



STREETSCAPE

Making the Avenue Bloom!

Page 2



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

No paper next week

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YEAR 9 - NO. 39

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 30, 2011

Leverett Receives \$40,000 High Speed Access Planning Grant

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The call came after the selectboard had all but wrapped up their agenda for the night, reporters had all gone home and they could just relax.

Who would be calling town hall at 9:30 p.m. on a Tuesday but Jason Whittet, deputy director of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, with the good news that Leverett had been awarded a \$40,000 planning grant from the MBI, to study the feasibility of the town implementing a last mile fiber optic cable system for high speed internet access.

This was more than just a vote of confidence from the state agency charged with bringing high speed access to underserved communities throughout the five central and western counties of Massachusetts. The MBI is the agency that is working to meet Leverett and other local hilltowns halfway - with the middle mile cable that will finally connect these towns to the digital superhighway.

With this grant, Leverett will have the funds to plan how best to hook up the 650 households in

town - all of them that want such service - to that middle mile cable once it arrives.

"We're excited," said selectboard member Peter d'Errico, who spearheaded the grant application. "It means we can take the next step. These are all steps along the path."

MBI placed an additional request for \$10,000 for Leverett to set up connection end points for cable delivery "on hold for now," d'Errico said, until certain financial and technical questions can be resolved through the planning grant.

This year, Leverett town meeting voted twice in favor of utilizing a century old state statute to set up a municipal light department. This law has recently been amended to allow towns to use the same legislation to build and operate fiber optic cable networks for their residents.

Several dozen towns in Western and Central Massachusetts are planning to band together in a municipal cooperative called Wired West to seek financing to bring high speed internet to their residents. **see GRANT page 6**

Remembering the Grand Trunk Hotel



Marty Yarmac grew up in the Grand Trunk Hotel, which used to stand on the corner of 2nd and Avenue A.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Looming like a phantom over the broad expanse of Avenue A as it approaches the reconstruction of the Gill-Montague Bridge is the

shadow of the one building that will never join in the revitalization of downtown Turners Falls.

The Crocker Bank, nearly destroyed by an arson fire in 1997, has been meticulously

restored and returned to life. So, too, has the former machine shop of the Montague Paper Mill, now the centerpiece Great Falls Discovery Center. But in

see HOTEL page 8

Water through the Dam



The square opening in the North Leverett dam once held a power wheel for a blacksmith shop on the south bank of the Sawmill. Last week, this side of the dam was breached after heavy rains, and is now in need of emergency repair.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett selectboard declared that a breach in the six-foot wood crib end of a concrete and stone dam at the North Leverett sawmill owned by the Curley family at the intersection of North Leverett and Cave Hill Road, is an "emergency situation" on Tuesday, June 28th. The board instructed town departments to do whatever is necessary to repair the dam as quickly as possible.

"We need to take action," said selectboard member Peter

d'Errico, who said the fire pond above the dam is an essential element of the town fire department's resources for fighting fires, and the bridge abutments on the Cave Hill Road bridge could be affected by alterations in the riverbed.

There is no threat to downstream abutters, since the mill pond has now been drained. Instead, the board made it clear they consider the emergency situation to derive from the loss of

see DAM page 13

Adams Hired as Gill Elementary Principal

BY DAVID DETMOLD - In a meeting that looked both forward - with new school administrators at every level - and backwards - with an eloquent farewell from departing Montague Elementary School principal Elizabeth Musgrave - the Gill-Montague school committee marked the end of another school year with a new interim superintendent at the helm, and an effort toward self-evaluation within the committee.

Newly hired interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom demonstrated a calm and positive demeanor as she gave her report to the committee on June 28th, announcing first off that she had hired Kathleen Adams, the present director of the private Mountain Road elementary school in New Lebanon, NY, to be the new principal of Gill Elementary School.

"I hired her this afternoon," Ekstrom told the committee on Tuesday. "I think you'll all enjoy her. She has early education background and knowledge. She has an international educational understanding."

Jen Waldron, who served on

the hiring committee for Adams, said the new principal is, "well traveled; she taught in different countries. She's amazing."

The Mountain Road School's website states that Adams is "inspired by the educators in Reggio Emilia, Italy which hold the view of children as powerful, capable and competent. [She]

brings a wealth of knowledge in early childhood and elementary education, a background in professional development, and a leadership in progressive education to Mountain Road School."

According to the website, Adams holds a Bachelor's Degree in Art from Bucknell



Kathleen Adams is the new principal of Gill Elementary

University and a Master's Degree in Elementary and Museum Education from the Bank Street College of Education. She holds certifications in both elementary and art education.

Ekstrom said she was on the **see ADAMS page 3**

PET OF THE WEEK

Himalayan



Angelina

Hi, my name is Angelina and I'm a three-year-old female Himalayan cat in need of a good home. I'm indoor only and I've lived with other cats. I tend to be a little shy at first. I did live with dogs but I was afraid of them, so I'd do best without them. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

Two Talks for Adults and Young Adults

- Monday, July 11th – Peace Corps volunteer Robin Sarafonn talks about her days in Paraguay.
- Monday, July 25th – Brad Peters & Jan Ross talk about the Civil War and share their collection of artifacts to view.

The Erving Public library is located on Route 63 just south of

Route 2. Library hours are Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., and Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 For more info, call the library at (413) 423-3348. See us on Facebook, or email ervinglibrary@netscape.net.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Great Falls Creative Movement

Using basic creative movement principals, this class will engage the imagination through storytelling and elementary dance technique in a nurturing, creative and fun environment. A great class for boys and girls ages 4 - 7 who love to move. Mondays, 4:00-5:00 p.m., July 11th - August 1st (a four part series); pre-registration required. For more info and to pre-register contact the Wendell Free Library or Anna Hendricks at (413) 863-2122 or studio.movement@gmail.com. For more on Great Falls Creative Movement visit www.greatfallscreative-movement.wordpress.com.

Nature Notes:

- Athol Bird & Nature Club
 Tuesday, July 13th, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. *Accessible Birding with Joe*. Open to birders of all abilities, led by Athol Bird & Nature Club's Joe Superchi. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Call for wheelchair van, (978) 248-9491.
- Sunday, July 17th, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Twelfth Annual Garden Tour*. The gardens of Petersham, organized by the Athol Bird & Nature Club. Tickets (\$5/person or \$15/carload) available at Bruce's Browser and Agway in Athol, and at Noel's Nursery and North Quabbin Woods in Orange. Day-of tickets available on Petersham Common. Event benefits the Millers River

Harry Potter Marathon

Free movies at the Wendell Library Cinema! Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 will open in major cinemas on July 15th. Here's your chance to revisit all the films leading up to this grand finale. Saturday July 9th, 5 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone; 7:30 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Sunday July 10th, 3 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban; 5:30 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire; 8 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. Monday July 11th, 5 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince; 7:30 p.m.: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Hours

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is now closed on Saturdays until after Labor Day. We are open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 1:00 - 8:00; Thursday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; and Friday 10:00 - 5:00 p.m. The library will be closed on Monday, July 4th.

Environmental Center. Presented with help from the North Quabbin Garden Club.
 • Great Falls Discovery Center
 Saturday, July 2nd, *Artist Reception* from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Join us for a reception recognizing this month's featured artist, Norm Vexler, in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center. Norm

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – July 4th - 8th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter.
 • **Reservations are still being taken for our July 24th trip to Warren's Lobster House and the Broadway musical Hairspray.**
 • **Tickets for the COA summer picnic on July 26th are available now at the Senior Center for \$6.00.** For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.
Monday, July 4th
 Senior Center closed
Tuesday, July 5th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group
Wednesday, July 6th
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics
 12:00 Lunch
 TRIAD Picnic
 12:45 Bingo
Thursday, July 7th
 10:30 a.m. to noon Brown Bag
 1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, July 8th
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.
Monday, July 4th
 Senior Center closed



Volunteers like Sita Lang have been busy carrying water to the planters on Avenue A this year, as the town works to make running water once again available for the downtown gardeners. Most of the planters have sponsors – but more help is always needed to make the downtown bloom. Call 863-2730 if you'd like to help.

Historic Bridge Facts

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

- Beneath the Gill-Montague Bridge a dam of some 1000 feet in length with a 30-foot fall impounds the Connecticut River. This lacustrine impoundment reaches nearly a half-mile south-east to the Narrows.
- This particular dam was preceded by a quartet of other dams built for various reasons.
- The first was built by Captain Elisha Mack of Montague for the Proprietors of the Upper Locks and Canals, and its crib construction was completed in 1793.
- On February 10th, 1824, flood waters swept away the rock and timber cribbing of Captain Mack's dam. That year a second crib dam was promptly built. A Lieutenant Hale was the engineer and Sol Caswell of Montague was the construction foreman.
- The year 1867 saw the founding of Turners Falls as a community, with rapid industrial expansion to follow. A substantially constructed, stone-filled, timber crib dam remained until 1912.
- The necessity of additional power facilities brought another dam, which was built by the Turners Falls Company. This was the first concrete dam, with sluice gates that could be controlled from the canal gatehouse.
- The dam that now stands in the shadow of the Gill-Montague Bridge replaced the entire concrete dam on the Gill side. The three Taintor Gates there allow for substantially more water to be released during spring freshets. The Turners Falls side remained but was enhanced with the addition of the four Bascule Gates that control the water's flow to the south. This major project was begun in the late 1960s and completed in the early 1970s.

More bridge facts next week!

