



TURTLES CROSSING

Proceed with Care
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CONGRATULATIONS CHAMPS

TFHS Girls Softball
Page 9

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 37

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 18, 2009



Your Stimulus Tax Dollars at Work



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

Route 2 Repaving Gets Rolling on Monday

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

RIVERSIDE – As the mist rose from Riverside on Monday morning, passing motorists could see this impressive paving line-up provided by Warner Brothers' of Sunderland, contractor for the repaving job on Route 2. In this photo, the tandem dump truck is dumping asphalt mix into a pug mill, where it is heated and mixed before transfer to a paving machine. Rollers at the end of the equipment line-up are prepared to roll the steam-

ing hot blacktop mix. The pug mill brings the mix up to a specified temperature for better compaction and cohesion, for longer pavement life.

The road surface had been prepared earlier by cold planing the existing blacktop to forestall reflective cracking of the new pavement surface. Repaving is proceeding east from the intersection of Route 2 and the Gill-Montague Bridge during the week, with one-lane traffic leading to some delays.

Over Four Hundred Turn Out for Biomass Hearing

BY JOSHUA WATSON

GREENFIELD – The Greenfield zoning board of appeals met on Monday, June 15th, in a twice-postponed session to hear public comment regarding special permits requested by Pioneer Renewable Energy, LLC for a 47-MW biomass-fueled power plant proposed for the I-91 Industrial Park.

The meeting was scheduled for 7:00 p.m., in the cafeteria of the Greenfield Middle School, after being relocated there from the police station meeting room due to "significant public interest," on May 14th. But Greenfield officials appeared to have a hard time gauging just how significant public interest was. By the time the meeting convened, more than 400 people had swarmed into the cafeteria in a standing room-only crowd that swelled out the exit doors and up the stairwell to the second floor.

Matt Wolfe, principal of Pioneer Renewable Energy, presented his overview of the proposed plant, but despite protests from the crowd, the public address system was insufficient to carry Wolfe's or the zoning board's voices throughout the room.



JOSHUA WATSON PHOTO

Waiting for the ZBA, Monday, Greenfield Middle School

At 7:30 p.m., members of the Greenfield fire department appeared, and announced that in light of the large crowd, far beyond the legal capacity of the cafeteria, the meeting would be moved upstairs to the auditorium.

At 7:50 p.m. the meeting reconvened, and the main hall of the auditorium was filled. The zoning board sat in a row on the stage. Board member Thomas McLellan announced that 67 residents of Greenfield and surrounding towns had requested to address the board, and he asked

that comments be limited to no more than two minutes in length.

For more than three hours, citizens addressed the board on concerns related to carbon dioxide and particulate emissions from the proposed wood chip burning plant, and also on noise levels, pollution, wood and water supply, invasive insect species, community health and well-being, property values, and tourism.

Lennie Weeks, an abutter who has lived with his family on Adams Road for 29 years, said,

see BIOMASS pg 5

Gill Approves Town Forest

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Voters in Gill have given their approval to a gift of 162 permanently conserved acres of land along both sides of Hoe Shop Road, stretching from Bascom Hollow to the border of Bernardston (including three acres of land in Bernardston itself) to create a town forest to be used by the public for passive recreation. The 75 – 10 vote to accept the gift of land came during the special town meeting on Tuesday night, prior to the continuation of Gill's annual town meeting.

Hunting, fishing, birdwatching, hiking, and related activities will be permitted on the new town forest land, which will be managed by Gill's conservation commission, or by a town forest advisory board set up under the commission's supervision. Snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles will be prohibited from using the land. Motorized vehicles will be allowed on the land only for trail management, maintenance, or logging in accordance with an approved forestry management plan.

The state of Massachusetts will hold a conservation restriction on the land, which, according to Vanessa Johnson of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, "permanently eliminates residential or commercial development on this property forever."

Alaine Peteroy of the Franklin Land Trust, the organization that arranged the purchase of the land from the A.R. Sandri Trust on May 8th of this year, with the assistance of a loan from the Conservation Fund, said four house lots at the southeast corner of the property had been removed from the conservation land. These lots will be sold to make up the difference between what the state paid for the conservation rights to the remaining 162 acres and the land trust's cost for purchasing the land.

Peteroy said if the entire parcel had been opened for development, it had enough frontage to contain 40 to 50 house lots.

Peteroy credited Gill resident Dick French for being the driving force behind the negotiations to make the town forest a reality, and that the Blake Trust he oversees was another partner in funding the purchase.

Ken Sprankle, of the Gill con-

servation commission called the gift of land, "a tremendous opportunity for you and your children to enjoy for perpetuity. We should be able to harvest \$40,000 from wood on that land," to help pay for conservation improvements there, or elsewhere in town. Sprankle said the gift of land would add to permanently protected areas along the Fall River, "an important cold water spawning stream," and provide sanctuary for threatened and endangered species.

On June 11th, at an "open house" under a tent set up overlooking Otter Pond, where about 50 Gill residents got a preview of the conserved land, Ray Purington said he had identified 72 wildflower species he found blooming on the land. He found two more while taking down the tent the next day. The species include: Jack-in-the-pulpit, wood betony, bullhead lily, trailing arbutus, yellow wood sorrel, fragrant bedstraw, goldthread, orange hawkweed, black snake-root, wild lily-of-the-valley, starflower, nodding trillium, ox-eye daisy, and skunk cabbage, among many others.

Speaking against the receipt of the conservation land, former road boss Ernie Hastings said, "If we all donate our land to the town, where will our taxes be? I think this is the most ridiculous idea I have ever heard. It's a good thing our ancestors didn't have the ideas this group has, or none of us would have a place to live."

Following the vote, Dick French disputed Hastings' remark about the folly of conserving land. "If that were true, Central Park wouldn't exist."

French said he had been nervous about the vote, since a two-thirds' majority was required to accept the land. But in the end, the argument was made that the land was already permanently conserved, and the vote to accept the gift now gave Gill the right to determine the land's future management.

Also at the special town meeting, voters heard a presentation from Tracy Adamski of Tighe and Bond, Gill's consultant for the conceptual design of the Mariamante property, a 10-acre parcel at the intersection of West Gill and Main Road. Adamski said her firm had looked at the

see FOREST pg 6

PET OF THE WEEK**Fun Lovin'****Leah**

My name is Leah and I'm a female six-year-old labrador retriever mix in need of a good home. I'm a lovely girl, full to the brim with potential. I'm an independent girl who is used to spending a lot of time by myself. If you're looking for a lively dog and can provide me with the structure, supervision, and exercise that I need, I guarantee I'll be tons of fun! I'm here because my former family had no time for me. I can live with dogs or confident cats. Children over eight only, please. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: leverett@dpvhs.org.

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS**Free Family Concert**

BY LINDA WENTWORTH
LEVERETT - There will be a free family concert by folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond to kick off the summer reading program at the Leverett Library, on Saturday, June 20th, at 3 p.m., at the Leverett Library, 75 Montague Road. All are welcome. For directions, go to: www.leverettlibrary.org, or call: (413) 548-9220.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**Retirement Party for Pluto**

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - The planets are having a retirement party for Pluto and all are invited! Innovative Magician Debbie O'Carroll will present "The Planets Magic Show" at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, June 23rd at 10 a.m.

Debbie O'Carroll combines stage magic, theatre, comedy and lots of audience participation in this original production. Young audiences will have great fun helping Debbie plan a magical

party for the former planet Pluto as they learn about our amazing solar system. Full of colorful costumes and mystifying magic, "The Planets Magic Show" is ideal for ages 4 to 10, but children of all ages and their families are invited.

The Planets Magic Show is a fun kick-off to the Starship Adventure at your Library Summer Reading Program. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS**Space Toys Workshop**

The Starship Adventure at the library begins Saturday, June 20th with registration and 11 a.m. family concert with Tim Van Egmond. The adventure continues Saturday, June 27th

with a Space Toys construction workshop at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, July 2nd with a Sock Puppet Aliens construction workshop at 6 p.m. Your imagination is the limit.

Summer Solstice Paddle

BY KIM NOYES
MONTAGUE CITY - Celebrate the Summer Solstice and enjoy an evening sunset on a leisurely paddle down the Connecticut River. Reach 19, from Montague to Sunderland, is a quiet and scenic ten-mile stretch with very limited motor-boat activity. During this relaxing downriver paddle we plan to catch glimpses of Bald Eagles,

watch the sun set on the longest day of the year and search for shad. The program will take place on Sunday, June 21st from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., for ages 12 and older, with a \$5 per person fee. Participants must provide their own boat, and some shuttling will be required. Please call Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center at (800) 859-2960 to register.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - June 22nd to June 26th

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 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Becky Cobb. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

Monday, 22nd
10:00 a.m.; Senior Aerobics
10:50 a.m.; Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 23rd
9:00 a.m. Walking Group

Tuesday 2:00 - 6:00 P.M.
**Open House Retirement
Party for Bunny Caldwell**

Wednesday, 24th
9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Health Screenings (cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar)
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Balance and the Elderly
12:45 P.M. Bingo
Thursday, 25th

1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 26th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
• Sign up now for Cholesterol screening Wednesday June 24
• Tickets are on sale for the Senior Picnic, \$6.00, Tuesday, July 21 Buy early only a limited number of tickets available
Gill/Montague Senior Trips, Call 863-9357 or 863-4500 for more information.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For info and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity.

Monday, 22nd
9:00 a.m. Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 23rd
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:00 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 24th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 noon Bingo



CAROL DEMERS PHOTO

These little banditos were found huddled on the doorstep of Carol Demers' beauty shop on G Street in the Patch last week. Their mother came and got them later that night.

Please shop locally
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Unity Park Planning Meeting

The next meeting for the Unity Park Enhancement Project Committee will take place Thursday, June 18th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Unity Park Fieldhouse in Turners Falls. The public is welcome.

