



CONGRATS, BULLDOGS!

Tri-County PeeWee champs

Page 6



Happy 4th of July!

No paper next week.

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 38

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 26, 2008

Native Americans Seek Consultative Status on Mariamante Land

DAVID DETMOLD GILL - Native American tribes are seeking consultative status on the archaeological dig underway at the town-owned property at the corner of West Gill and Main Road. The town of Gill, acting on the right of first refusal on the 12-acre parcel formerly owned by the Mariamante School, purchased the property in the fall of 2004 for \$245,000, and has been paying on the loan since then. The town purchased the property to forstall the construction of a residential subdivision that had been proposed for the site.

In December of 2004, the town held a community 'charette' with over 60 people attending to brainstorm best uses of the land. Light commercial development, a natural history museum, medical offices, or senior housing were some of the suggestions that came out of that meeting.

In November of 2005, a special town meeting approved spending \$15,000 to hire

UMass Archaeological Services to conduct a Phase I archaeological survey of the Mariamante land, as a prudent planning action prior to selling the land for development. Tim Binzen, of UMass Archaeological Services, told the town meeting that the land lay within the Riverside Archaeological District, where a concentration of Native American artifacts dating back 10,000 years has been found, although the Mariamante parcel lies at the northern extremity of the district.

Subsequently, the town has twice issued Requests for Proposals on the property, which have yielded no bidders. The town recently received a \$100,000 grant from the state Interagency Permitting Board to facilitate preliminary design work for the prop-

erty, and to pay for the second phase archaeological survey of the site.

On Monday, Narragansett Indian Tribal Deputy Historic Preservation officer Doug Harris, from Wyoming, RI, attended the selectboard meeting

see NATIVE pg 16

G-M Schools Stand Firm on Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD

On Tuesday, June 24th, by a vote of 8 - 1, the Gill-Montague school committee reaffirmed a \$17,018,078 operating budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1st; Sandy Brown cast the sole opposing vote.

"We can't keep building up and up. Sooner or later, choices will have to be made," Brown said.

But interim superintend-

ent Ken Rocke urged the committee to reaffirm the school budget, at the level that was defeated at town meeting in Montague on Tuesday, June 17th. "I think it is a good action to take, because it makes it clear the school committee stands on its budget," Rocke said.

Now that Montague has defeated the GMRSD's proposed budget for the second time,

the next step in the district's budget making process will be taken at a special district wide meeting, tentatively set for July 30th at the high school. All registered voters of Gill and Montague will be invited to that meeting to vote on the GMRSD budget. If no agreement is reached at that meeting, the towns have until December 1st to come to an agreement with the school committee on an operating budget, or else, by statute, the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will set a budget for the district, which the towns will have to accede to.

In the meantime, the GMRSD will ask the Commissioner of the DESE to set a so-called 'one twelfth budget,' which will be based on last year's operating budget plus a percentage increase, and used to run the district schools on a month by month basis while the budget process continues.

Sheffield Principal Hired

Elizabeth Musgrave has been hired as the new principle of the New Sheffield School. Musgrave has been principal of the Federal Street School in Greenfield for the past two years. Before that, she was the half time curriculum coordinator shared by both Pioneer Regional and Union #38 Schools. Prior to that, she

see SCHOOL pg 12



MarKamusic Comes to Turners

MarKamusic will perform Saturday, June 28th at 8 p.m. in a free concert in Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls.

(Story below.)

El Conjunto MarKamusic Presenta Un Concierto Gratis el 28 de Junio

POR FREDDY CHAPELLIQUEN

TURNERS FALLS - Este Sábado 28 de Junio, celébre el verano al estilo latino con MarKamusic en un concierto gratis en el Parque Peskeomskut. El parque se halla en la Avenida A en el pueblo de Turners Falls. Markamusic es un conjunto latino de gran energía cuya música esta arraigada en la música popular y tradicional de las regiones Andinas sudamericanas, el caribe y Latinoamérica en general.

Turners Falls RiverCulture presenta este concierto al aire libre desde las 6:00 p.m. hasta las 8:00 p.m. y todos están invitados.

MarKamusic es un conjunto musical multinacional de gran energía, cuyo nombre significa "La Música del Pueblo" en el lenguaje Quechua de los habitantes del área Andina Suramericana. Este ensamble ejecuta música latina arraigada profundamente dentro de los géneros folclóricos, populares y tradicionales de

América latina. Las regiones andinas, Caribeñas y suramericanas abarcan zonas y tierras distintas y diversas. Las mesetas estériles barridas por el viento de los altos Andes; las selvas tropicales y místicas del Amazonas; el calor de las islas caribeñas y las costas desérticas bañadas por el Océano Pacífico se hallan todas representadas en la música de este ensamble. América latina es un continente muy variado del cual

see MUSICA pg 10

MarKamusic Tours Latin American Musical Styles

BY FREDDY CHAPELLIQUEN

TURNERS FALLS - This Saturday, June 28th, celebrate summer Latino Style with MarKamusic, in a free concert at the Peskeomskut Park bandshell, on Avenue A. MarKamusic is a danceable Latin music band deeply rooted in the folkloric, popular and traditional genres of Latin America, the Caribbean and South American Andean regions. Turners Falls RiverCulture presents this free outdoor concert Saturday, from 6 -

8 p.m., and everyone is invited!

MarKamusic means "Music of the people" in Andean Quechua, the most widely spoken native language of the Americas, spoken by about 20 million people. Markamusic is also a high-energy, multinational musical ensemble that performs Latin music from regions comprising distinctively different zones and lands. From the wind barren high plateaus of the Andes; the mystical Amazon rain forest, the heat of the Caribbean

islands and the deserted coasts washed by the Pacific Ocean, Latin America spans a whole varied and diverse continent. MarKamusic brings the musical forms of the cultures of these regions in an ever changing, eclectic weave of ancient, modern, aboriginal and pop themes performed on an array of native, western and African influenced instruments. Like their ancestors before them, MarKamusic musicians draw from the well of their unique cultural

see MUSIC pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

We're Still Cute!



Kittens

One week older, and tons of fun! We have lots of young kittens in need of good homes. For more information on adopting these friendly energetic guys and gals as lifelong feline companions, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email levrett@dphvs.org.

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ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Programs

ERVING The Erving Public Library's Summer Reading Program for children and adults is now underway. Visit the library to register and receive your reading log. Reach the goal of five library visits and five books read by August 7th and be entered into a drawing for some great prizes, including Webkinz, an Ipod nano and a \$100 Sandri Gas Card. On Friday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. the library presents the Rainforest Reptile Show. Meet live reptiles from around the world as we "Get Wild about Reading." For more information on all the summer programs, call the library at 423-3348. This family event is free and open to the public.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Wednesdays in Wendell

WENDELL - The Wendell Library will offer the following Wednesday programs this summer:

PARENT/ CHILD PLAY GROUP (0 - 3 year olds). Wednesdays all summer 10-11 a.m. Opportunity for parents to talk and infants to play.

SCIENCE "SCHOOL" with Johanna Fitzgerald (3 - 6 year olds) Wednesdays all summer, 10-11 a.m. Educational stories, activities and crafts focused on the natural world.

WILD ART WITH RUTH O'MARA (7 - 12 year olds) Please pre-register. Wednesdays July 9 & 16; August 13 & 20 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (snack provided). Make exploding volcanoes & other cool crafts with art teacher Ruth O'Mara.

CREATIVE DRAMATICS (6 - 9 year olds) Please pre-register. Wednesdays July 23rd, 30th, August 6th 3 - 4:30 p.m. (snack provided). Theater games, role play and creating characters with Becca Greene-Vanhorn.

MONTAGUE LIBRARIES NEWS

Summer Reading/Bookmobile

MONTAGUE- The Wild Reads at Your Library Summer Reading Program for children is in full swing. Over 150 children and teens have already registered. Children of all ages and teens can register at the Millers Falls, Montague Center and Carnegie Libraries. Tom Ricardi brought his Birds of Prey to the Carnegie Library lawn last week for the official kick off. 155 people attended and enjoyed the owls,

baby kestrel, red tailed hawk, turkey vulture and bald eagle.

MILLERS FALLS- The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System Bookmobile visited the Millers Falls Library last week. Several of the Montague Public Libraries staff selected books, videos and DVDs off the truck, which will be available for borrowing until the next visit in eleven weeks.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- June 30th - July 11th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863- 4500

Monday, 30th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 1st
9 a.m. Walking Club
10 a.m. Brown Bag
Wednesday, 2nd
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 3rd
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 4th
Closed for the 4th of July.
Tickets are on sale for Gill/Montague Senior Picnic at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club.

Picnic on Tuesday July 22. Menu; Hot-Dogs, Hamburg, Home made potato and macaroni salads and homemade baked beans, chips, cookies and melon, iced tea, coffee. Only 100 tickets will be sold.
Monday 7th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday 8th
9 a.m. Walking Club
Wednesday 9th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 10th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 11th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500.

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

FACES & PLACES

Grace Daly, 8, admires a birdbath made by Alpha Stone of Turners, in front of the Avenue A Cafe in Turners Falls. The birdbath is molded in the shape of the footprint of a Dilophosaurus, a 12-foot tall, 12,000 lb. dinosaur known as the "two-crested lizard" who once roamed the Avenue. Dinosaur tracks were first identified in America after they turned up on sidewalk paving stones quarried from Riverside in the 1800s.



DELMOLD PHOTO

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Pre-School Story Hour

Pre-school story hour with Ruth O'Mara is at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. The program takes place on Wednesday mornings at 10:15. Story hour includes reading a few books, snack and a related art project. Upcoming themes

are as follows: July 2nd: Sailboats, July 9th: Bugs, July 16th: Ocean Stories, July 23rd: Camping, and July 30th: Ice Cream Tales. This free program is for families and caregivers. For more info, call the library at 863-3214.

