DAVID DETMOLD NORTHAMPTON

Walk in the door of the Oxbow Gallery in Northampton and you find pieces of Turners Falls scattered everywhere. The pieces, in sculpted stone, pen and ink, email, and other media are presented there by Turners' renowned Tim de Christopher, who curates a show of his own recent, past, and future work at the Pleasant Street gallery until August 5th, entitled

*Falling Apart, Falling Away.* De Christopher, grandson of an Italian stonemason, worked as a journeyman on the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, and has shown work at the DeCordova, the Norman Rockwell

Museum and other major institutions. Nowadays, he has set his sights on the human condition as it is expressed in the unusual old mill town of Turners Falls.



Fallen Angel by Tim de Christopher

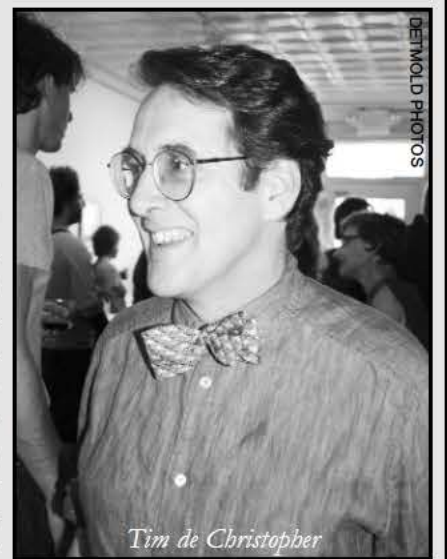
Sometimes you have to go to the big city to get a clear view of the village. Indeed, at the opening of de Christopher's show on Friday, July 20th, the Oxbow Gallery

was mobbed with Montague residents mingling with the Noho glitterati. The only personage missing was Bo, the irrepressible

Turners beagle who usually makes it to such scenes.

She would have found herself right at home with some of de Christopher's narrative works, includ-

ing the rotating *Palazzo Gloria*, with its multiple dogs caught in bas relief in sliding doors of stone, one pup playing piano, another negotiating entrance, or seeking the nearest facilities, from a parked car nearby. "I've been hungry ever since," moans the canine subject of that work in the accompanying manu-



Tim de Christopher

script, *Gloria's Story*. Having met Bo at many a potluck, this is an archetypal dog lament.

Walk in the door, and see SCULPTURE pg 8

DETMOLD PHOTOS

**PET OF THE WEEK**

**True Gentleman**



**Marley**

Marley is an eight-year-old neutered male lab/terrier mix in need of a good home. He is such a handsome guy with his coarse black coat and white whiskers--a distinguished gentleman! Marley loves to be with his people and enjoys romping outside, playing with other dogs, or just hanging out inside. He gets along with cats, dogs and people alike! Marley is really comfortable with people. He prefers not to be alone and would do best with a person or family where he always had company. He is fine to live with kids ten and older. For more information on adopting Marley please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at levrett@dpvhs.org.

**ERVING LIBRARY NEWS**

**Drumming Workshop**

"Gather Around the Drum at the Erving Public Library" is the title of a program to be held Tuesday, July 31st at 6:30 p.m. at the Erving Library.

Learn authentic Native American drumming styles, use rattles crafted by a native Pima tribal elder, and sing along with the lively beat of the large family drum. Loril MoonDream and Peter White Fox will teach traditional Native American songs and perform contemporary music with guitar -- sharing both classical and vibrant new styles of Native American music. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts

Cultural Council, a state agency.

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

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

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

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

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**

**Weekly Trivia Winner**



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

Left: Isaac Harmon of Turners Falls won an inflatable guitar by correctly answering the trivia question: Can you name a type of brass instrument? Weekly music trivia raffles are being held in all three Montague Libraries. Other recent winners include Abigail Schlinger and Katri Mizula of Montague, Rozzlyn Scott of Turners Falls, and Kaeden Socquet of Greenfield. The music trivia contest is part of the "Catch the Beat at Your Library" Summer Reading Program.

**Montague Community Band Concerts**

**July 30th:** Last Concert of the Season in Peskeomskut Park, 7 p.m.; in case of rain concert will be held at St. Anne's Church. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts

Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Aug. 12th:** Sunday evening Walpole Concert Series, Walpole, NH, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 18th:** "Old Home Days," Montague Center, 2:30 p.m.

**FACES & PLACES**

The Gill Store is presently closed for business. Owner Alden Booth said he is saddened by having to close the store, and hopes to find a way to make it financially stable. A community meeting will be held there Thursday evening, July 26th, at 7 p.m. to discuss the store's future.



LITCHFIELD PHOTO

**Marrow Donor Needed for Steven Loomer**

**GILL** - A bone-marrow donor registration drive in support of Gill resident Steven Loomer, husband of Turners Falls teacher and coach Debbie Loomer, will take place August 3rd from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Alumni Hall on the Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) campus. Loomer, director of information technology at NMH, is battling acute myelogenous leukemia. Healthy donors between 18 and 60 are encouraged to register; the procedure entails a simple mouth swab. For donors residing or employed in Massachusetts, medical insurance may cover the cost of registration testing, but all eligible donors are invited. Some medical conditions may disqualify potential donors. These include a history of most cancers, heart disease, medication-dependent diabetes, and autoimmune disease. To discuss a medical condition before registering, call 800-

726-2824 and ask to speak with a donor recruiter.

Visit <http://www.crir.org> for more information about registering as a volunteer marrow donor.

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**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES July 30th - Aug 10th**

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

- Monday, 30th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1 p.m. Canasta
- Tuesday, 31st**  
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
- Wednesday, 1st**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 2nd**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 3rd**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

- Monday, 6th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1 p.m. Canasta
- Tuesday, 7th**  
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
- Wednesday, 8th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 9th**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, 10th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

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

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

- 12 Noon Pitch
- Tuesday, 31st**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, 1st**  
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 2nd**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Pool  
12:30 p.m. Shopping
- Monday, 6th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch
- Tuesday, 7th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, 8th**  
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 9th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Pool  
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

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## CT River Boating Guide Release Party

BETH BAZLER

**NORTHFIELD, MA** – Paddle from sunset into the almost full moon, be a part of the only floating Connecticut River Boating Guide book release party and learn about issues that challenge the River at the heart of our Valley on Saturday, July 28th from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. New Boating Guide authors John Sinton and Elizabeth Farnsworth will be on hand for this trip from Northfield Farms to Barton Cove in Gill. Please register and get directions to starting point by calling Northfield Mountain at 800-859-2960. Program fee: \$10 per boat with own boat, \$25 per boat with rental and shuttle. Paddlers may bring bring hors d'oeuvres or desserts for a party along the way.

We begin our evening with a reading from the journal of a trio of paddlers who passed through our area in 1903. While much has changed in the past century, this

stretch of the river, with the French King Gorge and Bridge, is still uniquely beautiful. This beauty is reflected in the third edition of the CRWC Boating Guide. With gorgeous images, GPS compatible maps and river access information, the Guide is also graced with well written vignettes about the fascinating cultural and natural history stories of the Valley, like "Dinosaur Footprints" and "Connecticut River Canals." Authors John Sinton and Elizabeth Farnsworth will share their knowledge of geology and history of this stretch of the river in addition to sharing anecdotes about the making of the book.

Most paddlers know the river is gorgeous today because water quality levels have vastly improved in the last 30 years, but aren't sure what current challenges river inhabitants face. The Connecticut River Watershed Council's Massachusetts River

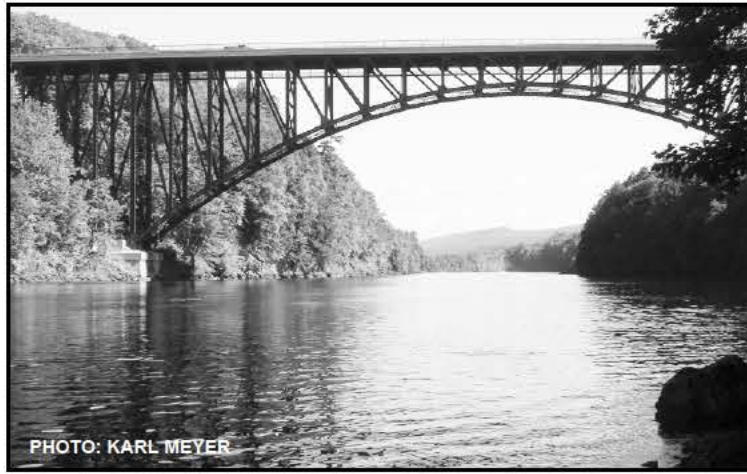


PHOTO: KARL MEYER

*Paddle under the French King Bridge, through sunset and into the moonlight on July 28, and enjoy books, food and learning on the river*

Steward Andrea Donlon's job is to read and comment on environmental reports about projects that affect the watershed in Massachusetts. This eagle eye view of river issues makes her uniquely qualified to help people understand topics like water quality, riverbank erosion and mercury in fish. Donlon will be there to share ways people can continue to support a healthy river system.

With any luck, the group will be graced by the presence of other important river residents like the Barton Cove eagles or a bank denning beaver family as they float into the moonlight. Books, food, and learning on the river, does it get much better than that?

## International Rowers Welcomed

MATT ROBINSON

**GREAT FALLS** - For only the third time in history, the F. I. S. A. World Rowing Tour has come to America. They rowed down our own river. On July 23rd, rowers from seventeen different countries sculled down the Connecticut River and landed in Turners Falls on a 130-water-mile trek down to Long Island Sound. At one stop, they met with state representatives from New Hampshire. At another, state reps from Vermont. They were cheered along the way by enthusiastic supporters, flags and multilingual signs hung from bridges. When they reached Turners Falls, one of the Cove's bald eagles soared above. And as they landed, a small brass band played, while onlookers cheered. Pat Allen, selectboard chair, welcomed the rowers in several languages.

This group of international rowers came together for a cause. This river, the longest in New England, wasn't always



PHOTO WWW.CTRIVER.ORG

kept so clean. Just a few years ago, many will remember, it was known as, "The nation's best landscaped sewer." But with a huge ecological effort from many groups, spearheaded by the Connecticut River Watershed Council, much of the river is now a class B waterway, safe for swimming and fishing. However, the quality must be monitored. "After a heavy rain-

storm, we don't know if there's a high bacteria count," CRWC director Chelsea Gwyther explained. "And we don't have the resource facilities to test it very often."

The CRWC is trying to raise \$25,000 to build a lab to address this problem. The lab will be located in Greenfield, and will provide a resource for all four states bordering the river. Volunteers will gather water from up and down the river and bring it to the lab for testing. "Then we'll know immediately whether it's safe to fish or swim in the Connecticut," Gwyther added.

This river, our river, is an 11,000-square-mile living ecosystem and home to nine threatened or endangered species. And home to 2,300,000 humans, including a few thousand right here in Turners Falls.

If you would like to help with this project, or need further information, please go to WWW.ctriver.org

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**I-Ganic 8:30 pm** - Reggae inspired, unique echo blurred dub mix of vibe enhancing sounds.

August 17th

**Pat & Tex LaMountain with Deerfield River Junction 7 pm** - Swing, folk, rock, bluegrass & country tunes.

**Felix Sonny Boy 8:30 pm** - Old-timey sound of poet inspired street performers and hard-drivin' blues

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## Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club presents Hot Rods and Harleys

A benefit outing to support the Franklin County Public Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

**Saturday, July 28th**

rain date Sunday, July 29th  
Bartlett Road off of Lake Pleasant

**Poker Run 10 a.m. to noon • Car & Bike Show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Peoples Choice Award for Car, Truck or Bike**

Grounds open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Registration til 1 p.m. \$5 per entry. For more info call Roy at (413) 624-8864

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# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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David Detmold

August, 2002

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## Calling all Residents and Registered Voters in the Towns of Gill and Montague

BY MARY KOCIELA

We need your presence, your voice and your vote. Please come to a district-wide town meeting on Tuesday, July 31st at 7 p.m. in the Turners Falls High School theater and vote on the '08 school budget. A district-wide meeting is required by law since the district towns did not pass a school budget after two tries. The meeting is open to all residents of Gill and Montague, and all registered voters can cast a vote. For Montague residents, you do not need to be a town meeting member to vote, only a registered voter.

This has been another difficult budget year. The school committee has worked tirelessly to minimize spending and to cut costs, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of essential programs. However, the lack of sufficient funds has resulted in an inability to meet Department of Education (DOE) standards. As a result, the Gill Montague Regional School District has been cited as an "under-performing district".

Make no mistake. The school committee takes this very seriously, and we are doing everything possible to work

with the DOE to make any necessary changes. However, the biggest barrier to moving in a positive direction is the lack of an '08 budget. Having to constantly deal with budget issues prevents us from focusing on the growth of the district. Since the school committee voted its first budget back in March, the budget has been reduced several times. We have eliminated funding of additional DOE mandates, used all of our reserves and cut 8.5 positions. The school committee believes that making further cuts at this time would prove to be detrimental to the district.

We are grateful for the continued positive collaboration with town officials in both Gill and Montague, and we are extremely proud of our staff, teachers and students in each of our schools. The issue of elementary configuration remains a priority for the school committee, and we understand the need for a plan to end the uncertainty and divisiveness in the community around this issue. And, finally, we continue to strive for academic excellence and a well-rounded educational experience for all of our students. But we need your help.

Simply put, we need a budget passed in order to move forward. Our schools are central to the vitality of our towns. Please support your public schools on Tuesday, July 31st.

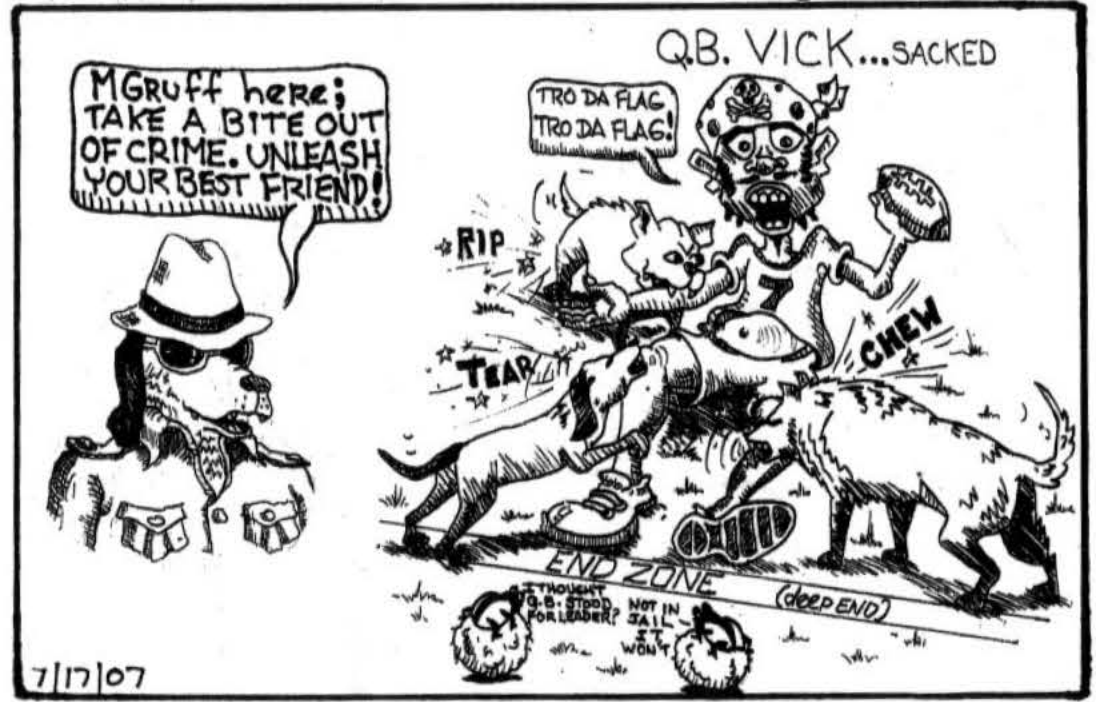
Mary Kociela is the chair of the Gill-Montague regional school committee.