Summer Meals Program

Gill-Montague Regional Schools
6/29 - 8/14, 2009
Free breakfast and lunch served to students at
Sheffield Elementary School
Breakfast 8 - 9 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
and at
Unity Park
Breakfast 8 - 9 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m. - 12 noon

**Happy Birthday to
Lyn Clark**

Thursday, 25th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
Friday, 26th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:00 a.m. Lunch - Pizza from Mattie's

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs.

On Wednesday, July 1st, the Wendell Council on Aging will offer a free workshop called "Enhance Your Memory While Having Fun," presented by Wanda Landry. Landry is the director of the Alzheimer's Center at Quabbin Valley Healthcare.

The program promises to help us understand how our lifestyles can affect our brains and teach us activities to enhance our memories. The presentation will run from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the senior center, 2 Lockes Village Road (the old town library).

This program will overlap our regular monthly blood pressure and body mass index and foot care screening, held between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

For more information, call: (978) 544-2020.

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Grade 7

Courtney Eugin

Chase Fuller

Grade 8

Olivia Tardie

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MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Donations to Wind Fund Offset CO2 from Travel

BY SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE – Planning a trip to San Francisco this summer? According to Google maps, San Fran is 3,042 miles from Montague, more or less. In carbon dioxide terms, that translates to one pound of CO2 per mile traveled, driving or flying, or over 3,000 pounds of CO2 added to the atmosphere. You can offset that large carbon footprint, (and perhaps some feelings of guilt) by making a donation to the New England Wind Fund.

Your donation will not only give financial support for the development of wind projects in New England, but if you donate before June 30th the

program will match your donation twice, once to clean energy projects in Montague and a second time to fund organizations serving low-income residents in the state.

Montague selectboard member Pat Allen explained why she and her husband Mark donated to the fund. “We like our creature comforts! But we are very concerned about our negative impact on the environment. One way we have tried to minimize that effect is by installing geo-thermal heating in our home and installing photovoltaic panels on our roof.

“After taking the low-carbon diet workshop [to explore

ways to reduce our carbon footprint], we realized we were OK, but not great... yet. We needed to tackle our biggest “weight gain” which is our air travel. We don’t want to stop flying!

“But we are going to mitigate our air mileage by donating to the New England Wind Fund. We have done this twice so far and this has helped offset our carbon footprint globally while generating money for Montague to decrease its carbon footprint locally.

“We plan on contributing another \$100 before June 30th to take advantage of the matching funds while they last, and hopefully to gain access to the bonus plan so Montague can do even more,” Allen said.

So, back to your trip to San Francisco. A donation of \$150 will generate 3,000 kilowatt-hours of clean electricity and avoid 3,306 pounds of CO2, a bit more than that one-way trip to San Fran. You help avoid roughly 22 pounds of CO2 for

every dollar you donate. For me to visit my relatives near Chicago, a \$100 donation would just about cover a roundtrip flight or drive. If I had a business trip to Atlanta, I could help offset the CO2 generated by donating \$75. A fifty-dollar donation would almost be enough to avoid the equivalent miles to and from Washington, DC, to visit a friend. And \$25 would cover my CO2 emissions to visit friends in Philly and back, unless I took the train, which would greatly reduce my CO2 footprint for the trip to 0.35 lbs of CO2 per mile or about 175 lbs of CO2 roundtrip versus one pound per mile driving or flying (500 lbs).

Given that donations made

by June 30th will be matched with funds for energy projects in Montague, now would be the best time to contribute to ensure that your donation also helps our community become more energy efficient. You might even want to think ahead and cover your CO2 “costs” for two years’ of vacation travel.

If you make a donation by June 22nd, you will be eligible for a raffle prize at the Montague Clean Energy Campaign raffle drawing and hoedown at the Rendezvous, on Monday, June 22nd, starting at 7:30 p.m. I think it’s fair to say that donations to this fund are a win, win, wind, and possibly win (raffle prizes) proposition.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Spot Trading in Burial Plots?

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - On June 10th, the evening after annual town meeting finally wrapped up the third night of proceedings, no one was scheduled to meet the Wendell selectboard, but cemetery commission chair Richard Mackey was present as the meeting opened with ideas and questions about lots in the town cemeteries.

The commission has not finished writing formal cemetery bylaws, but Mackey wanted to keep the selectboard apprised of their plans. He said he has been flooded with calls from people interested in buying burial plots; the price for a Wendell resident is \$100, and for a non resident, \$250. The resident price fits in the range of other local towns, but the non-resident price is low. Mackey thinks some people are shopping around for an affordable burial spot, and that others might buy a plot, then sell it for a profit.

The Osgood Brook Cemetery has 150 plots surveyed, and room

for about 250 more. Mackey felt the right to purchase a lot should be reserved for Wendell citizens or their families. Also, he said, the purchase should be for the right of interment, not for the piece of land; and the right to inter could only be transferred back to the town.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said a supplemental spending bill that would provide Wendell \$150,000 in reimbursement to help pay for the cleanup of the 2006 tornado has passed the Massachusetts House and Senate. She suggested that board members and town citizens write to the governor and ask him not to veto this spending as he has in the past. Selectboard member Dan Keller said this is third time the tornado reimbursement aid has been considered by the state.

The highway department has located the fencing that was ordered by former highway superintendent Dan Bacigalupo to be installed around the basketball court, and selectboard clerk

Joy Gorzocoski said her husband asked for a chance to look at the job and see if he can install it and save the town some money. If the job is more than he can handle, the town will hire the fencing company that supplied the material to install it.

Community Garden committee chair Kate Nolan wrote a letter to the selectboard stating that the committee members’ terms are over June 30th and asking that the selectboard appoint her, John and Barbara Craddock, Sharon Gensler, and Heather Willey to serve on the committee for FY ‘10.

A survey from the town’s insurance company, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), found nothing in town buildings that needed correction except for a few minor items at the highway garage and fire station.

Aldrich passed on information that there will be a Public Hearing with the Department of see **PLOTS** pg 12

The Montague Congregational Church
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David Detmold

Layout & Design

 Claudia Wells
 Boysen Hodgson
 Katren Hoyden
 Karen Wilkinson
 Suzette Snow Cobb

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 Joe Parzych
 Shawn Woolsey
 Claudia Wells

Editorial Assistants

 Hugh Corr
 David Brule
 Michael Jackson

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 Don Clegg

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Technical Administrators

 Michael Muller
 Michael Farrick

Stolen Dreams in Iran

How, in a nation without a countrywide computerized electoral system, do you count 40 million hand written ballots in less than 12 hours? The only believable answer to that question is: without looking at them.

In Iran last Friday, 39.2 million official votes were cast in the presidential race that pitted the hard-line conservative incumbent, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, against the reformist former prime minister, Hossein Mousavi, and two other candidates. Observers said polls closed with voters still waiting in line in many parts of the country, which is about equal in size to the Western United States (Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California), with 4500 polling stations. Mousavi claimed a shortage of ballots prevented registered voters from voting in the provinces of Fars and East Azerbaijan, where he had been expected to poll well among the majority Azeri's, the ethnic minority to which Mousavi belongs.

Nonetheless, the Interior Ministry, which oversees elections in Iran, awarded Ahmadinejad 56% percent of the vote in East Azerbaijan. They claimed he took 60% of the vote against Mousavi in his home city of Tabriz, and that he beat the other candidates in their home towns as well.

Overall, the Ministry claimed Ahmadinejad outpolled Mousavi by a two to one margin: 62.6% to 33.75% across the nation. These figures held steady since the first announcement was made an hour and half after the polls closed.

The results seem more than incredible after the huge outpourings of public support for Mousavi among the young, among women, and in cities across Iran where 'Green Wave' rallies sprang up wherever he campaigned in the weeks leading up to the election. Despite Ahmadinejad's dismal handling of the economy, his repression of civil society and the international isolation and sanctions his

nuclear policy has engendered, the official line is that Ahmadinejad gained seven million more votes than he did in his first run for president four years ago.

Eighty-five percent of Iran's 46.2 million voters turned out to vote in Friday's election, an unprecedented number. One third of the electorate is under the age of 30, and it is with the youth of Iran that Mousavi's reform campaign of freedom, civil liberties, and women's rights most resonated.

Now it is the youth of Iran who have led the protest against the obviously rigged vote in the streets of Tehran and other major cities since Saturday, when the official results were announced. They have braved police batons, beatings with chains, bullets, the choking of the social network media they use to communicate, and now the ban on foreign media coverage of their movement to overturn the spurious election. Hundreds of thousands – of all ages – have marched silently through the streets of the capital to support Mousavi's call for a new election.

His supporters are risking imprisonment and death to defend their democratic right to determine their national destiny.

In Montague, where the recent election for selectboard barely stirred 18% of the registered voters to wander anemically to the polls, risking your life for the right to have your vote counted may seem like an incredible tale from another world, a distant memory from Revolutionary days, or from the Jim Crow South.

But the convulsion in the streets of Iran has vital meaning for all who hope to live in a world free from the threat of nuclear war, a Middle East where peace may someday take root and flourish, a world where women are respected and accorded equal rights. The young people thronging the thoroughfares of Tehran in demand of self-determination are carrying the banner for all of us.



RICHARDS STEINBOCK ILLUSTRATION

The Great Falls Farmers Market is busier than ever this year, with up to 16 vendors participating. The market opens at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays, across from the Shady Glen, and runs until 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Self-Regulating Markets

So we read in "Questions and Answers on Biomass" (MR VII #36) that Madera Energy's Matt Wolfe thinks, "The market would act as a check against overbuilding biomass plants in a region where wood supply is inadequate." Whoa! More self-regulating markets! We've seen how successful they've been lately.