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Wild Reads at the Slate Library

GILL - Lui Collins performed a kick-off party at the Slate Memorial Library on Saturday, June 21st at 10:30 a.m. for the summer reading program: Wild Reads at Your Library.

Refreshments and folk songs stirred young readers' imagination for a summer full of reading. When they register for the Slate Library's summer reading program, each partici-

ant is given a game board that records weekly reading. At the end of the week young readers can visit the library and pick out a prize. Children of any age are invited to participate.

Upcoming Events:
Saturday, June 28th, 10:30 a.m. Wild Animal Applique T-shirts. Bring a t-shirt and your imagination; the library will provide the rest: fabric, transfer paper and embroidery floss. Spend the morning creating a wearable work of art!

Saturday, July 5th 10:30 a.m. Drawing Magical and Mythical Beasts. Come listen to folktales about dragons and spend the morning drawing these fantastic creatures.

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Monday, 30th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 1st
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 2nd
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 3rd
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool
Monday, 7th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 8th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 9th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 10th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool

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



Gill Shorts

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

NEW CURBSIDE COLLECTION COMPANY

The Gill selectboard voted at their June 9th meeting to hire a new contractor to collect solid waste and recycling in town. Beginning July 1st, Alternative Recycling Systems out of Northampton will provide curbside collection for residents in Gill. Regular trash and recycling pickups will remain on Fridays - refuse must be placed curbside by 7:00 a.m.

Holiday scheduling will be a little different than in the past. The pickup day will only change if a holiday falls on a Friday; in which case pickup will move to the following Monday. Since Alternative's first scheduled collection would be on Friday, July 4th (Independence Day), it will instead be on Monday, July 7th. Independence Day will be the only holiday this year that will affect pickup.

Trash stickers are still required and may be purchased for \$2 each at the Gill Mobil Station, Jan's Package Store, Upinngil Farm, or town hall. As is printed on the stickers, maximum bag weight is limited to 35 pounds. Maximum plastic or metal cans are limited to 35 gallons, weight not exceeding 60 pounds. Residents may use one sticker per bag or one per can.

For questions or complaints regarding pickup, residents are encouraged to call Alternative Recycling Systems directly at (413) 587-4005.

Farms and Gardens Tour of Gill June 28th

The Farms and Gardens Tour of Gill will take place Saturday, June 28th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine.

This self-guided tour includes an apiary, arboretum, a

permaculture style market garden and a North American Butterfly Association certified backyard. You will also see farms that raise a variety of livestock, grow fruits and vegetables, produce maple syrup and honey, as well as fresh milk and cheese.

Tickets with maps are \$7 in advance and on the day of the event, and are available at the following locations: in Gill at Jan's Package Store or Songline Emu Farm, Equi's Candies in Turners Falls, World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield, Bernardston Farmers Supply, Savages Market in Deerfield, and Mim's Market in Northfield.

For more information call Kathleen at 863-9288.

Gill Picnic Rescheduled

The Friends of Gill Picnic was rescheduled due to inclement weather to Sunday June 29th from noon to 3 p.m. The Falltown String Band will perform and hayrides will be featured as well as a children's sawdust coin hunt!

Common People Concerts

Free summer concerts are happening on the Gill Town Common at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. (In case of rain, concerts are held upstairs in the Gill Congregational Church.) On July 1st: the Falltown string Band will perform "Don't Be Square..."; on July 8th: Rosemary Caine will perform on her Celtic Harp; on July 15th: the Amandla Chorus will perform "Music From Around the World" and on July 22nd: A Ghost Quartet will perform "Super Smooth Mega Jazz." All concerts are free (but bring change for refreshments). More info? Contact Steve at damons_of_gill@yahoo.com.

Call for Community Artists for Mural

TURNERS FALLS - The Brick House and Montague Parks and Recreation are seeking community artists for a mural project! The project will run from July 1st - 22nd at the Unity Park Field House, Turners Falls

This summer marks an exciting expansion of the Brick House Mural Project, as it moves farther into the community... all the way down to Unity Park on First Street, and as the call goes out for community painters of all ages. The Brick House will be partnering with the Montague Parks and Recreation Department, with the help of director Jon Dobosz, in the creation of its third community mural, which will adorn one and a half of the exterior walls of the Unity Park Field House. Local artist Kerry Kazokas, who facilitated the creation of the first two Brick House murals, has signed on for a third summer and is looking forward to working with residents of all ages on this new project. Work on the mural will begin on July 1st, when Kazokas will meet with the young participants in the Summer Recreation Program for a thematic brainstorming session, which will be followed by a few days of thorough cleaning and base-coat preparation, and then several days of painting. Community work will

continue on the mural through July 22nd. Kazokas will apply any finishing touches and the protective sealer during the first week in August, and a community reception and celebration is planned for Tuesday, August 12th, which will give visitors the opportunity to view the mural and meet the artists who participated in the project. Kazokas will be joined by two assistants, Kelly Pease and Justin Smith, as well as Brick House staffers and community volunteers. The project is open to all ages and no prior experience is required. Anyone who is

interested in participating should contact Karen Stinchfield at 863-9576 or kstinchfield@thebrickhouse-inc.org. Donations of good quality latex exterior and acrylic paints, paintbrushes, rollers and trays, scrub brushes, drop cloths, and buckets are requested, and monetary donations would also be greatly appreciated!

This mural is funded by Art Angels, a donor-informed grant committee, which generously bestowed \$2,500 in support of this project.

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A Man with Plans

BY PATRICIA CROSBY

GILL - One thing that Governor Deval Patrick knows well through personal experience is the power of education to transform people's lives.

As he travels from community center to corporation to school this week to announce the release of recommendations from his Readiness Project -- what he calls "the second phase of Education Reform" -- Patrick opens or closes his speeches with a reference to the power of education in his own life. The Chicago boy who shared a set of bunk beds with his mother and sister, who can't remember ever owning a book as a child, now has a child who has never known want or hunger, has never been without books or challenging educational options, has traveled all over the world, and who graduated from a major university recently with a bright future ahead of her.

"One generation," he will tell

his audience. "That happened in one generation." His story is not a new one, he will go on to say, but America is one of the only places in the world where that story happens again and again.

It took a scholarship to an elite New England prep school to make the change in Patrick's family story, but that doesn't make him any less a believer in the capacity of public education to do the same. He provided the 22 members of his Readiness Project Leadership Council with a vision of what public education in Massachusetts could look like, and he asked them each to meet over a ten-month period with groups of educators, community members, business leaders and others to flesh out that vision. When Leadership Council members came back to him periodically with recommended strategies for making that vision a reality, he listened carefully, embraced some recommendations immediately, questioned some thoughtfully, and proposed enhancements of his own.

Not everyone, including members of the Leadership Council itself, will agree with all of the proposed strategies now laid out in the Governor's Readiness Ten Year "Action Agenda." (<http://devalpatrick.com/readiness.php>). MCAS does not go away in this plan. Differentiated pay for some teachers -- specifically, math and science teachers, and teachers willing to take on challenging assignments to "high-needs" schools -- is proposed. The expansion (or collapsing, see PLANS pg 6



"Six Months to Go!"

JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Closing Doors in Montague

When the doors of Montague Center School closed, the school committee closed more than just a building... much more. The doors closed on a community also. The hearts, dreams, challenges, aspirations, and inspirations of so many who passed through those doors now beat a little more slowly or shine a little less brightly, as they do for so many yet to come who will not know that special place

There are many doors in a

person's life. Doors of your home, your car, your job, and your church, to name a few. For those folks who were lucky enough to attend, teach or work at Montague Center School, when they closed their doors at home and went through the doors at MCS, there was really not much difference. Walking through the doors at Montague Center School was welcoming, nurturing, encouraging, warm, safe and secure: simply a continuance of home and family.

I consider myself and my daughters truly fortunate to have passed through the doors of Montague Center School many, many times before they closed. For those that did not or now will never have the chance to pass through the doors of Montague Center School - because the doors are closed now - they will never know what they have missed. Never!

- Linda Ackerman
Montague Center

Twelve Franklin County Towns Vote to Decommission Vermont Yankee

BY CLAIRE CHANG

GILL - At their annual town meeting Monday, June 23rd, residents of Colrain voted overwhelmingly to become the twelfth Franklin County town to approve a resolution this spring calling for rejection of the Entergy Nuclear Corporation's bid to re-license the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon, Vermont, for an additional 20 years. Eleven other Massachusetts towns that lie within 20 miles of the reactor had already passed similar resolutions at earlier town meetings this spring. They are: Buckland,

Charlemont, Gill, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Shelburne, Warwick, and Wendell. Two towns that border Vernon, Bernardston and Leyden, defeated VY shut down resolutions, by a total of 12 votes.

The 12 towns that supported decommissioning Vermont Yankee also called for "immediate efforts to decontaminate the reactor site, employing current workers at full pay and utilizing the safest and most effective technologies available...and immediate efforts on the part of individuals, businesses, municipalities, and state governments to replace the electricity now provided by the nuclear reactor with a combination of energy conservation and efficiency measures and sustainable sources of power that are safe, renewable, and affordable, and that provide safe jobs at livable wages."

In April, the town of Conway, MA, passed their own version of a Vermont Yankee relicensing resolution, insisting that the vulnerability to sabotage of the high-level radioactive waste stored in Vermont Yankee's spent fuel pool, outside the containment vessel, be considered and addressed "as a necessary condition of finalizing the re-licensing process."

A delegation from the towns that approved these resolutions is planning to meet with Governor Deval Patrick to convey their concerns and to urge the Governor to take strong action on their behalf. This delegation will also request a meeting with Vermont's elected officials in Montpelier, the Vermont state capitol. The Vermont legislature, which must approve the license extension in order for it to go forward, is expected to vote on the matter in early 2009.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/25/08



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

Note to Our Readers

Next week, the *Montague Reporter* will begin printing on our summer schedule, with issues every other week during the months of July and August. There will be no paper next week, July 3rd.