### Note to Our Readers

The Montague Reporter is in the midst of our usual summer schedule, printing every other week. There will be no paper on August 2nd, 16th, and 30th. Weekly again in September.

## BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Leaving Montague Catholic Social Ministries

For the past five years it has been my honor and joy to serve as the Executive Director of Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM). I have had the privilege of working with a visionary board, a dedicated, compassionate and competent staff team and group of volunteers, a responsive and collaborative provider community, and engaged participants and community members. Today, MCSM is in the strongest financial and program position it has been in since its inception 12 years ago. MCSM is a vital and respected member of the Franklin County community.

For me, the past five years have been the most rewarding of my 20 plus years of service. So it is with mixed emotion that I share with you a new opportunity has called me to service. I have accepted the position of Associate Director for Community and Program



Maria Rodman

Development at the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium.

My new role will include directing the Salasin Project, directing and coordinating Consortium efforts in Franklin County including RECOVER, the Franklin County ACES exploration and the Recovery Learning Community in Franklin County. Additional areas of responsibility and leadership will include deepening the Consortium's commitment

to trauma-informed practice across Western Massachusetts.

We at MCSM are committed to making this a smooth and thoughtful transition. As such we have planned for time for me to work with the incoming Executive Director.

Thank you to the MCSM board of directors for your kindness and understanding during this time of growth; thank you to the best and most supportive staff one could ever work with; thanks to participants and community members who have taught me everything I know about community-based work, and thanks to my loving family for walking this journey with me.

I am humbled by all your many contributions to the remarkable work we get to do every day.

- Maria Tarajano Rodman  
Turners Falls

### Western Mass Recovery Learning Community Gets Ready to Launch

**HOLYOKE** - The Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, in partnership with the Guiding Council of Western Mass and the Department of Mental Health, is launching a new peer-run mental health initiative called the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community (RLC). The Western Mass RLC supports individuals in finding their own path to recovery within communities of their choice by offering trauma-informed peer supports and through the development of a regional peer network. The home base of the RLC, the Resource Connection Center (RCC), is located in downtown Holyoke, 187 High St., Suite 303. Offerings at the RCC will include a computer lab, library, individual peer support and resource information,

and a variety of workshops and trainings. Satellite RCCs are scheduled to open in the fall in Greenfield and the Berkshires, locations TBA. The RCC-Holyoke will officially open its doors on July 26th, and will be open to the public during the following hours and days:

- Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Thursdays: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Fridays: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additionally, for many meetings and resources, phone and on-line access as well as support

from peer workers who are fluent in Spanish and American Sign Language will be available.

For more information about the Western Mass RLC please call toll-free to (866) 641-2853, e-mail to [info@westernmass-rlc.org](mailto:info@westernmass-rlc.org) or visit the Western Mass RLC website at [www.westernmass-rlc.org](http://www.westernmass-rlc.org)

**We welcome your letters**  
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## American Dead in Iraq as of 7/25/07



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### Boat Club Fireworks and Tour

The Franklin County Boat Club will hold their annual Fireworks Display and Boat Tour on Barton Cove at dusk, Saturday July 28th. Fireworks at 9:15 p.m. Donations for fireworks may still be sent to: FCBC, PO Box 217, TF, 01376.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Outraged by Use of Tasers on Non-Violent Protestors**

I write with concern about the use by the Brattleboro police of taser guns on young people advocating for community garden space on a vacant lot in Brattleboro on Tuesday. Interestingly, on the same day the *Barre Montpelier Times Argus* had an article reporting on the decision of the Northfield Vermont Police Department to return their recently purchased tasers to their manufacturers at the request of the Northfield select-board. The article also refers to an incident in 1994, when four Northfield policemen, including the then police chief, were charged with criminal offenses stemming from the unwarranted stun-gun electrocution of a handcuffed man in police custody.

Should taser weapons have been used against the women suffragettes who chained them-

selves to the gates of the White House, including Lucy J. C. Daniels from Grafton, VT, demanding votes for women in the 1800s? Should they have been used against the college students who sat-in at segregated lunch counters in the south during the civil rights movement? I think not. Such life-threatening and dehumanizing weapons have no more place in a society with life and liberty at its core than the rape and torture of the Bulgarian nurses just released from prison in Libya, or for that matter the sexual assault and torture of U.S. prisoners in Guantanamo and Iraq. It is our responsibility as citizens to demand an end to such dangerous, foolish and completely unacceptable travesties of justice and human rights.

- Robin Cappuccino,  
West Wheelock, VT

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

**Japanese Earthquake a Warning on Nuclear Safety**

BY HARVEY WASSERMAN

The massive earthquake that shook Japan on July 16th nearly killed millions in a nuclear apocalypse. It also produced one of the most terrifying sentences ever buried in a newspaper. As reported deep in the *New York Times*, the Tokyo Electric Company has admitted that, "the force of the shaking caused by the earthquake had exceeded the design limits of the reactors, suggesting that the plant's builders had underestimated the strength of possible earthquakes in the region."

There are 55 reactors in Japan. Virtually all of them are on or near major earthquake faults. Kashiwazaki alone hosts seven, four of which were forced into the dangerous SCRAM mode to narrowly avoid meltdowns. At least 50 separate serious problems have been so far identified, including fire and the spillage of barrels filled with radioactive wastes.

There are four active reactors in California on or near major earthquake faults, as are the two at Indian Point north of New York City. On January 31, 1986, an earthquake struck the Perry reactor east of Cleveland, knocking out roads and bridges, as well as pipes within the plant, which (thankfully) was not operating at the time. The governor of Ohio, then Richard Celeste, sued to keep Perry shut, but lost in federal court.

The fault that hit Perry is an off-shoot of the powerful New Madrid line that runs through the Mississippi River Valley, threatening numerous reactors. The Beyond Nuclear Project reports that in August, 2004, a quake hit the Dresden reactor in



Residents of Kashiwazaki clean up after the July 16th 6.8 magnitude earthquake which damaged the world's largest nuclear power plant, nearby

Illinois, resulting in a leak of radioactive tritium. Nevada's Yucca Mountain, slated as the nation's high-level radioactive waste dump, has a visible fault line running through it.

More than 400 atomic reactors are on-line worldwide. How many are vulnerable to seismic shocks we can only shudder to guess. But one-eighth of them sit in one of the world's richest, most technologically advanced, most densely populated industrial nations, which has now admitted its reactor designs cannot match the power an earthquake that has just happened.

In whatever language it's said, that translates into the unmistakable warning that the world's atomic reactors constitute a multiple, ticking seismic time bomb. Talk of building more can only be classified as suicidal irresponsibility.

Tokyo Electric's behavior since the quake defines the industry's credibility. For three consecutive days (with more

undoubtedly to come) the utility has been forced to issue public apologies for erroneous statements about the severity of the damage done to the reactors, the size and lethality of radioactive spills into the air and water, the on-going danger to the public, and much more.

Once again, the only thing reactor owners can be trusted to do is to lie.

Prior to the March 28, 1979 disaster at Three Mile Island, the industry for years assured the public that the kind of accident that did happen was "impossible."

Then the utility repeatedly assured the public there had been no melt-down of fuel and no danger of further catastrophe. Nine years later a robotic camera showed that nearly all the fuel had melted, and that avoiding a full-blown catastrophe was little short of a miracle.

The industry continues to say no one was killed at TMI. But it

see JAPAN pg 6

**Grateful for Swift Response**

On June 19th I nearly lost my life due to a heart attack and subsequent cardiac arrest. Within less than five minutes from calling 911, a member of the Montague Volunteer Fire and EMT team was at my bedside, and only minutes later others arrived. Not strangers, but caring faces I knew as neighbors and friends. They worked with efficiency and skill, and because of them, the Baystate

Franklin Medical's ICU team, and Baystate Medical Center's Cardiac Catheterization team, I am enjoying life with new meaning. We are fortunate and richly blessed to have such dedicated and well-trained volunteers in our community.

With my sincere thanks, and a grateful Heart,

- Kathryn Simon  
Montague Center

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GUEST EDITORIAL

# Confront the State with our Budget Reality

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

**MILLERS FALLS** - On July 31st, for perhaps only the second time in history, the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) will convene a meeting open to all registered voters in the towns of Montague and Gill to determine its operating budget for the current year.

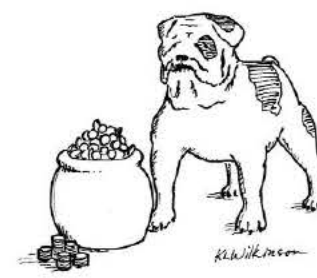
The fact that we have gotten to this point shows that we are in trouble, since the normal process of the towns negotiating with the school district through their selectboards and finance committees to agree on a budget request, a request that is then adopted by their respective town meetings -- a process that has worked, sometimes hesitantly, in the past -- has failed this year. The current GMRSD budget request of almost \$16,357,000 is still about \$500,000 more than the towns feel able to offer. The result, as stipulated in M.G.L. Chap 71 Section 16B ([www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/71-16b.htm](http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/71-16b.htm)) is the meeting that will be held next Tuesday, at 7 p.m., at the High School.

Interestingly, as of this writing, the meeting is not listed on either Montague's or the GMRSD's websites, although it is on Gill's and on a local community site's 'corkboard' calendar. The results of this

meeting could have a significant effect on town property taxes, municipal services, and the quality of education offered by the school district. That's because if the district's requested budget passes, it will be binding on the towns. Regardless of whether the towns think they can afford it, they will simply have to come up with the money somehow. Alternatively, if the meeting passes another budget, it will be sent back to the district school committee for further consideration ([www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr41.html?section=05](http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr41.html?section=05)).

In a sense, this is similar to what happens at town meetings: the voters can either accept the district's budget request, or they can reject it. There is one big difference, though - the voters are not allowed to accept the request contingent on a Proposition 2½ override. In other words, the meeting could vote for a budget that is more than the towns can afford, but if the towns fail to pass overrides to cover the difference, they will have to make it up by cutting other parts of their budgets.

I think this is a very real danger, because I think it's questionable whether an override would pass, at least in Montague. The margins against passage have been fairly strong in past



attempts, and I'm not sure if enough has changed. Perhaps the specter of shutting down the libraries, the parks and recreation department, and the senior center might change people's minds, but I don't think that would be a good thing, either. It would seem like extortion, "the schools made us do it," and I think it would create bad feelings that would take a long time to heal. I also think that a successful override vote might well doom any efforts to pass debt exclusions for projects like a new police station, which I believe would hurt the town in the long run.

I'm also not sure it would be particularly good for the school district. The budget they are requesting has already been pared down considerably from their initial estimate, and in doing so the committee has made it clear that they have had to forego things that they consider necessary. The upshot would be that the district would have a budget that they consider barely

adequate that would have been gained by imposing hardships on the towns and likely engendering some ill will among the taxpayers. I don't see that as a good recipe for future success.

Of course, I think it has to be stressed that there don't seem to be any good solutions in this situation, all we have available is a collection of bad ones. No proposal that anyone comes up with will be immune from criticism. However, I think the best course would be for the district meeting to amend the budget request further downward to a figure that the towns feel they can afford. From the numbers I've seen, that seems to be just shy of \$16 million, but I hope that by next Tuesday officials from both towns will be prepared to offer a more exact and authoritative number.

This budget would then go back to the school committee to accept or reject. Whatever their decision, at least the voters will have sent a clear message that we have reached our limit -- here's what we can afford, and no more. This message should be directed at the state more than anyone else, and in an ironic way it's fortunate that the GMRSD is currently under state scrutiny -- partly for not spending enough money. I think state officials

should be confronted squarely with the question of where the extra money should come from. Since we're talking about this year's budget, we should point out that forming a committee to study the problem is not a good answer.

It doesn't take an economist to see the connection between declining state aid for schools and the predicament we find ourselves in today. Montague finance committee chair Jeff Singleton has been a leader in pointing it out, in these pages and elsewhere, and it's not very complicated. In my opinion, we need our state leaders to face up to the fact that they have failed the education system by allowing the burden of funding it to shift disproportionately to property taxpayers.

A study may help in finding a long-term solution to this problem, but the short-term solution is more money from the state for GMRSD. The state has already agreed that it's needed, and I think we can make a pretty good case that we don't have it at the local level. That doesn't leave a lot of alternatives. I think this budget process is our chance to confront state officials squarely with the reality of our situation, and I think that's what we should do.

## JAPAN

continued from pg 5

does not know how much radiation was released, where it went or who it might have harmed. Since 1979 its allies in the courts have denied 2400 central Pennsylvania families the right to test their belief that they and their loved ones have been killed and maimed en masse.

Prior to its April 26, 1986, explosion, Soviet Life Magazine ran a major feature extolling the virtually "accident-proof design" of Chernobyl Unit Four.

Then the former Soviet Union of Mikhail Gorbachev kept secret the gargantuan radiation releases

that have killed thousands and yielded a horrific plague of cancers, leukemia, birth defects and more throughout the region, and among the more than 800,000 drafted "jumpers" who were forced to run through the plant to clean it up.

Since the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, the industry has claimed its reactors can withstand the effects of a jet crash, and are immune to sabotage. The claims are as patently absurd as the lies about TMI and Chernobyl.

So, too, the endless, dogged assurances from Japan that no earthquake could do to Kashiwazaki what has just

happened.

Yet today and into the future, expensive ads will flood the US and global airwaves, full of nonsense about the "need" for new nukes.

There is only one thing we know for certain about this advertising: it is a lie.

Atomic reactors contribute to global warming rather than abating it. In construction, in the mining, milling and enriching of the fuel, in on-going "normal" releases of heat and radioactivity, in dismantling and decommissioning, in managing radioactive wastes, in future terror attacks, in proliferation of nuke weapons, and much, much

more, atomic energy is an unmitigated eco-disaster.

To this list we must now add additional tangible evidence that reactors allegedly built to withstand "worst case" earthquakes in fact cannot. And when they go down, the investment is lost, and power shortages arise (as is now happening in Japan) that are filled by the burning of fossil fuels.

It costs up to ten times as much to produce energy from a nuke as to save it with efficiency. Advances in wind, solar and other green "Solartopian" technologies mean atomic energy simply cannot compete without

massive subsidies, loan guarantees and government insurance to protect it from catastrophes to come.

This latest "impossible" earthquake has not merely shattered the alleged safeguards of Japan's reactor fleet. It has blown apart - yet again - any possible argument for building more reactors anywhere on this beleaguered Earth.

*Harvey Wasserman, www.solartopia.org, is a former resident of Montague and a senior advisor to Greenpeace USA. This article first appeared at www.freepress.org.*



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**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

**District Meeting on the Docket**

**BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK**

The Gill-Montague joint town meeting on the school district's '08 budget was the main topic of discussion at the selectboard meeting on July 23rd.

Both towns have balked at the schools' proposed \$16,426,000 budget, sending it to an unusual district meeting on July 31st, at 7 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School. But it wasn't so much the finances as the sheer logistics of a meeting that preoccupied the selectboard on Monday night.