That fact is: Western Massachusetts is heavily wooded and gives the illusion to urban

folks that those woods go on forever. Some may think: build it and the trees will come. But there simply isn't enough slash and forest waste to supply all these proposed incinerators (Webster's, by the way, defines 'incinerator' as a furnace that burns waste, like slash!) Thus, whole trees will soon be needed to feed the incinerator's hungry maw which, of course, will lead to massive clearcuts, which will lead to

deforestation and the loss of critical carbon capture. This is one of the reasons why we call these incinerators a *biomess* and why we keep looking into the issue and raising awareness within the Valley.

- Don Ogden, co-host
The Enviro Show
WXOJ-LP/WMCB
Greenfield

A Petition to Congress in Support of Single Payer Health Care

BY U.S. SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT)

Whereas

- 46 million Americans are currently without health insurance;
- 60 million Americans, both insured and uninsured, have inadequate access to primary care due to a shortage of physicians and other health service providers in their community;
- 100 million Americans have no insurance to cover dental needs;
- 116 million adults, nearly two-thirds of all non-seniors, struggled to pay medical bills,

went without needed care because of cost, were uninsured for a time, or were underinsured in the last year;

- The United States spends \$2.3 trillion each year on health care, 16 percent of its Gross Domestic Product;
- Americans spend \$7,129 per person on health care, 50 percent more than other industrialized countries, including those with universal care;
- The U.S. does not get what it pays for. We rank among the lowest in the health outcome rankings of developed countries, and on several major indices rank below some third-world nations;
- The number of health insurance industry bureaucrats has grown at 25 times the growth of physicians in the past 30 years;

• In 2006, the six largest insurance companies made \$11 billion in profits even after paying for direct health care costs, administrative costs and marketing costs.

And, whereas:

- Medicare has administrative costs far lower than any private health insurance plan;
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Website Committee Interviewing Finalists

Thank you for your mention of the efforts of the town of Wendell's website committee in your June 4th issue (MR#35, "Notes from the Wendell Selectboard").

I wanted to clarify information about the semi-finalists for web design.

The town website committee advertised a request for proposals and received around 30 design proposals. Of the proposals submitted, five semi-finalists were selected for the interview phase.

While the proposals submitted came from as close to home as Wendell to as far away as India, the five semi-finalist proposals which met the criteria of the website committee were

submitted by designers located in the Pioneer Valley, including Wendell. Interviews began June 9th.

The website committee looks forward to working with the selectboard and finance committee in selecting a final choice for designer, as well as in delivering a website that will assist citizens in finding relevant information, allow town boards to communicate more effectively with the public, and foster further citizen involvement in town government.

- Ray DiDonato
Member
Wendell Town Website
Committee

Erving to Vote on Senior Center, Again

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town of Erving will make a second try at approving plans for a \$2.3 million senior center at a special town meeting to be held on Monday, June 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School. On May 6th, the vote to approve the new senior center, which would be built on town-owned land north of the elementary school, fell four votes shy of a two-thirds majority by a vote of 57 to 35.

Since neither the written warrant nor the verbal instructions of the moderator had warned voters that a two-thirds majority would be required to approve the \$1 million in borrowing that would be needed to fund the senior center, (with the balance coming from free cash and stabilization), town officials promised to hold a revote on the senior center in

June.

On Monday, the selectboard briefly discussed the problem of the funds the town has already committed to the design phase of the project. The town hired John Catlin, a Quincy architect, to develop bid-ready plans for the new senior center last year, using \$163,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. Town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said the town could be "on the hook" to repay those funds to the state, if the project fails to gain approval from voters on Monday.

Bruce Hunter, who has advised the town on the project for the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment

Authority, said the town will have to repay those funds if the project does not move forward. "The federal government gave the town those funds to use for elderly people. They would have to be paid back if the project does not move forward to build phase within five years," he said.

Erving has also expended \$30,000 of town funds on a feasibility study for the senior center two years ago.

Finance committee chair Stanley Gradowski, reached by phone, said the finance committee had no choice but to recommend against funding the senior center, given budgetary uncertainties in the present economy.

see ERVING page 11

BIOMASS from page 1

"What alarms me most," is that once the plant is operational, "it will never be shut down." He cited estimates that sources of wood for the plant might soon be exhausted, and the plant might then be "retrofitted to burn construction debris, medical and hospital wastes and all kinds of polluting trash, just like other biomass incinerators have been."

Pierre Belhumeur, who said he and his family have lived and worked on Lover's Lane near the site of the proposed plant for 33 years, described the depth and water supply consistency of his artesian well, and also those of his neighbors' wells, which sometimes run dry. He described the water table of the area as "fussy and delicate," and said, "We cannot know," the effect the PRE plan could have on local well draw.

As the night drew on, there were a handful of residents who spoke out in support of the plan. Craig Parker, an abutter who lives on Bernardston Road, cited "\$1 million in taxes" that could be used for schools and the department of public works. He said the plan would prove that Greenfield was "ready for business," and said he "see[s] noth-

ing wrong with it."

Sarah La Cour, of W.D. Cows, a lumber company based in North Amherst, said there was presently "no market for our low grade wood," and that a new local biomass plant would help Cows remain financially viable.

A little after 10:00 p.m., the floor was opened to residents of towns outside of Greenfield.

Geoff Brown, of South Deerfield, cited a letter regarding the plant from physician Dr. Jefferson Dickey which stated that "the amount of illness" in a community "directly correlates to the amount of pollution." Brown also cited a June 11th article in the *Springfield Republican* which described the concerns of a current tenant of the Industrial Park, Applied Dynamics, now contemplating relocating its facility because the increased truck traffic, noise and emissions of the biomass plant "would not make it a good neighbor for their operations."

John Ward, a selectboard member in Gill, said he firmly opposes the issuance of special permits by the ZBA until one-year baseline measurements of noise levels and air quality in surrounding areas could be completed.

Mark Beaubien, of Montague, cited his op-ed in the June 11th *Greenfield Recorder* in which he stated, among other concerns, that the proposed 250-foot stack was "too short to adequately disperse particulate matter and transport it away." He said that the approval of the special permits by the ZBA would "open a floodgate of lawsuits" from downwind abutters, and he likened Pioneer Renewable Energy to a "bunch of smart guys from Cambridge who came out here expecting a cow town reception."

When all comments from the public had been heard, Wolfe presented associates to rebut some of the main concerns, including the available wood supply, truck traffic and plant noise, and to explain the research informing Pioneer's stack height request.

The zoning board then moved to continue the meeting until Thursday, June 25th at 7:00 p.m., in the Greenfield High School cafeteria at 1 Lenox Avenue, where the board will pose its own questions regarding the plant, and likely issue their ruling on whether to grant the special permits requested by Pioneer Renewable Energy.



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300th Combat Engineer Battalion repairing the under piling of a bridge destroyed by enemy fire along the Carentan - Cherbourg Road in France - June 30, 1944.

BY BRAD PETERS & JAN ROSS

ERVING - In recognition of the 65th anniversary of the U. S. campaign in Europe in WWII, the Montague Reporter will follow the men of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion as they move through France, Belgium and Germany from their landing in Normandy in June 1944 to VE Day on May 8th, 1945. Donald Ross, father of Jan Ross of Erving, served with the 300th.

The Normandy Invasion began on June 6th, 1944, with the 300th in England waiting to take part in the greatest military action in history. On June 18th,

Dispatches from France, June, 1944

Homer Garrett was among the 195 enlisted men and six officers of the 300th who boarded LST (Landing Ship Tank) 523 in England. The LST left Plymouth Harbor at 2100 hours for France.

The Germans had set mines of various types off the coast of France before D-Day. In the early hours of June 19th, a gale force wind erupted in the English

Channel with no warning. Winds gusted to 40 mph, building waves to eight feet. LST 523 was on its way to the shore of France on that day, in the face of the most severe June



Illustration by Navy Seaman Tracy Sugarman, who witnessed the sinking of LST 523

Channel with no warning. Winds gusted to 40 mph, building waves to eight feet.

LST 523 was on its way to the shore of France on that day, in the face of the most severe June

Homer Garrett describes what happened. "When that mine hit us, it blew that thing half in two. And it parted two ways. A voice kept telling me, 'You're all right. Take your time and don't get

from FOREST pg 1



DETMOLD PHOTO

On June 11th, Gill residents got a chance to enjoy the sights along Otter Pond during the "open house" at the permanently conserved acreage along Hoe Shop Road, now the Gill Town Forest.

marketability of the town-owned land, with the help of a marketing consultant, and had determined that "the best business option" for Gill to pursue would be to market it for light industry, since flat, well-drained land in proximity to major highways, between three and ten acres, was in demand. She said the market was saturated for assisting living facilities, commercial or retail space was not likely to sell away from Route 2, single-family home construction would bring additional demand for town services, and agricultural production would produce "low yields for jobs and tax revenues."

A one-story industrial facility that covered about 50,000 square feet could be situated in the far southwest corner of the land, away from residential abutters, and allow room for 91 parking spaces on the land. A fiber-optic cable runs along Main Road from Turners to Northfield, adjacent to the site, but water and sewer lines fall 1800 and 1300 feet short of the site, respectively.

Selectboard chair Ann Banash said the town of Gill had purchased the land in December of 2004 for \$245,000, and had since paid \$39,575 in interest and \$27,400 in principal on the short term loans. The town exercised a

first right of refusal to buy the land to ward off a bid by a developer to build 60 or more condominiums on the property.

Later, during the course of the annual town meeting, voters approved \$25,000 for an additional loan payment on the property.