Vexler, a resident of Amherst, has been involved with underwater photography for the past 20 years. His extensive travels have taken him to some of the most remote and beautiful locations on the planet including Micronesia, Australia, Papua New Guinea,

The Solomon Islands, Fiji, Indonesia and Thailand. His love for the ocean is reflected in his art as a photographer and his images capture the essence of the incredible natural beauty found in the underwater environment. Light refreshments served.

Saturday, July 9th, 2011 Second Saturday Children's Series from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The second Saturday Children's Series is a great way to explore pieces of nature. This time, we'll look at petals and thistles. Test your matching skills and learn something new about the wild plants we live with.

Tuesday, July 5th
 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
 10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
 12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, July 6th
 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic
Thursday, July 7th
 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Foot Clinic
 8:45 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, July 8th
 9:00 a.m. Bowling
 11:30 a.m. Lunch – Call the center for details.
LEVERETT Senior Activities
 • Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
 • Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12:00. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
 • For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, extension 5 or coa@leverett.ma.us.
WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Come one, Come All to Greenfield's Annual Independence celebration and fireworks on Saturday, July 2nd. There's a great line-up of events and vendors at both Beacon Field and the Middle School field in Greenfield. Activities begin at 4:30 p.m. with fireworks starting at 9:30 p.m.; the rain date will be Sunday, July 3rd.

Green River House and Quabbin House are hosting an art and music festival and are accepting applications from local art and crafts vendors. Creative Souls Art & Music Festival will be held Saturday, August 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Energy Park in Greenfield. There is no vendor fee. For more info, please call Danielle Barron, 772-2181, ext. 207.

Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center present "Same Old Blues" on Friday, July 8th, starting at 7:00 p.m. The Friends host local bands, singers, and

musicians in the Great Hall on the second Friday of each month. Refreshments are available and the museum and museum store open at intermission. Contributions are accepted at the door.

Same Old Blues, features Dennis Shapson, Jon Lawless, and Alan Kurtz playing 20s and 30s acoustic blues. Come listen to the steel guitar, harmonicas, washboard, and bones. This will be the last opportunity to buy raffle tickets for this year's annual drawing, which includes a 1st prize of a KHS Westwood bike, 2nd prize of a zip line canopy tour for two at Zoar Outdoors, and 3rd prize trip for four on the Quinnetukut Riverboat tour. All raffle proceeds benefit free nature programming at the Discovery Center.

The Montague Business Association holds its next bi-monthly meeting at Greenfield Savings Bank's Turners Falls branch office, Avenue A on

Tuesday, July 12th, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All businesses welcome.

The Mutton and Mead Festival held on July 18th raised 1721 pounds of food, which was donated to the Franklin Area Survival Center in Turners Falls. The food pantry appreciates the help, since there has been a growing demand for their assistance to local families. This donation is one of the largest received this year. Thank you to Michael Muller, event organizers, and all who donated.

Greenfield Community Action's Youth Programs present a "Stand Together against Racism" barbeque on Saturday, July 9th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area. For more info: contact Glen Franklin at 413-774-7028

x 655 or www.communityaction.us/youth
Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.

ADAMS from page 1

verge of hiring an assistant principal for Montague Elementary School, the last open administrative post in the district. Maureen Donelan, who chairs the Mahar school committee in Orange, is the newly hired principal of the Montague Elementary School. She attended the G-M school committee meeting on Tuesday.

Her predecessor, Elizabeth Musgrave, came to the microphone to bid farewell.

"It has been a thoroughly challenging and thoroughly rewarding time," she told the committee. "I'm extremely proud of the work I have done as principal and that my staff has done, and the community has done. When I came into this position three years ago, right after the reconfiguration and closing of Montague Center

School, the community was in a great deal of pain and there was a great deal of division.

"We have built a very strong, close-knit, child centered family friendly community that has high standards. We began the process of building the Montague Elementary School this year; that's a process well under way. Of course, it's always and forever that you're building a community. We've done a really fine job of that.

"I am also extremely proud of growth and achievement. We went from a school that for quite some years did not meet annual yearly progress targets in any category in any subject to a school that has met AYP in every category, in every subject for the last two years, solidly.

"We went from being a school in corrective action to a

commendation school. That's quite a remarkable achievement."

Musgrave said, "I want to commend to you a very, very fine staff. They are outstanding people, skilled and dedicated. I have worked with many professionals in other schools, and I want to tell you and the community to have faith in your staff. They are fine people.

"I want to thank the community for entrusting me with their children and being part of their education. I take away many happy memories, and I know the children do too. I know the new principal stepping up is going to do a very fine job."

Musgrave presented copies of the Montague Elementary's school improvement plan and mission statement, developed by the school council and approved

by the faculty, to the committee, in case the former superintendent had neglected to provide it to them. Musgrave said the improvement plan had focused in part on the district's high drop-out rate, and how that could be addressed at the elementary level.

The committee spent the first hour of the meeting deliberating on a process for advancing its goals and conducting an exercise in professional development through self-evaluation, with the help of a consultant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

In her report to the committee, Ekstrom said she has instructed some business office staff to receive further training to keep up with changes in their job requirements and expectations. She asked for a task force to be appointed to review the high school's new block scheduling, with an eye toward, "increasing student achievement, decreasing the drop-out rate, and increasing the graduation rate."

She said in her initial discussions with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about the district's turnaround plan, she was told that Gill-Montague's hopes of moving from Level IV (needs improvement) to Level III status by the end of this year may have to be scaled back. "It could take three years to go from Level IV to Level III," Ekstrom told the committee.

But she said she told her counterpart at the DESE, "Well, there's a first time for everything, so get ready."

Responding to a complaint raised by physical education teacher Deb Loomer at the last meeting that high school students would be allowed one year of health education classes instead of physical education, Ekstrom said she had checked, and all students through grade 12 in public schools are required to take physical education, unless a doctor excuses them for health reasons.

Ekstrom, the district's former special needs director, said she was moving the art and music classes from the second floor of the old wing of Sheffield School to the new wing, where they can

be accessible for all students.

First grade classes are moving to back to the Hillcrest building from Sheffield in the coming school year. Jeff Singleton said that the committee had placed a high emphasis on a broad grade span to reduce social and academic impacts of the transition from Hillcrest to Sheffield when the Montague elementary schools were reconfigured, and urged all the new administrators to take that into consideration as they worked to integrate the first graders into Hillcrest. Students from both school buildings should participate in joint activities he said, with an emphasis on "one school."

Responding to criticism from within the community about the process by which the committee hired Ekstrom and offered a buy-out to former superintendent Carl Ladd, Singleton said, "I felt Carl should have stayed here and we should have had Nadine transition in. I think symbolism matters a lot in the fiscal situation we're in with our staff. It [the buy-out] seemed kind of generous to me."

Singleton also said the committee should have been flexible enough to discuss the hiring of the interim superintendent with the selectboards of both member towns when they raised objections to the process.

Marge Levenson said she felt the buy-out was appropriate. "It was clear the superintendent wanted to leave and we should not hold an employee hostage."

In reference to Ekstrom, Waldron said, "This position is not a three-year position. It was a one-year fix. We had a problem; we saw a solution that made sense. We didn't leave the communities out on purpose. I'm sure we will include the towns when we consider the [permanent] superintendency position."

Singleton called for more communication with the public at large, and Levenson said the staff should also be encouraged to communicate directly with the school committee at meetings.

(The Montague Reporter would like to acknowledge the assistance of Montague Community Television in preparing this report.)



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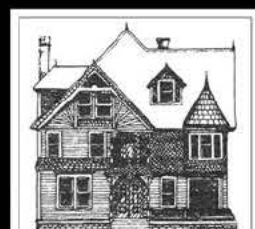


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Turn that Thing Off!

When we were kids, our parents used to yell down to the TV room when it was time for us to do our homework: "Turn that Thing Off!"

Trouble is, nowadays, you can't.

A new report by the Natural Resources Defense Council reveals there are approximately 160 million set-top boxes on top of TV sets in this country, running 24 hours a day, and using up 27 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year – the equivalent of the annual output of nine average-sized 500 megawatt coal plants.

The report states, "The electricity required to operate all U.S. boxes is equal to the annual household consumption of the entire state of Maryland, results in 16 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, and costs households more than \$3 billion each year."

Two billion of those dollars are spent when no one is even watching the TVs or recording a show.

That's because almost all of the set-up boxes are owned by the cable service provider (e.g. ComCast), and operate at full power even when you aren't using the damned things.

A follow-up article by Elisabeth Rosenthal on the front page of this Sunday's *New York Times* (6/26) shows that consumers in Europe have access to set-up boxes that can power down when not in use, or move to "deep sleep mode," – saving 95% of the energy they use – while still allowing the consumer to power up within one to two minutes of turning the set on.

But not in America, where set-top boxes now typically consume more power in the average household than refrigerators or even some central air conditioning systems. But box manufacturers for the American market – companies like Cisco Systems, Samsung, and Motorola, "currently do not feel consumer pressure to improve box efficiency," the *Times* states.