Who will be the moderator for the meeting? How much time does each speaker get? How much time will the finance committees need to state their case? How should the rooms be wired for audio and visual, if an overflow crowd forces the meeting into multiple rooms? How many amendments will be allowed in the meeting? Where is

everyone going to park? These were just a handful of the questions the selectboard faced. Pat Allen, chair of the Montague selectboard, met with the Gill board to help troubleshoot on the 23rd.

Montague town moderator Ray Godin has offered to moderate the meeting, and the Gill board offered no objection.

While Allen and the Gill board contemplated the mundane details of organizing a joint town meeting - such as a potential turnout of 5,500 voters with only 350 parking spaces to go around - the actual impact of the voting was never far from the discussion.

Members of town government in Gill and Montague want to stress the importance of this meeting for both the financial and emotional health of the towns. Allen

referred to the meeting as "critical," a characterization everyone on the Gill board agreed with. The town of Montague is planning a press release to publicize the meeting, and in Gill numerous locations for flyers advertising the event were discussed. Punctual and widespread attendance by town voters is a must for this event.

Board member Nancy Griswold commented, "It will be an interesting meeting."

The selectboard meeting on Monday was the first for new Gill town administrative assistant Tracey Rogers. In addition to working with the board on the upcoming meeting, Rogers also got a chance to tackle more pedestrian but still necessary tasks of her position, reviewing the warrants and sundry town business.

**Tina Canon Named Elk of the Month**

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521, 1 Elks Ave, Turners Falls recognized Tina Cannon as Elk of the month of May on Thursday July 5th. She was awarded a pin and a certificate indicating such by Exalted Ruler Pamela J. Lester. Tina was selected by officers of the lodge for her hard work raising monetary donations to the lodge's Relay for Life team. She played a major role in 2 grinder nights at the lodge, sold refreshments at Murph Trophy Races and pizzas from Hillside Pizza with all the profits for our lodge's Relay team where she also served as team captain.



PHOTO: JOE ST. PETER

Montague Elk of the Month Tina Canon, left, shakes the band of Exalted Ruler Pamela J. Lester

The Montague Elks Relay for Life team had nine members: Tina Cannon, Orilla Brunelle, Callie & Carlton Choiniere, Dawn Miner, Donna Baronas, Judy Hastings, Linda Ball & Danielle Ball. This small

number however didn't prevent the team from raising \$3,478.36 toward the fight against cancer. Great job to all the team & every one else who volunteered their time and efforts in some way or another. To date the Franklin County Relay for Life has raised \$320,000.00 and pledges are still coming in.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Auto Break-ins on Montague Street**

**Thursday 7-12**

10:22 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop just past Carroll's, over the railroad tracks on E Main Street, a 16 year old male was arrested and charged with possession of a class D drug (subsequent offense), unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and a number plate violation.

**Saturday 7-14**

12:13 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Winthrop Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with speeding, operating under the influence of liquor, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

**8:59 a.m.**

[redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

**Tuesday 7-17**

5:49 p.m. Report of an assault at a 7th Street address. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

10:19 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 3rd Street, [redacted]

[redacted] was

arrested on a straight warrant.

**Wednesday 7-18**

9:18 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Park Street address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

**Thursday 7-19**

8:56 a.m. Walk in to station reported a larceny from a Montague Street address. A motor vehicle was entered and a cell phone and a dollar bill were stolen.

12:20 p.m. Walk in to station reported a larceny from a (different) Montague Street address. A cell phone, black tote bag, I Pod, and camera were stolen from a motor vehicle.

**Friday 7-20**

10:52 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Unity street address. A lock was broken on a trailer at Jarvis Pool. Nothing missing. Report taken.

**Saturday 7-21**

1:58 a.m. While assisting another police department at a 3rd Street address, [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

7:54 a.m. Report of a suspicious auto at a Federal Street address. One subject was placed in protective custody.

9:33 p.m. Report of a fight behind a 4th Street residence. One subject placed in protective custody.

**Sunday 7-22**

11:04 a.m. Report of an environmental incident on Kells Road. A tree was across the road. DPW notified

**Monday 7-23.**

6:29 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 3rd Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with improper turning and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

**Tuesday 7-24**

9:49 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a High Street address. A fire arm was reported missing. Report taken. Under investigation.

**Wednesday 7-25**

1:51 a.m. Report of a fight at a 5th Street address. One subject placed in protective custody.

**MCTV Schedule:**

**Channel 17: July 27th - August 2nd**

**Barton Cove Eagles:**

\*Eagle Broadcast is dependent upon working Equipment at Barton Cove\*  
7A-8A (Daily); 10A-6P (Wednesday); 12P-5P (Tuesday); 1P-530P (Sunday); 1P-6P (Friday); 2P-5P (Thursday); 230P-530P (Saturday, Monday);

**Friday, July 27**

8:00 am Senior Center: Elder Law  
8:30 am Montague Selectboard: 7/16/07  
10:30 am Darker Image: Fireworks  
11:30 am Discovery Center: Birds of Prey  
6:30 pm NASA Connect: The Venus Transit  
7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 7/24/07  
9:30 pm Independent Voices #33  
10:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Passion & Compassion"  
11:00 pm Coffee House Series: Stephanie Marshall

**Saturday, July 28**

8:00 am NASA Connect: The Venus Transit  
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting 7/24/07  
11:00 am Independent Voices #33  
12:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Passion & Compassion"  
1:00 pm Coffee House Series: Stephanie Marshall  
6:00 pm Montague Update: JD Keating  
7:00 pm The Well Being: "Helping Children Communicate"  
8:00 pm 2007 Valley Idol Finals

**Sunday, July 29**

8:00 am Montague Update: JD Keating  
8:30 am The Well Being: "Helping Children Communicate"  
9:30 am 2007 Valley Idol Finals  
6:00pm Sheffield School Play: Mighty Minds  
7:00 pm Changing Face of Turners Falls  
9:00 pm Over the Falls: Lorena Loubsky Lonergan  
10:00 pm Discovery Center: Hummingbirds

**Monday, July 30**

8:00 am Sheffield School Play: Mighty Minds  
9:00 am Changing Face of Turners Falls  
11:00 am Over the Falls: Lorena Loubsky Lonergan  
12:00 pm Discovery Center: Humming Birds

1:00 pm Montague Music Train  
6:00 pm Senior Center: Elder Law  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)  
9:00 pm Discovery Center Open Mic. Night

10:30 pm Montague Update: 3D Collaborative  
11:00 pm Reconciliation Ceremony

**Tuesday, July 31**

8:00 am Senior Center: Elder Law  
9:00 am Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night  
10:30 am Montague Update: 3D Collaborative  
11:00 am Reconciliation Ceremony  
5:30 pm GED Connection #10: The GED Essay

6:00 pm Encore Body Art  
7:00 pm District Wide Meeting (Live)

**Wednesday, August 1**

8:00 am GED Connection #10: The GED Essay  
8:30 am Encore Body Art  
6:30 pm NASA Connect: The Venus Transit  
7:00 pm GED Connection #11: The GED Reading Test  
7:30 pm Carnegie Library: Emu's  
8:30 pm The Well Being: "Helping Children Communicate"

9:30 pm Discovery Center: Birds of Prey  
11:00 pm Coffee House Series: Pat & Tex LaMountain, Joe Graveline, Russ Thomas

**Thursday, August 2**

8:00 am NASA Connect: The Venus Transit  
8:30 am GED Connection #11: The GED Reading Test  
9:00 am Carnegie Library: Emu's  
10:00 am The Well Being: "Helping Children Communicate"  
11:00 am Discovery Center: Birds of Prey

12:00 pm Coffee House Series: Pat & Tex LaMountain, Joe Graveline, Russ Thomas  
5:30 pm Discovery Center: Pop Rockets  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 7/30/07  
9:00 pm Silly Wizard: Hot Air Balloons from Green River Fest  
10:30 pm Coffee House Series: The Katie Clark Band

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# SCULPTURE

continued from pg 1

the pieces of Turners Falls are everywhere. Building inspector David Jensen appeared non-plussed at the sight of one beautifully realized image, formerly the Shackled Angel, now the Fallen Angel, lying shattered on the floor. Amid shards of limestone, his mournful eyes stare up at you, the textured wings lie broken. "I don't understand this," Jensen admitted.

Don't condemn the work. It was only "an accident". Moving another piece by forklift in his Chick's Garage 3rd Street studio on the day of the Strathmore fire, de Christopher bumped into the Shackled Angel and knocked it over, smashing it completely.

"Something was in the air that day," the artist mused.

It remains a fitting homage to the town itself, beautiful, muscular, bound to earth and broken, gazing mutely up at passersby.

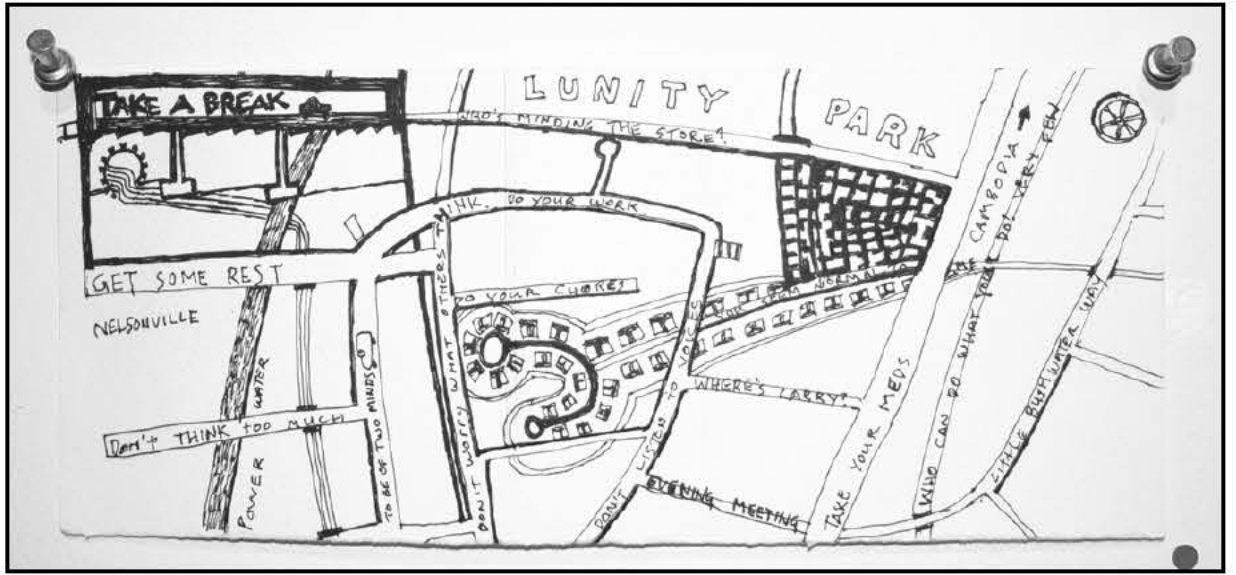
Pieces are scattered on the floor, and on the walls, everywhere, as de Christopher's hallmark napkin sketches form a pointillist portrait of the workings of the artist's mind.

"The guy eats at too many restaurants," said Jensen, moving away. Everyone's a critic.

On other walls, monoprints, sketches, bits of half-formed words, single hands, endless buildings, some suggesting ruined nuclear plants and factories, others aspiring heavenward, streetcars, rooflines, mixtures of shadow and light, like bricks of chiaroscuro pavement in a vertical path of dream. Some recognizable streetscapes emerge: a map of the area surrounding Lunity Park, with its half-familiar place names and poorly maintained road signs: Take a Brake, Nelsonville, Don't Think Too Much, Power Water, Where's Larry? Do Your Work, Don't Worry, Get Some Rest.

They have a rhythm repeated in the stone oblongs and columnar chimneys of the Industrial Landscape, a central work taking pride of place in the middle of the room, a factory of rocks and bones with train-shaped boxcars of granite waiting at an abandoned siding.

On other walls: figure studies



A map of town, by Tim De Christopher

for de Christopher's grand plan: the inchoate Cathedral Project, which may some day take physical form in Turners Falls, but until then appears on napkins, sketchpads, and in magnificent works of stone. The cast of characters looks down on the milling aficionados: butlers, waiters, large men in underwear, a colossus cuddling a factory as if it were a breadbox.

Nearby stands Shorty, looking concupiscent and a bit shamefaced at the excess of the crowd, who nibble by, tattooed women, men with hair tucked

back behind their ears, ropy hippies, babes in arms, admiring, at different levels, the work of de Christopher's hands.

Among the pieces of Turners scattered down on Pleasant Street is a new member of the unfolding narrative, a man with his thumb in a book and an unusual story to tell: Agent Larry. He is a limestone man of mystery, found across the river on the steps of the Children's Library in Greenfield, on certain days and on certain hours, and only if the time is right.

There is much he could tell

you about the dismantling of our industrial potential, the collusion of forces beyond our scope and ken, the paranoia that guides our destiny. Go see him, and all of de Christopher's other brilliant works of might and grace, if you get the chance.

*Falling Apart and Falling Away* is open extended hours at the Oxbow Gallery, from 12 to 5 p.m., daily, on Fridays until 8, through August 5th, at 275 Pleasant Street in Northampton. What better place to view the shattered, complex vision of Turners Falls?



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## 5K and Volleyball Tournament for Katie

On Saturday, August 4th, 2007, there will be a 5K and volleyball tournament held at the Turners Falls High School. This fundraiser has been set up to help Katie Liimatainen and her family. Katie grew up in Turners Falls and attended TFHS. She was an active member of her school and community. She also had a passion for volleyball and staying fit. After high school, Katie went to Keene State College in Keene, NH where she continued to play volleyball. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business and she is currently employed with Genworth Financial in Greenfield. After getting back

on her feet from having a premature baby girl, Madison, Katie has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Katie has undergone chemotherapy and will remain at Baystate to decide if a bone marrow transplant will be necessary. We are holding this fundraiser to assist Katie and her husband Jay with her medical bills, as well as caring for their 9-month-old. Your participation on this day of fun will be greatly appreciated. At 9 a.m. we will have a 5K run/walk through the streets of Turners Falls. Registration is \$15. Advance registration is available via the

Katie, right, with her husband Jay and baby girl Madison. A fundraiser will be held Saturday, August 4th for Katie, who has acute myeloid leukemia.

web at [www.5kandplayforkatie.page.lt](http://www.5kandplayforkatie.page.lt). On the day of the event, onsite registration will begin at 8 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. we will begin various courts of volleyball.

There will be a men's doubles tournament, a women's doubles tournament, and a friendly 6's tournament. The number of participants will determine how many nets will be set up for each group. Please register for this event in advance. We want to ensure that we have plenty of nets and volleyballs for all of you. Volleyball will be \$20.00 per player that can be paid the day of the event. The first 100 registered participants will receive an event T-shirt! We will have food concessions, silent auction and music! Come out and join us for a day of celebration and support. We all appreciate it!

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Final Touches for New Town Buildings

BY JOSH HEINEMANN  
As of the July 11th meeting, the Wendell selectboard had not received the final requisition from Handford Construction for the library and town office building. Selectboard and building committee member Dan Keller expected the requisition later in the week. Then, after money is set aside in escrow for acoustical work, floor repair, interior design, and landscaping at the town office, and the possibility of water continuing to seep into the basement of the new library, the town can close out the short term construction loan, and transfer the debt to a USDA loan at a special town meeting.