The *Montague Reporter* will print on July 10th, 24th, August 7th and 21st.

Regular weekly publication will resume September 4th.

Have a good summer!

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Montague Reporter

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Catherine Webber Celebrates a Century of Living

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS - What does it feel like to turn 100 years of age?

"Sometimes you feel good about it and sometimes you don't," admitted Catherine Webber of 812 Fairway Avenue, who became a centenarian on Friday, June 20th. But she looks on the bright side. "Being 100 gives me a chance to do a lot of things I want to do with my family. And when I'm with a group of people, and I start talking," she chuckled, "they'll stop talking, turn, and listen to me. I guess I enjoy the attention."

Mrs. Webber shares a lovely home with her granddaughter, Kathryn, and Kathy's husband, Robert Desrosiers, a retired postal service worker. Three years ago, at age 97, Catherine was in a nursing home. Bob and Kathy decided to bring Mrs. Webber to their home, where the newly-minted 100-year-old has flourished.

"It's an honor to have my grandmother here," said Kathy. "She is a rare human being. I love to cook a big dinner every night because Gram is so appreciative. As far as her memory is concerned, every now and then it's my grandmother who has to remind me about something I've forgotten."

Mrs. Webber was honored by a special birthday party at the banquet room of Thomas Memorial Country Club this past Sunday, with great grandchildren and great great grandchildren gathered round. A little lightning storm did nothing to dampen the occasion, even when the lights went out. The birthday party went on without air conditioning, the bar was open, the food was prepared in gas ovens, and candles were lit on the tables. Catherine said, "I didn't have electricity until I was in high school, so it's OK with me!"

Catherine's home contains many photographs and souvenirs of her long life and many relatives. Some remembrances are perched on the crowded mantelpiece. One photograph she treasures in particular is a class picture

in which Catherine appears with her brother John and sisters Ida and Ellen. Catherine was one of eight brothers and sisters. "This picture was taken during my first year of school in Riverside, in Gill, in 1913," she remembered. "I was just five years old."

Early 20th century elementary education was marked by a heavy emphasis on discipline. "When the teacher called students up front," Mrs. Webber said, "we sat on a bench for our lesson. The rest of the students stayed at their desks to study."

Characteristic of the bygone scholastic era were the antiquated writing tools. "We had to learn to write with quill tip pens," Catherine noted. "Everyone had a jar of ink that sat in a little hole on your desk. The ink was messy."

Discipline failed on at least one occasion at the Riverside School. "I remember one boy put one of my classmate's long hair in the ink well. Boy, her mother was really angry."

Catherine's first teacher was Mrs. Whitehead. "She drove her horse and buggy from Bernardston," she recalled. "I remember my favorite subject was math."

"There were no such things as school busses back then," added Catherine. "Everyone walked to school. You know, it really seemed snow banks were higher in those days."

Another of Catherine Webber's prized possessions is her 1925 high school class picture. The portrait shows a beautiful young woman ready to embark on her future after graduating from Turners Falls High School.

"When you went to high school back then," Catherine said, "you had to spend five full years to get your diploma."

Likewise, Catherine treasures memories of her wedding day,



Catherine Webber, center, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday at the Thomas Memorial Country Club. Here she is surrounded by her great and great-great grandchildren, with 100 pink balloons.

On January 20th, 1927, she became the bride of Donald Webber of Montague, a 1925 graduate of Arms Academy. Their marriage lasted more than five decades, ended by Donald's death in the late 1970s. "We paid \$18 a month for rent," Catherine recalled of her early homemaking days.

Scientists debate the secret of longevity, but there is no doubt

one of the reasons for Catherine Webber's length of years is her incredible passion for living. Granted, she has made concessions to a hearing problem, and she does use a walker. Yet, "We try to go to as many Turners Falls High baseball and softball games as possible," granddaughter Kathy said, "and we try to see as many Little League and softball league games as we can."

Catherine's great great granddaughter, Avery Katherine Dodge plays for the Greenfield girls' softball league team. Mrs. Webber was "delighted our softball team won another state championship," two weeks ago. Catherine also loves Chinese food and reading the *Montague Reporter*, according to her granddaughter Kathy.

Indeed, Catherine is an avid reader. Willard Scott's book on enjoying old age is on a stand next to a Jonathan Kellerman novel. The latter is one of her grandmother's favorite writers, Kathy said.

And Mrs. Webber has her political views, too. "The Democratic primary lasted way too long," she said. "What did it cost Abe Lincoln to become president?" Case closed.

Catherine received congratulations and commendations on her milestone birthday from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the Boston Red Sox, Governor Deval Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. Clarissa LeClair of Leverett, who turned 100 in February, called Catherine to wish her a happy 100th.

In all, Catherine Webber has four grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and 14 great great grandchildren. The irrepressible Mrs. Webber commented on her large family, "We have a big enough family to start our own hamlet."

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Vehicles On Fire; Heroin Bust

Tuesday, 6/17

3:10 p.m. Large tree down on Dorsey Road at bike path. Contacted tree warden for removal.

9:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with pursuit of wanted armed suspect for robbery in Winchester, NH.

Wednesday, 6/18

3:00 p.m. Report of runaway juvenile. Lookout issued for same.

Thursday, 6/19

Assisted Northfield police with four wheeler fire on Route 63.

Friday, 6/20

8:45 a.m. Officer to Forest Street address to speak with dog owners regarding barking dog. No one home.

3:02 p.m. Responded to French King bowling alley parking lot for recreation vehicle on fire. Arrived on scene, fire was out. Erving fire department checked same.

7:05 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating motor vehicle after suspension of license.

Saturday, 6/21

12:55 a.m. Medical emergency at River Road address. Assisted Erving fire and ambulance.

10:26 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating motor vehicle after revocation.

1:42 p.m. Loose dog, pit bull, picked up and brought to dog pound.

2:33 p.m. Report of expensive looking bike left in middle of Route 2 and Papermill Road. Gone on arrival.

5:49 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating motor vehicle with a revoked license as a high ticket operator.

9:20 p.m. Assisted Gill police with arrest at Boat Ramp off Route 2.

Sunday, 6/22

12:20 a.m. Welfare check at French King Highway address. Subject located and spoken to, all was well.

8:45 p.m. Assisted Montague police with possible subject with a firearm.

10:56 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with revoked registration, on a public way with no insurance and speeding.

Monday, 6/23

Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating motor vehicle with a suspended license and possession of heroin.

10:10 p.m. Report of vandalism to picnic table at elementary school.

Bulldogs are Tri-County PeeWee Champs

BY CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO

ERVING - In a thrilling June 21st game, the Erving Bulldogs beat a formidable Gill team 3-2 to become the Tri-County PeeWee baseball champions.

This was a remarkable season for Erving. For the first time in 28 years, the Bulldogs posted a perfect record. The road to the championship was not easy. On more than one occasion, the Bulldogs charged back to win in the last few innings. Against Northfield 2, for instance, the Erving team was down 10-2 but rallied to win 13-12. In the Eastern Division playoffs, the Bulldogs topped Vernon for the second consecutive year, advancing to the final match against Gill.

All season long the team played at a high level, going 10-0 in the regular season and



Back row: Coach Marty Garcia, Tristan Soucie, Mason Whiteman, Jordan Meatty, Coach Bud Meatty, Devan Rivera, Coach Lenny Clark, Conner Myren Front Row: Michael Dobias, Jacob Clark, Jacob Dwyer, Kaleb Clark, Amelia Marchand, Gunnar Garcia, Cameron Ellis, Jon LeClaire

outscored their opponents 168-57. The Erving players, who all contributed to such a great season, are Gunnar Garcia 2B/C/P, Jordan Meatty 1B/P, Michael Dobias CF/P, Jacob Clark SS/P, Jon LeClair C/2B/P, Amelia Marchand OF, Devan Rivera 1B/P, Conner Myren C/3B/P, Jacob Dwyer OF, Cameron Ellis OF, Tristan Soucie 3B/OF, Kaleb Clark OF, Mason Whiteman OF, Alex Dudek OF. The coaches are Marty Garcia, Buddy Meatty, and Lenny Clark. The bench coach is Steve Whiteman, and the scorekeeper Beth Rivera.

PLANS from 4 depending on your perspective) of school districts is another hot button idea likely to generate controversy, especially in an area like ours where some may feel we've been penalized rather than rewarded for regionalizing.

But the real lives of working and jobless families and youth are recognized in this plan, as well as the aspirations and

barriers of high-achieving students, and the frustrations of teachers and community members whose attempts to innovate have been stifled in the past.

The Governor listened when some of us insisted that a Career Readiness Counselor needed to be present in every high school and even middle school. Not general guidance counselors

whose hours are too often consumed by scheduling, continuous help with the college application process for a select group, crisis counseling and the like, but real career development counselors who can connect with young people individually, tap into their aspirations, and help them find ways to explore their place in the world outside of

see PLANS page 10

RIVERSIDE REMODELING



DETMOLD PHOTO

Sunday's thunderstorm provided an unanticipated housewarming for new Riverside residents Joanna Frankel and Max Brody, owner of the Night Kitchen in Montague Center. They purchased their home on the corner of Meadow and Grove on Thursday, and began moving in on Friday. On Sunday they were painting inside when a microburst uprooted this giant sugar maple in the back yard and sent it crashing through their deck and kitchen. Good thing they visited the insurance agent earlier in the week!

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Children, Trees Out Of Place

Tuesday, 6/17

9:01 p.m. Assisted with pursuit of armed robbery suspect from Winchester NH.