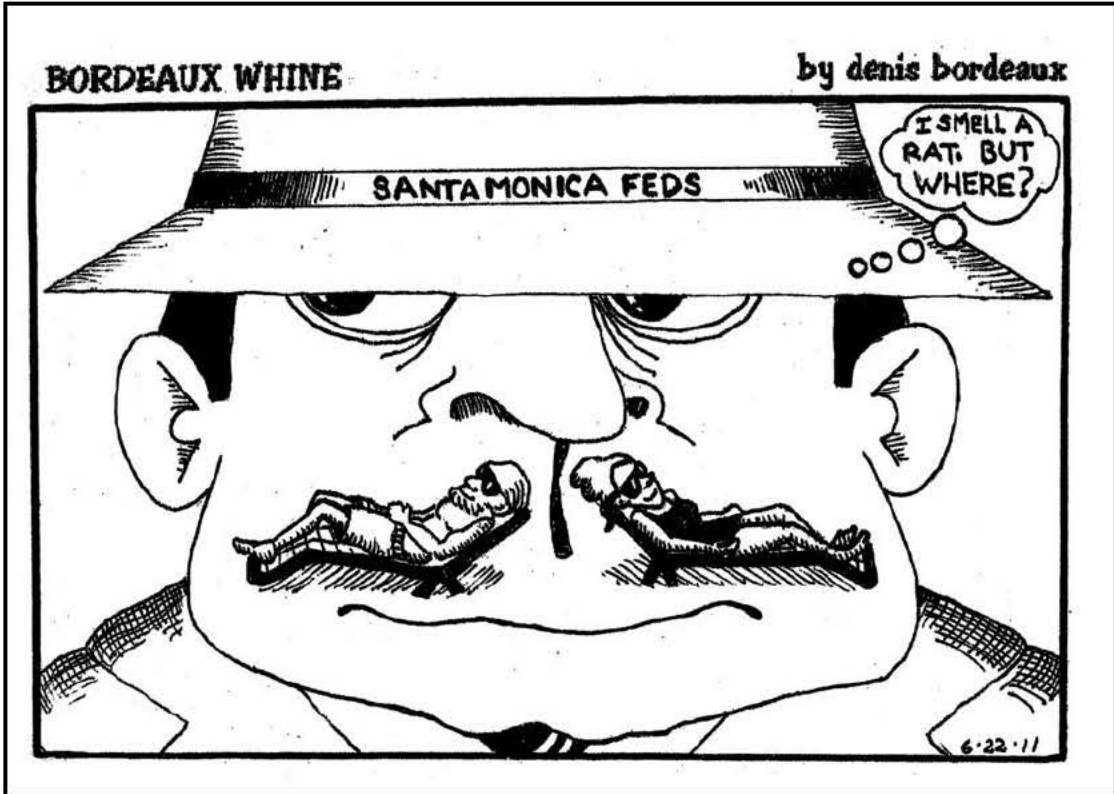
Well, change begins at home, they say, and for Green Communities like Montague, which is currently preparing to renegotiate its contract with ComCast, the town's monopoly cable provider, increasing set-top box efficiency should be a key component of negotiations.

As the NRDC reports sums it up in its final recommendations, "As a means to drive demand for more efficient set-top boxes, local cable regulators should consider adding efficiency requirements to their franchise agreements. A simple means to do this would be to require deployment of boxes that meet Energy Star Version 4.0 or better."

Meanwhile, home users might try a simple experiment. One energy efficiency expert quoted by the *Times* said he routinely unplugs his set-top box at night and waits only 45 seconds for his television to turn on when he plugs it back on in the morning. But another source said it takes his set hours to reboot because the provider "downloaded the programming guide in a very inefficient way."

Which end of that spectrum do set-top boxes in our towns fall into? We'd try this experiment ourselves – if we owned a TV. But we'd love to receive a letter to the editor from anyone in our reading area who knows.

Wouldn't it be great if TV owners in our towns could just turn that damned thing off?



Three Month Update on Fukushima



Theoretical physicist Michio Kaku of the City University of New York

BY MICHIO KAKU
NEW YORK CITY - June 17th It has been over three months after the tragic accident in Fukushima, Japan, and a flood of new information has been coming out.

After months of stonewalling and low balling figures, the utility finally admitted what many US physicists already suspected, that there was most likely a 100% core melt at all three reactors. Physicists in the West, given the meager data fed to the media by the utility, have run independent programs on their computers and have concluded that the accident was much, much worse than the government has been reporting. The new figures, although shocking, now agree with assessments made in the US.

If three reactor cores suf-

fered 100% core melts, then why didn't we have three China Syndrome type accidents? Why didn't we see three Chernobyl accidents happening simultaneously? The answer is that, at the very last minute, sea water was flushed into the three cores, stopping the melted uranium from melting through the entire containment structure and releasing vast amounts of radiation into the environment. The utility, however, resisted flooding the reactors with sea water, since it would reduce the reactors to junk, while the utility wanted to salvage the reactors for future use. Apparently, the reactor operator disobeyed direct orders. He was ordered to delay any plans to flush the cores with seawater. Instead, he did it anyway, going against his superiors. He should be considered a hero. Any delay back then might have led to an unimaginable tragedy.

The utility, under pressure, also admitted that twice as much radiation leaked out as previously suspected, on the order of about 700 trillion bequerels of radiation (or roughly 20% of the radiation that poured out of the reactor at Chernobyl.) Yet the utility, until the last minute, kept insisting that the accident was no worse than Three Mile Island.

The reactors are continuing to release radiation. This was a mystery at first, since, if the

core melting was under control, then water should not be in direct contact with melted uranium. Many suspected, therefore, that the uranium completely melted and even melted right through the vessel as well. This direct contact between water and melted uranium is probably the main source of radiation still leaking from the reactors.

Four hot spots have been identified outside the evacuation zone, causing further evacuations of residents of the area. In one district, 8,000 school children were given radiation counters as they went to school, since radiation levels could be 20 times higher than normal in school yards. Parents, going against Japanese tradition, have criticized the government and utility heavily.

Estimates for the cleanup vary. Toshiba Corporation estimated it would take ten years. The Hitachi Corporation estimated, however, that it would take 30 years. One nuclear engineer estimated it might actually take 100 years. Remember that it took 14 years to clean up Three Mile Island, where there was no breach of containment. It has been 25 years since Chernobyl, and that accident still has not ended. So 30 to 100 years are not unreasonable guesses for the amount of time the cleanup will take.

The utility wanted to go into cold shutdown, so the reactors no longer produce boiling water, by the end of this year. This now seems impossible. The utility has now admitted that it might take until next year at the earliest.

Actually, the reactors are like ticking time bombs. Before they go to cold shutdown, there could be another earthquake, a big break, or worker evacuation, in which case the accident starts all over again. So it is a race against time, to reach cold shutdown before the accident begins again.

Meanwhile, with Germany and Switzerland calling for phasing out nuclear energy entirely, and Japan calling for a moratorium, the shock waves from Fukushima will continue to rattle the commercial nuclear market.

Note to Readers: Summer Print Schedule

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

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on July 7th, 21st, August 4th or 18th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

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U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/29/11



Harvey Wasserman was among the members of the Clamshell Alliance who gathered for a reunion party and strategy session at the Wendell town hall on Saturday, June 25th. Wasserman, a nationally known spokesperson for the Green energy movement, gave the following speech to the 50 or more anti-nuclear activists who gathered that day.

The Battle to Close Vermont Yankee is Globally Significant



DETMOLD PHOTO

Harvey Wasserman returned to the Wendell Town Hall for a Clamshell Alliance Reunion Party and Powwow

HARVEY WASSERMAN WENDELL - "I was at the Montague Farm when we started this. And we won. Right?"

"We just drove by the Montague Plains and the nuke wasn't there."

"We're really on the brink of stopping this industry worldwide."

"On the other hand, we've never been in more danger."

"There are two nukes in Nebraska under water - Fort Calhoun and Cooper Island. I've seen aerial photos and it looks like things are underwater. One nuke is operating. Fort Calhoun had a fire in the cooling system for the spent fuel pool; it's shut down. If either reactor floods... It's a bad situation."

"Fukushima changed the matrix of the political situation worldwide."

"There have been three full meltdowns at Fukushima - not partial meltdowns. The core has melted through the reactor pressure vessel in at least one of the reactors. There is no science or engineering for this. No literature on how you pick up a core of radioactive material. There's no

real prospect the cores will ever be coolable."

"Unit III at Fukushima Daiichi uses mixed oxide fuel (MOX), mixed uranium and plutonium. After the explosion at Unit III, they've found plutonium offsite, and told the public, 'Not to Worry.' [One millionth of a gram of plutonium inhaled can cause lung cancer; plutonium has a half life of 24,000 years - editor.]"

"At Unit IV, the spent fuel pool sits 80 feet in the air; ten stories high. They lost coolant to the fuel pool. There's no doubt it was exposed to air and caught fire and spewed radioactive material. They think it was 100% exposed. It's sitting up there - it could fall into the core of the reactor."

"At Fukushima, at least two of the containments were breached almost immediately after the earthquake. They were breached. There were holes in them. There were three explosions at Fukushima, two were very definitely hydrogen explosions."

"At Three Mile Island, there was a hydrogen bubble - they were afraid it would explode. Arnie Gunderson says contain-

ment was in fact breached at TMI. [see: www.nirs.org/reactor-watch/accidents/tmipowerpoint.pdf]. The stack monitors were saturated, so we don't know how much radiation was released."

"People died in droves at Three Mile Island. One of the big lies, Scott Simon on NPR repeated it not long ago when he said, 'No one was harmed at Three Mile Island, not even a sprained ankle.'"

"I visited the area around Three Mile Island and what I saw was horrifying. People suffered cancers, leukemia, hair loss, skin sores and lesions, birth defects, respiratory problems, you name it."