Banash said at that rate, the town would pay off the loan over 16 years, but she said, "We are doing everything we can to find a buyer," and that the town has recently fielded serious inquiries on the property. She said the next step would be for the town to seek a grant to extend the water and sewer lines to the property, at a cost of approximately \$600,000, and she said Gill would be more likely to qualify for such a grant since the Mariamante parcel had already been designated a priority development site under the state's expedited permitting law.

Last year, the town secured a \$100,000 expedited permitting grant to pay for Tighe and Bond's conceptual development and marketing study of the property, and for a Phase II archeological survey of the acreage by UMass Archaeological Services, conducted last summer.

Banash said the final results of the Phase II study were not avail-

see FOREST pg 10

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Joe Leyva of the 300th was killed in action on LST 523, June 19th, 1943

excited, get on that rail.' I held that rail with both hands. When we got hit, I went straight up. I guess it must have knocked me unconscious. The water came up over us and a lot of us came to. That water was the coldest, it was blowing, and it was rough as it could be. I was on the part that was sinking. I didn't know what was on the other end. I just knew the water was coming in. The voice said, 'Take your time.' It sounds a little ridiculous about the voice, but it absolutely happened, and if I ever hear it again, I will heed it."

Following the explosion, see 300TH pg 7

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Two Trailers Burning

Tuesday, 6/9

4:51 p.m. Responded to suicide on French King Bridge.

7:15 p.m. Annoying/harassing phone call complaint on Main Road.

Wednesday, 6/10

5:57 p.m. Report of past hit and run accident at French King Highway business.

Thursday, 6/11

8:21 a.m. Investigated single motor vehicle accident on Merrifield Road.

4:31 p.m. Burglar alarm on Mount Hermon Campus, all secure.

Friday, 6/12

11:45 a.m. Two-vehicle accident on French King Highway, report taken.

Saturday, 6/13

1:05 a.m. Annoying/harassing phone

call complaint on West Gill Road.

9:05 a.m. Report of vandalism on River Road.

Sunday, 6/14

9:15 a.m. Assisted fire department with electrical problem on Deer Run Lane.

3:20 p.m. Bicyclist accident on Rt. 10, determined to be in Northfield.

4:50 p.m. ATV complaint on West Gill Road.

Monday, 6/15

2:15 p.m. ATV complaint in Factory Hollow area.

Tuesday, 6/16

2:15 p.m. Report of two house trailers on fire on Chase Road, responded with fire department.

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NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regionalization Debated

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – Interim superintendent Kenneth Rocke, in his report to the school committee on Tuesday, June 9th, said the state is offering grants with funds available immediately for local districts to look at regionalization. The grant request is due by June 22nd.

According to elementary curriculum coordinator Chip Wood, these so-called Readiness School planning grants have some funds available right now to school districts to begin holding conversations about regionalizing. He said applications for the preliminary planning grants just need to outline the conversations they intend to hold over the summer. Out of that work will come regionalization planning grants for the 2009-2010 school year, which will be available by September 15th.

Rocke said the state is look-

ing to Franklin County for solutions. He said, "It's better to be in the game than out of the game." He recommended the district move forward and apply for the grants and continue conversations with other local districts about ways to collaborate to improve education.

Committee member Sorrel Hatch said the district should think about creating autonomous school councils to maintain local control, should the Gill-Montague schools regionalize with other districts. This would help schools control their own funds and curriculum, she said.

In a further discussion led by school committee chair Michael Langknecht, members gave their opinions regarding the issue of regionalization. Jennifer Waldron of Gill suggested that Gill-Montague begin by reaching out to Erving, since they

already have an agreement for students to attend upper school at the GMRSD. Erving representative Jarod Boissonneault said the number of fifth and sixth graders saying they want to attend Gill-Montague schools is up. He and Scott Bastarache said they didn't know the history of the decisions made to keep Erving a separate district, but agreed that a conversation would be beneficial to all parties. The school committee agreed to take this step as well as reaching out to other districts to continue the discussion.

At town meeting in Montague on June 6th, the town agreed to set up planning committees to look at regionalization. Gill approved similar motions in May.

Rocke pointed out that while the state is pushing the idea of regionalization, they are taking



BLANCHETTE PHOTO
Gill-Montague school committee chair Michael Langknecht

away the incentives, such as cutting regional transportation reimbursement. The most recent Senate budget sets transportation aid at 45%.

Waldron suggested the districts tell Boston they need the aid back in order to pursue regionalization plans.

Kristin Boyle said there are now possibilities for looking at education in a new way. She said the committee should look at

where they want the district to go, and think about how to present their ideas to the state. She said the Gill-Montague district could be a leader and a model for the state.

Several members said they preferred the concept of collaboration. Sandra Brown reminded the committee that transportation aid originally was promised by the state at 100%, but the actual reimbursement levels never reached that.

Hatch said she felt the need to change the budgeting situation between the towns and the school district. "Unless we can pass a budget locally something has to change. If neither side can agree, then we're at an impasse." She suggested that regionalization could equalize everything, that it could create a level playing field.

Langknecht said it would be better if ways could be found to work collaboratively with other districts that were beneficial for all the schools in the county.

from 300TH pg 6

many small military craft responded and picked up survivors, transporting them to larger U.S. ships off Utah Beach. In addition to the potential of enemy fire by air, the weather conditions continued to be severe. The rescue continued for hours as injured men tried to survive in bitter cold water.

Homer Garrett continues with

what happened to him. "I got my pelvis bone broke in two places, cracked right ankle, two ribs cracked, jaw broke, every tooth was broke. I don't know how I ever survived all that. A little boat picked me up and he looked at me and put me right up in the front and laid me down. I said, 'What's the use?' and passed out. The next thing I knew they were putting me in a basket and

lifting me out and onto a destroyer. I thought I was the luckiest man in the world. I was in and out of the hospital for ten months in England and the States.

"The worst thing that ever happened to me in my life was when I got injured. Even though I got wounded, I would do it again. I might not want to but I would do it. If I was called out to

go I would want the same bunch I went with. The real heroes of the war were the boys that didn't come back. I lost more than half of my squad. They were first class people – really good guys."

Homer Garrett never returned to the 300th because of the severity of his injuries. His account was recorded in Dallas, Texas a year ago. Of the 195 enlisted men and six officers on LST 523, more than 90 of the 300th lost their lives that fateful

day and more than another 90 were either wounded or missing in action. Also, 40 Navy seamen, most of the crew, lost their lives. Sixty-five years later we remember the loss and suffering of these young men and their families.

Note: The web site of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion can be found at: www.300thcombatengineersinwwii.com



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Flash Flooding, Sink Hole

Tuesday, 6/9

4:53 p.m. Report of possible jumper on the French King Bridge. Subject did jump from bridge, officer with recovery team.

8:05 p.m. Walk-in to station request for officer assistance retrieving personal property following a domestic situation. Found to be in Millers Falls, assisted contacting proper agency.

Wednesday, 6/10

12:47 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle at a Northfield Road address. Checked same, all OK.

5:00 p.m. Barking dog complaint on Ridge Road.

Thursday, 6/11

2:31 p.m. One-vehicle crash with per-

sonal injury on Route 2 near Old State Road. Assisted Erving fire, state police and Baystate Health ambulance.

6:43 p.m. Medical emergency at Veteran's Field. Assisted Erving fire.

6:57 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Warner Street address. Altercation verbal only.

10:35 p.m. Report of tree in road on North Street, near swamp. Erving highway removed same.

Friday, 6/12

10:35 a.m. Report of suspicious persons going door to door on State Road. Found two subjects promoting their religion. Advised of complaints.

12:42 p.m. Report of two subject climbing cell tower off French King

Highway. Found to be contractors, all OK.

Saturday, 6/13

4:45 p.m. Citation issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Charged with operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license and without insurance.

9:30 p.m. Report of flash flooding on Moore Street. Confirmed same, Mass highway advised.

Sunday, 6/14

1:30 p.m. Report of sink hole on Route 63 North of high tension wires. Mass highway on scene, placed cones for safety.

2:30 p.m. Citation issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

7:49 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at a Hill Road residence in Gill. All OK.

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from **FOREST** pg 6

able yet, but the archaeological team had identified a site in the middle of the property of approximately a third of an acre, with a 25-foot buffer zone, that contained sensitive Native American artifacts, and that should be preserved from development. Adamski said her plans for positioning light industry on the parcel took this site into account.

Howard Clark, a Greenfield historian, and Joe Graveline, a Northfield resident, both of Native descent, stood to question the town about why development was being pursued on the Mariamante parcel at all, since, they claimed, the historical record showed it had been the site of an unusual Native American 'spokes burial' uncovered during the course of reconstructing Main Road more than a century ago. They said the area was part of the Riverside Archaeological District, where Native American artifacts and evidence of occupation date back more than 10,000 years.

Graveline said Mass General Laws Chapter 114, Section 17, governing ancient burial places, prohibits a town from "alienating or expropriating" an area of land "known or suspected to contain remains of Native American Indians." George Sheldon's *History of Deerfield*, published in 1895, details the discovery of the unusual Native burial, with a dozen bodies arranged like the spokes of a wheel, heads toward the center, on what was known as the Conway property, "across from the Main Road cemetery," as Clark recalled.

After the meeting, Graveline and Clark spoke of other histori-

cal texts that detailed a reconnaissance party of settlers approaching Riverside from Hatfield on May 23rd, 1676, four days after the Falls Fight led by Captain William Turner, which resulted in the massacre of hundreds of Native Americans camped at the falls on what is now the Gill side of the Connecticut River. They said the histories relate how the settlers saw fires burning on the hill above the falls, where the Mariamante property now lies, which they took to be war fires. But the historians widely agreed that these were indeed funeral fires, as the Natives burned their dead after the attack, Clark and Graveline said.

Banash said the archaeological survey had found no evidence of burial remains on the property. She said the town would reach out to interested Native American tribes as discussion of the future development of the Mariamante property continued.