Wednesday, 6/18

1:15 p.m. Report of children playing on a roof on Walnut Street. Parents spoken to.

8:25 p.m. Assisted Montague police department with large fight on Avenue A

Thursday, 6/19

10:40 a.m. Lookout for possible suicidal subject en route to the French King Bridge. Area checked, subject not located

Friday, 6/20

5:22 p.m. Report of motor vehicle accident on French King Highway.

Saturday, 6/21

2:32 a.m. Report of disturbance at Barton Cove Road campground.

11:15 a.m. Assisted Erving police department

9:12 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

Charged with operating motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, unlawful attaching license plates and unregistered motor vehicle.

Sunday, 6/22

10:15 a.m. Motor vehicle complaint on French King Highway.

1:20 p.m. Report of tree on wires on Center Road

2:19 p.m. Report of tree on wires on Franklin Road

8:50 p.m. Assisted Montague police department on 3rd Street, Turners Falls.

Monday, 6/23

12:01 a.m. 911 hang-up call on West Gill Road, all checked OK.

TFHS Class of '48 Reunion



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

The Turners Falls High School Class of 1948 held their 60th reunion this past weekend. Classmates met at Donald Girard's house under a tent for food and conversation on Saturday afternoon. In the evening, they met for a banquet at the French King Restaurant. A moment of silence honored the 36 members, about a third of the class, who had passed on. A brunch at the restaurant at 10 on Sunday morning concluded the reunion.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Policy Proposed for Use of Public Space

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, the selectboard held a brief meeting in advance of a special two-article town meeting at town hall.

After going over the warrant articles, the board heard from Bill Bembury, chair of the recreation department about a draft policy for special events held at town facilities. The need to create such a policy arose as a result of a proposal by the Erving library trustees to kick off their *Wild Reads* summer reading program with a skydiving event at Veterans Park. That event was later rescheduled to the Turners

Falls airport for July 9th, due to liability concerns the board expressed.

Last week's fundraising benefit concert put on in Veterans Park by Erving resident Cyd Scott also pointed out the absence of a policy governing special events on town property. That concert ran smoothly, and raised the hoped for money to build a wheelchair access ramp for Kaleigh de Mello, a young girl injured in a sledding accident last winter.

The board discussed an employee fuel coop program the town had offered to town

employees in previous years when bidding out heating oil fuel for public buildings. The town has been in the practice of offering a separate request for proposals for town employees, grouped together, to contract for their own home fuel deliveries, generally at a slightly higher price than the town pays, but at a savings from what the employees would otherwise pay as individuals. Concerned that this may not be a proper function of town government, the board directed administrative coordinator Tom Sharp to contact the state's Investigator

General's office to inquire. The state IG's office recommended the town discontinue the process, and the board agreed.

The board was informed by the Franklin Country Solid Waste Management District and its contractor, Metech of Worcester, that some 38,695 pounds of electronic waste - used computer equipment and the like - was picked up from a collection point at the Greenfield transfer station during the week of May 12th, 3,000 pounds of which came from Erving.

The town will meet shortly with engineers from Tighe and Bond and contractors interested in bidding on the \$6.4 million renovation at the Erving wastewater treatment plant for a pre-bid meeting and tour of the

plant. Bids are due July 28th, and will be opened that evening at the selectboard meeting.

The board reappointed Leo Parent, Jr. to the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority board. Linda Downs-Bembury was reappointed to the Franklin Regional Council of Government's planning board, and Tom Sharp to FRCOG's general council.

At 7:30 p.m., the special town meeting was held. In Rich Peabody's absence, Dick Newton was elected moderator; some twenty residents were in attendance. The first item, authorizing \$30,000 in improvements to the well pump house in Erving passed, as did the second article, taking by eminent domain a parcel of landed deeded to the town in the 1970s for an access road to the Erving wastewater treatment plant. The deed had a legal defect, requiring the friendly taking to correct the problem.



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

— William Carlos Williams

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

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

design by Boysen Hodgson

Moral Ambiguities

Bow down
to the cruise missile.
Genuflect
to the stealth bomber.
Summon your dogmatic
God's hateful hand.
Freedom fries
your brain, a toxic
landfill in which
you build another prison.
The paradox of power
enslaves you;
the master is in shackles,
and the slaves gleefully
wrap the chains around their own necks -
self-imposed,
sacred obligations
in a profane,
godless world,
appearing as objective reality
with all the force
of a neurotic delusion.
Violent territorial expansion
is a decadent
fear of annihilation,
primal wounding gone berserk.
Another wargasm
to make you feel
alive, again,
writhing in high-tech lust.
But with each new life
comes a new death,
and the perverse cycle
perpetuates itself...
another petulant,
patriotic squeal;
another truculent ejaculation.
Your virility is morbidly clear,
and necrophilia is your bride.

--Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

Beneath Rain on a Strange Roof

Trees sigh in the halflight,
the summer dusk quickens,

a windy speckling
surges over the floorboards and we

slipping from damasked armchairs
into the future split

the ripe peach from its pit.
Our hands are sticky with juice,

our tongues full of speculation
having urged

the world open like a purse.
On the horizon peace

hangs opulently like a pearl.
Around it the darkness coils

and around that,
a wreath of lightening.

A thunderous burst:
a curtain of rain descends.

Over our heads the sulfurous roses
go clattering by.

--Janet MacFadyen

The editors would like to thank the
following for their generous financial
underwriting of The Poetry Page:

Anonymous, Klondike Sound,
Carlin Barton, Montague Dental
Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin, Harry
Brandt, Green Fields Market,
Michael Farrick, and Michael Muller.

The Cellist

I used to look down at your small hand
To make sure the rest of you was still there
I called you wet noodle
Limp dish rag and such
Your bones swam around in your skin

One day we gave you a cello
And now that hand of yours
Flies up and down the fingerboard
With grace and confident ease

I watch you play and
Think to myself
So that's what a wet noodle is for.....

--Gini Brown
Berkeley, CA

Night Sounds in Mussorie

Sounds expand: night wind rustles the trees,
creatures prowl. Someone on the path below
calls out something unintelligible
to my non-native ears.
On the veranda I sit,
wanting knowledge of this place.
Something rustles in the rhododendron.
The birds caw warnings.
The ice melts in my scotch.

--Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno
Turners Falls

Crazy Horse

*Crazy Horse, with Sitting Bull, successfully led
combined forces of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors
against the United States 7th Cavalry, led by General
George Armstrong Custer at the Little Big Horn,
June 25th, 1876.*

Crazy Horse rode down
From the Powder River,
For he had come to learn
A man could not run forever.
Though his medicine was great,
His people suffered winter,
And the soldiers would pursue him
For his defeat of Custer.
The strange, silent man,
Called Curly as a youngster,
Led his people without speeches,
And before he earned his father's name,
He learned all that "Hump" could teach him.
Upon his head the red hawk's skin,
A blue stone dangled from his hair.
A ragged scar upon his chin,
Reflected his contempt of fear.
Riding at his side was "He Dog" and
"Little Hawk", his brother,
The only one that he could trust,
For "Little Big Man" held his arm
When the bayonet was thrust.
The compound at Fort Robinson
Was crowded with the Long Knives
(in their ranks),
And the Indians of many tribes,
Murmuring of "the strange one",
Who at last walked among them.

Going to Old North New Salem

We used to know where we were,
in Old North New Salem, a hard place to get to
but even harder to leave,

to watch the white church diminish in the rear view mirror,
the knots of people clotting and unclotting,
the drifts of conversation, the lighted windows.

It's hard to say goodbye, and even harder
in Old North New Salem,
where everyone remembers you as a child.

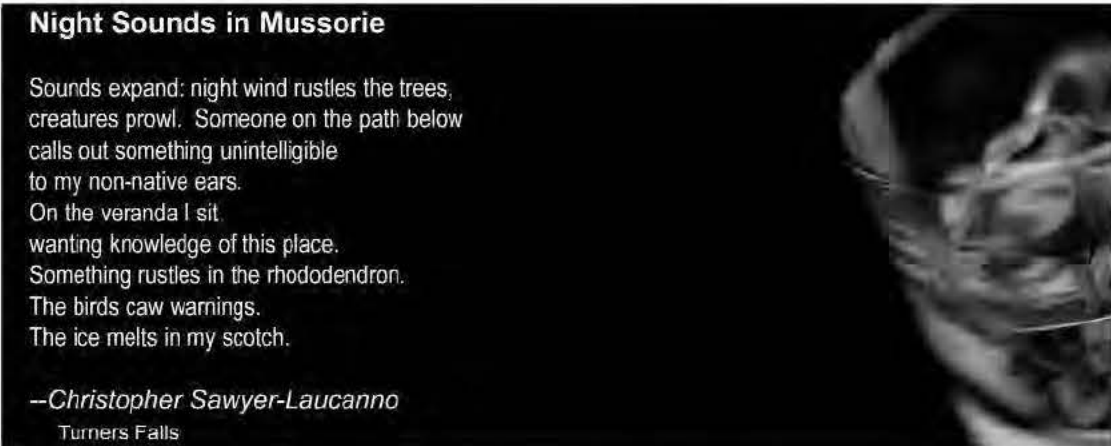
Your blood cries out with belonging
and the cars lining the neighbors' lawns
are all from another time.

We knew we belonged to something larger,
to the towering sunflowers and portulacas,
to the mist rolling around the firehouse,

and the grown-ups suddenly made ghosts
by the heat reflected in their faces,
all the things they never got to.

The pavement ends...a church spire
rises through scraggy pines...
Winter is coming, dig deep, dig hard.