"At Fukushima, Unit IV is sinking, possibly because of the amount of water that has been poured onto the reactor, and the softening of the earth beneath. If a very large aftershock occurs, it could fall over. You can see Unit IV tipping, and it's also cracked. It may have suffered a hydrogen explosion through piping connected to Unit III."

"Now the industry's standard line on Fukushima is the tsunami

was at fault - but in fact the core melts were underway before the tsunami struck. The reactors are 120 kilometers away from the epicenter of the quake."

"Fukushima is so far from over it's not funny."

"But now, the third and fourth top economies in the world have turned away from nuclear permanently. Japan has been the heart of the nuclear industry. The reactor cores are manufactured there."

"The evacuation zone around Fukushima is now 20 kilometers, although our own NRC suggested it should be widened to 50 miles. But when they hold a hearing about Indian Point, they'll tell you we only need a ten mile zone."

"Now, it looks like they will have to permanently evacuate the city of Fukushima, an ancient city of 300,000 people, as old as Japan itself."

"The Japanese are tearing each other apart over who's going to pay. These people have homes, cars, savings accounts, and no prospect of getting out of this."

"How many of you are driving without car insurance? And yet the 104 plants in the United States get away with operating without insurance for a catastrophic accident."

"The Japanese are abandoning nuclear power. They had an earthquake five years ago; three of the reactors at Kashiwazaki are still shut from that. Two more at Hamaoka have been shut down over earthquake fears. Four more at Fukushima are not going to reopen. It's a disaster - \$60 billion off the top. I don't think there's a chance they'll be building any more nuclear power in Japan."

"Germany, meanwhile, thanks in part to our own Anna Gyorgy, [former resident of the Montague Farm on Ripley Road, author of No Nukes, Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power] has a huge anti-nuclear movement, a very large Green movement. They made a decision as a nation several years ago to shut their reactors down."

"Then the conservatives got into power [in 2005] under Angela Merkel and decided to resume nuclear power. This year, a huge anti-nuclear march had been called, and Fukushima intervened before the march could take place. So they had a gargantuan turnout. Then the Green Party won in a very con-

servative state [on March 27th, in Baden-Wuerttemberg] - it would be like the Greens winning in Alabama."

"Angela Merkel is a trained physicist. After looking at what happened at Fukushima, she said, it's time to get rid of this technology. Germany has already shut 7 of their 17 reactors. The other ten will be shut down by 2022. This decision would not have been made without the consent of the major corporations in Germany."

"Switzerland, Italy and Israel have all said they will not build more nuclear power plants."

"China has 28 reactors on temporary hold after Fukushima - they may build 80 new ones. The idiotic right wing government in Britain wants to build more nukes, along with Iran, Korea and India. In France the nuclear industry is totally government owned, and they are not building any more."

"This is a turning point, and Entergy Vermont Yankee is right at the heart of it. It's too bad Fukushima was the price to pay, but China and United States hold the key."

"Trade journals and business journals like Bloomberg and Forbes now say that solar is cheaper than nuclear - it's not just Amory Lovins saying it. The same is close to true for wind."

"We need to cut off new nukes. Then shutting down the old nukes will be a lot easier. Right now in the U.S., there are \$36 billion in loan guarantees underwritten by the taxpayers in the 2012 budget - this is Obama's doing. If we can miraculously kill that \$36 billion, the nuclear industry will be finished."

"Wall Street is more anti-nuclear than Main Street. There is no one who will invest in nuclear power without loan guarantees."

"We need to kill off their future; kill off their funding. I don't think they can come back if we succeed. Solar and wind is more competitive. Geothermal is baseload power, and so is biofuels. We need to get that money out of the 2012 budget."

"They are building four new nukes in South Carolina and Georgia with \$18.5 billion in loan guarantees set aside by the Bush administration. They picked those two states because the electricity industry was never deregulated. see NO NUKES page 13

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Dogs Ordered Out of Town

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
The Wendell selectboard dealt with three issues at their June 22nd meeting: they authorized Tom Chaisson to prepare a scope of work for improvements to the town playground on the library property; they accepted a bid for construction of a new bridge on Cooleyville Road; and they ordered that two dogs who live on Kentfield Road be removed from town as the conclusion of a dog hearing, following a third complaint of those dogs running free.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said the town already had a check for \$2,000 from the Friends of the Wendell Library to pay for the playground scope of work. The selectboard voted to accept that money and to use it to pay Chaisson.

Although volunteers may do some of the work, and the highway department may do other aspects of the playground renovation project, selectboard chair Christine Heard told Chaisson to prepare the scope of work and the estimate as if all the work will be done by paid workers.

Selectboard member Dan Keller told Chaisson to ask highway commission chair Harry Williston for the rate the highway department would charge for their time and use of equipment, so the estimate would reflect the full cost of the renovation. Keller also told Chaisson to show the plans to insurance inspector Bob Marinelli and building inspector Phil Delorey, for approval.

Selectboard members signed a letter thanking Matt Edwards of Edwards Tree Service for the tree work he did for free on the library grounds.

Aldrich reported that only finance committee member Jim Slavos showed any interest in the position of facilities engi-

neer created at annual town meeting.

Keller said Slavos has his first assignment already, finding out why the town office building furnace is still putting out heat in the summer. Keller suggested selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser might be able to help Slavos in troubleshooting the computer system that is supposed to control the heat.

Jeff Collingwood from Stantec, the engineering company that did the design work for replacing the Cooleyville Road bridge, introduced Lynne and Alan Carpenito from Colonial Steel, the company that gave the low bid (around \$170,000) for that construction. The new bridge will be rated at 20 tons per axle, and will be built with Chapter 90 money.

Colonial Steel is hoping to start construction in July finish the work through this summer.

Heard opened the dog hearing by saying that all comments should be directed to the selectboard and that all comments should be civil.

Dog officer Maggie Houghton opened discussion saying the situation has a long history, with two prior hearings. She mentioned that at November hearing, dog owner Claude Masson was told he had to keep all of his dogs restrained all of the time, or face having them ordered out of town. Accompanied by selectboard members, she inspected improvements to Masson's dog enclosure after that hearing, and they seemed adequate. All was quiet until June 2nd, when Masson's neighbor, Marissa Barnes, saw two of the dogs running free down the road returning towards their home, at 6:45 a.m.

Masson said during a series of hot days he had taken the leashed dogs

swimming, had slipped, and the dogs got away. He pursued them. He said that whenever they get away, he is in hot pursuit. He added that one of the running dogs, Hannah, is on her last legs after being given some medicine that made her sicker, and the other dog, Kira, is also old and infirm.

Masson said he is ready to downsize to one dog, the young Akita, Honda, and will have to relish the eight years he enjoyed with all his dogs, with no complaints from neighbors.

His mother, Barbara Masson said his dogs are his family, and he should not have to destroy them.

Pooser said the dogs do not have to be destroyed, just moved from town.

Masson's mother asked, "Who will take three one-hundred pound dogs?"

Keller said the selectboard is responsible for the safety of people in town and dogs must be under their owner's control at all times.

The selectboard ordered two dogs, Hannah and Kira, out of town within 30 days, and allowed Masson to keep the other two, Fang and Honda, the puppy.

Pooser said the board was being lenient allowing Masson to keep two of the dogs in Wendell.

Heard said if there is another complaint the hearing will not be as long.

Masson has 30 days in which he can appeal the decision in district court.

The selectboard ended their meeting answering questions posed by the new town clerk, Gretchen Smith, about her work.

One question followed from a call Smith got from Texas asking about a relative who had been on the selectboard in the 1890s.

Keller looked on the shelf behind him and found the relevant town reports, and lent them to Smith so she could answer the Texas inquiry.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Turner Appointed Tax Collector

BY KATIE NOLAN - Michele Turner of Sawin Lane is the new Erving tax collector, after being appointed at the June 27th selectboard meeting to fill out the term of Dick Newton, who resigned earlier this month.

Turner formerly worked as a secretary for the town of Northfield and as an administrative assistant in the Greenfield tax collector's office. The appointed term ends in May 2012, when town elections will be held.

The selectboard members signed a letter to the Montague selectboard, requesting a meeting on July 25th to review the

budget for the Erving wastewater treatment plant and to fulfill a contractual obligation between the towns to hold regular meetings. The treatment plant serves Millers Falls as well as Erving.

According to a 1973 agreement between the towns, Montague should share the costs of upgrades at the facility proportionally to the amount of flow it contributes to the plant. In 2010, the Erving selectboard asked the Montague selectboard to share the capital costs of the recently completed \$5.6 million sewer upgrade at the treatment plant, which Erving

planned and financed without prior consultation with Montague.

The open selectboard meeting ended at 8:00 p.m., when the selectboard went into executive session "for the purpose of considering the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health and/or discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual, where an open session would have a detrimental effect and further details would compromise the reason for going into executive session."

see GRANT page 1

speed access to all their residents and small businesses. While Leverett is keeping its options open to work with Wired West, the selectboard has also pursued a parallel track, to see if the town can afford to build and maintain its own fiber optic network – and perhaps deliver the service quicker to Leverett residents, who have been waiting – and waiting – for the day when they can toss their dial up modems in the garbage bin of local history.

D'Errico said Wired West's efforts and Leverett's could be complementary.

"One of the things Wired West has been talking about for some time is the need for a pilot program. With this grant we're now in a position to be kind of a lead town in the Wired West consortium. I imagine one of the first things we're going to do is discuss how not to duplicate efforts."

D'Errico added, "Wired West is dependent on working with many towns. We want to be clear that Leverett is right in the front line in terms of interest and engagement." D'Errico

said Leverett also has a good bond rating, if it comes to leverage financing for completing the last mile set up on its own.