Whitney construction has given Wendell a credit of \$1,000.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas, who had researched satellite internet systems for the town office building, was on vacation, so work on that project will wait until his return.

Selectboard member Christine Heard said Brian McCue had offered, for \$200, to paint the remaining trim on the office building Navajo White, to match the already painted trim. Keller said it looks OK the way it is now, from his point of view, and Heard agreed, but said it would look spiffier in Navajo White; no decision was made.

With the new buildings completed, or nearly so, Heard asked if the building committee would soon dissolve, or if they would continue to meet out of habit.

The meeting opened with Susan von Ranson and Carolyn Manley of the interior design committee showing the selectboard samples of fabric to pick from for a valence above the meeting room window. Building inspector Phil Delorey may put up a picture rail in the meeting room. The plan is for the new office building to house

a revolving stock of historic Wendell pictures in the hall, with an ox yoke hanging from the back truss, high enough so it does not block the view of the exit sign.

The landscape committee, Christine Heard and D i a n n e Kurinsky, presented a plan and a list of plants to go in around the office building. Stewarts Nursery has agreed to sell them to the town at a wholesale discount. The town can pay for them now, leave them at the nursery, close out the books on the construction costs, and leave care of the plants to nursery staff until the town is ready to plant them and maintain them. The selectboard approved the list, but balked at the price of a clump of shadbush, and deleted that.

No abutters came, and no one objected to the plan at the pole hearing for running electricity to a new house Todd Mueller is building on Plain Road. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich confirmed the abutters had been notified. The wire will be extended from the New Salem Road side, and the new pole will be on the north side of Plain Road, across from the



The new Wendell Library.  
All those fundraising kayaks really paid off!

existing electric line, so no trees will have to be removed, although Mueller said there is a dead hemlock that he would not miss if it were gone.

Aldrich forwarded to the selectboard two cutting plans that Department of Conservation & Recreation submitted with a request for comment, for trees on Jerusalem Road and Brook Road downed in last year's tornado. The cutting will yield 11,000 board feet of lumber and 330 cords of firewood.

Wanita Sears met the selectboard representing Good Neighbors, asking about moving the food distribution from the highway garage, which is warm for a food operation, to the basement of the old library building, as was planned during the course of the construction of new town buildings. Lewis said the proposed renovations to turn the old library into the new

senior center would be more difficult to accomplish if Good Neighbors moved in first. He said the wiring in the building is old and should be inspected, and he wondered if the basement had enough air circulation for the refrigerators and freezers.

Sears thought the wiring inspection might be a long process, but Keller said it could be speeded up. The composting toilet was within code for the old library, but with a change of use, a flush toilet may be required. Sears said public use of any toilet would be minimal, because people using the food pantry generally arrive, pick up what they need, and leave. She asked about the location of the sink and counter from the old senior center, which former Good Neighbors director Rosalie Rosser told her had been saved. They are in the storage trailer at the recycling center.

Keller promised the selectboard will get going on the electrical inspection, and start the plumbing work. Sears

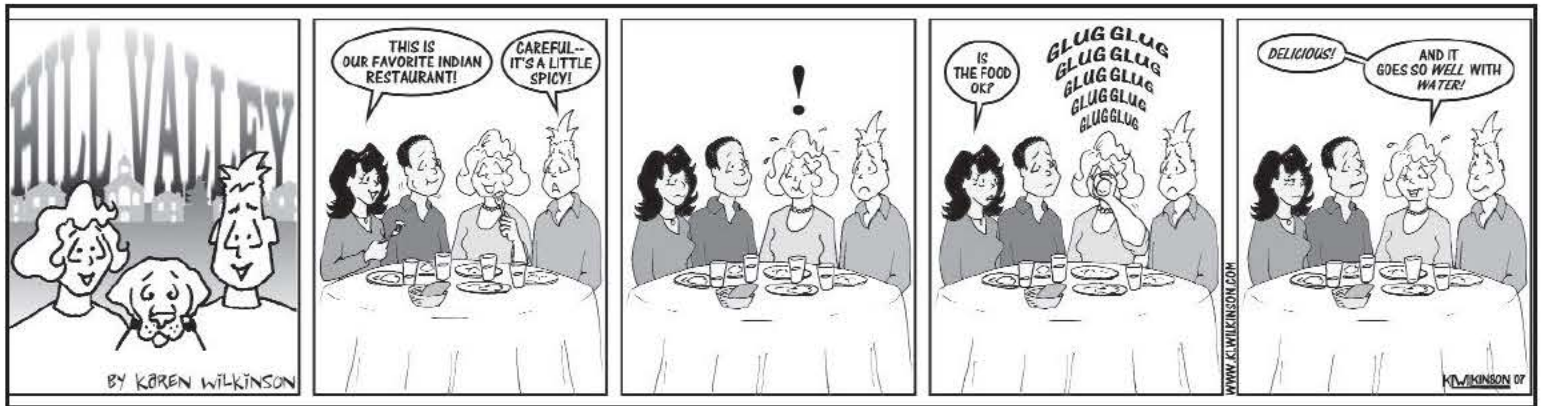
said with Rosser killed in a recent car vs. moose accident, there are now aspects of operating Good Neighbors that no one knows how to do.

Representing the finance committee, Michael Idoine came to discuss the pay rate for the new town custodian position. The town vote authorized an average of 19 hours a week at \$15 per hour as a maximum, and similar positions around the county pay from \$11 to \$14. After some discussion, the selectboard agreed to offer a pay rate of \$11.67 an hour, to match the rate paid to the recycling center superintendent.

Idoine reported that both the New Salem and the Orange school committees had voted to fund Mahar Regional School using the statutory method of assessment, rather than the alternative method of assessment that would favor Wendell. Their vote will cost Wendell approximately \$100,000, Idoine



Revelers celebrate the dedication of the new library on Sunday, July 15. Selectboard member Dan Keller, center. Who spiked the punch?



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## the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

design by Boysen Hodgson  
and Karen Wilkinson

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

### The Other Day My Girlfriend (1991)

The other day my girlfriend was talking about something in a small voice all cozy and warm as we lay in the bed and I was thinking hey this is kind of fun but kind of boring and I talked back to her in a small voice and eventually the subject got onto religion or fishes or something and I began to think about Jesus dividing all the fishes and loaves and then about whether he really divided them or multiplied because either way he made more of them and I said to my girlfriend all cozy and warm how did Jesus make all those fishes and loaves? I don't really know why I said it but I really wanted an answer so I said huh? She paused a long pause and the room was real quiet for New York so quiet I could hear the neighbor adjusting his binoculars until eventually she sighed and said leave it to Jesus and smiled a big proud smile and I thought she was a genius. I was making her warm and happy and I thought this woman is a genius so I said you're a genius and she buried her nose in my armpit in mock modesty and said a big nooo so I said yup a genius.

--Jamie Berger, Turners Falls

### Down From the Rooftops

The building cocooned in the city's sunset evenness, all the emissaries riding the elevator, or the figurines sectioned off in their romantic poses, your ruptured dolls. Daily, I sent word to the statues, I wrote my sculpture to you then, started to flutter by the slow rise of the voices off in the next room. I never could help hypochondria.

If I look unbalanced now it must be the distance between the empty spaces of my life, the way I long for boxes of weight to be stacked along the walls. I paved the way for your great big exit, what, with my suggestions that everyone may be art-prone, posed and worked into the corridors like fungus? There, in the shadow of the heart of you, beneath buildings lofted up by their steel girders, new and unflinching,

### Timely Whimsies

How can we waste time  
if we don't have time?

Will we lose time  
trying to find time?

If we kill time  
how will we keep time?

With time on our hands  
can we get time off?

Why ask someone the time  
when only time will tell?

The subtleties of time, you see,  
could have us musing timelessly.

--Kathryn Flagg  
Millers Falls and Allendale, NJ

### Stonemason's Oratory

I put down my head on a rock.  
Is anything happening?  
I feel the spring in my lungs.  
Am I getting beautiful?  
The summer, like a thousand hands  
pushing out from my chest.  
I'll show you tan.  
My lungs shrivel like fall leaves.  
Even the dirt swallows me,  
embarrassed by the raw baby pigment.  
Just then I realize I am  
going to die from exposure.  
I remember my will,  
thankfully, back at home in the safe.  
Then I remembered the safe.  
The safe was a soup can.  
Then I remembered the will.

The will was a half-smoked Camel.  
I thought of my kids, suffering in public school. I thought of my wife, turning her stool sample over to the doctor at the free clinic. I thought of my grave, kicked over by hooligans, the etchings fading till instead of "died 2002" it says "i d 00" and how much like a robot that makes me sound.

--Alex Phillips  
Lake Pleasant

*Editor's note: this poem is reprinted with our apologies this month due to an unfortunate typo in last month's edition.*

## Prayer for the Honeybee

Einstein gave us  
four years  
from the last of the  
Honeybees  
four times four  
seasons  
Til the end of:  
corn, wheat and barley  
Til the end of:  
squash, kale and tomatoes  
Til the end of:  
echinacea, clover and lemon balm.  
Til the end of:  
us!

Ho--  
We got wi-fi flat screen  
teevee global high speed digital network beaming  
pixilated profiles of the idle American's idol.

But we ain't got  
no more  
honeybees.  
70 percent  
gone and  
counting.

Ho--  
We got Frankenfood bio-engineered genetically spliced Monsanto-ized corn and tomato plants  
GMO hormone laden cow's milk  
penile implant steroid brain plastic tits,  
"Shock and Awe" oil wells Haliburton profiteering empire of the willing  
Alphabet covert agencies NSA, CIA, FBI total information technology  
end of privacy 1984 endless war for  
Peace and Democracy

But we ain't got  
no more  
honeybees.

So....  
Brothers and Sisters  
Let us pray.  
Pray for the honey bees' return  
Light the sacred fires  
the burning sage  
incense for the honeybees' hive  
Let us lift our hearts  
in song  
singing praise to the honeybee  
totem  
melodies to the honey bees' Deva

Then take our prayers to  
the River  
Our intensions to the water's edge  
our offerings downstream  
to the Ocean of Dreams  
Let us dream the return  
of the honeybees

And ...  
Dance, the return of the  
honeybees  
A purely sweet and lovely  
dance for the honeybees  
Ecstatic jiggy wild shamanic  
Dance for the honeybees'  
Return

Dance your prayers  
Honey  
Be  
Dancing  
Your  
Prayers

For the honeybee.

--Elliot Tarry  
Montague

### Fireflies on a Warm Summer Night

We sat on half-rotted planks  
Serving,  
As our front steps.

Catch me a fire-fly, Daddy.  
And I ran like a child  
To catch them.

We were happy  
That evening  
With the magic  
of fireflies

Filled with joy  
With our kids  
On a warm  
summer night

Knowing we  
were rich  
Sitting,  
On half-rotted  
planks.

--Joseph A.  
Parzych  
Gill

### Joy is External

Joy is outside of me.  
I make it, like a batch of cookies.  
I whip up a batch, put it in the oven,  
and there it is,  
made with my own hands.

Joy is outside of me.  
I return to places where I once felt joy,  
times when I was involved  
in something, and joy took me  
by surprise. Then I take joy by surprise.

Joy is outside of me.  
If I don't have a "mix,"  
I can bake it from scratch.  
When hobbies lose their excitement,  
I can make rituals out of mundane things.

Joy is outside of me.  
When my world at first seems joyless,  
I step into it anyway. Like a self-commissioned artist, I go forth and create.

--Sharon Mellor Horton  
Turners Falls

### The Bug Lying In The Sun

In Gill, I saw a large black bug  
with four long legs  
Two little black eyes,  
Two long antennae,  
One small orange head  
with 2 large black wings  
Shaped like hearts,  
Lying on a hard white wall  
On the porch in the sun  
On a beautifully cool  
Summer weekend in June.

I held my camera  
In a different way  
To take the photo  
of the bug  
Lying on the wall  
Near the concrete steps  
By the driveway  
Near the house.

--Joseph R. Parzych

### Contributors' Notes

Elliot Tarry, age 60, lives in Montague and is a healer and ceremonialist.

Alex Phillips lives in Lake Pleasant and is the author of the chapbook Under a Paper Trellis from Factory Hollow Press in Amherst, MA. He directs the Juniper

Institute for Young Writers, a summer UMASS creative writing program and is Assistant Director of The Dean's Book Course at UMASS.

Joseph A. Parzych's poem was the product of words randomly coming together in three bowls of Campbell's Alphabet Noodle Soup.

Seth Landman lives in Northampton, MA. He spends his time watching basketball and writing poetry. He never wanted to live in western Massachusetts, but he has grown to love it.

Kathryn Flagg, a 60-year resident of Millers Falls, now resides with her son and family in Allendale, New

Jersey.

Sharon Mellor Horton of Turners Falls is a mother, a naturalist, and a student of Dialectical Behavior Therapy

Joseph R. Parzych, 16, lives in Greenfield and Gill. He enjoys photography, riding his bicycle and reporting alongside his Grandpa.

Jamie Berger lives in Turners Falls. He's about to open a real, live, bar! He teaches and studies at UMass, and

more of his words can be found at jamiebergerwords.com.

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page: Klondike Sound, Carlin Barton, Harry Brandt, Ron Bosch and Mary Drew, Michael Farrick, and Michael Muller.

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# Montague Water for Chocolate Giant?

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - There have been a number of largescale projects proposed for the Montague Plains over the years, among them a regional landfill, and a twin nuclear power plant. Now the Nestle Corporation has come to town to explore the potential of tapping an aquifer beneath the Plains for a bottled water plant.

In 1999, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) acquired 1490 acres of the Montague Plains from Northeast Utilities, to manage as a nature preserve. In tandem with a small preserve previously acquired as a buffer zone for the nearby Bitzer Fish Hatchery, the DFW now has over 1500 acres under permanent protection in the middle of Montague, under which the aquifer in question is located.

Nestle, the target of an ongoing international boycott for its practice of selling infant formula in Third World countries in defiance of World Health Assembly resolutions, has in recent years turned to marketing a more profitable beverage: water.

Swiss food giant Nestle is the global leader in bottled water sales, marketing in the US under brand names such as Ice Mountain, Deer Park, Poland Spring, Arrowhead, Ozarka, Zephyrhills and Calistoga. The multi-billion dollar conglomerate reported a 79% increase in profits last year, with its bottled water division a strong gainer.

On Wednesday, July 18th, Thomas Brennan, northeast resource manager for Nestle

Waters North America, dropped in on the Montague selectboard for an informational session on his company's interest in pumping a minimum of 150 million gallons of water a year from one of the aquifers located beneath the Montague Plains. According to Turners Falls Water Department superintendent Mike Brown, who said he placed a follow-up call to Nestle's hydrogeologists, the company is considering the 150 million gallon a year figure as the minimum necessary to justify construction of a bottling plant in Montague. The maximum amount of water the company could bottle at such a plant - which would require 80 to 100 acres to construct, and which could provide 350 to 400 jobs - is 300 million gallons a year, Brown said.

Members of the selectboard expressed openness to the company's proposal, although all sides acknowledged the preliminary nature of the discussion.

On July 31st, Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m., at the Hadley Fish and Wildlife office, Nestle is seeking permission from the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board to walk the Plains and test the flow of aboveground streams there. This would be a preliminary step and, if indicators are positive, in time the company would seek permission from the DFW and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to install a test well, to "stress" the aquifer, to see how it would recover if the company were allowed to tap that amount of water annually. (The Fish and

Wildlife office in Hadley is located at 300 Westgate Drive, off Route 116 and Route 9. The meeting is open to the public.)