--Janet MacFadyen



He made his lodge far from the fort
And White Beard came to call.
The soldier chief soon saw how
This quiet man might lead them all.
But the altered words of a coward
Would lead to his downfall.
At first he declined White Beard's
Request to chase the hostiles north,
For he had chosen peace
When deciding to come forth.
The soldier promised his tribes a hunt
And he knew the need for meat
To take them through the cold months
That would come upon the Platte.
So he agreed to do this thing
That tasted bitter in his heart,
Or perhaps he had decided then
That he would not come back.
But his word was turned by
The man who spoke between,
Telling the soldier chief he meant,
To "kill the whites instead."
Unaware of the threat
Hidden in translation,
He went to the fort as requested.
Only then did he see the blockhouse
Where he was being led.
Then he was as his name conveys,
Bolting with the scent of danger,
Seeing the trap of white treachery
And the hands of his Cheyenne friend
Clasp his arms; a wound as deep
As the cut from the Bluecoat stranger.

--Doug Turner
New Salem

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Kevin Smith is 51 years old, a Turners Falls
resident, tubist, and therapist as well as poet.

Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno co-edits this
page. This poem is from a work in progress:
Mussorie-Montague Miscellany.

Janet MacFadyen has published widely, and
is author of *In Defense of Stones*
(Heatherstone Press). She was a Fine Arts
Work Center Fellow in Provincetown.

Gini Brown is a Berkeley mom watching life
go by and kids grow up. Some moments feel
like poetry.

Doug Turner is a grandfather writer, house
painter, poet, and a trustee of the New Salem
Library. His poem was inspired by the epic
novel by Mari Sandoz, *Crazy Horse, the
Strange Man of the Oglalas*, a Biography,
Bison Press.

PLANS from 6

school one day. The Governor listened when others told him if there was going to be expanded learning and extended school year time, that ought not to mean more of the same, with children often feeling trapped in classrooms where many are already failing. Expanded learning time needs to mean communities fully-utilized as the learning laboratories they could be, and educators and community members working together as equal partners in enhancing child learning and achievement.

The Governor listened when still others told him their children passed the MCAS, so what's next? Instead of holding them up or -- worse -- getting in their way, there should be postsecondary dual enrollment options, Mass Virtual High School and Mass Online University options, and even International Baccalaureate Degree options.

we told him charter schools may be well-intentioned but they're sapping some good schools in vibrant communities with talented educators and parental support. If innovation is the goal, why can't innovative experiments be supported inside school districts with those educators and parents in the lead? The concept of "Readiness Schools" is the result.

How are we going to pay for it all? The plan obviously can't be implemented all at once, but will happen in incremental stages. A Readiness Finance Commission has been appointed to recommend short-term education investments for the fiscal year 2010 budget; identify systemic costs savings and efficiencies; cost out and identify potential sources of revenue for prioritized Readiness components; and -- most importantly -- outline options for a comprehensive overhaul of the state's education finance system.

Commission's work is based on an assumption that will give many of us cause for hope: that the property tax method of funding schools is inequitable, inadequate, and just plain wrong.

The Readiness Project action agenda may not be perfect. It is far from complete. But it's a plan. More than that, it's a well-informed plan, shaped not just by opinions but by the on-the-ground experience of educational practitioners and community experts from across the state, including a fair representation from often-overlooked Western Mass.*

The plan comes from a man who has shown he knows how to listen. Let's support him now in showing us he also knows how to act.

**Readiness Project Leadership Council members include Mayor Clare Higgins of Northampton; Superintendent Eduardo Carballo of Holyoke Public Schools; MA Teacher of the Year 2008, Mike Flynn of Southampton Public Schools; Henry Thomas, President of the Urban League in Springfield; and the writer of this viewpoint.*

MUSICA from

MarKamusic trae con sensibilidad las formas musicales y el arte conmovedor de sus culturas y países. Una mezcla cambiante y ecléctica de temas antiguos, modernos, aborígenes y populares se realiza con un fascinante arsenal de instrumentos nativos, occidentales y africanos.

Desde 1999, el septeto MarKamusic ha estado realizando su música Latina, Caribeña y Andina ante muchas audiencias multiculturales a través de los Estados Unidos. Desde su inicio como pequeño conjunto de 3 músicos tradicionales suramericanos casi hace una década, el grupo amplió su tamaño a siete miembros incluyendo varios músicos de otros países de las Américas. Desde entonces el repertorio de MarKamusic ha emergido como una combinación de muchos temas: sus propias reinterpretaciones de música Inca y Aymará antigua; de

melodías aborígenes quechuas; de canciones que representan la lucha independentista latinoamericana del siglo XIX; de los tesoros de la música Afro-Suramericana tal como la Música Negroide de Perú, la música Brasileña o la música Candombe de Uruguay; de la música de protesta prohibida en los años 70s y 80s bajo pena de muerte por las juntas militares; y de un puñado de canciones populares latinoamericanas.

La suma de todo esto, es que al final de los conciertos la audiencia termina bailando o participando en una gran fiesta impromptu. MarKamusic adapta sus presentaciones a los intereses educativos de cada audiencia. Variando la longitud de los comentarios informativos que preceden cada número. Un concierto de MarKamusic puede convertirse en un viaje guiado a través de las Américas o un festival despreocupado de placeres musicales.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Disturbance On the Ave

Saturday, 6/14

3:53 a.m. Report of burglar alarm at Thomas Memorial Country Club, Country Club Lane, Turners Falls. Investigated.
6:17 a.m. Report of burglar alarm at an Avenue A address. Services rendered.
7:31 a.m. Report of emergency alarm sounding at a Greenfield Road address. Services rendered.
5:22 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at a Chestnut Hill Loop address, Montague. No police necessary.

Sunday, 6/15

1:54 a.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a J Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with two counts of assault and battery domestic.
3:39 a.m. Report of assault at a Goddard Avenue address, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with assault and battery with dangerous weapon.
3:08 p.m. Report of hit and run accident at Avenue A and Third Street, Turners Falls.

Monday, 6/16

12:31 a.m. Report of general disturbance at Sheffield Elementary School, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

8:53 a.m. Report of accident with personal injury on Third Street, Turners Falls near the former Chick's Garage.

11:50 a.m. Report of larceny at Montague Machine, Rastallis Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.

1:10 p.m. Report of burglar alarm at a Turners Falls Road address, Montague. Investigated.

2:15 p.m. Report of structure fire at a Main Street address, Montague. Referred to other agency.

4:56 p.m. Officer wanted at a Randall Road address, Montague.

6:11 p.m. Officer wanted at a Spring Street address, Turners Falls. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 6/17

4:03 p.m. Officer wanted at a Third Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

7:57 p.m. Officer observed evidence of vandalism between Eleventh and Canal Streets, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

8:29 p.m. Officer wanted at a Third Street address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with disorderly conduct.

Wednesday, 6/18

12:56 a.m. Officer observed suspicious person near bike path and canal, Turners

Falls. Investigated.

3:49 a.m. Report of fraud at an L Street address, Turners Falls.

12:50 p.m. Report of vandalism at Parent Child Center, Central Street, Turners. Investigated.

7:58 p.m. Report of safety hazard in alley behind an Avenue A address. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with disorderly conduct and operating to endanger.

8:29 p.m. Report of fight in front of Turners Falls Pizza, Avenue A, Turners. Peace restored.

9:13 p.m. Officer observed suspicious person in front of Turners Falls Pizza. Services rendered.

Thursday, 6/19
5:34 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Central Street address. Investigated.

11:50 a.m. Report of burglar alarm at a Goddard Street address. Investigated.

5:07 p.m. Report of fraud at a Main Street address, Montague. Services rendered.

8:55 p.m. Report of larceny at a Montague Street address, Turners. Services rendered.

9:52 p.m. Report of gang disturbance at an Avenue A address, Turners. Services rendered.

11:05 p.m. Disorderly conduct at an L Street address. Investigated.

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MUSIC from 1

past: Inca, Taino, Maya, African and Spanish.

MarKamusik's performances carry the audience across a panorama of musical history. The delicate sounds of Quechua and Aymara bamboo flute melodies, echo the wind blowing through the mountains and rain forest noisemakers.

The performance continues with European influenced rhythms and instruments and African polyrhythms, until it reaches the ballads and songs of struggle against authoritarian rule, spanning the period from

the 1830s to the 1970s. The band closes the performance with high-energy modern day inspired numbers.

Since 1999, the seven-piece band has performed its unique 'Pan-Andean World Beat' music before multicultural audiences across the United States. From its conception as a small ensemble of three South American traditional musicians almost a decade ago, the group expanded to seven members, including several musicians from other countries of the Americas. Western-European wind instruments, African influenced instruments, and jazz drums also found their

way into the group's music, complementing the bamboo flutes and diminutive Indian guitars in marvelous, offbeat ways.

Since then, MarKamusik's repertoire has continued to combine many themes: their own reinterpretations of ancient Inca, Aymara and Quechua aboriginal melodies; songs arising from the nineteenth-century South American struggle for independence; the rarely heard treasures and sometimes jarring, sometimes hypnotic Afro-South American music such as the Música Negroide of Peru or the Candombe music from Uruguay; of Latin

folk-rock protest music-banned in the mid 1970s under pain of death by the military juntas; and a handful of favorite Latin-American torch songs and high-energy pop tunes, the kind you might hear blaring out of jukeboxes in small-town luncheonettes and

bars in Bolivia or Venezuela. A MarKamusik performance can indeed be a guided tour of South American musical forms, or a complete carefree festival of musical delights. Come hear for yourself!



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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

Cross Connection Control Program

A cross connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment, a system containing chemicals, or water of questionable quality, and backflow may occur into the drinking water line. Examples of where cross connections may occur are at boilers, air conditioning systems, fire sprinklers, irrigation systems, laboratory equipment, plating trays and chemical vats. If you are an owner of industrial, institutional, or commercial property or a homeowner with a lawn irrigation system you must have your home/facility's plumbing surveyed for cross connection hazards and install proper backflow devices or eliminate cross connections entirely. For more information, contact the Turners Falls Water Department at 863-4542

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 Nancy Holmes

Regular Meetings
 1st Wednesday of the Month 5:30 pm
 At the Fire District 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 <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swareps.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—2007
 July 2008


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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
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 Massachusetts Department
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SCHOOLS

continued from pg 1

served for 20 years as the principle of the independent Walnut Hill School in Natick, a prestigious school for dance. Musgrave will start her new post at Sheffield in July.