"I think it's wonderful," said Rob Brooks, Leverett's representative to the Wired West steering committee, reacting to news of the MBI planning grant. Brooks, who served on the Leverett-Shutesbury internet access committee for the last eight years, said that committee was able to get a certain amount of work accomplished, but never had a budget to develop accurate cost estimates for what it would cost to build a high speed internet network to serve the 650 households of Leverett.

"Now, we'll be able to find out what it will really cost to do this."

The town has been working with an estimate of about \$3 million to hook up all the houses in town that want high speed fiber, but Brooks cautioned, "That number is so squishy; it could be plus or minus 10% - 15% - 20%." Also, Brooks said, the town needs to study the financial viability of such a system, which the town may be able to afford to

borrow the money and build, but then, "Can the thing pay for itself on an ongoing basis? This research is significant."

D'Errico said, "Our plan will have two interrelated components: we need design plans for the physical infrastructure of the last mile network, and the other is the financial infrastructure. Not just how we would pay for it, but how we would operate it in order to make it financially sustainable."

Brooks said the Wired West steering committee will welcome the research Leverett conducts.

"Obviously, Wired West would prefer that we go with them," to build and maintain a last mile network."

But, Brooks said, "The town does not want to place all its eggs in one basket. We didn't want to wait two years for Wired West if nothing comes together. At least the town wants to do due diligence to see if it is feasible to go it alone."

He added, "It could be difficult. The reason Wired West came together is because of economies of scale."



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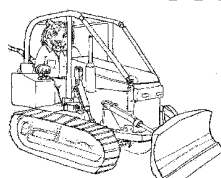
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NOTES FROM THE MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Orange Administrator Appeals for Lower Mahar Assessment

BY KATIE NOLAN
ORANGE - In person and by letter, Orange town administrator Rick Kwiatkowski asked the Mahar school committee on June 23rd, to vote the FY'12 Mahar budget "with an amendment that states that any additional funds from charter school reimbursements be used to lower the assessment to towns in whatever manner the school committee deems appropriate."

On June 20th, the Orange annual town meeting voted \$100,000 less for the Mahar budget than requested by the school committee. However, Orange is obligated to pay the full amount of the request because the requested school committee's budget was approved by the annual town meetings in the other three Mahar member towns (New Salem, Petersham and Wendell) before the Orange annual town meeting was held.

Therefore, Kwiatkowski told the committee, "In principle, Orange does not have a balanced budget" for FY'12. Kwiatkowski said the state Department of Revenue (DOR) wants assurance that Orange will be able to balance its budget by the end of the fiscal year.

At the Orange annual town meeting, both Kwiatkowski and the Orange finance committee recommended reducing the Mahar budget by \$100,000 in order to use the money for other town departments, and also in order to reject the alternative assessment method of paying for the school budget approved by the regional school committee and the New Salem, Petersham, and Wendell annual town meetings.

The alternative assess-

ment method was developed by the Mahar assessment subcommittee after several years of lobbying by the Wendell finance committee for a method of assessing school costs that would be "considered fair by all member towns".

Currently, on a per-pupil basis, Wendell pays significantly more for Mahar than the other regional towns. The "alternative averaging method" proposed by the subcommittee would have returned \$39,000 to Wendell in FY'12, but would not have changed assessments for the other towns.

Kwiatkowski said that Orange needed to "get a better understanding of the alternative method." He said people in Orange "still remember the first version of the alternative method," in which costs for Orange would have increased significantly.

Orange committee member Pat Smith said, "At town meeting, we never discussed the school budget," because the FY'12 budget was presented as a package.

Orange member Peter Cross said, "I heard people at the annual town meeting saying the alternative method would cost the town more, and that's not true."

Michael LeBlanc of Petersham remarked, "All the other towns understood the alternative method."

Dick Baldwin, Wendell's representative, replied, "There were long discussions of the alternative method at the last three Wendell annual town meetings, and people still don't understand and come up and ask me questions about it."

Committee members passed the FY'12 budget without Kwiatkowski's recommended statement,

partly because the state budget had not yet been set [the state budget was expected to be finalized by June 30th], and the amount of state aid to Mahar was still unknown. Petersham member Dana Kennan told the committee, "Don't hamper money you don't have."

However, the committee voted to allow superintendent Michael Baldassarre to draft a letter to DOR and approved this statement: "It is the intention of the Mahar school committee that additional funds from regional transportation or school reimbursement, in amounts above those listed in the FY'12 anticipated income sheet, committed after July 1st, be used at least in part to lower assessments to the towns, and it is our intention to meet in July and finalize this vote."

Kwiatkowski's letter also requested that "a better explanation is brought forth to citizens covering the impacts and costs associated with accepting the alternative method," to Orange's fall town meeting. He also wrote, "I would suggest that you invite the finance committees and boards of selectmen of the town of Orange and the town of Wendell and any other interested party to spend time on a dialogue in hopes of their better understanding the alternative method."

Electricity Lawsuit

Attorney Joshua Coleman of Long & DePietro updated the committee about the litigation with electricity brokers Constellation New Energy/New England Energy Partners (CNE/NEEP), saying the case was waiting to be docketed with the Massachusetts Supreme see **MAHAR** page 17

Exploring Wendell State Forest

BY IVAN USSACH - Traveling from Gill to my first encounter with Wendell State Forest on a sunny, warm day last week, I was surprised at how easy it was to get there: one well-marked turn from the center of Millers Falls leads directly to the main entrance near the Forest Headquarters.

I was there to hike with Josh Knechtel (pronounced k-NITCH-el), an Orange resident and budding trail guide born and raised in Athol and the region's many surrounding woods. Being a modest man, Josh did not admit to associating with wolves.

I had been anticipating this hike for a month. Much longer, really. For nearly a decade, including the last several years commuting along Route 2, Wendell State Forest has loomed large in my topographical imagination, one of those places I was always meaning to get to, maybe even literally get lost in. Being in Wendell only added to its mystique.

Was the forest vibing me as I shifted my gaze up from the scenic Millers River to take in what passes for a dramatic elevation rise around here? What's up there?

It was fun to let someone who knows the forest well decide on the route, though Knechtel had made clear getting acquainted with the better part of the forest would entail several trips. You gotta start somewhere, and Knechtel chose the modest but enticing loop trail around Ruggles Pond, close to the main entrance.

Though not perfectly flat, this is a highly accessible trail that can be thoroughly enjoyed by people with limited time or physical powers. We passed over the pond's stone arch dam constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, and entered into a

leafy world dominated by mountain laurels in bloom, their pink-tinged, white-petaled flowers seemingly everywhere. A bullfrog groaned in a deep bass voice.

Heading south along the west side of the pond, we joined the Monadnock & Metacomet (M&M) Trail for a stretch. Little spurs brought us to water's edge, offering head-on views of several beaver dams in all their ramshackle glory. Several short foot bridges were nearly at water level, giving evidence to extensive recent rains. We paused on a large rock to give full attention to the glorious chorus of bird song all around us.

After turning left off the M&M Trail to stay on the loop, we were greeted by the primal sight of a blue heron, who quickly spread its great wings and took flight across the water. When a bench appeared, we accepted the courtesy and stopped to take in the long view across the pond. Yellow pond-lilies in bloom brightened the scene. Crossing the unnamed brook that passes along Brook Road, we took a moment to appreciate the brook's impressively symphonic gurgling.

Heading north along the east side of the pond, we passed by extensive wetlands. The bumpy ground was dotted with little hammocks that probably contained the upturned root systems of fallen trees. Around us were plenty of standing pines and hemlocks. Were the hammocks the result of past beaver activity?

Knechtel suggested the shallow-rooted pines simply succumbed to the wet ground.

Barely ninety thoroughly enjoyable minutes had passed by the time we completed the loop. The beach and swimming area were empty, and we hadn't seen

a soul in the woods. My guide pointed out the new commemorative CCC kiosk, which he said was built with chestnut recovered from the bottom of the pond. After snacking on fruit and chocolate, we were off to the next adventure: the pair of west-facing Scenic Vistas.

Heading north we quickly picked up the Lookout Trail. It wasn't long before we discovered an imposing outcrop of granite ledge, several stories tall on one end and sloping down for at least the length of a football field. This is a place to linger, and I basked in the presence of stony-faced giants.

Continuing up and down along the trail through a forest of mixed hardwoods, accompanied by a cooling breeze, more birdsong and flowering mountain laurel, we came upon Jerusalem Road, which we traversed for a short distance before leaving it to follow the sign marked "Lookouts."

We were now back on the M&M Trail, moving along a ridge on Jerusalem Hill. Knechtel said the trail had been full of fine powder last winter, and he had done some excellent snowshoeing. He also mentioned that a local guy had spent several years cutting back mountain laurel along this trail.

In a short time we were at the first lookout. Mount Greylock was visible in the distance, but the view was somewhat impaired by recent tree growth. Knechtel said he remembers the view here being better when he was a kid, but that the winter sunsets from this vantage are still great.

We moved on to the second lookout, which was close by and had a better view to the northwest. Greylock was again visible, as was a humpy spine of see **FOREST** page 20

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HOTEL from page 1

between lies a ghostly space now partly occupied by a decrepit one story cinderblock structure — a former Cumberland Farms — with its leaky roof and empty rooms.

It sits there like the stump of an amputated limb, in the footprint of what was once the grandest building in town — gone, but not forgotten — the Grand Trunk Hotel.