Peter Conway asked if the town had considered selling the Mariamante parcel to a Native American tribe. Banash answered, "No."

Bill Tomb said he thought the town should keep the land and use it as a park, "and use it for the benefit of the citizenry. The town should be looking to the time when development surrounds us."

Banash said the town already owned land that would be used for town purposes, including the Boyle Road property, the Riverside municipal building and parcel, and now the town forest land. "We need to be able to pay for all of this. We need to develop where it is appropriate.

Route 2 is appropriate for development."

After the special town meeting, voters took a breather out doors to enjoy each other's company on a beautiful spring evening, before returning to pass a \$2,611,370 general operating budget in the continuation of annual town meeting.

Banash admitted at the outset of the session that the budget the selectboard and finance committee presented "had no basis in reality," since state aid numbers and a final regional school assessment were still not known. Both Banash and finance committee chair Tupper Brown told the meeting to expect to return in September to revote an FY '10 budget, when these numbers were in.

Brown said the selectboard had shown "a great piece of leadership" in holding all town departments to a 0% increase this year, in recognition of the difficult economic times.

"But we could still get hammered by the school district budget," added Brown, who predicted the GMRSD assessment for Gill could increase as much as \$50,000 or more, "depending on how much the schools get hammered by the state." Although he said the state seemed to have made it to the end of the present fiscal year without imposing further cuts on local aid for '09, he added there was still a chance, with the sizable deficit in Boston, that the state could "freak out, to use a precise economic term," and cut local aid further.

Town meeting agreed to temporarily zero out the \$3,000 line item for the recreation commis-

sion, until such time as Nate Duda, commission chair, and other members of the commission could prepare a clear budget detailing how the money would be spent.

Duda said getting the cash flow down on paper was the hard part, since the commission ran both on a revolving fund from program fees and a separate account handling the money contributed by the town.

Brown said the finance committee and selectboard were unanimous in their support of the recreation commission. "It does a great job. The only issue is how much money you need."

Town meeting amended the Gill-Montague school budget assessment down from \$1,467,587 to \$1,363,274, to stay in synch with a formula for an affordable budget devised by the town of Montague's finance committee (to reduce the use of reserves in funding operating budgets in that town). The school committee had recommended their budget be voted down, until state aid figures were known.

The \$1.36 mil assessment approved by Gill voters will give the town a placeholder amount, with enough funds to make expected 1/12th payments month by month, using last year's assessment figure, once the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) imposes a 1/12th budget, as expected, next month.

Brown said, "The whole point of the Montague vote is to let the DESE know this is where the towns think they need to be for a sustainable, long-term budget."



from **SWEET TALK** pg 8

The 2009 Block Party will feature 'Fabrication: a Recycled Fashion Show' led by Rachel Teumim. She is seeking up to 25 artists to create one or two outfits from re-used materials or objects such as plastic bags, twist ties, single socks, holey T-shirts - you get the idea. Contact her by email at massfabrication@mass.com for more information or to enter.

Holy T-Shirts!

We hope the lawn chair brigade will be back for another stellar turn around the block at this year's party!

The Montague Business Association will hold a meeting on June 25th from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Brick House on 24 Third Street. Business Alliance for Local Living Economies [BALLE] will be the topic, led by director Prakash Laufer of the Brick House.

"All are welcome," says MBA

president Pam Kostanski, adding, "It's about keeping businesses local within our community - processing credit cards, helping businesses 'Go Green' and more. A continental breakfast will be available, too." Kostanski can be reached by cell phone at (413) 522-7727 with any questions.

Congratulations to all Gill-Montague Regional School District students, whose last day was the 17th. Best wishes for a safe, fun, campy summer to all.

Bug spray, helmet and sun block sales are sure to rise at the local stores, eh?

A Happy Father's Day also to all Dads/Padres. Mine, so far away, at 72, is cruising to Maine with friends. He taught me the meaning of summer solstice, which arrives this year on Sunday, June 21st at 1:45 Eastern Daylight Time, along with Father's Day. Have a good day, all! Ta-ta for now, dears!




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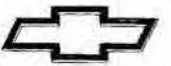
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from **ERVING** pg 5

"First and foremost, I'm a senior," Gradowski said. My personal opinion is the senior center is one of the most cost-effective agencies in town."

But Gradowski continued, "I'm also on the finance committee. It became an issue of where do we draw the line. We are right now redoing the sewage treatment plant," at a cost of \$6.2 million, he said. "With the uncertainty of state and federal budgets, and what is in the pipeline, we had to say, 'No.'"

On May 6th, however, Gradowski said he was among the majority of Erving residents

who voted in favor of the new senior center.

The new senior center is planned to be a one-story, 7,000-square-foot building, geothermally heated and cooled, with a terrace facing Route 63 to the south. The floor plan allows for a 1750-square-foot multi-purpose room, which could be partitioned off to form a smaller classroom and dining area, adjacent to the kitchen. There would be room for a 455-square-foot arts and crafts classroom on the north side of the building, a 600-square-foot games and exercise room, and a 390-square-foot lounge designed to be "like your living room at

home," in Catlin's words.

Also at Monday's special town meeting, voters will be asked to allocate \$25,000 for legal and engineering costs to remove the safety hazard posed to the town by the arson-damaged Usher Mill on Arch Street. Owner Patriots Environmental of Worcester has failed to comply with repeated orders from the county building inspector and Erving fire chief to raze and remove the hazardous buildings, severely damaged in an arson fire in the summer of 2008.

Sharp said, "There is no evidence the owner has been in town lately. The fencing that was sup-

posed to secure the site is collapsed on the river side."

Sharp said if the warrant article succeeds, the town would attempt legal action to force the owner to clean up the property, or, failing that, would take action to clean up and secure the site, and place a lien on the property to recover the town's costs.

At the June 15th selectboard meeting, Peter Valinski and Michael McManus of Tighe and Bond, the town's engineering consultants on the renovation projects at the Erving and Farley wastewater treatment plants, gave the board an update on both projects. The board

approved a payment of \$670,465 to R.H. White of Auburn, the contractor on the Erving project, which will mainly go to pay for new aeration mixing equipment at the treatment plant.

Over in Farley, work is getting underway on the renovation of that treatment plant, with the metal sheeting driven in on Monday, and a decision taken Monday night in consultation with the board to replace the worn out discharge pipes, place flow monitoring devices downstream of the flume for the effluent, and in the dosing chamber for the influent.

see **ERVING** pg 12

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The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center these gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G, pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. The treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies.
 Call Mike or Nancy for additional information or to answer any questions. 413-863-4542

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791

Think about it!
Bottled Water \$1.25/12 oz
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It is estimated that 80% of bottled water comes out of a tap.
 Water Leak Test - Most water meters have a red triangle on the face of the meter. If this triangle moves, even slightly when you are not using any water, you may have a leak. Toilets and faucets are the first plumbing to check, tablets are available at the water department to check for toilet leaks and pamphlets to help you detect the problem.
 Water Use - The average daily water consumption for the Turners Falls Water District in the year 2008 was 796,874 gallons per day, with a peak demand of 1.9 million gallons on 6/12/08.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
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 Stephen Call - Kevin McCarthy
STAFF
 Superintendent
 Michael Brown
Pump Station Operators
 John Collins - Jeffrey Hildreth - Stephen Fitzpatrick
Clerk/Collector
 Nancy Holmes
Regular Meetings
 1st Wednesday of the Month 5:30 pm
 At the Water Department Office
 226 Millers Falls Rd. Turners Falls, Mass
Annual Meeting
 of the
 Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April

Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the ground water supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high ranking threat land uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the TFWD, the Board of Health office and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm>. For more information call the TFWD 863-4542. **Things You Can Do To Protect Our Water Supply** Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, Do Not use the river beds to dispose of any waste, Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the Towns hazardous waste collection sites.

Water Quality Report
 Reporting Year—2008
 July 2009

 Our Commitment Our Profession

 Turners Falls Water Department
 Public Water Supply
 #1192000
 226 Millers Falls Road
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 413-863-4542
 Fax 413-863-3175
 Email
turnerswater@yahoo.com
 Environmental Protection Agency's
 Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791
 Massachusetts Department
 of Environmental Protection
1-413-784-1100

ERVING from pg 11

The town is ready to go out to bid on \$130,000 of inflow and infiltration detection and repair on several sewer lines in Erving Center, and also for a \$512,000 repainting job on the town's water tank on the Erving side. Work on those two projects should be completed by fall.

The Erving Paper Mill, in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, but still operating three shifts a day, has fallen six months behind on revenue sharing payments to the town for processing sludge from third party haulers at the town owned, paper mill operated ERSECO treatment plant.

ERSECO owes \$60,000 to the town, at present. Sharp said attorney Michael Girard was monitoring the situation for the town.

Eric Semb, owner of the French King Entertainment Center and the lot where the Countree Living Restaurant was formerly located, came to check on progress with the planning board's revision of the town bylaws to allow for a gas station and drive through convenience store and fast food restaurant to be built on the lot. The planning board will hold a hearing on this matter on Thursday, June 18th, at 7 p.m. at town hall, to consider wording changes to the bylaws.

Public input on the bylaw changes will be sought at a subsequent meeting in July, to be followed by a special town meeting vote on the changes in September.