The scale of the pumping of water Nestle is proposing is not in itself alarming to Brown. The Turners Falls Water Department maintains active wells off Swamp Road in an adjacent but separate aquifer, a bit south of the one Nestle is interested in, and these two wells, which currently provide Montague City, Turners Falls, Millers Falls, and Lake Pleasant with their drinking water are capable of pumping 2 million and 1.3 million gallons of water a day, respectively. The pump Nestle would need to install to realize a 150 million to 300 million gallon a year yield from the adjacent aquifer would be able to pump .4 to .8 million gallons a day, Brown estimated.

But Brown is concerned about the idea of a private corporation like Nestle coming to town and claiming a share of the water resources beneath the Plains. For one thing, after seven years of effort, the Turners Falls Water Department has finally received permission from the DEP to install a test well (capable of pumping 1.1 million gallons a day) on the eastern side of the aquifer Nestle is interested in. Brown said the reason his department wants to establish a well in the northerly aquifer is to safeguard the town's water supply in the event the southerly aquifer were to become depleted in time of drought, or contaminated.

"I'm very concerned we could be selling away our resources here. We may not have any con-

trol over it," said Brown. "I need to provide safe, clean, drinking water for the town, now and into the future, 20, 50, 100 years from now. Neighboring towns may come to us in the future in need of drinking water."

Although much of the action on the Nestle proposal, if it moves forward, would take place at the level of state agencies, Montague town planner Dan Laroche said, "It is very important for there to be a local role in this process, for the town to plan for its water future."

Laroche said Nestle was particularly interested in locating a well near active springs that feed the Bitzer Fish Hatchery. The company needs to pump from an aquifer within a certain distance of active springs in order to maintain a designation of spring water. These springs are located on the western side of the aquifer where Brown's department intends to install a well for the town's back-up water supply.

Nestle's spokesmen have repeatedly cautioned that the company moves forward on only one out of ten sites it explores for potential water bottling plants.

Doug Stephens, chair of the Montague planning board, after leaving the Wednesday meeting, said he had philosophical questions about selling a common resource like water. But he said he was keeping an open mind about a proposal that could bring clean industry and jobs and tax payments to town.

Tina Clarke, of Amherst, of Massachusetts Clean Water Action, questioned just how clean an industry bottled water

really is. "Clean Water Action is skeptical of bottled water in general due to its cost to the environment." Clark said the manufacture of plastics presents environmental and health impacts, and only 14% of plastic water bottles are recycled. When plastics are incinerated, they produce toxic burdens for the environment, and our bodies, Clarke said.

Montague resident Paul Lipke said, "The whole concept of bottled water in a country that has the best public water supply in the world is absurd. I wouldn't care if this were located over the biggest aquifer in the country. It's stupid. Why should we commercialize a common good after we've already paid to develop the public infrastructure to deliver the resource?"

Millers Falls resident Mike Naughton estimated it would take 100 truckloads a day leaving a bottling plant for a company to deliver the amount of bottled water Nestle proposes for a minimum yield.

Lisa Capone of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs said, "Nestle is looking at a number of sites in the state. We'd want to study and evaluate all the environmental effects of any proposal in terms of its impact on wildlife and water resources."

Laroche said the volume of water the company proposed to pump daily from the Montague Plains would probably trigger a thorough state level review under the terms of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.

## Watershed Group Releases River Health Test Results

BY IVAN USSACH

Seven of eight river sites tested by the Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) have received a water quality score of "non-impacted," indicating a high or unimpaired level of water quality, according to biological monitoring results just released by the group. The scores are based on benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) sampling performed by volunteers in the Fall of 2006. "We are excited to present these results to the community," said MRWC president David Brule, "and will continue to use the BMI and other monitoring efforts to provide needed information and examine potential problem sites."

The one impaired site, which scored a borderline "slight/moderate impact," is the outlet of Lake Rohunta near where it enters the Millers River in Athol. The seven unimpaired sites include one site on the Millers River, close to its confluence with the Connecticut River in Erving and Montague. The other six sites are located on major tributaries, and except

for a reference site upstream on Lawrence Brook in Royalston, all are located downstream close to where the tributary enters the Millers mainstem. By sampling as far downstream as possible, most potential pollution sources along the entire length of the tributaries can be accounted for.

The other five unimpaired sites, running from west to east, are: Mormon Hollow Brook in Wendell, Keyup Brook in Erving, Whetstone Brook in Wendell, Moss Brook in Orange and Orcutt Brook in Orange. Several other sites in Worcester and Franklin counties could not be sampled due to heavy rain and high water levels, and will be priorities for the next sampling round in September, 2007.

Brule said the Watershed Council selected the tributary sites in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) because they lacked biological data. None of the sites had been tested by the state for BMI, such as caddisfly, stonefly and mayfly larvae, whose sensitivity to pollution

makes them excellent water quality indicators. The state has other biological data from fish samples at some, but not all, of the sites.

Trained volunteers scraped the benthic macroinvertebrates from the underside of rocks, then sorted and identified them over several sessions, all in accordance with a detailed Quality Assurance Project Plan approved by Mass DEP to ensure the highest accuracy. Dr. Michael Cole, a professional aquatic entomologist who served as MRWC's technical supervisor, then performed a complex statistical analysis to arrive at the water quality scores.

According to Dr. Cole, the Lake Rohunta stream results are "not surprising." As the outlet to a relatively large, shallow, eutrophied - nutrient-enriched - body of water, the stream supports a macroinvertebrate community tolerant to this type of "disturbance." The Watershed Council will consider performing additional sampling near Lake Rohunta, Brule said.

## 26th Annual Chevy/GM Truck Meet and Vintage Travel Trailer Show

**WENDELL** - From August 2nd - 5th, the 26th Annual Chevy/GM Truck Meet and Vintage Travel Trailer Show will be held, sponsored by Northeast Chevy/GMC Truck Club, P.O.

Box 155, Millers Falls. The meet is open to all Pre-1987 Chevy and GMC trucks. It will be held rain or shine at the Wendell State Forest. Friday night's events include an ice cream social, movie theater and truck hayrides; Saturday events include a truck rodeo, cruise/poker run, valve cover racing, kids' games, coloring contest, truck hayrides, piston toss, dancing/live band; Sunday events include a parts swap, model truck contest, show and shine, frog jumping contest, Smokey the Bear; all week-



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end includes camping, hiking trails, raffles, trophies/dash plaques and club participation awards. For more information: Bryant (413) 422-2781; Gordon (508) 853-6570; Steve (781) 551-0520. Pets must be leashed at all times. No bicycles in show areas. \$5 will be collected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the gate from all vehicles. This fee has nothing to do with the truck club. It is collected at all events throughout the season going directly to forest maintenance.

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Montague Explores Saving Money on Health Insurance

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
Several members of the finance committee met with the Montague selectboard on Monday, July 16th to discuss the possibility of the town and the schools joining the Group Insurance Commission, the health insurance provider for state employees. Pending legislation will open the possibility of town and school employees joining the GIC. Historically, the GIC rates have increased less rapidly than have the current plans of the town of Montague or the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD).

"The finance committee feels this is an option that should be pursued," said committee member John Hanold. Referring to the town administrator's multi-year study of town and school spending and revenue, Hanold said, "Frank Abbondanzio's report indicates we'll probably do better if we join the GIC. This would involve a lot of decisions by October 1st," the cut-off date for notifying the GIC of intent to join for the following fiscal year, said Hanold. "We need to start now."

[At the school committee meeting of July 10th, G-M teachers association president Nancy Daniel-Green said, "We are working closely with the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA)," regarding the possibility of GMRSD employees joining the GIC. "The MTA will provide us with

assistance on that. My recommendation is we come to the table with all the unions, and the town, to do this, in one super negotiation."]

[At the school committee meeting of July 24th, G-M interim superintendent Ken Rocke spoke of the urgency of exploring the GIC option. "We have to do everything we can possibly do to reduce the cost of education. Can we meet the October 1st deadline? We can't ask the towns to go to work if we don't do everything we possibly can."]

The selectboard asked town administrator Frank Abbondanzio to be the point person in coordinating exploring the possibility of signing up town employees in the GIC health plan. Abbondanzio and members of the finance committee traveled to Worcester today for an informational meeting on the plan.

Finance committee chair Jeff Singleton said Montague's health insurance costs have gone up 88% since 2001, while the GIC's have gone up 48% over the same time period.

**Airport Progress**

In other business, the board heard from the new chair of the Turners Falls airport commission, Peter Golrick, who described progress they were making resolving disputes with an ad-hoc pilots group called the Committee to Save the Airport.

Golrick said he was making space available on the agenda of each commission meeting to hear from the pilots group. He offered to come before the selectboard on a quarterly basis to improve communication with the board. Selectboard member Allen Ross, who has been meeting in joint sessions with the pilots group and the airport commission, praised the commission for their efforts to resolve the disputes, which had led to a petition drive earlier this year in which the pilots and other airport users demanded the removal of airport manager Mike Sweeney.

"We're all passionate about flying," said Golrick. "This led to some heated meetings."

Selectboard member Patricia Pruitt noted that the board has had some executive sessions with the airport commission lately. "You've done a good job informing us. But it would be nice to hear about the airport in a more relaxed way."

Golrick said, "We've attempted to address some of [the pilots'] proposed solutions. They're becoming more active."

But, reached after the meeting, Kip Miskinis of Turners Falls, one of the pilots who signed the petition earlier this year, said negotiations with the airport commission had become "stuck in rhetoric; nothing is moving forward." He said rates at nearby Orange airport for commercial or non-commercial

pilots were still 28 cents per square foot to rent hangar space, compared to 70 cents a square foot at Turners, and nearly \$4.00 a square foot for commercial tenants, a factor he said was leading to a loss of users at the Turners airport.

Responding to one request by the Committee to Save the Airport, the selectboard will explore the possibility of adding two more members to the airport commission, raising the number of members from five to seven, to make room for more representation of pilots and other users of the airport. Pilot Chuck Meyer, from Conway, offered to be one of those appointed if more seats are added to the commission, since residency in Montague is not required.

**Farmland Preserved**

The selectboard announced an agreement had been reached to preserve 110 acres of prime farmland along South Ferry, Ferry and Lower Meadow Roads in Montague Center, owned by dairy farmer Mitch Mieczkowski. Town planner Dan Laroche said the conservation commission would be asked to contribute \$25,000 from the town's open space fund for the local match, when the state acquires the development rights to the land. In the meanwhile, the Franklin Land Trust is pre-purchasing the development rights, in advance of the state completing the Agricultural

Preservation Restriction process on the land.

Laroche said there was \$55,000 in the conservation commission's open space account. Town meeting has been unable to make regular contributions to this fund in recent years, due to the town's ongoing budget constraints.

"This will be money well spent," said selectboard chair Pat Allen. "This is a very important parcel."

Selectboard member Allen Ross called Mieczkowski, "an expert farmer, who takes exquisite care of his dairy herd." The agreement will allow him to continue farming the land, along with an adjacent utility-owned corridor, Ross said.

**Strathmore Updates**

Speaking of that utility company, the board acknowledged the Turners Falls fire department's thanks to FirstLight Power Company for their assistance in fighting the fire at the Strathmore Mill on May 26th. FirstLight lowered the water level in the canal to allow easier intake of water for the pumpers, and allowed access to the scene over the IP Bridge and the footbridge from Canal Street. Abbondanzio noted the town's ongoing interest in improving that footbridge, to smooth the way for possible redevelopment of the Strathmore Mill, which the town is in the process of tak-

see STRATHMORE, pg 13

*An excerpt from the Montague selectboard's July 10th, 2007 letter to Governor Deval Patrick regarding the B&M (Pan Am) railroad and the town of Montague.*

"...Probably the most egregious of the complaints the Town of Montague has with the Pan Am Rail (formerly known as B&M), however, is the role that the company played in the undermining of the Greenfield Road bridge. The town is currently engaged in litigation with the B&M regarding the undermining of the Greenfield Road bridge, which resulted in the removal of the bridge and the need to detour traffic on one of the town's most important travel ways. Failure of the bridge abutments was directly attrib-

utable to the lowering by the B&M of the elevation in the track bed beneath the bridge to accommodate double-decker trains. In the meantime, town residents and businesses have had to endure the inconvenience of a major detour, which in at least one instance may have led to the failure of a business. No effort has ever been made by the railroad to rectify this situation or to admit fault in the matter. In fact, following the incident, the B&M chose to initiate a series of litigation actions against the town and state, that has had the effect of precluding the Commonwealth (Mass Highway) from pursuing litigation of its own against the company, which would require the B&M to make restitution. Instead, the town of Montague

was told by the Massachusetts Highway Department that the department would only consider replacement of the Greenfield Road bridge if the town assumed some of the liability in the event that the replacement bridge also failed, and new litigation from the railroad ensued. Rather than assume such a liability, the town opted instead to agree to an alternative plan presented by Mass Highway, which will result in the relocation of the road, rather than the replacement of the bridge. It should be added that the funding required to implement the road relocation plan will result in additional costs that will ultimately have to be borne by Massachusetts taxpayers, and not the B&M railroad..."

## Dolan's Seat Marked at Shady Glen



Richard Anderson and Fran Hemond display a memorial plaque which the owners of the Shady Glen have enthusiastically permitted to be placed at the counter where Fran Dolan often sat. Fran, the former moderator of Montague's open town meeting, carried on the democratic tradition of free and open debate daily at the popular eatery, where he will be long remembered and missed.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

# Intoxicated Drivers

### Tuesday 7-10

3:05 p.m. Walk in report at station regarding ongoing problems with neighbor in town. Advised to seek remedy with an attorney and the courts.

### Thursday 7-12

9:31 p.m. Assisted Erving police with motor vehicle stop in town.

11:59 p.m. Assisted Montague police with disturbance.

### Saturday 7-14

10:15 a.m. Report of subject on the railing on the Gill-Montague Bridge. Cancelled while enroute.

5:28 p.m. Report of shots fired in the Factory Hollow area, checked area

unable to locate anything.

10:22 p.m. Arrested [redacted] Charged with OUI, Driving to endanger, marked lanes violation and operating motor vehicle without a license. Incident occurred on French King Highway.

### Sunday 7-15

1:11 a.m. Call from resident regarding suspicious phone calls from male subject in Georgia.

10:45 p.m. Report of intoxicated subject at the Gill Mobil Station, being unruly.

10:50 p.m. Report of intoxicated male staggering on French King

Highway near Greenfield town line. Subject located in Greenfield. Greenfield PD assisted same.

### Monday 7-16

3:32 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on West Gill Road.

8:20 p.m. Responded to the Erving area to assist locating a vehicle.

### Tuesday 7-17

4:05 p.m. Report of erratic operator on French King Highway. Subject stopped at Gill Mobil, subject passed sobriety tests, although possible medical conditions existed. Gill EMS and BHA ambulance called to evaluate.

### Thursday 7-19

9:30 a.m. Parking complaint on French King Highway.

4:15 p.m. Assisted business owner with trespass notices on West Gill

Road.

### Friday 7-20

12:20 p.m. Walk in report at station of a past assault and battery under investigation.

12:35 p.m. Report of unwanted subject at French King Highway business. Responded to area, subject left on his own accord.

### Saturday 7-21

5:02 p.m. Report of boating accident on Connecticut River with minor injuries. Responded to scene, investigation turned over to Environmental police.

### Sunday 7-22

5:01 p.m. Car vs. deer accident on French King Highway near Setback Lane. Accident report completed, deer deceased prior to arrival.