Meanwhile, former Sheffield principal Chip Wood said the move of classrooms from Hillcrest and Montague Center is on schedule and going smoothly. By September, Sheffield will hold 285 students from grades 1 through 5. A consultation on reconfiguring the school's play structure to accommodate younger students has taken place; adaptations will be made

in consultation with the PTO. Adjustments will also be made to seating in the cafeteria to allow for younger students; and to the bathrooms.

The school committee approved a contract with Renaissance Builders of Gill for \$47,086 to construct a unisex handicapped accessible bathroom at Sheffield. That work, and installation of \$50,000 worth of new security doors, should take place this summer.

Gill Elementary has 16 students enrolled in the sixth grade for next year, with room for more. A second kindergarten has been added at that school. School choice students are still being welcomed in most grades,

throughout the district.

Sixth grade classroom sizes of 26 and 27 at the Great Falls Middle School have led administrators to consider adding a third sixth grade there, to reduce class sizes. The school committee gave Rocke the go-ahead to hire a new sixth grade teacher, if he considers it necessary, as well as an 8th grade reading specialist and perhaps a half time English language aide for the growing population of English as a Second Language students.

School committee chair Mary Kociela reported on a meeting she attended with the student council where the issues of naming school facilities, and the

continued use of the upper school mascot "Turners Falls Indians" were discussed. The students are in favor of keeping the mascot, with perhaps some superficial changes to the Indian's headdress or appearance: they consider it a mark of pride and a way to honor Native people. Kociela said the students were open to hearing from Native American speakers on the topic of the school mascot.

As for the naming of school facilities, Kociela had encouraged the students to consider alternatives that could honor numerous faculty or alumni. The students held firm on the idea of naming the auditorium after Steve Ciechomski. A policy on naming

school facilities is being worked on by the school committee.



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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.

2007 Water Quality Testing Results Lead & Copper Testing



The Turners Falls source water and the water in the distribution system is lead free. However, some older homes may have lead soldered joints or lead or copper pipes as part of the plumbing. The lead may dissolve into the water while the water is not moving, generally overnight or times when the water is not used for several hours. On August 31, 2007 the TFWWD 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	8/31/04	15 ppb	0	1 ppb	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing, Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	8/31/04	1.3 ppm	1.3	0.0362 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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Monitoring Requirements Not met for Turners Falls Water Department

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During September 2007, we did not monitor or test for perchlorate and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time. The table below lists the contaminant we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for the contaminant and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which a follow-up sample was taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were taken
Perchlorate	One in the month of September 2007	None	September 2007	November 2007

What happened? What is being done? As described in the last column in the table above, a perchlorate sample was collected in November 2007. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection believes that this sample will still detect impacts from blasting if any occurred nearby. Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical used as an oxidizer in solid propellants for rockets, missiles, fireworks and explosives. Perchlorate interferes with the normal function of the thyroid gland and thus has the potential to affect growth and development and could cause brain damage and other adverse effects, particularly in fetuses and infants. For more information, please contact Mike Brown of the Turners Falls Water Department at 413-863-4542 or 226 Millers Falls Road, Montague, MA 01376.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Turners Falls Water Department PWS ID#: 1192000 Date distributed: June 21, 2008

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. My son and his male partner are going to adopt a child. I fear that my grandchild will suffer from the experience of having two fathers and no mother. Are my worries justified?

There have been many studies demonstrating that gay parents (both male and female) are as likely as heterosexual parents to raise well-adjusted children. In addition, children of gay parents

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Gay Parents Raise Well Adjusted Children

have shown no greater incidence of homosexuality.

However, children with homosexual parents often face social pressures; most of these children are able to overcome the problems associated with being in an unconventional family.

Let's define terms. A person attracted to another person of the same sex has a homosexual orientation. Both homosexual men and women can be called gay. Female homosexuals may be called lesbians. To simplify explanations, I'll use gay when referring to both sexes.

Gay parents are becoming more common. An estimated 65,500 adopted children are living with a gay parent in the

United States. However, there are between eight and ten million children in the U.S. being raised by a gay parent. Most gay parents conceived their children in heterosexual marriages.

For many years, it was thought that homosexuality had psychological roots. The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its diagnostic manual more than 30 years ago. Today, there is a lot of evidence suggesting biological causes. Many of the psychological theories have been discredited. And, so far, there are no replicated scientific studies supporting any biological cause for homosexuality.

The most plausible statement I

found - based upon current evidence - was that there are probably many reasons for sexual orientation and those reasons vary from person to person.

Sexual orientation is an emotional or sexual attraction to another person. Sexual orientation is different from sexual behavior because it refers to feelings and self-concept. People may not express their sexual orientation.

Sexual orientation emerges for most people in their early teens prior to sexual experience. It is usually said to range from homosexuality to heterosexuality with different forms of bisexuality in between. However, orientation is a rainbow with colors that

blend into each other, not a box of assorted chocolates.

Asexuality, the state of having no sexual attraction for either sex, has been studied sparingly. There is a Canadian study that estimates there is one asexual for every 100 people.

Some believe that homosexuality is a "lifestyle choice" and that it can be reversed through "conversion therapy." However, there is no published scientific evidence supporting the effectiveness of therapy to change sexual orientation.

In my next column, I'll discuss gay health issues.

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

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Sweet Rewards of the Season

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY - Gardening requires a fair amount of what my mother called 'elbow grease.' But more importantly, it requires a good dose of luck. All the hard work in the world is nothing in the face of a killing frost, a relentless rainy season or a prolonged heat spell at the beginning of the season. Timing is everything, yet certainty is nowhere within the gardener's reach.

Apparently I'm experiencing good gardener's luck this year. True, the flowering shrubs came on too soon to last: the peonies

all in one glorious burst of color like the Fourth of July; the Beauty Bush resplendent for a few glorious days, then drowned by a heavy rain; the delicate Japanese Iris here and then gone.

Now, however, the candy harvest is here. The perfect combination of early, cool temperatures, warm sun and timely moisture has produced a bumper crop of peas and early season strawberries.

These beauties seem especially flavorful this year. The peas, lightly cooked, are a brief crunch and then a sweet, green flavor like no other. The strawberries are fragrantly sweet and juicy. Both are fabulous eaten out of hand, right off the vine with no further embellishment. These short sea-

son crops are best picked at the premium of ripeness: not too done, just right. Eat or freeze immediately to savor their unique late spring flavor: fresh, sweet and indescribably delicious!

Garden peas are like sweet corn, best picked, shucked, cooked and served all within a short period of time. As with corn, the sugar in peas can turn to starch quickly if they are left unpicked or uncooked too long.

Pull the pods when the peas are of medium size, shuck and then steam or cook quickly, just long enough to split the outer layer of the pea. Then serve with a little butter or cream, and enjoy!

Strawberries are wonderful just hulled and eaten right off the vine. Strawberry shortcake is the traditional rendition, with buttermilk biscuits and whipped cream. I prefer my strawberries unmasked for the greatest fruit



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

flavor. However, if you insist on cooking them, try this elegant presentation which holds in the exquisite flavor and embellishes it slightly.

STRAWBERRY GLACE PIE

1 baked pie shell, cooled
 1 quart strawberries, hulled

Cook in a small heavy sauce pan: 1 cup crushed strawberries, 3/4 cup sugar, 3 tablespoons cornstarch, 1 teaspoon lemon juice, 1/2 cup of water.

Stir and cook until thick and the liquid drops off the edge of a spoon in a connected stream

Fill the piecrust with the uncooked berries and cover with the above mixture.

Chill the pie until set.

Serve each slice garnished with a dollop of sour cream.

MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: June 27th-July 3rd

Eagle Cam: DAILY 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. If We have a Signal You will have a Picture	11:30 pm Silly Wizard	10:30 am Wisdom Way Solar Village
Friday, June 27	Sunday, June 29	11:30 am Chronicles: Mass for Raymond & Louise Kervian
8:00 am Special Town Meeting	8:00 am Valley Idol Finals	6:00 pm Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee
11:00 am The Rise & Fall of Lake Hitchcock	10:30 am Wisdom Way Solar Village	7:00 pm GMRSD (6/24/08)
12:00 pm Chronicles: Mass for Raymond & Louise Kervian	11:30 am Three Rights of Spring	11:00 pm Fall Town String Band
6:00 pm Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony 2008	12:30 pm Western Mass Democrat	Wednesday, July 2
6:30 pm Independent Voices 44	6:00 pm Fossil Tracks	8:00 am Amadla
7:00 pm GMRSD (6/24/08)	7:00 pm Fabulous Maurice 2008	9:30 am Bermanke
10:30 pm Coffee House Series: Fern Bork, Dan Timen, Bruce Kahn Trio	8:30 pm MCTV Video Camp	10:30 am Passion & Compassion
11:30 pm Open Mic Night	9:00 pm Softball State Finals 2008	11:30 am Cities and Towns Build our Economic Future
Saturday, June 28	Monday, June 30	12:00 pm Chronicles: Fathers Day Mass
8:00 am Softball State Finals 2008	8:00 am Montague Update: Jamie Berger	6:00 pm Softball State Finals 2008
10:30 am Falls Table: Michaelangelo	9:00 am Naturalist Laurie Sanders	8:30 pm Valley Idol Finals 2008
11:30 am Franklin County Matters: Community Action	9:30 am On the Ridge John Dawicki	11:00 pm Skin N Bonz
12:30 pm Flight	10:30 am Over the Falls: Bridge of Flowers	Thursday, July 3
6:00 pm Chronicles: Mass for Raymond & Louise Kervian	11:30 am Physician Focus: Atrial Fibrillation	8:00 am Songs for Wee People
7:00 pm Softball State Finals 2008	12:00 pm Power Canal Draw Down	9:00 am Special Town Meeting (6/17/08)
9:30 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant	12:30 pm Senior Aerobics	11:30 am Source to Sea
	6:00 pm The Rise & Fall of Lake Hitchcock	6:00 pm The Rise & Fall of Lake Hitchcock
	7:00 pm Select Board (Live)	7:00 pm Select Board (6/30/08)
	10:00 pm Softball State Finals 2008	10:00 pm The Spirit of Lake Pleasant
	Tuesday, July 1	
	8:00 am Softball State Finals	

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JEP'S PLACE Part LXXXIV

Education

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - About the time of the incident of the boy with the real bawth tub, Raymond came into my life. I was sitting in the back

seat of our tan Essex parked in front of a café one Sunday. A boy about my age came out of a door next to the entrance. He stood by a light pole looking at me.