Erving presently has no gas station within the town borders. The proposed gas station Semb hopes to build would be located in the town's aquifer protection zone. Tessier said to Semb, "I have to be honest with you. I have a major problem with it. Once the water gets contaminated, [I have a problem with] how much it costs to treat it at the other end."

from **PLOTS** pg 3

Telecommunications and Cable from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on June 23rd about complaints concerning Verizon's land line phone service at the Greenfield High School, as part of an investigation of complaints about phone service from towns in Berkshire, Hamden, Franklin and Hampshire Counties. Written communication on this matter should be sent to: Catrice C. Williams, DTC, 2 South Station, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02110.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser attended the Franklin County Regional Planning pres-

entation about the biomass electric generating plant proposed for the Greenfield Industrial park. He said that neither the Department of Energy (DOE) nor the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) nor the plant proponent, Madera Energy of Cambridge (Matthew Wolfe) had a working definition of sustainable forest management, nor have they considered the value of forest litter when it stays on the forest floor. Pooser said the \$250 million cost of constructing the biomass plant would go further if it were invested in conservation efforts.



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Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791.) Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants** such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or results from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil, and gas production, mining, and farming. **Pesticides and herbicides**, may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems. **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The Department of Environmental Protection has granted the Turners Falls Water Department a waiver on testing of Inorganic and Synthetic Organic Compounds because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were taken on 1/21/08 for SOC and 8/28/08 for the IOC and both were found to meet all applicable EPA and DEP Standards.

2008 Water Quality Testing Results



Lead & Copper Testing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Turners Falls Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. On July 18, 2007 the TFWD sampled 30 homes for Lead and Copper. Again our results are below the Lead & Copper rule action levels. Our next round of Lead & Copper samples will be due the 3rd quarter of 2010.

Substance	Date Collected	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile	# of sites above action level	Likely Source
Lead	7/18/07	15 ppb	0	1.7 ppb	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	7/18/07	1.3 ppm	1.3	.0446 ppm	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservation

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology

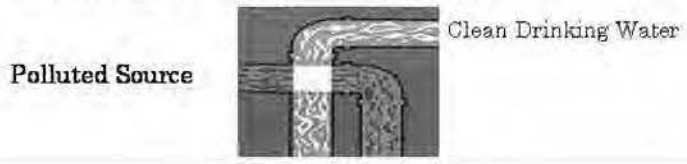
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile- Out of every 10 homes sampled 9 were at or below this level. **ppm**-parts per million **ppb**-parts per billion

What is a Cross Connection and What Can I do About it?

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the town) when the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem. The Turners Falls Water Department recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. There is a limited supply available at the water department office. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact Superintendent Mike Brown @ the Turners Falls Water Department 863-4542.





JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ Q: My father was diagnosed with SVT? Is that bad?

SVT stands for supraventricular tachycardia, an abnormally fast heart rhythm. It is not usually dangerous. SVT is one of many types of arrhythmia. An arrhythmia is a problem with the speed or rhythm of the heartbeat.

Most arrhythmias are harmless. Even serious arrhythmias can be treated successfully. Most people with arrhythmias are able to live healthy lives.

Millions of Americans have arrhythmias. They are very common in older adults. Arrhythmias are more common in people who have a disease or condition that weakens the heart.

Time for some anatomy.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Irregular Heartbeats

The heart is a fist-size muscle. It has four chambers – two atria on top and two ventricles below. There are four valves that open and shut with every heartbeat to control the circulation of the blood.

The heart has an internal electrical system that controls the speed and rhythm of the heartbeat. With each heartbeat, an electrical signal spreads from the top of the heart to the bottom. As it travels, the electrical signal makes the heart contract and pump blood.

At rest, a healthy adult heart beats 60 to 100 times a minute. So, the heart of a person with a pulse of 80 beats a minute, beats 115,200 times a day.

There are four main arrhythmia categories: premature beats, supraventricular arrhythmias, ventricular arrhythmias, and bradyarrhythmias.

Premature Beats

Premature beats are the most common type of arrhythmia and can occur in the atria or the ventricles. They are usually harm-

less and need no treatment. A premature heartbeat is actually an extra beat between two normal heartbeats. This arrhythmia is commonly caused by too much caffeine, nicotine, stress, or exercise.

Supraventricular Arrhythmias

Supraventricular arrhythmias are rapid heart rates known as tachycardias. They begin in the atria or between the atria and the ventricles. The types of these arrhythmias are atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, supraventricular tachycardia, and Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome.

Atrial Fibrillation – also called AF or AFib – is the most common type of dangerous arrhythmia. It's a very fast and irregular contraction of the atria.

Because the atria are beating rapidly and irregularly, blood does not flow through them as quickly. This makes the blood more likely to clot. If a clot is pumped out of the heart, it can travel to the brain, causing a stroke. Infrequent and brief episodes of atrial fibrillation can

be triggered by overindulgence in alcohol, caffeine and food.

Atrial Flutter is a fast and regular rhythm. Atrial flutter is much less common than atrial fibrillation, but has similar symptoms and complications.

Supraventricular Tachycardia, as described earlier, is an abnormally fast heart rhythm.

This type of arrhythmia tends to occur in young people. It can happen during vigorous exercise.

Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) Syndrome is a condition in which the heart's electrical signals travel along an extra pathway from the atria to the ventricles disrupting the heart's timing. WPW can make the ventricles beat very fast, and can be life-threatening.

Ventricular Arrhythmias

These arrhythmias begin in the ventricles. They include ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation. They usually are dangerous and need emergency treatment.

Ventricular Tachycardia is a fast, regular beating of the ventricles. Ventricular tachycardia

episodes that last for more than just a few seconds can be dangerous. This condition can evolve into more dangerous arrhythmias.

Ventricular Fibrillation (V-fib) happens when disorganized electrical signals make the ventricles quiver instead of pump normally. If the ventricles don't pump blood to the body, it will die within minutes. V-fib requires defibrillation, an electric shock to the heart.

Bradyarrhythmias

Bradyarrhythmias are arrhythmias in which the heart rate is slower than normal. If the heart rate is too slow, not enough blood reaches the brain, and insufficient blood can make you pass out. In adults, a heart rate slower than 60 beats per minute is considered a bradyarrhythmia.

Bradyarrhythmias can be caused by heart attack, an underactive thyroid gland, aging, a chemical imbalance, or some medicines.

If you have a questions write to fred@healthygeezzer.com

Garden Club Begins Habitat Garden

ATHOL - The North Quabbin Garden Club has taken the initial steps in creating a habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol, with the planting of shad, witch hazel, laurels, high-bush cranberry, gray dogwood, and hazelnut. The Club's plan is to expand the garden this fall. Future plans call for replacing the line of invasive Norway maples and creating a sitting area.

A habitat garden reflects the natural areas of a region and aims for native species that appeal, in this case, to birds and butterflies; this garden will showcase garden-worthy species native to north central Massachusetts and southwest New Hampshire.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center, the Garden Club was created in 2006 "to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening, to promote



BRENDA BUCK PHOTO

Neighborhood helpers inaugurating habitat garden at Environmental Center: Dawson Radisic, Brendan Barilone and George Allen

better horticultural practices, and to foster civic beauty, all with an emphasis on native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources." More info is available at www.millersriver.net/nqgc or by writing gardens@millersriver.net.

Polish History of North Adams

AGAWAM – Eugene Michalenko will be the featured speaker for the summer meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts on Thursday, June 25th at the Agawam Senior Center at 954 Main Street (Route 159) in Agawam, MA. Michalenko has done extensive research into the histories of Polish American residents of North Adams, and will present many interesting stories on the people and his research process.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a brief business meeting, followed by the presentation. Some of the holdings of the society will be available to browse prior to the meeting. Members will be available to help with questions on history, geography and language of the Eastern European region,

which was part of historic Poland. The meeting is free and open to the public.

For 20 years PGSM has encouraged research and recording of events relating to our immigrant ancestors. The society looks forward to making its library accessible at the new Polish Center for Discovery and Learning in Chicopee as renovation of the property continues. Membership is only \$15 per year and includes subscription to the newsletter.

The 20th anniversary picnic is planned for Sunday, July 26th at Mittineague Park in West Springfield from noon to 6:30 p.m. It will be an opportunity to share genealogical stories informally, over a pot-luck meal. Reservations must be received by June 17th at (413) 586-1827.

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Your Pace at Your Place

JEP'S PLACE: Part CXXVII

Epilogue



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL – After Army basic training in Fort Belvoir, VA, my records were lost and I did not go to heavy equipment school as the Army Engineers had planned. Instead, since I did not know anything, they sent me to Washington, D.C.

There, I drove a staff car at the Army War College. After a couple of months, they sent me to California by train, giving me a great opportunity to see the country.

In California, I received a high school diploma from Pittsburg Evening High School. I sailed under San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge to Japan.

There, in the U.S Army of Occupation, I took parachute and glider training to become a paratrooper. I was stationed on Hokkaido, the northern island.

An officer learned of my enrollment in a course at Hokkaido University and my ability to organize my fellow soldiers in all sorts of endeavors. He sent me to Troop Leadership School.

My job consisted of public relations writing and public information talks to fellow paratroops on Saturday morning. If my advanced grammar teacher had ever learned the Army had me working as a public relations writer, he would have had a

stroke.

In November, 1947, I was honorably discharged from the army at Fort Lawton, WA, after 16 months of service. I was 18.

I re-applied at Mount Hermon for the second semester but they turned me down. I enrolled in Turners Falls High School in the senior class two weeks before mid-year exams.

I had left Mount Hermon as a sophomore, but since I had earned a diploma from Pittsburg Evening High School, the Turners Falls High School principal said that if I could pass the senior mid-year exams, he would give me credit for the first half of the school year. I studied hard, and barely squeaked by.

I soon got on the honor roll and began working in a garage. I became a partner in a used car business with the owner. I went back to Mount Hermon to tell them I now had two high school diplomas, had graduated with

honors, was involved in a successful business, and was ready to apply myself.

I graduated from Mount Hermon and took an accelerated program at Bryant College, now Bryant University. I crammed four years into two grueling years to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

I married Edna Carleton, and we moved ten times in the first five years of marriage – twice to California – seeking our fortune. After a succession of jobs, I established a business as an excavating contractor in Gill.