This four-story edifice, built in 1872 with bricks from the Montague City Thomas brickyard, with a mansard roof done in the style of the French 2nd Empire, was 100 feet long and 75 feet deep, surmounted by multiple brick chimneys, a cupola and observatory. A home away from home for French Canadian loggers at the end of their log drives, the destination for sleigh riding revelers from Shelburne Falls on snowy winter days, and the see and be seen locale of bigwig dinners in the boom years of Turners' industrial might, the hotel eventually housed multiple storefronts, the town offices, and inexpensive apartments on the upper floors.

Built like a battleship, it took days for the wrecking ball to reduce to rubble. No one can quite remember whether it fell in 1967 or 1968, although most local history buffs seem to favor the earlier date. The town condemned the building in 1966, three years after purchasing the new town hall across the Avenue from the Western Massachusetts Electric Company for \$100 and moving the town offices.

That was the same year Lady Bird Johnson wrote her famous document "With Heritage So Rich," and pushed for and achieved passage of the National Preservation Act to save buildings just like the Grand Trunk, buildings which she called "not simply interesting. They give a sense of continuity and of heightened reality to our thinking about the whole meaning of the American past."

Memories of the Grand Trunk were revived briefly on Sunday in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center as Department of Conservation

and Recreation interpretive guide Janel Nockleby led about 12 present and former residents of town on a tour through the past of this storied rooming house.

"I heard there was this cool hotel," said Nockleby, introducing her talk. "Why isn't it still there? I started doing some digging. This is a mystery."

Nockleby proposed that, "The story of the hotel reflects the rise and fall of Turners Falls itself," or beyond that, "the industrialization of New England and all the people who were drawn here for the industry."

The Grand Trunk, or as it was first known, the Farren House, was undeniably a big part of the beginning of Turners Falls.

Bernard Farren, who built the hotel, was a friend and associate of the industrialist Alvah Crocker (who opened the first office of his Crocker Bank in Farren's hotel). They worked on the Hoosac Tunnel project together, the 4.75 mile long engineering marvel near North Adams that claimed the lives of 193 workers during the course of construction from nitroglycerine, cave-ins and fires. Crocker, with his influence in Boston, was the driving force behind that tunnel, and Farren was that project's final chief engineer.

Crocker, the self-made paper mill owner from Fitchburg who served as the state's superintendent of railroads, came to the confluence of the Fall River and the Connecticut in 1866 and had "an epiphany," as Nockleby described it, that this locale with its abundant hydropower could become a powerhouse of industry though the renovation of the dam and canal system. He envisioned a major city for Turners Falls, to rival and relieve the overcrowded condition of the eastern mill centers of Lowell and Lawrence.

That's true, said Theresa Connelly, seated in the audience, "Turners Falls was going to become a city. Instead, it became a town and Greenfield became a city."

Well... let's not get sidetracked.

In 1798, the first locks and canal system was built from the confluence of the Deerfield at Montague City to bring barges and freight to a point above the Great Falls. After his epiphany in 1866, Crocker modified that system and built a stronger dam and power canal, to provide the 'white coal' for the mills to come.

Soon, the mills did come, starting with the John Russell Cutlery (which moved over to Turners from Greenfield in 1870) and the Montague Paper Mill and the Keith Paper Mill in 1871, the Turners Falls Paper Company and the Griswold Cotton Mill in 1879. Hundreds and then thousands of workers began flocking to Turners to build these mills and work in them, and they all needed a place to stay.

Bernard Farren formed a company and raised the money to build the grand hotel on Avenue A, the first stop for travelers arriving in town, with fine suites of rooms, less expensive rooms on upper floors, and an elegantly furnished parlor and dining room (where, no doubt, many of the deals that helped shape the booming town were made). Beyond accommodations, the Farren House offered stores selling everything from boots and shoes to books and stationery, clothing and hardware. The post office was located there, along with lawyers' offices. There were stables out back, a stagecoach company and a livery service. Cisterns provided running water from the roof, and a huge coal boiler in the basement provided heat.

Alvah Crocker gave a speech at the hotel's opening gala, with a big band providing entertainment. Newspaper accounts of the time speak of society balls (including one in 1873 with 100 couples attending) and parties for the village founders. "It was the place to see and be seen," said Nockleby, who related a story about sleigh riding revelers journeying down the Mohawk Trail from Shelburne Falls to spend the night in Turners at the Farren.

School committee meetings were held there — no mention

of whether they were fractious. Eventually, the town offices moved there from Montague Center.

Arts have long played a role in the town's development scheme, and after 1874, when the Colle Opera House was built one block away on 3rd Street, the Farren's register showed guests from Holyoke, Northampton and Amherst spending time in Turners, along with members of an orchestra and a travelling comedy troupe.

The Farren was featured in a promotional brochure for the nearby recreational spa in Lake Pleasant, a popular summer retreat for city folk from Boston and New York.

Those summer folk traveled here by train. By 1898, an electric trolley had been installed, running from Greenfield through Turners to Millers Falls, bringing workers back and forth to the mills.

"My father used to run that trolley," recalled Connelly. "Then he moved on to the bus."

Before he died in 1912, Bernard Farren, a teetotaler, insisted that the name of the hotel be changed, because he could not abide the fact that alcohol was being sold and consumed within its walls. After that, the hotel became known as the Grand Trunk, after the railway that moved human freight and cargo through New England and Canada at the time.

Floods in the 20s and the Great Depression in the 30s took their toll. Mills burned and were rebuilt, flooded and were torn down. Some weathered the vagaries of economic change, others vanished down to their foundation stones. And Turners, which began as a magnet for workers, a hub for immigrants and skilled laborers, grew up into a settled village of prosperous souls, many of whom migrated further from their downtown roots to single family homes up on the Hill.

The Farren became a rooming house, although the exact date when the hotel's front desk closed its register for the last time has not been discovered.

John Carey, who ran the Shady Glen for many years with his wife Linda, remembers living in a \$4 a week room on the fourth floor up until the time he got married.

Marty Yarmac, now of Main Road in Gill, grew up from infancy until he was in high school in apartments on the third and second floor. He attended Sunday's talk, and had a lot of memories to share.

He talked about Blassberg's junkyard, out back, and the Coca-Cola warehouse in the old stables, where he was allowed by a lenient employee to sneak in an open window and take as many Cokes as he wanted, "as long as I returned the empties." Judd Wire eventually got its start in that building.

Yarmac remembered sliding down the mahogany banister at the old hotel, and watching the coal company unload coal into a basement shoot.


"The place was always very clean, and the rooms always smelled of Lestoil," he said.

He recalled the transom windows above the doors, the dimly lit hallways and the 12-foot ceilings.

Those rooms were difficult to heat, but, "There was always plenty of heat and hot water." But if a tenant wanted more, they would just bang on the pipes to let the super know.


The one trouble was the electrical system. Yarmac remembered there were not very many outlets in each apartment. Most rooms had only one outlet, and as time went on extension cords connected all the modern appliances to the old wiring system.

In 1966, the town condemned the building, not because it was structurally unsound, but because of the wiring. Indeed, folks who were around at the time say the hotel was so well built it was very difficult to tear it down.

The Farren House was built to last for centuries, but now the grand old hotel is only a memory. Today, if you come to town to see a show at the Shea, or to attend an art auction, and you want to find a place to stay overnight, well... you have to go to Greenfield. 

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WORKING TO EXPAND THE Youth Block



DETMOLD PHOTO

Jacob Levin of Gill

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - Jacob Levin of Gill is a persuasive advocate who has been hitting the sidewalks in front of Stop and Shop and Green Fields Market in recent weeks gathering petition signatures, meeting with his local legislator, and traveling to the statehouse to testify at the Joint Committee on Elections, all in an attempt to get the legislature to extend the right to vote to a disenfranchised group of people whose interest in politics was piqued by Obama's first run, but who are still unable to participate in local, state or national elections.

That would be 17-year-olds. Like Levin.

Generation X-ers, make way for the .com generation. If Levin is any indication, they will be a force to be reckoned with.

In between his part time job at the 2nd Street Baking Company, his upcoming four week stint as a counselor at an environmental summer camp in W. Greenwich, RI, and his impending trip to attend a week-long Young Democrats of America leadership conference in Washington, DC he took time

this week to talk about his advocacy work as the Western Mass coordinator for the Help Students Vote Coalition.

He is supporting three bills, each of which would impact or expand the ability of young people to participate in electoral politics. "The first bill would lower the voting age to 17 in municipal elections, to allow young people to vote for local officials, city councilors and mayors who make decisions that directly affect students."

"The second bill," said Levin, without pausing for breath, "would institute civic education seminars and voter registration drives - one in the fall semester, one in the spring semester - in all public high schools and universities. (The seminars would be optional at the university level; part of the curriculum at high school.)"

"The third bill would allow young people to pre-register to vote when they go to get their driver's permit at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, so when they turn voting age they'll be on the list."

Levin explained, "This is a comprehensive voter registra-

tion system. Right now, our state doesn't have one. This would totally revamp how we generate voters and educate voters."

He made that pitch to the 2nd Franklin District's Denise Andrews, (D-Orange) over ice cream at the Wagon Wheel not long ago, and said, "She is fully supportive," of the bills. As any savvy legislative player knows, her support will be key in this instance, since Andrews sits on the Joint Committee on Elections, which is hearing the bills.

Senator Stan Rosenberg, a member of the Senate leadership team, is next on Levin's list. "I have a telephone meeting with him this Thursday afternoon to discuss the legislation."