7:50 p.m. Unattended death inves-

tigation on Main Road, State Police crime unit called to scene to assist with investigation.

### Monday 7-23

9:45 a.m. Report of stolen laptop computer from French King Highway business. Under investigation.

12:33 p.m. Report of loose horse on Main Road, returned to pasture with assistance of animal control officer.

9:31 p.m. Report of a man dragging a woman on West Gill Road near the golf course. Checked area, unable to locate anyone.

### Tuesday 7-24

1:23 a.m. Second call from reporting party regarding previous call, reporting party now believes subject threw a body onto side of road. Area checked again, no one found.

## GMRSD from page 1

'underperforming' due to its financial difficulties, and also due to a lack of adequate administrative support to meet the district's educational goals.

Rocke introduced newly hired elementary school principal Bill McDonald, who will share the principalship of Gill Elementary and Montague Center School. McDonald, with 10 years experience as an elementary principal, "is going to provide the waited-for leadership in Gill and Montague," Rocke said. "We're very fortunate to have found him."

Hillcrest Elementary School principal Chris Jutres will return to fulltime duty at Hillcrest, the largest of the district's primary schools. Last year, Jutres was halftime principal at Hillcrest and Montague Center. Now, with Jutres returning to a fulltime post at Hillcrest, and McDonald working halftime at Gill, and halftime at Montague Center, the GMRSD will effectively be adding a half time principal position at the primary school level this year.

Rocke announced another new addition to the administrative team at the Middle School, and introduced Anna-Stina Ohlson, who will "assist the day to day operations" there while serving the upper grades in the capacity of curriculum coordinator. Rocke said Sheffield principal Chip Wood will assume the role of curriculum coordinator throughout the district for grades K-5, in addition to his post at Sheffield.

Ohlson brings "a strong background in middle school administration and a strong skill set in curriculum development and teacher evaluation" to the district, Rocke said. Ohlson has served three years as a middle school

principal and assistant principal, four years as a middle school guidance counselor, and has taught English as a Second Language. She is pursuing a PhD at UMass Amherst in the field of teacher evaluation.

In other budget news, Rocke said the GMRSD would be applying for relief from the state's "Pothole" fund, which will be made available to qualifying school districts on an expedited schedule this August. He said only \$4.5 million was available in this fund statewide, but said the GMRSD met the criteria in two of the dozen categories available. He was hopeful some funds would be available from this program to "fill unmet needs" left by the reduced staffing in the coming school year. He mentioned restoring the loss of reading and math coaches and paraprofessionals as possible ways to apply the discretionary Pothole funds, if they come through.

Turning to the logistics of the upcoming district budget setting meeting, Rocke said the doors to the high school will be open at 6 p.m., an hour in advance of the meeting. "Come early to get the best seats," he urged.

In concert with town officials, the committee is aiming to check voters in at the door as they arrive, and hand out any ballots needed for the vote - or votes - that will ensue on Tuesday the 31st. Disabled seating will be available in the auditorium, where the rest of the attendees will be seated first, with spillover going to the café, and finally to the gymnasium, if sufficient numbers turn out. There are at least 5500 registered voters in Gill and Montague; the auditorium seats 425.

Widescreen TVs and speakers will be set up to broadcast the meeting live to the café and gymnasium, if necessary. Space will

be made available at the front of the auditorium for participants who may be seated in the café or gym to come in and ask questions of the moderator.

There is parking for 350 at the high school. Additional parking for 500 cars will be available at Sheffield and Hillcrest parking lots, and a shuttle will run to the high school to transport people to the meeting from there.

"We want all the registered voters of Montague and Gill to come to the meeting. We want to run in an efficient and businesslike way. We're working

hard toward that end," Rocke said.

The one item on the agenda is the Gill-Montague '08 school budget. If the school committee's amended budget is approved by the voters at the district meeting, the towns of Gill and Montague will be required by law to meet the assessments. If a figure different from the amount approved by the school committee - now \$16,356,900 - is approved by the district meeting, according to Rocke "the school committee could accept that, or vote another amount," and set the stage for yet

another district meeting. If the two towns and the schools cannot arrive at a budget by the end of December, by statute, the state will step in and set a budget for the GMRSD, which the towns will then have to abide by, and appropriate sufficient funds for.

G-M teachers association president Nancy Daniel-Green recalled one previous instance - in about 1985 - when the GMRSD had to go to a district meeting to set a budget. "The wounds from that meeting took years to heal, for the towns," she said.

## STRATHMORE

continued from p. 12

ing for back taxes from its owner.

While they were on the subject of the Strathmore, the selectboard approved a recommendation by Abbondanzio to reapply to Preservation Massachusetts (formerly Mass Historic) to have the Strathmore placed on the list of Ten Most Endangered properties in Massachusetts. Abbondanzio said, since the fire, the agency had encouraged the town to reapply for the listing, which could improve financing available for the eventual redevelopment of the site.

Abbondanzio said once the town acquires the mill for back taxes, an RFP for its redevelopment would be issued. He said John Anctil and the Swift River Group, who were on the verge of buying the mill before the May 26th fire, remained interested in the site. Anctil had proposed establishing a film and television school and production facility at the Strathmore.

Town tax collector Patti Dion has estimated it could take at least until the end of the

year to complete the tax taking of the Strathmore Mill, a process that releases the property from all outstanding liens.

In another bit of Strathmore related news, Abbondanzio said the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has accepted Montague's bid to join in the state's new expedited permitting process for targeted projects, such as redeveloping the Strathmore. Acceptance in this program will be a boon to a potential developer. The COG will work with the town to identify priority sites.


Abbondanzio has written a grant for \$750,000 for construction of a new police station adjoining the fire station on Turnpike Road, to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. Abbondanzio said the town will also apply for \$700,000 in community development block grant funding for the proposed police station, which now has a total estimated price tag of \$5,248,945.

The board agreed to set aside \$15,000 in program income funds to augment the funds raised for the renovation of the veterans memorial on Avenue A, and to create a larg-

er contingency fund for that project. The board also authorized an additional \$10,000 expenditure from the Unsafe and Unhealthy Building fund to complete the repair of the fire alarm and sprinkler systems at the Strathmore. This sum is in addition to the \$10,000 the board authorized previously for that purpose from the same account, which will be drawn down from its present balance of \$36,141.

The town has received an extension from the state architectural access board to repave the walks at Peskeomskut Park, which do not meet guidelines for wheelchair accessibility due to the use of pea stone in the pavement. The town will seek a directed bid from potentially interested contractors, who will have until September 7th to complete the work, at town expense.

The board also signed and sent a letter to Governor Deval Patrick, requesting help in Montague's ongoing dispute with Pan Am railroad, formerly the B&M, which is now \$55,000 in arrears in property taxes to the town. (See sidebar on page 12 for an excerpt from that letter.)



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ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

BY KARL MEYER

**COLRAIN** - I saw a mink. Some baby fishers. Red squirrels, dumb little chipmunks, some romping young foxes, grey squirrels, woodchucks, a bog lemming, a bobcat, a muskrat with a mouthful of tender shoots, and a deer standing in the road in broad daylight. In some ways I feel like I've been exploring a foreign country - all within a couple of miles of home. Out surveying birds for the late spring and early summer, I've seen way more than my share of wildlife. And most of what I've seen springs from simply being out there, traveling quietly by bike, and paying attention.

After grumbling about getting up and out the door early on more than a few occasions, I've realized I've received a real working knowledge of the local landscape. And it wasn't just about the birds. Except for bears, and moose, I've seen much of what southern New England has

to offer in the way of wild mammals. That bobcat, just into the woods and being harassed by crows, is one I surely would have missed had I not been attuned to birds.

There it stood, perplexed, on a stone wall just a hundred feet into the woods near a busy secondary road. It looked at the birds; it looked at me. I looked at it; it looked at the birds. Its pointed cheek jowls, dappled spots, and black-tipped bobbed tail were as clear at that distance as seeing it in some hapless zoo. I'd seen only one other bobcat a dozen years before - in the middle of a dirt road in late April, with a live woodchuck clamped in its jaws. I never thought I'd happen upon another. But I was tuned in, paying attention. This one stayed in view for a full minute before ultimately deciding it was getting too crowded in the neighborhood.

But there is one sighting that stands out as much for its sweet humor as for its drama. That was

the look I got at a spotted sandpiper, just arrived in the world. It was not what I would have expected, had I had any expectations at all. It was the last week of June and I was nearing my full compliment of survey hours to complete. The push at that point is to try and document actual nests and young where possible. It's no easy task, a very hit-or-miss deal when you consider that the birds have worked for thousands of years on hiding nests and young from us plunderers. Mostly I consider success in this area a matter of dumb luck.

And so I blithely figured I'd do a final investigation of a damp meadow I'd neglected for a few weeks. I'd heard a black-billed cuckoo there early in the season, and there had also been a conspicuous absence of kingfishers along this riverside, where they had been numerous years before. Almost immediately a spotted sandpiper popped into view. Close. Brown-backed, six inches long, and

shaped like a gravy-boat when tipped and feeding, this one plunked itself near me, and piped away in somewhat goofy alarm. Not thinking quickly I first surmised, "Well this must be a young one, nobody else would be as dumb as to pipe away like an annoyed robin right near a human." I moved away a bit to give it space.

But it didn't stop complaining, and it didn't make sense. This bird looked "finished." It was in adult, or in near-adult feathers. Meanwhile, I'd remembered watching a female merganser wing overhead a few minutes before. It looked like she landed just upstream. I took a path up the wet meadow to the riverbank, looking down the cobbled stream in wide daylight. And there was my sandpiper answer: a long-legged ball of fluff tottering rather athletically, though at the same time awkwardly, over the stones along the beach. Peeping away to its parent. Here was what the

fuss was about.

The bird was perfectly charming. It was so new it appeared someone had glued a bunch of feathers to it for fun - like Big Bird, only in white. And it clumped along amazingly well considering it likely had only banged out of its shell an hour or two before. That parent bird was the male. The dads do all the incubating and feeding in this species. The females put their time into finding other mates, and producing up to four clutches of eggs in a single season. Spotted sandpiper chicks are precocial: they can walk and begin feeding on their own right out of the box. They simply follow the parent around and get scolded a lot. I blinked at the charming innocence for a half minute more; then moved away. It is a picture I'll not soon forget.

*Cooling thought: Stop at the next farm stand or farmers market you see. Buy something - anything - that looks good. Savor the homegrown sweetness of the season.*

## TFHS CLASS OF 1959 MINI REUNION

BY SANDY MINER

**ERVINGSIDE** - On Sunday, July 15th some 21 members of the TFHS Class of 1959 gathered at the home of Bob and Sandy (Pine) Miner of Erving for a mini reunion. After all, although it seems like only yesterday, it has been 48 years since graduation. Some who attended the reunion came by themselves, some brought spouses. We also had two sets of classmates married to each other: Judy (Rastalis) and Ernie Hastings, as well as me, Sandy (Pine) and my husband, Bob Miner.

The skies were overcast with occasional sprinkles, but nothing could stop the "do you remember whens?" and "whatever happened tos?" Memories and accounts of our school years flowed in abundance. There was a great deal of discussion about the "good old days" and how things have changed since we were in school. We pored over our yearbook and then took a look at a Class of 2007 yearbook and marveled at how different some



*The TFHS Class of 1959 gathered for an informal reunion at the home of Sandy and Bob Miner, 48 years after graduation.*

things are since we graduated. The styles are more casual now, but some things will never change, such as the pride of being part of good old "Turners High".

Several attendees brought photos of classmates, and everyone tried to test their memories, deciding who was who in the old pictures. Some could be recognized immediately, but others took a bit of discussion and a while longer to decide who they were.

One highlight of the party was a copy of the bicentennial edition of the "Junior Scribe",

which was the 'newspaper' of the 7th and 8th grades. The introduction reads, "This is the story of our town, compiled by the English classes of the Crocker Avenue Grammar School, Turners Falls, Massachusetts. Early in April each pupil became a 'reporter' with a 'specified assignment', mainly the history of the town of Montague. They haunted libraries, interviewed oldtimers, consulted parents and grandparents, ransacked attics and came back with a quantity of material which had to be sorted, selected and edited. This

edition of Junior Scribe is the result of their enthusiastic efforts. It is our contribution to the 200th birthday of our town. Blondena J. Argy, Advisor"

The history and memories this booklet contains are incredible. With the kind permission of the Montague Reporter excerpts of the Junior Scribe will be reprinted from time to time in future issues of the paper.

Classmates attended from around Massachusetts, as well as Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maryland, and New York. We started with a list of 114 remaining classmates, and were able to locate all but five. The classmates whose addresses we do not have are: James Brazeau, Robert Bourbeau, Brenda (Cossett) Litis, Edward Grant and Phillip Verrier.

Now for a little "Trivia" ~ the classmates of 1959 live in the following states: AZ 1, CA 5,

CT 4, FL 7, GA 3, IN 1, MA 60, MD 1, MI 1, MN 1, NC 1, NH 5, NJ 1, NM 1, NY 5, OH 1, OR 1, SC 2, VA 3, VT 3, WA 1, and WI 1!

This year's mini reunion picnic was organized by Steve Blassberg, Gideon Croteau, Dick Haigis, Judy (Rastalis) Hastings, Ernest Hastings, Sandy (Pine) Miner, Virginia (Krol) Squires and Jim Hartnett. A committee was formed to plan the 50th reunion in 2009.

If anyone has an address for the missing members of the class of 1959 please contact one of the committee members, or drop me a line at [www.sandyknits.com](http://www.sandyknits.com). Thank you.

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## COMMON BAGPIPES

**BY MATT ROBINSON GILL** - On Tuesday, July 24th, seventy five people gathered at the Gill common to listen to Eric Goodchild play his bagpipes. Dressed in a kilt, he marched around the common playing traditional Highland tunes. In between songs, he regaled the audience with folk stories. He told about the history of Scotland and the meaning of the music. He spoke about the origin of the Tartan, the Jacobite Rebellions, the end of the clan system, the original Celtic-Scot inva-



sion, the origin of the Royal Stuarts, and of course, the battle of Culloden Moor.

And the audience loved it. Mr. Goodchild was participating in the "Common People Concerts" held every Tuesday at 7 p.m., funded by the Gill Cultural Council. "Next week we have the Blues and Beatles concert," Steve Damon, one of the organizers, said.

The concerts continue until August 14th.

*Piper Eric Goodchild regaled the Gill Common audience with music and history of Scotland on the evening of July 24th*

## NEWT GUILBAULT TRIUMPH

**BY MATT ROBINSON TURNERS FALLS** - "In my seventeen years of running this tournament, this team ranks right up there," Newt Guilbault Invitational Tournament organizer Frank Campbell said from the podium. He was speaking of the Turners Falls 12-and-under tournament team. This group of boys swept the tournament: six wins, no losses. Some of those wins were cut short due to the mercy rule. The boys hit well, and pitched well, and something more, they played as a team. Good catches, accurate throws and smart base running were the key to their success. Plus "Noise from the Dugout". They cheered each other on, and fourteen times they lined up at home plate to congratulate a boy who had hit a home run. "Hungry for hits, I'm hungry for hits." coach Markol would say to the batters. He wasn't disappointed. The hits came. And the runs scored. And the team won and won again. "This is our house!" skipper Bartak announced. And before each game the kids yelled it too.