My fortune turned out to be the treasure of our four children; Deborah, Joann, Joseph, and Christine. I continued taking courses at various colleges and universities, and became a National Honor Society member. I began pursuing photography and writing. A variety of newspapers, journals and magazines

publish my work. Yankee magazine and Reader's Digest published excerpts of my memoir in another format. Marianne Phinney, director of languages and linguistics at the University of Texas at El Paso, selected one of my Yankee articles for her textbook on writing, along with work by Isaac Asimov, Russell Baker, Martyn J. Fogg, Edie Clark, and others.

Of the fifteen children, only Louis, Lora and I are still alive. Emaline was murdered. The others, like my parents, died of natural causes. My daughter Deborah and her husband Mike took me to Poland where we found my mother's ancestral log home in the mountains. We did not find my father's village. Deborah died of complications of breast cancer treatment on June 13th, 2005. *Jep's Place* is dedicated to her.

– This concludes our serialization of *Jep's Place*.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Peace Disturbed

Saturday, 6/6

7:57 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Crescent Street address. Peace restored.

10:13 p.m. Report of rape at a J Street address. Investigated.

Sunday, 6/7

1:21 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Hillside Road address. Investigated.

7:50 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a T Street address. Subject removed to hospital.

Monday, 6/8

1:20 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, second offense, marked lanes violation, failure to stop for police and speeding.

Tuesday, 6/9

7:13 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Second Street address. Investigated.

Friday, 6/12

5:33 p.m. Assisted other police department. Arrested [redacted]

Turners Falls, on a default warrant.

11:36 p.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with motorcycle equipment violation, speeding in violation of special regulation, operating to endanger, operating a vehicle while under the influence of liquor and failure to stop for police.

Saturday, 6/13

1:31 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a vehicle while under the influence of liquor, lights violation, operating to endanger, possession of an open container of alcohol, failure to wear a seatbelt, failure to use care starting, turning, backing, etc. and for being a minor transporting alcoholic beverages.

1:15 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a G Street address. Services rendered.

7:00 p.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with speeding, pos-

session of an open container of alcohol in a vehicle and operating a vehicle while under the influence of liquor.

Sunday, 6/14

12:21 a.m. Report of a general disturbance at a Turnpike Road address. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest and disturbing the peace.

12:59 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle disturbance at a Turnpike Road address. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a vehicle while under the influence of liquor, second offense, unlicensed operation of a vehicle, operating to endanger and possession of an open container of alcohol in a vehicle.

9:08 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Franklin Street address. Peace restored.

Monday, 6/15

6:18 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Advised of options.

1:43 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Fourth Street address. Services rendered.

MCTV Channel 17 Afternoon/Evening Schedule 6/19 - 6/25

Visit www.montaguema.net for complete schedule

Friday, June 19

2:30 p.m. MCTV Video Camp 2007

3:00 p.m. Memorial Day 2009

4:00 p.m. Michael Nix

5:30 p.m. Montague Machine

6:30 p.m. On The Ridge: The Great Outdoors

7:00 p.m. GMRSD 6/9/09

9:30 p.m. Loose Change

Saturday, June 20

12:30 p.m. MCTV Video Camp 2007

1:00 p.m. Zero

3:00 p.m. White House Chronicle#1015-1016

4:00 p.m. TWB Sky Awareness

5:00 p.m. Tiny Tim

6:00 p.m. This is Montague Dec 06

6:30 p.m. They Are Still There

7:30 p.m. The Western Mass Democrat Thomas Merrigan

8:30 p.m. The Spirit of Lake Pleasant

10:30 p.m. The Revolution will not be Televised

Sunday, June 21

1:00 p.m. Rosner Car Show

2:00 p.m. Senior Center: Ruth Harcovitz

3:00 p.m. The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion

5:00 p.m. Peoples Harvest I

6:30 p.m. Naturalist Laurie Sanders

7:30 p.m. Physician focus: Eyes

8:30 p.m. Girls Softball SemiFinals 09

9:30 p.m. Allagash 2007

10:00 p.m. Loose Change

Monday, June 22

12:30 p.m. Montague 250th Anniversary Parade

2:30 p.m. Biomass Plant Q&A

5:00 p.m. Seneca Falls

5:30 p.m. Women Girls & HIV:Role Models

6:00 p.m. Wisdom Way Solar Village Documentary

7:00 p.m. Select Board (Live)

9:30 p.m. Why or Why Not Nuclear Power?

Tuesday, June 23

12:30 p.m. Montague Update: Jamie Berger

1:30 p.m. Common People Celtic Harp

3:00 p.m. Chemtrails the Movie

5:30 p.m. Carlos Anderson Gospel Choir Celebration

7:00 p.m. GMRSD (Live)

11:00 p.m. Girls Softball SemiFinals 09

Wednesday, June 24

1:00 p.m. Athol to Orange River

Rat Race 2009

3:00 p.m. ASPCA

4:00 p.m. Art Fest 2007

5:30 p.m. Amanda

7:00 p.m. All About Bats

7:20 p.m. Discovery Center: Northern Bats

8:30 p.m. Downtown on Ice

9:30 p.m. Enjoy the Ride

10:30 p.m. Exploring New Worlds in New England

Thursday, June 25

1:30 p.m. Girls Softball Semi Finals 09

2:30 p.m. The Pat Lawrence Show - Mental Illness

3:30 p.m. Girls Softball Semi Finals 09

4:30 p.m. Franklin County Matters Sheriffs Office

5:30 p.m. Allagash 2007

6:00 p.m. Dancing Princess

7:00 p.m. Select Board 6/22/09

9:00 p.m. Girls Softball Semi Finals 09

11:00 p.m. History of Gill Congregational Church

You can now watch videos uploaded on the MCTV Channel 17 website on your computer! **Biomass Q.& A. at TFHS recorded June 4th 2009 Annual Montague Town Meeting recorded June 6th** Go to the MCTV website and click on VIDEOS www.MontagueTV.org

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



MONDAY, JUNE 22nd
Montague Clean Energy Campaign Raffle Drawing, at the Rendezvous, Turners Falls. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Live music by *Monday Night Session*. Raffle entries available at the event. All donations will be matched in grant funding for the Town of Montague for Clean Energy projects.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 18th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jim Olsen's Rendezvous Ramble* (honky-tonk DJ). 8 p.m., free.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault and Company, blues-based roots music, 8 to 10 p.m.

Coop Concerts, Energy Park, Miles St. Greenfield 6 to 8 p.m. www.coopconcerts.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19th

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Swinging Steaks*, hailing in from Boston, 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zach Holmes & friends Night of MONK & MINGUS*, \$3 cover.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: Josh Levangie, country folk guitar featuring Johnny Cash favorites. 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Naia Kete*. Soulful, R&B-inspired folk. Throughout Naia's debut album her voice flows with a lyrical maturity and precision that conjures images of the great Lauryn Hill or soul diva Erykah Badu, and leaves the listener wide-eyed and ready for action, 8 p.m. \$5 cover. Food & drink available at the Lady Killigrew.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20th

The Leverett co-op's annual fling! 10 to 5 p.m. with an array of local artist and kids activities. Food and free music begins at noon with musical guests: Pitchfork, Jen Tobey (2 p.m.) and Steve Crow Trio (4 p.m.). Join us! Sponsored by the board of directors of the Village Co-op. Leverett Co-op, 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Rd, Leverett. 367-9794.

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Laura Siersma performs music from her new release "Talon of the Blackwater" at 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem on June 28th at 4 p.m. Laura performs with Steve Leicach, percussion Wim Auer, fretless bass Ayumi Hashimoto, cello.

Gurus of Blues, Chicago style blues, 7:30 p.m. Adults, \$10; children twelve and under, free. www.1794meetinghouse.org.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Same Old Blues*. Dennis Shapson and Jon Lawless play ragtime, Piedmont-style country blues inspired by the music of the 1920s and '30s, including Blind Boy Fuller and Mississippi John Hurt. The joyfully melancholy folk-rock of Carrie Ferguson opens. 8 p.m. \$5 cover. Food & drink available at the Lady Killigrew.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *RockitQueer* dance party (xtra special DRAG night!) \$3 cover.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: *Annie Hassett & Friends*, 9-11 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21st

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Refuge Rambles*, ten-minute informal talks on a variety of refuge topics directly related to exhibits. Ramble topics are announced within the museum and are scheduled between 10 a.m. and noon. Info: (413) 863-3221 or at www.greatfallsma.org.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: *Santina King* with *Rick King*. Unique acoustic guitar phrasings, a rich and soulful musical experience. 8 p.m.

Quabbin Valley Pro Musica at 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem, 4 p.m. A program of American music with songs spanning more than 200 years directed by Charles Heffernan. Adults, \$10; children twelve and under, free.

Scandinavian Dance at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Midsummer Solstice Party 3 to 6 p.m. All levels of experience welcome. No partner necessary. \$8. Info at www.montaguescandia.org.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Knit & Craft Night, free juke box, 7 p.m.

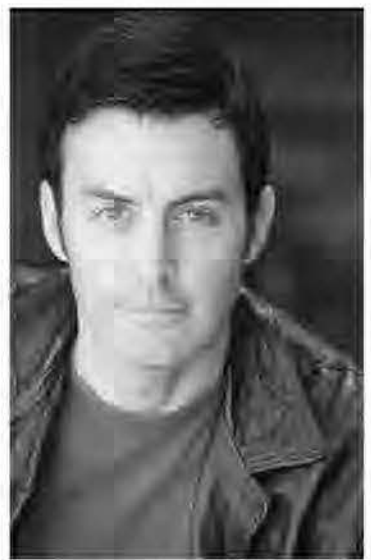
Accessible Birding with Joe, 8 to 10 a.m. 2nd Tuesdays of the month visit local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center. Rain cancels. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, (978) 248-9491.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th

Social Ballroom Lessons every Wednesday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dance till 9 p.m. \$8 per person. Come solo or bring a partner. At the Montague Elks, Turners Falls. June classes: Fox Trot! Info: call Frances (413) 885-8888.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Knitting & Crafts Night, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft/skill level.