"Hey kid, my name is Raymond; what's your name?"

"Joe."
 "What are you doing sitting in the car?"
 "Waiting for my father."
 "Why don't you get out?"
 "My father won't let me."
 Raymond was dressed in Sunday clothes. He leaned against the pole, looking bored. "Your father won't know if you get out."
 "He will if he catches me."
 Raymond gave up and walked

back to the doorway leading to the upstairs apartment. The next time I saw him was when my parents went to visit them in their new house.
 Raymond's father invited my parents to a picnic at the new house. It had an outdoor fireplace at the edge of woods where they had a cookout, with hot dogs, hamburgers and beer. Everyone had a nice time with spirited conversation and laughter.
 Raymond and I began exploring the many paths in the dense pine woods surrounding the house. We grew to be friends, and I began walking the three or four miles to his house to visit him. On occasion, he came to visit me, but he was petrified of Pa, and would head for home when he saw my father's car coming down the road to our house.
 One day when I cleaned the gutter in the cow barn, Raymond tagged along. A cow raised her tail and spread her hind legs. A huge bowel movement came out,

popping into the gutter. She next produced a cascade of urine, lowered her tail and moved her feet back together. Ray stood observing the scene with keen interest.

"I've never seen a cow do that before." "Trust me, it's nothing new." Raymond studied the cow's rear end. "Aren't you going to wipe her with toilet paper?"

"No. I don't think so. We don't even have toilet paper in the outhouse; just newspaper or pages from the catalog. And, I'm not about to wipe a cow's rear end anyway."

"What is that slime hanging down?"

"Beats me. It just something that oozes out."

"It doesn't look very sanitary."

I shook my head. This city guy has a lot to learn about farming, I thought. I pushed the cow flop down to the end of the gutter and shoveled it out the rear barn door onto the manure pile.

- Continued next issue

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THEATER REVIEW

The House of Blue Leaves

BY SUDI NIMMS NORTHAMPTON - The eighteenth season of New Century Theatre has begun in Theatre 14 of the Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts on Green Street. By default, the focus of this season seems to be about family. Producing director Sam Rush says, "I didn't start out with this aim, but I can't deny that my brain works in odd ways, and if I step back and look at what we're doing, there does seem to be a thread that connects them all somehow."

Rush credits composer Anthony Brandt with saying, "Other things may change us, but we start and end with the family," and this season certainly underlines that with a bang. Rand Foerster directs the season opener, The House of Blue Leaves, by John Guare. Foerster notes that this play, "...is a deeply human jumble of comedy, realistic drama, farce and social commentary. All this is craftily designed to entertain, inform and

engage us in an explosive experience of live theatre."

Guare himself claims The House of Blue Leaves, which was first produced in 1971, is a play about humiliation. "Everyone in the play is constantly being humiliated by their dreams, their loves, their wants, their best parts... and I think avoiding humiliation is the core of tragedy and comedy and probably of our lives."

Director Foerster gives us a look at the historic tableau of the United States in the 1970s: "...we were suffering from a troubled economy, a worldwide monetary crisis with a devaluation of the dollar, a war in Vietnam, and a national debt due to the war running into the billions of dollars, and the Pope had recently visited with an appeal for peace. The American dream was in trouble. Sound familiar?" The dramatic struggles of Artie Shaughnessy and his family and friends, and the uncanny resemblance of past

history to present reality grabs the audience from the first scene and won't let go.

In the program notes we learn that playwright Guare, who wrote his first play at the age of eleven, "became dissatisfied with traditional kitchen-sink dramas in which everything was 'real' right down to the kitchen sink. He yearned for a theatre that would proclaim inner truth rather than surface reality."

The House of Blue Leaves grabbed its audience of the time, too: It won both an Obie and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for the Best American Play of 1970-71, and received four Tony Awards during its 1986 revival. Guare is also the author of Four Baboons Adoring the Sun, which was produced at the Lincoln Center Theater in 1992 and was nominated for four Tony Awards and Six Degrees of Separation, which received the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1990 and Olivier Best Play Award in 1993.

Sam Rush's portrayal of Artie Shaughnessy is dead-on. As the New York husband of a schizophrenic wife, known only

as 'Bananas,' the father of an AWOL son with devious plans, and a keeper at the Bronx Zoo awaiting the birth of a diversity of animals, he's a busy man. Add to that his frustration of not being able to write songs - his first love - and dreading the impending loss of his youth, Artie exclaims, "I'm too old to be a young talent!" He desperately wants to escape his wife and run away to Hollywood to sell his music with his girlfriend, Bunny Flingus.

The play opens the day the Pope is visiting New York. Guare, as was his goal, has expertly interwoven the tragicomedy of everyday life into the drama - which can be extraordinary - as is the time we spend in the Shaughnessy's cold apartment in 1965 Queens. Rush gives us Artie in flying colors: the love he had for his "lost" wife, his dream to write music fulltime, his desire to marry Bunny and fly off to California, and the desperation of watching life slip away from him.

The supporting cast is top-flight. We have a love/hate relationship with Lisa Abend as Bunny Flingus, we feel for LisaRowe-Beddo as Bananas

Shaughnessy, we cry for and cringe at Justin Fuller as AWOL Ronnie Shaughnessy, and we wonder at the lifestyle of Brian Smith as Artie's long-time friend, Billy Einhorn. The added element of passive/ aggressive nuns amid tragedy and slapstick brings the full array of feelings to this production.

The House of Blue Leaves will have you laugh until you cry - and back again. The play runs through the 28th of June, so hurry and go see it.

Next in the season are: Well by Lisa Kron, July 3rd - 12th; Rabbit Hole by David Lindsay-Abaire, July 17th - 26th; and Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesserling, July 31st - August 9th.

For the kids, there is Paintbox Theater, featuring three shows this summer: The Princess and the Pea, July 9th - 12th; The Great Race of the Tortoise and the Hare, July 23rd - 26th; and Aladdin, August 6th - 9th.

For more information and reservations, please log onto www.newcenturytheatre.org or call the Box Office at (413) 585-3220.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 27th
Rainforest Reptile Show at the Erving Public Library, 6:30 p.m. Live alligators, turtles and snakes from the rainforests of the world. Info: ervinglibrary@netscape.net or (413) 423-3348.

Potluck at 8 Main St., Montague Center, in the barn. 6 to 8 p.m. with puppet show and musicians at 7 p.m. Info: Karen Werner 367 2858.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Blame it on Tina** - Enjoy the great local talent of Tina Horn, Bob Rosser, Jen Spingla, and John "Klondike" Koehler. Country and City Blues guitar with vocals., 8 to 10 p.m..

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Dance or Die!, 9:30 p.m., \$5 cover.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH & 28TH
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: The Cocanuts. Hilarious Marx Brothers mayhem! 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28th
Great Falls Geowalk. Turners Falls lies amidst some of the most interesting geology of Western Massachusetts. Join DCR park interpreter and geologist Steve Winters for a leisurely 90-minute stroll back in time to rocks that formed in the Mesozoic Era — about 200 million years ago. 1 p.m. Discovery Center lobby. (413) 863-3221 or visit www.greatfallsma.org, free.

The Farms and Gardens Tour of Gill,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Self-guided tour includes apary, arboretum, permaculture style market garden and a north American Butterfly Association certified backyard. Tickets & maps, \$7 at Jan's Package Store, Songline Emu Farm, Gill, Equi's, Turners Falls, World Eye Book Shop, Greenfield, Bernardston Farmers Supply, Savages Market, Deerfield, Mim's Market, Northfield.

Summer, Latin Style! MarKamusic performs in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, 6 - 8 p.m, free! www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Eric Love** - Singer Songwriter. Covers from the 60's & 70's, 9 to 11 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: The Epics, Honky, Thumbelina & Skinnyman, 9:30 p.m., \$3 cover.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 28th & 29th
Farm and Garden Tour: Presented by the Franklin Area Land Trust. A self-guided tour of private gardens, working farms and secret places in the Western Massachusetts towns of Ashfield, Plainfield and Hawley. A complete tour guide, with a detailed map, is provided to participants. Tickets are \$20 for one or both days. Call (413) 625-9152 x 8.