In this team sport, it's hard to isolate individuals who excelled, because they all won the game, the whole team. But here goes... Michael Conant batted .429, Brody Markol, .647., Zach Bartak, .500, TJ Myer .750, and Malcolm Smith .600. Zach Bartak hit 4 home runs. TJ Meyer had 6 home runs and 3 doubles, Marcel Ortiz had 5 singles and 3 RBIs, John Ollari had 2 doubles and 2 singles, Ryan Wilder had a homer and 3 singles, Troy Miller had a double and 2 singles, Cody Booska had 2 doubles and a home run, Malcolm had 2 singles and a double, and Nino Rodriguez had a double.

On the defensive side: Ryan threw 19 strike outs in 10 innings and allowed no runs, T.J., Troy, Brody, John and Michael each averaged at least 1 strikeout per inning pitched. But at this age, it's not about individual stats, it's about playing as a team, learning sportsmanship and having fun playing. However, on this day, in this tournament, in their house, Turners Falls won and won big.

## SIX ARRESTED AT VERMONT YANKEE



**VERNON** - On Sunday, July 22nd, (pictured left to right) Sally Shaw, of Gill, Walter Schwartz of Brattleboro, VT, Teri Caldwell of Shelburne Falls, John Ward, of Gill, Jane Newton of Londonderry, VT,

and Eesha Williams of Dummerston, VT, were arrested after blocking the gates of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant in Vernon, VT. About 30 people supported the action from the sidewalk in

front of Vermont Yankee, with large banners and small. Vernon police issued a warning and arrested the six for trespassing.. All were released on personal recognizance, with arraignment date of September 18th.

## GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK - KUZMESKUS SCHOOL BUS BENEFIT

**BY LINDA ACKERMAN TURNERS FALLS** - With a partnership from F.M. Kuzmeskus, the local bus company, Greenfield Savings Bank will be trying to "Fill a Bus to Help a School." There will actually be a bus parked on the front lawn of the Turners Falls branch on Avenue A, and any school supply contribution will graciously be accepted. Bring your pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, markers, paper, notebooks, backpacks, etc., etc. All can go on the bus, and will be donated to the central office for distribution to the area school

locations. On Friday, August 3rd, at 3 p.m., there will also be a "safety class" conducted by a representative from Kuzmeskus. New students entering any of the district schools who have not ridden on a school bus yet can come and get a first hand look and learn the proper way to get on and off a bus. The bus will stay parked on the bank lawn as long as we are able, to accept any and all school supply donations. Thank you in advance for your interest and support of our wonderful local schools!

# An Old Friend Returns

**BY FRAN HEMOND MONTAGUE CENTER** - Emily is back. For several years, Emily, an imperious little mallard duck, has brought her ducklings to the ponds at Cold Brook Farm to eat and play and delight onlookers. For Emily's ducklings were like little divers. She did not lead. She herded them before her and little bodies popped up and down with flashes of silver in the dark water. One year in late June she gave a flying lesson to her older ducklings in the North Pond. It amazed my visitors who had never seen the like. This year, June went by, Emily did not appear. Everything else arrived on schedule. The Japanese quince came early and bright. The shadbush gave a few days of glory to the driveway over the culvert, and the elderber-



ry had blossomed white around the South Pond. Duckling time, and another mallard duck came with her set of five, and they dipped and fed in the proper mallard manner. Maybe one of Emily's progeny, for this mother did hold her head high, arranged her family to her sides and watched them carefully. One day, it was 'ducklings in the rain,' and a little half-pint broke ranks, stood on tip-toe, and flapped his wings with apparent

joy at the drizzling world. Several large female black ducks congregated regularly and seemed to enjoy a leisurely life. But no little divers appeared. By mid-July, we had decided that Emily was taking a year off. One happy day there were flashes of silver in the North Pond. The sun was gleaming on two baby ducklings, diving with enthusiasm for the weedy goodies that stream up from the bottom. In the background was Emily, handsome and alert as ever. A third duckling popped up; the family was still short of the usual five. But they were little and lively and appearing at random, carrying on a pattern of years.

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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## THE WAIT IS OVER: Now We Know How HARRY POTTER ENDS

BY VERA FOLEY

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - The trouble with discussing Harry Potter is that, whatever you say, someone is likely to have already thought of it. This is both the blessing and the curse that has befallen J.K. Rowling's seven-part series, the last book of which was released for sale on July 21st, at a minute past midnight on Saturday morning.

In 1998, no one had heard of Harry Potter. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (Philosopher's Stone to non-American audiences) was released to no international fanfare, and received no particular media attention before its debut. But, nine years later, both anticipation and speculation abounded at the release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the conclusion to the story of Harry's coming of age saga. For years in advance of the final book's appearance on bookstore shelves, laymen and literary scholars alike bandied theories as to what would happen to the series' young hero in the end.

That is the gift of Harry Potter. Rowling's world appeals to readers young and old, from many different places. The line that formed late Friday night at the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield was made up of readers of all ages, some sporting elaborate costumes, some in 'Muggle' attire. But, as most of the people who read the books were probably in a similar line themselves, it seems unnecessary to go into details.

Of course, the series' popularity does have a downside, when it comes to readers' visions of the final book being realized. The media spotlight aimed at Harry Potter makes it impossible not to have some expectations for the new book, even if you haven't read the others. And, of course, millions of people have read the series in its entirety. One book, even the 759 pages of *Deathly Hallows*,

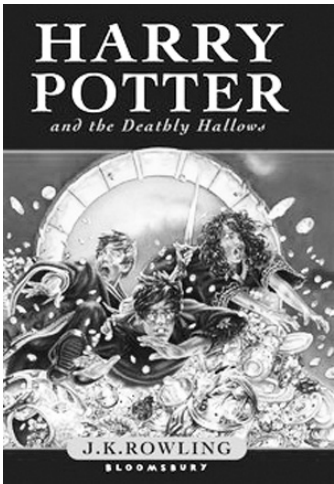
cannot fulfill the myriad expectations readers had built up for the conclusion of the series. With half the novel's intended audience believing Harry would live, and the other half insisting he would either die or be irrelevant, it is obvious the book

could not cater to everybody's inklings. Likewise, Dumbledore couldn't be both brought back to life and remain dead. Some people had to be disappointed, or at least proven wrong. Perhaps the only universal constant in the audience

before the book's release was the belief that it would be worth the time spent waiting in line, and reading the final tome.

And no one I've talked to seemed disappointed, even though not everyone could have been envisioning the book that Rowling wrote. Granted, it's different from its predecessors. The storyline is much more serious, the jokes fewer and farther between. And, of course, there are still questions left unanswered when you reach the final page. The symbolism is stronger here than in the other novels. But Rowling wraps things up in such a way that everyone has something to be happy about. For a book that was written under the watchful eyes of many nations' readers, a book that was expected to answer the questions millions of people had accumulated over nine years and six novels, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* manages to give something to all the members of its diverse and extensive audience.

Of course, it would be tempting to tell you how the book ends... but that would defeat the point of a series that is acclaimed for inspiring so many different people to actually read. The tale of Harry's last adventure, an outstanding excuse to stop staring blankly at a television screen, is a publicly approved reason to visit your local library or bookstore. Go for it!



## State Reimbursement on the Way

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town of Erving is anticipating the arrival of some big checks from Boston soon. The Department of Conservation and Recreation has notified the selectboard that a check for \$140,400 is on the way from the state's Self Help fund, to go towards the town's recent purchase of conservation land on Old State Road. The check amount is a few thousand dollars less than anticipated, but the amount of land conserved shrank by about 27 acres during the course of the purchase, after a survey of the land found the ridgeline acreage did not match with deeds and records. In a first for Erving, town meeting approved the purchase of conservation land in June of 2006, and paid \$800,000 for the Old State Road property, known as the Ginusz Farm.

Also, on July 9th, the board was notified that the Massachusetts School Building

Authority will begin reimbursing the town for its recently completed elementary school building project. The project, largely completed in 2002 (but with loose ends being tied up as recently as '06), cost the town \$6.25 million, with an additional \$2.5 million in debt service.

The state offered the town a choice of one lump sum payment, equal to about \$5 million, or annual payments of \$578,000 over the next 10 years, totalling \$5,783,635. After much discussion, the selectboard chose the latter option. The payments will run from 2007 to 2016.

In other news, the selectboard met with the finance committee on the 9th, to approve an "end-of-the-year bonus" for police chief Chris Blair. According to administrative coordinator Tom Sharp, Blair has "fallen between the cracks" in terms of regular step increases, which his officers have been receiving regularly,

and the \$5,000 bonus was a way of compensating for this, and to recognize "the great job he's been doing," Sharp said.

The finance committee approved the transfer from general funds, and from an excess in the police department's salary line item, but urged the board to follow the town's newly approved personnel policy in future years, giving Blair and other department heads a regular annual review. "That will be the time for salary increases," Sharp said.

On July 23rd, Erving received word their application with three other towns, for \$1.2 million in block grant funds, for no interest housing rehab loans for income eligible residents had been approved.

The board appointed Jim Stone to fill a vacancy on the planning board created when Phil Wonka left to serve a hitch in Iraq with the National Guard.

## LIBRARY from pg 1

the old building. The new library is 42,000 square feet, all on one floor. That gleaming floor is comprised of lengths of birch handsorted by volunteers like Stephen Broll, Jonathan von Ranson, and Margo Culley, at one of many work parties.

Heidkamp explained the idea of building a new library had a slow genesis. In 1990, when she first became librarian, the old two-room school house that stood where the new building now stands, near the common on Wendell Depot Road, became vacant. The pre-school that had been housed there moved to the new Swift River School. A few hundred yards away, the library, crowded into just 700 square feet of space in a postage stamp-sized building, built in 1921 on the corner of Montague Road, clearly needed room to grow. The empty schoolhouse was an attractive possibility. But town officials, in those days, worked out of their own houses: there were no town offices in Wendell. So, the library expansion would have to wait while the old school was converted to town offices, in the back, and a senior center, in the front. The library contented itself with renovating space for more books in the old building's basement, and began to plan for the future.

About 10 years ago, the library trustees began to ask town meeting to set aside \$10,000 for a

future library expansion. Each year, they did the same, gradually increasing the amount as the plans took shape. Finally, town meeting had set aside \$100,000 toward the construction of a new building.

"We really loved the old building," said Heidkamp. "And at first we wanted to expand there. But there was no land; there was no possibility for a septic system; we would have needed to put in an elevator." The trustees and Friends of the Wendell Free Library held a community-wide brainstorming session to plan a move to a new building, and the old schoolhouse was chosen as the site for it.

The hope was to save part of that historic structure, and incorporate it into the new construction. But the tornado that blew through town on July 12th, 2006 put an end to that idea by weakening the frame of the old building.

As it is, at the cost of \$1.7 million, 60% paid for by a \$927,000 MBLC grant, augmented by an additional \$40,000 emergency grant from the same agency after the tornado, the town now has a beautiful new building in the Greek Revival style, complementing the architecture of the houses around the common. On the roof, a 6.8 kW photovoltaic array, paid for with three grants totaling \$49,000, has reduced the new building's monthly electric bill - in the first two month - to an

\$8 service charge: no kilowatts from the grid have been used.

With skylights donated by the Friends of the library illuminating the spacious interior, over one hundred people crowded in to hear Friends' president Margo Culley give a dedication speech. She thanked people who helped with the project, from the Board of Library Commissioners to the residents who helped with almost every aspect of the project. As soon as she had finished talking, children gathered and began to read from the collection, and adults looked around, admiring the furnishings, and the beginnings of a stone amphitheater out back, donated by Kathy Swaim in honor of her sister Elizabeth, a former librarian. Former Wendellite Paul Forth is handling the stonework out back, which will include benches and a performance space. Inside, people took turns sitting in Rosie's chair.

Simon White's band, Green Thumb Brothers, played reggae outside until the cows came home, and people ate cake provided by Byron Ricketts. Anne Diemand sat on the porch rocker holding 12-week-old Raya Evernow. Kathy Becker said, "I'll sit right here (on the porch, in range of the library's high speed wireless internet connection - a rarity in Wendell - donated by the Friends) and do my research." She'll be in good company.

Everyone smiled.



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - *Q. My husband is getting a drinker's nose. He reminds me of W.C. Fields. But my husband doesn't really drink more than an occasional beer. I don't get it.*

W.C. Fields, the vaudevillian and comedic actor in early films, was known to hoist more than an occasional beer. But, Fields got his red, bumpy nose from rosacea, not alcohol. Former President Bill Clinton

has rosacea and so did the late financier J.P. Morgan.

Rosacea (roh-ZAY-shee-uh) is a chronic skin disease that causes redness and swelling. It usually affects the face. It can also strike the scalp, neck, ears, chest and back. You can also get it in your eyes; this condition is called ocular rosacea. The disease can make the eyes look bloodshot.

Rosacea affects about 14 million Americans, and most of them don't know they have it.

According to a Gallup survey, almost 8 in 10 Americans do not know that rosacea exists.

There is no cure for rosacea and science hasn't found a cause. However, dermatologists can attack the symptoms with

medication — both oral and topical — laser surgery and other treatments if the disease is caught early. It may take two months of treatment before skin affected by rosacea looks better.

Some believe that early treatment may reverse the disease. If ignored, rosacea often worsens and becomes difficult to treat. Rosacea may last for years. For most people it tends to get better and then flare up again.

Symptoms usually begin in adults between the ages of 30 and 60. When women with rosacea go through menopause, they may experience additional flushing.

Rosacea often starts with what looks like a blush. Then the disease progresses to red

pimples and bumps filled with pus. Tiny blood vessels may become noticeable. The skin on the nose may become thick and red.

Research has debunked the old tale that rosacea is caused by heavy drinking. Alcohol aggravates rosacea but does not cause it. Another myth is that rosacea is "adult acne."

The disease has little to do with the pimples and blackheads of acne.

People with fair skin tend to get rosacea. Women are afflicted more often than men, but men get more severe forms of the disease. Rosacea often runs in families.

If you have rosacea, here are some tips to avoid flare-ups:

- Shield yourself from the sun and extreme cold.

- Abstain from alcohol, if you can. If not, cut down.

- When you put anything on your face, do it gently. No scrubbing.

- Avoid spicy foods and hot beverages.

- Do not use facial products containing alcohol, acids and fragrances. Wash with mild soap.

- Avoid overheating. When exercising, make sure it's in a cool place. And no hot showers or baths.

- Don't get hair spray on your face.

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

**THE GARDENER'S COMPANION**

# A Trip to Botanical Gardens

BY LESLIE BROWN

**BOOTHBAY, ME** - I turn off the engine and step out of the car into silence punctuated by the winsome call of the white-throated sparrow, which welcomes me to the ocean cooled woods of balsam fir. I am standing at the edge of the newly opened botanical gardens on the Barter's Island Road in Boothbay, ME, drawn in by the heady scent of roses.

Sprawling Rugosas, Meidiland and other bush and landscape roses hang heavy with blooms of pink, white and red. Wandering downhill from the formal rose garden, I pass native dogwoods, azalea, ferns and evergreens. The path descends gently, winding in curving turns to the bottom and the Vayo meditation garden, a splendidly quiet space of carved granite and natural plantings, featuring a large stone basin that reflects the changing views of trees, sky and clouds. It is also well named, as the arrangement of stone benches, sculpture and natural plants

lead the visitor to stop and focus inward.