Open rehearsal for The Amandla Chorus, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Temple Israel, 27 Pierce Street, Greenfield. Amandla is looking for new members. The open rehearsals are intended to give interested singers the experience of working with current members of Amandla,



Dick Derry performs at Mocha Mayas Coffee House, Shelburne Falls on Friday, June 26th beginning at 8:30 p.m. www.mochamayas.com

which performs songs of justice, hope, and celebration in a variety of languages from around the world. Singers are welcome to attend one or both sessions. Contact: Eveline MacDougall, (413) 773-8655, www.amandlachorus.org

The Great Falls Farmers Market, corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls. 3 to 6 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Montague Phantom Brain Exchange. 9 p.m., \$5 cover.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: comedian, author and hometown boy Jeff Kreisler performs, introducing his new book, *Get Rich Cheating*, 7 p.m. No cover.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Open Mic, all levels. 6-year Anniversary Party. 21+, with host P. Kim on bass. 9 p.m.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, Country and City Blues Guitar with vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Kristen Ford and special guest. \$3 cover.

Mocha Maya's Coffee House, Shelburne Falls: Dick Derry, original pop-rock tunes including Paul Amenta, guitar & backing vocals. 8:30 p.m.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, '50s & '60s Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Evenspeak*, rockers from Orange, back in the house. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27th

Amherst singer/songwriter, Paul Kaplan, performs in Echo Lake Concert Series at the Leverett Town Hall. Opening act: Leverett resident and ARHS student, Bess Hepner. 7:30 p.m. \$8 to \$10.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Naia Kete* \$3 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Whiskey Council*, Alternative Country & Bluegrass, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: John Sheldon & Blue Streak at 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28th

Laura Siersma performs music from her new release *Talon of the Blackwater* at 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem at 4 p.m. Lush music touched by classical, folk, jazz, art-rock and new age, unfolds with piano, cello, fretless bass, fluid guitars, synthesizers and percussion to reveal "souls speaking," says Siersma.

ONGOING

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: John Kudukey, black and white river photographs on display in the Great Hall through June.

On display: Massachusetts *Junior Duck Stamp Art*. Selected pieces of art that won awards in Massachusetts are on display at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol. Open Tues. & Weds, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Until July 2nd**. Teachers and their students are encouraged to participate in the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program, a conservation education program designed to stimulate awareness and personal involvement in waterfowl and wetland conservation for students in grades K-12 through a student art project. Info: www.fws.gov/juniorduck.

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MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
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24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

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2. TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN PG13
TUESDAY AT MIDNIGHT
3. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SMITHSONION PG
DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:00
4. IMAGINE THAT PG
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15 R
6. YEAR ONE PG13 in DTS sound
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7. THE HANGOVER R in DTS sound
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Annie Hassett & Friends
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Zach Holmes & Friends - Night of Monk & Mingus
SAT: 6/20 | 9:30PM | \$3
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Strawberry Season



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – The Beauty Bush and the peonies (except for a few last buds) have come and gone. They were spectacular; their beauty hurried to past bloom by the needed rains which were too heavy for fragile flowers.

In addition, I have lost my Northern Spy. It has rotted at the roots from damp and the heaviness of the limbs. It blossomed beautifully but will not bear apples again. It hangs drooping forlornly, just above the grass. It will need to be cut down, but I can save the logs and dry them. In another year they will bloom flames of red and blue in the woodstove.

I have invested in and installed a second mole and vole chaser. As happens, there has been a temporary increase in tunneling

as the flurry of these critters' activities are interrupted and they churn about, finally deciding to exit the area. In the meantime, I walk about pressing the ground back around plants and in the garden walkways.

Happily, the plants are generally resilient. As long as the voles do not return to keep plundering the sweet tender young roots, the plants will revive and regroup and most often will provide fruits at the end of the season.

The pole beans have leafed out. They will need only the encouragement of a line of string to the pole. Then, like sun-seeking plants, they will twine themselves upwards, creating a thick vine on the poles. The beans will develop, up from the dirt and the soil-borne diseases. They will also be easier to harvest, saving the gardener's back.

The strawberry bed has passed from bloom to fruit. The first red berries have darkened and are ready for picking. What a wonderful, sweet juicy fruit right off the vine for immediate eating! The fruit hangs below the lush

green foliage, just out of the view of the birds. I am finding only a few berries which have been sampled by birds or perhaps more likely the resident chipmunk.

The garlic stalks are producing a curved and winding top or false seed stalk, topped by an umbel enclosing small bulbils or bulblets. Most gardeners agree that these seed stalks should be removed just above the top leaf so as to allow all of the plant's energy to go into the developing bulb underground. The curved tender false stalk or scape can be chopped and used in cooking as you would clove of garlic. It has a milder taste but one that is still unmistakably garlicky.

The honeysuckle vine mixed with multiflora rose is dense on the pole of the washline and stretches down the rope itself. It is highly fragrant and alive with bees. I have been noticing the number of bees this year since we count on them so much to pollinate everything we grow. Reportedly their numbers are down due to disease. I don't see many in the garden, yet the fruits continue to set. So far, the strawberries, blueberries and apricots have set fruit. I have my eyes on the tomatoes, which have many

healthy looking flowers but no fruit buds as of yet.

I found two types of basil at the farmer's market, Thai and Genovese. A friend had recommended the Thai basil as an exceptionally fragrant type, so I bought a six-pack of each to share. The fragrance of these wonderful, edible leaves is mouth-watering in the garden and later as used in cooking. Oddly enough, it doesn't seem to interest either the leaf-feeding insects or the vegetarian rabbits and woodchuck.

I also put in some Russian kale, although I'd have liked to have it in much earlier to thrive in the cool early season. I seem to be behind this year, or too far ahead as I was in planting my tomatoes. It's hard to know what to do as the weather continues to be typical New England: cool and dry, then hot and wet with both flavors interspersed.

It's not too late to put in plants of summer and winter squash and pumpkins if you have the yen. They seem to be thriving with the warm humid weather and the regular rains. This year I am growing acorn and Delicata winter squash for a change. The Delicata is an ovoid white and green striped variety reputed to be sweet,

stringless and readily stored.

The strawberry harvest will yield the shortcakes and the suppers named after them. Be sure to use plenty of strawberries so you can taste the fruit under all of that biscuit and whipped cream. Or try a French glaze pie in order to enjoy pure fruit flavor.

Strawberry Glaze Pie

- 6 cups or so of fresh strawberries
- 1 pie crust
- ¾ to 1 cup of sugar
- 3 Tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 jar of currant jelly

Pre-bake and cool the pie crust. Melt a few tablespoons of jelly in the microwave.

Brush the cooled crust with melted currant jelly to keep the crust crisp. Wash and hull the strawberries. Use a potato masher to juice enough fruit to provide a cup.

Cook the strawberry juice and pulp with the sugar, lemon juice and cornstarch over low heat and then simmer gently until thick.

Fill the pie shell with the rest of the raw fruit.

Cover with the cornstarch mixture and chill until set.

Garnish each slice with a dollop of sour cream lightly sweetened with sugar.

Enjoy!

June Means Turtles Crossing

FROM THE MASS WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER:

June heralds the peak of activity when normally aquatic snapping, painted, spotted, red-bellied, Blanding's, and other turtles leave the relative safety of their water world and venture overland in search of nesting sites. With alarming frequency, these ancient reptiles are cut off from traditional nesting areas by an ever-increasing network of roads, leaving the turtles vulnerable to high rates of road-kill.

Dubbed the "Killing Grid" by herpetologists studying the dilemma, roads take a terrible toll on female turtles, which

normally offset low reproductive success rates with long reproductive life spans. When adult life spans are cut short it limits recruitment of young wild turtles and can ultimately result in the complete loss of local turtle populations. To add to the crisis, roads bring increasing development, which translates into loss of nesting habitat and additional losses of turtles and turtle nests to people and to residential-area predators such as skunks, foxes, and raccoons.

What can an individual or groups do? Citizens can assist turtles attempting to move to and from nesting areas by help-

ing them across roadways. While this act should not be attempted if any human risk is involved, a successful road crossing can make the difference between nesting now and well into the future, versus no nesting at all. Always remember to help a turtle only when it is safe to do so and always move the turtle in the direction it is heading. Do not take the animal to another location or a pond.

Snappers may be safely held by the tail with one hand on the underside of the animal to support their weight, while painted, spotted, and other turtle species can be safely grasped by the sides of the shell. For more useful turtle conservation tips and turtle FAQs, go to:

www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nh_esp/conservation/herps/turtle_tips.htm.

On a landscape scale, large tracts of habitat need to be protected to ensure the viability of Massachusetts' native turtles. The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's (MassWildlife) BioMap and Living Waters Map, both created by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program with funding from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, identify such tracts on a statewide map, creating a "greenprint" for the conservation of biodiversity. State, local, and private conservation agencies and organizations embrace the BioMap and

Living Waters Map to guide habitat protection efforts. The effort to adopt Green Certification standards by state environmental agencies for sustainable forest management also helps to ensure that care is taken to conserve rare species during the planning and implementation of timber sales on state-owned forest lands.

Encounters with rare, state-protected turtles such as box, wood, spotted, red-bellied, bog, or Blanding's should be reported to MassWildlife with photo and map documentation. To report a rare turtle species, visit the MassWildlife website in the Natural Heritage area at www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nh_esp/species_info/report_rare_species.htm.

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