The first thing he may have to convince the Senator of is that he is actually speaking to someone who is too young to vote.

During the Obama campaign in 2008, when he was 15, Levin said, "I was seeing so many adults who can vote, but they aren't registered, and they aren't taking an interest when I and so many young people who are interested are totally disenfranchised... it was a feeling of discontent."

He followed the progress of that campaign first through Saturday Night Live sketch comedy, then graduated to MSNBC (he called Keith Olbermann "bombastic") and Newsweek (the print version) and the CNN youth news center on CNN.com.

So, how is that hope-y change-y thing doin' from Levin's perspective?

"I definitely support Obama. The job of the president is a dif-

ficult one, to say the least. We've made huge progress on domestic issues, and issues abroad. It's difficult to condemn someone without knowing the full range of problems that person will face. The next four years can only bring more achievements."

If he had the right to vote now in local elections, how would Levin exercise that right in Gill?

"Gill is pretty isolated. There's not a lot going on. But the biomass is a big factor, that would be a focus of mine, as well as Vermont Yankee. The environment in general would become a big focus. I've become involved without the vote. Having the ballot would give the youth voting block more influence."

Do his peers support his legislative efforts, or do they think he's from another planet?

"Some definitely support it, and want to help me with it. Some couldn't care less." However, Levin added, "Adults are very supportive." He's gotten almost all his teachers at Pioneer to sign his petition in favor of the three bills, and considers their support important. "They know students better than anyone else."

When he testified at the hearing in Boston on June 15th, Levin said he told the legislators, "I feel the vast majority of students are totally unaware of local politics. It's important for them to be aware and involved with it. I strongly believe the ability to participate in local elections and the civic education seminars would stimulate that involvement - especially when they will be choosing officials who will affect them."

He added, "Voter education cannot start early enough."

That's a tough proposition to argue with.

Local Radio Personalities Chosen as Grand Marshalls for Fair Parade

GREENFIELD - He's of those people who can't go anywhere without someone yelling his name. He hosts wedding parties and often has more attention than the newlyweds. And every weekday you hear him on WHAI radio. Local radio celebrity Bobby C (Robert Campbell) has been chosen as this year's Franklin County Fair Parade Co - Grand Marshall.

Fair president Frosty Bean said "Bobby has been a long-time friend of the fair. His dedication and enthusiasm for Franklin County make him an exemplary person to receive this distinction."

Bobby will be sharing the honor with a familiar friend. Celebrating his 40th year in radio, WHAI morning personality Jay Fidanza has been chosen as the other Co-Grand Marshall. Fidanza was chosen for his deep commitment to community events.

"Jay always offers an overwhelming amount of support to the community events I organize", said Michael Nelson, parade chairman. "You can't listen to his morning show on any given day without hearing from several charity and community groups."

"Both of these gentlemen really want to better their community - and they do everyday."

The Franklin County Fair Parade kicks off on Thursday, September 8th at 5:00 p.m. from the Greenfield Middle School. This is a change in time from the traditional 5:30. An earlier start time will allow more float entries to get to the fairgrounds before the sun sets, Nelson said.

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

Center Road to French's Field



French's Field

BY P.H. CROSBY - *OK, now I start cheating a little.*

People have asked me, "How are you going to walk eleven ways from your house?" And it's true that there are really only about seven separate walks from my house. After that I have to start retracing a lot of steps, with some little divergences to make it interesting. This walk is one of those.

It's been a long time since I've walked Center Road itself. In my zeal to cover all eleven "ways to walk," I've neglected the little byway I've been travelling all my life - on foot, on horseback, by bicycle, by car - and have missed many of the beautiful changes it is has gone through since the end of April.

Still, as the poet says, there's "nothing so rare as a day in June," and it is no less beautiful a time than ever to be setting off east on Center Road toward Hickory Hill again, but

with a plan to stray briefly from it in a way a neighbor maybe won't mind.

The swamp to the north is a green sward full of mist and mysterious bird calls. I saw the bittern the other day! Finally, after 40 years of listening to the thing. It has a pumping call so persistent some days my husband says, "It sounds like that bird's going to suck all the water out of that swamp."

The bittern is very hard to spot, but apparently not because it hides low in the shrubbery and reeds, where I've been looking for it. Rather, a friend said what the bittern does when it's trying to hide is stand upright - pointing its long narrow beak straight up into the air - and wave slowly back and forth in the wind, disguising itself as a reed.

This sounds preposterous, but I looked it up and the literature confirms it.

Since my eyesight is terrible, however, this does me little good. I've scanned the reeds for weeks, certain there's a bittern among them - often because I've just heard its call from what seems only a few yards away - but I simply cannot pick it out. On this particular morning, still scanning, I half-notice in my peripheral vision something flying low overhead, and I do a sudden double-take when I realize, "There it is in flight!" A long, narrow beak leading a neckless, white-and-brown-streaked body through the air above my head, and beyond. I had scared it off temporarily, but at last I saw it.

At the bottom of Hickory Hill is an animal crossing. At one time or another, members of the family have seen just about everything cross in this shady, low place, near water, protected on both sides by woods. Deer, turkey, fox, fish-

er, bobcat. One time, in the dim light of dawn, I saw from a distance a low flow of something crossing, and cursed my bad eyes again for not being able to see exactly what. We hear coyotes howling in packs. If they travel in packs, my guess is that is what it was.

To the south, alongside the road, are long, tall, handsome rows of cow parsnip, not to be confused with the even more poisonous (and rarer) Hogweed, although they do look something alike, with their tall thick stalks and large umbel heads. Until this season, I wouldn't have mentioned cow parsnip as poisonous at all, but botanical guides seem to confirm what my arm is screaming: that brushing against cow parsnip as you cut from the road to the woods may burn and blister the flesh worse than poison ivy. In front of the cow parsnip is a long corresponding row of some wild grass, making a border of light green and silver etched against a darker green, the nodding white heads of the tall stalks trimming the border like a ruffle.

At the top of Hickory Hill, I take a right onto the private land of a friend, into a cornfield. With my five remaining minutes, if I move quickly, I can follow a lane across the field almost to the woods and back, or I can just amble along the path a little ways and enjoy the views, tiny and large.

I choose ambling. The sharp yellow blossoms of partridge pea are underfoot, and the small, fat-blossomed pastel-yellow cinquefoil is just coming out. The farmer has begun plowing cornstalks under on the far side, preparing the field for a new crop. On my side, what is left of the old cornstalks line the path, dried straw-colored clumps of chopped-off stalk and rayed-out roots revealing the very

bones of a cornstalk, shouting its essence.

Turkeys are grazing here today, keeping a wary eye on the terrier. There is a group of them, one of them clearly a Tom, since he's preening vigorously. In an earlier essay, I guessed wrongly that a turkey alone was probably a male and that the groups were females. I'm told since that a turkey alone is probably a female with a nest somewhere nearby. The dog and I have flushed many of these singles in the woods; I hope that doesn't mean we permanently frightened any mothers from their nests.

Soon, maybe, I'll see some turkey poults. Once, on Bascom Road about this time of year, I saw a mother getting her young to cross the road. Little, skinny-legged things cowering on one bank, then darting across to join her, one by one, when I stopped the car. Twenty-one in all!

The wooded side of the lane is filled with campion, rapidly losing its white petals and forming a husky calyx, which is I guess why they call it "bladder" campion. Earlier in the season, this is a great spot to listen to the ruffed grouse making that incredible mating noise you would swear is mechanical, like a muffled motor starting up and going faster and faster before it stops. The neighbors' houses, two old ones, are particularly fine at this distance: graceful and remote, like a scene from the 1800s.

I clamber through a border of meadow rue and Virginia creeper back to the road. Jewelweed - later to produce that orange-yellow, snapdragon-like flower you can pinch in the dryness of August to produce a puff of pollen - is cropping up everywhere too.

Nearby, I pass a wooded, hilly parcel recently bought by a stranger, its rutted lane chained and posted with a sign that makes me smile: "Penny Lane: by Invitation Only." Another 60s soul has found a place in the world.

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The Road Less Traveled

Rising from Ashes at Smith College

BY RICHARD ANDERSEN & DIANE LYN - MONTAGUE CENTER - The year was 1907. Most American painters fell into one of two groups: avant-garde Impressionists or natural landscape Realists.

The focus of both was light and beauty. Neither included the darker and harsher realities of urban life. No teeming tenements, no sagging clotheslines, no ubiquitous horse droppings, no phalanx of metal cans overflowing with incinerator ash on these canvasses.

Then came George Bellows (1882-1925). Although not a founding member of the Ash Can School of art, he soon became one of its preeminent leaders.

It's easy to see why. No American painter before him had expressed such raw, heroic, muscular energy. It didn't matter whether he was painting a street scene or a boxing match. And who since has been able to make

us feel to the same degree that we're actually at the scene of whatever subject he has chosen to paint?

Playing off light against dark to make us concentrate on what he wants us to pay most attention to, Bellows' works must have shocked the art world of his time. Even after all these years and so many world-class catastrophes, they can still disturb us in more than visceral ways.

The painting that launched Bellows' career now has a permanent home at the Smith College Museum of Art. "Pennsylvania Excavation" captures the aggressive building expansion of New York that took place in the early 20th century by placing us on the rim of the huge hole that would one day become a visual marvel in its own right: Penn Station.