UNTIL JUNE 29th
Volunteer Students from Hallmark Institute of Photography: Annual Spring Exhibit & Benefit Print Sale to support humanitarian work of Doctors Without Borders. Hallmark Gallery, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th
Quabbin Valley Pro Musica, resident chorus of the 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem, performs its Spring con-



Leonard Ragonzeos work, part of the 16th Annual Rock River Studio Tour, just a few miles north of Brattleboro on Saturday and Sunday, July 19th and 20th. The self-guided tour begins in picturesque South Newfane, Vermont. Maps to individual artists' studios available at the Old Schoolhouse. The tour features a number of world-class artists hand-picked through a jurying process - all very high-quality work - as well as a drive through one of the most beautiful places in the country. For a sampling of work, www.rockriverartists.com.

cert, 4 p.m. at the Meetinghouse.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Family Dance, 4 to 7 p.m. Le Cabaret de Rende Voo open mic, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 1st
Common People Concerts, Gill Common, 7 p.m. **Falltown String Band**. Refreshments, continues each Tuesday thru the summer.

Greenfield Energy Park: Greenfield Military Band Concert performing Broadway hits and pops. 7 to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2nd
Great Falls Farmers Market, rain or shine, 2nd St. and Ave A, Turners Falls. Fresh farm products in season. 3 to 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 3rd
COOP Concerts 2008 Summer Series! Featuring Roland LaPierre, Michael Orlen, and The Ambiguities'. Bring your blankets, chairs, picnic and spend an enjoyable evening of music at Greenfield Energy Park. 6 to 8 p.m. Free.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Open Mic, all levels wanted. Hosted by Peter Kim & Jimmy Arnold. 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., no cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **The Relics** - All the tunes that you loved in the 50's and 60's, 8 to 10 p.m..

FRIDAY, JULY 4th
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Green Thumb**

Brothers - Simon White, Arron Cox, Gabe & Jake Martinelli and company will wow you with their smooth Reggae style, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 5th
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Deja Jazz** - all jazz, all night!, 9 to 11 p.m..

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: TBA, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 6th
Greenfield Energy Park: **Sundays in the Park**: featuring Erin McKeown, guitar. Naia Kete opens. Donation \$5-\$10. 6 p.m.

Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: Autonomous Battleship Collective Presents: Sharron Kraus (from the UK) & United Bible Studies (from Ireland) Shows begin around 8 p.m. Food, beer, wine and love available at The Lady Killigrew.

JULY 7th TO AUGUST 15th
Theater Workshops for Children: Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Amherst is taking applications for summer theater workshops for children ages 5 - 17 yrs. Info. (413) 788-4750 or www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

TUESDAY, JULY 8th
Common People Concerts, Gill Common, 7 p.m. **Rosemary Caine**: Celtic Harp. Refreshments, continues each Tuesday thru the summer.

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH
Great Falls Coffee House: Fall Town String Band and Rust Knuckle Raptor. Fun and old-time music. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. concert begins at 7 p.m., Museum is open during intermission, homemade baked goods available, sliding scale suggested donation of \$6 - \$12. Accessible facilities. For more information, call (413) 863-3221 or visit www.greatfallsma.org

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, JULY 11th TO 13th, 18th TO 20th
At The Shea Theatre: The Country Players present **Oklahoma!** Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. \$12/\$10 tickets. More info www.countryplayers.org

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH
Tines & Tunes: A family-friendly day in Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls to benefit the Shea. Free admission, live

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THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
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4. **GET SMART** PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:20
5. **KUNG FU PANDA** PG DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40
5. **INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL** DAILY 9:20 PG13
6. **WALL-E** G in dts sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30
7. **WANTED** R in dts sound DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30

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NATIVE from page 1

with local historian Howard Clark of Greenfield to express their concerns about the archaeological survey.

Clark brought up a distinctive burial that had been uncovered on a farmer's field in 1881, where twelve sets of human remains were found interred in a circle, like the spokes of a wheel, with their heads outward and their feet towards the hub. This burial, described in George Sheldon's *History of Deerfield, Volume I* (1895), was discovered by a farmer named T. M. Stoughton and his son in an area at the top of the hill and across from the Gill cemetery, Clark said. He maintained that the area where these remains were disinterred is the same field presently being studied by UMass Archaeological Services for Gill.

"It's a rich site," said Clark. "People have picked it over for years." He said the Mariamante parcel was formerly known as the Conway property, and the archaeological record for that property details numerous findings of Native artifacts. "They refer to it as an artifact mine," Clark said.

Selectboard member Anne Banash said the Mariamante land had been plowed for years.

Clark said burials were apt to be located below the level of the plow zone. He also said the Phase I study would have only examined 1% of the site, while Phase II will examine 5%. "It's a real shot in the dark," he said. "You're going to need an expert on site when you start moving soil."

Harris, arriving late to the meeting after driving through thunderstorms from Rhode Island, said, "We have some very serious concerns about the area where the spokes burial may have come from. We'd like to make sure there are no flaws in the study the archaeologist has done."

Speaking of the ancient spokes burial, Harris said the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead Aquinnah, who wrote to the Gill selectboard separately about the site, and the Narragansetts would like to know, "Where are the

remains currently? What plans are there for moving the remains and possibly putting them back near where they came from?"

Harris said there is a tendency for modern day governmental bodies to say, "That's somebody else's problem. It's a shame they did that." But he said, "In our Indian tradition, spirit is, and doing right by spirit is good for the people who lived here once, and for the people who live here now."

Banash replied, "We went and got this grant to see if there was something there. We need to sell this land. If there is truly something there, then we want to see it is protected. The town cannot afford to make the land recreational property."

Harris responded, "If it is found that the spokes burial is in that site, then we should all be seeking for a preservation source that can help to preserve that site for the beautification of the area.... We want to work with you to make sure it is preserved in the proper way."

Banash said, "When we passed this [warrant authorizing the initial survey] we knew this was a sensitive area. We don't want to disturb anything if there's something significant there. On the other hand, we need to do something with this land. We're not a wealthy town." She said the town would speak with the UMass team to discuss the scope of work on the archaeological survey, and whether a consultative status for the Native tribes would be possible.

The following day, Harris said he spoke with UMass Archaeological Services team members on site about consulting on the status of the dig.

On Wednesday, Binzen said, "We are in consultation with the Native American tribes. It's important to consult with and respect the opinions of tribes and other interested parties."

He said based on the written record, there is no way to determine whether the spokes burial referred to in the *History of Deerfield* was located on the Mariamante property or not. "It



Tim Barker of UMass Archaeological Services marks off a grid on the Mariamante property in Gill.

was definitely nearby," he said.

The Phase II survey is focused on areas where Native American artifacts were discovered in some density during the December 2005 preliminary survey of the land, Binzen said.

Clearing Storm Debris

Highway superintendent Mick LaClaire dropped by after a busy day and a half of nonstop chainsaw work clearing downed limbs and trees blocking roads throughout town to get the selectboard's permission to put down an immediate bid on a new dump truck, following the town's 69 - 60 approval of the \$135,000 debt exclusion override for the purchase on June 17th.

Ray Purrington has proposed a 'name the truck' contest, a suggestion the selectboard looked favorably on.

LaClaire cut short his vacation on Sunday when reports of severe weather moving towards Gill came over his radio. His crew of two was already short-handed, with Eddie Ambo out with a broken arm. Ambo was back to light duty work on Monday, just in time for the next series of storms to blow through.

"On Monday, I had six messages before 9 a.m., five more by lunch, and three more while I was retrieving the messages," LaClaire said. He cleared a maple down on power lines in front of Cliff Hatch and Patricia Crosby's home on Center Road, big limbs in the road by NMH, on Barney Hale Road, Mountain Road, and removed another maple from Main Road in front

of Dick French's house. The day before, a silver maple, a variety known as a "home wrecker" because of their shallow root systems, had blown down on the kitchen of a house on the corner of Meadow and Walnut Street. The house had just been purchased on Thursday; the young couple moved in on Friday and began painting; the tree blew down and wrecked their deck, garage and kitchen on Sunday.

The town has received some positive indications from Northfield Mount Hermon regarding the school's willingness to pay for a new \$450,000 fire truck for the Gill fire department. The school is interested in arranging a 15-year payment plan; the town may have to search for a bank willing to make a 15-year loan. Board chair Nancy Griswold said she did not think that would be a problem. "I don't see NMH going under any time soon," she said.

Banash added, "We keep our fire trucks for 30 years. It isn't like buying a highway truck."

"Although we keep those for 19 years," Griswold added.

Boyle Land

Board member Lee Stevens asked administrative assistant Tracy Rogers to look into the legal status of a two or three acre plot of land up the road from town hall, on the corner of Center Road and Lyons Hill Road. The field was deeded to the town in 1935, apparently, by William Boyle, and placed under the "custody and control" of the Gill school department, back in the

days before regionalization did away with the Gill school department.

Sign Policy

The board unanimously approved a policy governing the placement of signs on town property. Signs on town property will be restricted to "individuals and organizations advertising social, recreational, or civic events, or fundraisers conducted on behalf of non-profit organizations," and must conform to a number of other size and locational regulations.

The town is in negotiations with a contractor to conduct energy audits of the four municipal buildings. Once the so-called ESCo audits are complete, the town may choose to enter into a further contract with the contractor to perform energy saving modifications to the buildings; the work to be paid for out of the money saved by the town on utility bills over a period of time.

"Some of the windows in the Riverside Building have been there since I went to school there. And that was quite a few years ago," said Stevens.

The town's new waste and recycling contractor, Alternative Recycling Systems of Leeds, will begin its tour of duty in Gill on Monday, July 7th. Normally, pick up will be on Fridays, but it so happens that on the first week of the new contract, Friday is the Fourth of July, so pick-up will be the following Monday. The contract is for \$58,000 for the first year, with an escalator clause for the second year.

After hearing from two candidates for the open position on the town's board of assessors, the board, acting on the recommendation of assessor Peter Conway, voted unanimously to appoint Ray Purrington of Atherton Road. Paul Nowill was thanked for his interest in the job.

Workers at town hall will move to a four-day work week, with longer shifts Monday through Thursday, as an energy saving measure for the duration of the summer. The new schedule at town hall begins next week. With Friday being a national holiday, it should be easy to get accustomed to.

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