Groomed paths lead on to the shore trail and garden, a pleasing mixture of oceanside, sculpture and native woodland plants, including a stand of Lady Slippers with one unlikely remaining pink blossom. Before the trail ascends again, I stop to enjoy the whimsy of the Fairy Village, a child-sized garden of birch bark and twig buildings that small visitors are encouraged to embellish. The Fern Walk and Birch Allee combine native plants with more than 1,000 white birches of different varieties. The paths take you uphill to the Rhododendron Garden, at this season just finishing its blooming. A kitchen garden planted with herbs, vegetables and fruits of the season leads back to the Visitors Center. I have not explored the whole of this great garden expanse, which heals the visitor with bird song, the sound of waves and the constant refreshment of a cooling

breeze.

Featuring 248 waterfront acres of ornamental plantings and natural forest growth, the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens are the creation of a small group of mid-coast residents who organized in 1991, with nothing more than a dream of a botanical garden for public enjoyment and education. Extensive searching resulted in the find of a 128-acre parcel in Boothbay, featuring native forest, ledges and rolling lands, plus 3,600 feet of tidal shorefront. Abandoned as a failed housing development, the site was such a magnet for these garden visionaries that some used their own homes as collateral in order to raise the funds necessary to purchase this special property. A multi-year capital campaign, annual appeals and membership drives, along with state government and foundation support allowed the organization to raise \$8.5 million by 2007. Funding included \$600,000 from the

Kresge Foundation, and the gift of an additional 120 acres from the Pine Tree Conservation Society.

These gardens are memorable for their spaciousness and quiet, for the pleasant combination of preserved native specimens and added plantings, and for the fact that their mere existence has preserved from development such a large piece of ocean front property for the continuing enjoyment of generations to come. The gardens are continuing to develop. In the planning stage is the Garden of the Five Senses, a three quarter acre space intended to allow visitors to immerse themselves in the sight, sound, taste, smell and feel of plants, water, stone and sculpture.

In addition to its beautiful natural surroundings, native plants and garden plantings, the center also offers educational programs for all ages. The gardens are open year-round on weekdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission



is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children over five. The well-groomed gravel paths are handicapped accessible, although a motorized conveyance would greatly improve accessibility. Amenities include fully furnished rest rooms, a luncheon café and a research library. Further information and driving directions are available at [www.maine gardens.org](http://www.maine gardens.org).

I had planned extra traveling time and an additional overnight in order to visit this beautiful garden, and it did not disappoint. The night before I arrived in Maine a bit travel weary, dusty and still transitioning mentally from the busy workplace to vacation mode. I returned to the highway refreshed, calmed and in a new spirit, ready to move on to my week's cottage destination.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHJUN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, JULY 27TH**  
 Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: Larry Gallagher, Colin McGrath, Reid MacLean. **The Three-Headed Dog Tour.** Clever satirical tunes, folk and rock from three acclaimed musicians. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Steve Crow & Peter Kim:** Acoustic Duo, 9 - 11 p.m..

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Stepchild with Paul Interland, these folks rock! 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JULY 27TH - 29TH**  
 Ja'Duke Productions presents **Footloose** the musical at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. July 27 & 28, 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets \$12 adults and \$10 for 12/under & 65/over. Reservations: 863-2281 ext. 2. Tickets at World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield.

**SATURDAY, JULY 28TH**  
 Deja Brew, Wendell: **Little Red and the Riders** Rock, 9 to 11 p.m., no cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Equalites & Green Thumb Brothers** Reggae, 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 29TH**  
 Refuge Rambles: ten-minute informal talks on a variety of refuge topics directly related to Discovery Center exhibits at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Free.

**MONDAY, JULY 30TH**  
 Montague Community Band Concert final concert of the season in Peskeomskut Park, 7 p.m. In the event of rain they will play at St. Anne's. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 2ND**  
 COOP Concert featuring **Charlie Apicella & Amy Bateman, Julia Burrough, and Ed Phelps & Band.** Three 40-minute gigs each night from the Franklin County Musician's Cooperative, Greenfield Energy Park. 6-8 p.m.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD & 4TH**  
 Pothole Pictures Film Series **The 400 Blows** - first in Truffaut's autobiographical series at Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls. Music before the movie - Doug Creighton - traditional accordion tunes - Friday; Carrie Ferguson & the Cherry Street Band - soaring acoustic pop - Saturday 7 p.m.

Ja'Duke Productions presents **West Side Story** at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. 8 p.m. on August 3, 4, 10, 11, at 8 p.m. and August 5, 12, at 2 p.m. With music by the legendary creative team of Arthur Laurents (librettist), Leonard Bernstein (composer) and Stephen Sondheim (lyricist), West Side Story features some of Broadway's most beloved music. West Side Story became one of the most successful shows ever produced on Broadway. Underwritten by Greenfield Savings Bank. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for 12/under and 65/over. Reserved by calling the Shea Theatre at 863-2281 and are available at World Eye Bookshop.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH**  
 Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: Lizzie West & White Buffalo. West was featured singing her song "Holy Road" in a national ad campaign directed by Spike Lee. \$10/\$12, 8 p.m.



*Lizzie West & White Buffalo perform Saturday August 4th, 8 p.m. at The Montague Bookmill, Montague. \$10 adv. - \$12 door Country, folk, reggae, gospel & pop with conviction!*

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

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH**  
 Camp Northfield Mountain...Song Swap and Stories Around the Campfire Family-friendly night of silliness and song. At Northfield Mountain Recreation Are, Route 63, Northfield. 7-8:30 p.m. 800-859-2960.

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

Turners Falls Block Party! Ave A parade, music and great food in a community gathering. There'll be dancing in the streets! 3 to 9 p.m. For information contact: laurie@hmcp.org or kikifoucault@yahoo.com.

**THROUGH AUGUST 12TH**  
 The **Green Trees Gallery**, Northfield, "Conceptual Portraiture" Featured are: Gene Cauthen's bronze sculptures, Nayana Glazier's acrylic color tinted figures against distorted black and white backdrops, Margot Fleck's block printing, Joe Landry's sculptures, Kerry Kazokas' oils, Kevin Slattery's depictions of celebrities, Lauren Watrous' paintings, Robert Markey's oil paintings, and introducing photos by Doug Tibbles.

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

Old Home Days in Wendell on the town common.

**THROUGH NOVEMBER 4TH**  
**Made of Thunder, Made of Glass:** American Indian Beadwork of the Northeast features one hundred beaded bags and hats from the Gerry Biron & JoAnne Russo collection. Intricate floral, geometric and figurative beadwork by early nineteenth-century Iroquois, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca & Wabanaki, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot. Accompanied by contemporary paintings of Native Americans by Gerry Biron, of Mi'kmaq descent. Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 774-7476.

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

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

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

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

**Memorial Hall Theater**  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**  
**Friday & Saturday August 3rd & 4th 7:30 p.m.**  
**The 400 Blows**  
 This captivating, groundbreaking, intensely touching study of a misunderstood 12-year-old Parisian youth who turns to crime as a reaction to derelict parents catapulted director Francois Truffaut to international acclaim. 1959. NR. B&W. French w/ subtitles.  
**Music before movie 7 p.m.**  
**Saturday Devil Music Ensemble & Friends-eclectic mix.**  
 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

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1. 1408 DAILY	PG13
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	
2. THE SIMPSONS MOVIE	PG13
DAILY	in DTS sound
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	
3. TRANSFORMERS	PG13
DAILY	12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
4. RATATOUILLE	G
DAILY	12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. SICKO	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY	12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	PG13 DTS sound
DAILY	12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
7. HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY	12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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**Saturday 7/28 - Rock**  
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**Upcoming at the Discovery Center**  
 Open Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (413) 863-3221 Groups by Special Arrangement, Tuesday - Thursday

<b>SATURDAY, JULY 28TH</b> Piping Plover: Where are You? Join Refuge staff to learn about the life of the endangered piping plover, and the things we can do to protect it. 1 p.m. Includes craft; all ages.	Davis, a researcher who works with the beetles, about the beetles' fascinating life cycles, the many challenges they must overcome to survive, and his interesting research. You will hopefully see beetles during your tour - a rare sight, as they are only found in two areas in the world. Children must be accompanied by an adult ages 10 & up. Please register. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Discovery Center. This series is in celebration of the work of Rachel Carson. Free.	Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center, and the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Held at the Discovery Center, Free.
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 3RD</b> Burgess Story Hour, 10 - 11 a.m.	<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH</b> Sense of Wonder: Summer, 10 - 11 a.m.: Join Refuge staff to learn about flowers to seeds during explorations on the grounds of the	<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 9TH</b> Reading Group: Nature in Danger Join our summer reading and discussion group which meets 7 - 8 p.m. We will read and discuss the booklet, Rachel Carson, Pioneer of Ecology. Books will be available for participants to borrow. We will distribute Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder. This series was developed in collaboration with the Montague Public Libraries, the	<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH</b> Life of a Tree: Refuge staff present the life cycle of trees and the wildlife that depends on trees for food and for their home. Includes craft. Geared for children. 10 a.m.
<b>Canoe Trip to Discover Puritan Tiger Beetles.</b> Paddle along the Connecticut River to Rainbow Beach to learn about the Ct River Watershed and the conservation efforts for the endangered Puritan tiger beetle. Presentation by Chris			<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH</b> Bird Walk/Hike at Montague Sandplains. Free. Pre-register. 8 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - www.greatfallsma.org

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# Summertime Special: You're Invited!

BY ANNE HARDING

**TURNERS FALLS** - The behind-the-scenes brainstorming for the August 11th revival of what will hopefully become an annual Turners Falls Block Party and Parade has been underway for weeks. As the date draws near, there is a frenzy of activity as the details get ironed out. If you don't already know, the kick-off parade begins at 3 p.m. and there will be "food and fun on the street" until 10 p.m. Starting small in 2007, the event planners hope to expand the downtown party in future years.

I met with Block Party committee chair Laurie Wheeler and RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol Tuesday evening as they pored over a street map, with Bob Fritz of the Turners Falls fire department. They were discussing booth placement, logistics, safety, power needs, traffic considerations, emergency routes and a host of other details. I asked them what kind of time commitment went into planning a Turners Falls Block Party. Each was quick to assure me the others had done the most work - but it was clear to me that all had spent countless hours chasing down volunteers, speaking with the building inspector, police and fire officials, and Town Hall.

Approximately a block and a half of Avenue A between Third and Fifth Streets will become Party Central, as the rain or shine event gets underway. The fully equipped portable stage provided by Northfire Recording Studios of Amherst and Dave Dusseault of Dusseault Trucking will be set up in the vicinity of Spinner Park, with an exciting lineup of talent in store. All the restaurants in town will stay open for the event, and many will have outdoor tents set up in the midst of the festivities.

The police department will provide beat officers for the evening through a community policing grant, the water department will be opening hydrants if

hot weather prevails, and the highway department will be providing recycling bins and helping with the trash management. In addition, the police department will set up an Amber Alert identification booth for families with children, and with luck K9 officer Kira and handler John Dempsey will join the fun.

The soon-to-reopen Rendezvous will be serving up tantalizing panini sandwiches to give us a taste of future wares; the Patti Cake Bakery will be on hand with desserts; the Fire Department will be grilling up burgers and dogs; Turners Falls Pizza House will sell by the slice; the combined Hillcrest and Montague Center School PTOs will host a carnival food booth; Ristorante DiPaolo will be serving Bart's Ice Cream on the patio; and Cup o' Joe will be serving both inside and out.

You can also expect to see promotional discounts from AV House, giveaways at the Bank of America, a raffle at the Shea Theater, and booths from the Montague Reporter and Montague Community Television. JK Liquors is expecting a representative of V-1 Vodka of Hadley, MA to demonstrate the making of pomegranate martinis and mojitos with a tasting from 4-6 p.m. followed by a tasting of locally made beers from 6-8 p.m.

The party starts in the Food City parking lot around 2 p.m. where JD Keating and Skin-n-Bonz will provide an opportunity for families to join in making and decorating unique musical instruments out of cast off items. The familiar theme "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" takes on new meaning as an awesome "junkyard dumpster brass band" will emerge to

## TURNERS FALLS BLOCK PARTY



WILKINSON PHOTO COLLAGE

lead the parade at 3 p.m. Other participants include the Boy Scouts, a flotilla of skate boarders, the Library Trustees and other community members and groups. The Block Party wants your group to join in too!

Celebrating Turners Falls as a walking community, paraders are welcome to decorate non-motorized floats of their choice (wheels are permitted, but with the exception of electric wheelchairs motors are not allowed) - imagination is the only limit and noise-makers and loud instruments are expected to predominate. Participants should contact Sharon Cottrell at 413-863-9433 for further information. A familiar face in town, Cottrell has never been involved in planning this

jazz, soul and funk and the audience will delight to the mesmerizing vocals of Zombik and Olsson.

Another headliner, "the Alchemystics" will wow the crowds with a roots rock musical stew combining reggae, hip-hop, soul, dub and dancehall styles. Their performances offer polished, intoxicating, celebrations of rhythm and song with music that crosses social and cultural boundaries, welcoming all into the experience.

Homegrown favorite, singer-songwriter Jen Tobey and band have been touring since 2004 and rocking the stages all over the Northeast. If you listen to the "River" you'd be hard pressed not to know that Montague's Tobey was the deserving winner of the

2007 WRSI songwriting competition, and recently cut a new CD. More recently she was seen by local viewers on MCTV competing in the Shea Theater's Valley Idol competition. Her fans are anxious to see her in this downtown outdoor arena.

We'll also see Red Eye Soul taking the stage - this hot quintet specializes in power blues and soul with lead singer Tim Minor, reminiscent of Ray Charles or Chris Robinson of the Black Crowes. In addition to original songs, you can expect to hear classics by Charles, ZZ Top, Donny Hathaway and many more. Not to be confused with the lower-case g's of quantum physics, the entertainment lineup would not be complete without the sounds of Rus-T's acoustic hip hop quintet, "The Lower Case g's" or the alternative rock band Conduit, who've been touring the area since the 1990s.

Montague's own Kip Dresser will MC, with an occasional detour into acoustic Curly Fingers Dupre Band style between the acts. Music goes til 10:00 p.m., when the clean-up crew takes over. Don't ask, the details are endless!

The Block Party is an event of the RiverCulture Project, which is sponsored by: Town of Montague, Greenfield Savings Bank, Western Massachusetts Electric Company, The Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Hillside Plastics. Planning committee members include: Linda Ackerman, Jen Audley, Sharon Cottrell, Lisa Davol, Eileen Dowd, Bob Fritz, Chris Holmes, Chris Janke, JD Keating, James Martineau, Matt Robinson, and Laurie Wheeler. Don't miss this summer special downtown event!

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Insurance Scam Under Investigation

#### Tuesday 7-17

5:10 p.m. Reported loose dog on West High Street. Owners located. Dog returned to River Road.

#### Wednesday 7-18

11:30 a.m. Report from Lillian's Way of possible insurance scam. Report taken. Under investigation.

2:30 p.m. Report of ATVs in the roadway. Located subjects. Warned of private property, unregistered vehicle, and underage rider.

#### Thursday 7-19

2:20 p.m. report of an intoxicated subject had crashed his bicycle on Moore Street and was bleeding. EMTs responded. BHA transported to hospital.

#### Friday 7-20

11:52 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and a marked lanes violation.

#### Sunday 7-22

7:40 p.m. After a motor vehicle

stop on Route 2 a criminal application was issued to [redacted] for unregistered trailer and attaching number plates unlawfully.

8:00 p.m. Report of a suspicious man on a bike in the area of Center Street. Subject located on his brother's property picking up trash that was ripped apart by animals. All OK

#### Monday 7-23

10:11 a.m. Report from North Street of footprints in back yard, possibly a subject looking in windows.

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