Snow and mud are everywhere. You can almost hear the noise made by the steam shov-



George Wesley Bellows (1882-1925). Pennsylvania Station Excavation, ca. 1907-1908.

els. Look long enough and you'll get a chill. You may even feel the snow melting through the soles of your shoes.

Penn Station today is a major Amtrak stop. It's still the hub for several subway lines. What's no

longer there — a sad, ironic footnote to the massive undertaking Bellows celebrates in his painting — is the magnificent glass and steel structure that once towered above the terminal. That work of art has been replaced by

the No. 1 blunder of a later building boom: the tan, round, virtually windowless Madison Square Garden. It's so ugly it makes even the Knicks look good.

The Museum of Industrial Heritage



SHE LA DAMKOEHLER PHOTO

BY ANNE HARDING GREENFIELD - The Museum of our Industrial Heritage is found at the site of Newell Snow's factory, later occupied by the Wells Brothers, on Mead Street in Greenfield. Since January, board members, friends, and Sheila Damkoehler, an intern enrolled in the Tufts Masters of Museum Education Program, have been preparing for the Summer Sunday initiative launch. They've reworked the

exhibit room, given the entryway a facelift, put up a sign along the road, updated the website, and added a small museum store. An already established hands-on workshop continues to be available for exploration, when volunteer guides are available.

For the first time, the museum will be open regular Sunday hours from 1 - 4 p.m., June 19th through September 4th. Last Sunday, during the open house celebration, more than 45 visitors

toured the facility and volunteer docents were understandably proud of the continuing progress of the exhibit makeover.

One of founding members of the museum, Jay Stryker, credits Damkoehler with helping the museum tell the story of industry in the area by selectively displaying objects from their amazing collection of tools and artifacts. Stryker noted the museum was housed in a small house on Petty Plain Road before board members Al Shane and Jim Terapane purchased the Newell Snow Factory in 2008.

Terapane, current president of the board, became involved in 1999 after reading an article about founder Leon Weeks and the museum's incorporation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. A journeyman machinist by trade, Terapane settled in Greenfield after many years of working in the field. Like most of his peers, he worked for multiple companies during his career but

no matter where the jobs took him, his fellow machinists recognized Greenfield as the origin of the industry.

Machinists have an informally organized educational system that almost requires them to travel to different companies to become highly skilled. Only Connecticut has a journeyman machinist certification program, which Terapane took at age 13. Following four years at the trade school he worked an 8,000 hour apprenticeship, graduating at age 19 with a certificate that could get him a job anywhere in the world. He packed his tool box and lit out for California where he spent some time in the airline industry.

Terapane believes machinists are by nature a curious lot — easily bored and often ambitious. Once they've been at a job for awhile, they start looking for something new — in his case he returned to New England and worked in shops throughout the area. He began to recognize

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interconnections between regional stories and visited a number of other industrial museums. He believes eventually each museum will find its connections see **HERITAGE** page 14

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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

The editors would like to thank
the following for their generous
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Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street,
Turners Falls, MA 01376;
or email us your poetry at
reporter-poems@montaguema.net

design by Boysen Hodgson

Pleasure of Digging

My tongue finds
a sesame seed
between two teeth,
hunched there
like a fearful dog
waiting for its owner
to come out of the store.

Fingernail frees the seed,
I chew as I walk to my car
-- baked, dirt, salt, bread-
long after the bagel is gone
and cream cheese wiped
from my lips.

As a child, I remember
digging down alongside
the membrane fences
of a grapefruit at breakfast,
spotting the gray hidders,
lifting out each slippery seed,
the pleasure of extricating.

Today I found
a sesame lingering,
pulled it out,
chewed it to mush.
I open my car door.
My tongue flicks
around my mouth.
Think what I could do
with a raspberry.

--Mary Clare Powell
Greenfield

In Midas' Country

Meadows of gold dust. The silver
Currents of the Connecticut fan
And meander in bland pleatings under
River-verge farms where rye-heads whiten.
All's polished to a dull luster

In the sulfurous noon. We move
With the languor of idols below
The sky's great bell glass and briefly engrave
Our limbs' image on a field of straw
And goldenrod as on gold leaf.

It might be heaven, this static
Plenitude: apples gold on the bough,
Goldfinch, goldfish, golden tiger cat stock-
Still in one gigantic tapestry-
And lovers affable, dovelike.

But now the water-skiers race,
Bracing their knees. On unseen towlines
They cleave the river's greening patinas;
The mirror quivers to smithereens.
The stunt like clowns in the circus.

So we are hauled, though we would stop
On this amber bank where grasses bleach.
Already the farmer's after his crop,
August gives over its Midas touch,
Wind bares a flintier landscape.

--Sylvia Plath
Northampton

By

Authorial presence
Painted lady
Listing slowly forward
Pulling up to
Along side
Distance reduced

The sands burning
the shod and the unshod
Much confusion at the outset
Nor even after
Whenever she spoke
as if but not exactly so
And the way her tears fell
into her quiet handkerchief
where and by which no excuse
was accepted
The endless time before, after,
and during.
And the white horses with bright
Manes braided in ribbons

The optical illusions of power
Kindness among the others
A green umbrella held high
in an unwashed hand.
Gone past
outdated
Lost means

-- P.L. Pruitt
Turners Falls



Since

Someone, somewhere
is
unhappy

Others aware unaware
mean
well

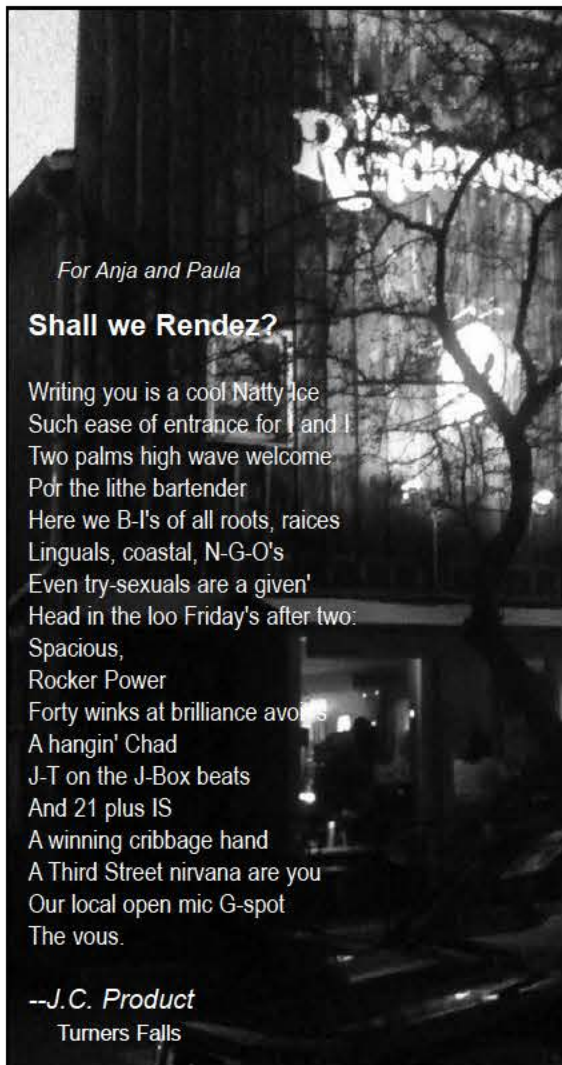
The unhappy one drags along a wet,
stringy mass, his
washed up seaweed

who sees it?
Who relieves it?

A memory may sit in a favorite
box or nook-uncalled upon
Then there it is-out in the open--
Suddenly
a hand clasps a hand
And after a short walk
in the garden too.

The sparrow with his busy eyes
sees it all.

--P.L. Pruitt
Turners Falls



For Anja and Paula

Shall we Rendez?

Writing you is a cool Natty Ice
Such ease of entrance for I and I
Two palms high wave welcome
For the lithe bartender
Here we B-I's of all roots, raices
Linguals, coastal, N-G-O's
Even try-sexuals are a given'
Head in the loo Friday's after two:
Spacious,
Rocker Power
Forty winks at brilliance avoids
A hangin' Chad
J-T on the J-Box beats
And 21 plus IS
A winning cribbage hand
A Third Street nirvana are you
Our local open mic G-spot
The vous.

--J.C. Product
Turners Falls

This Solitude of Cataracts

He never felt twice the same about the flecked river,
Which kept flowing and never the same way twice, flowing

Through many places, as if it stood still in one,
Fixed like a lake on which the wild ducks fluttered,

Ruffling its common reflections, thought-like Monadnocks.
There seemed to be an apostrophe that was not spoken.

There was so much that was real that was not real at all.
He wanted to feel the same way over and over.

He wanted the river to go on flowing the same way,
To keep on flowing. He wanted to walk beside it,

Under the buttonwoods, beneath a moon nailed fast.
He wanted his heart to stop beating and his mind to rest

In a permanent realization, without any wild ducks
Or mountains that were not mountains, just to know how it
would be,

Just to know how it would feel, released from destruction,
To be a bronze man breathing under archaic lapis,

Without the oscillations of planetary pass-pass,
Breathing his bronzen breath at the azury center of time.

--Wallace Stevens
Hartford, CT

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Patricia Pruitt is a Turners Falls resident, poet, former selectboard chairperson, and has lived in Turkey for the last several months.

Wallace Stevens lived in Hartford, CT and worked in the insurance industry.

On July 10th at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, there is a poetry discussion titled "Watershed Poets and Their Rivers." Come learn about the Connecticut River Watershed, including its tributaries, from the perspective of the poets, including Stevens

JC Product writes intimately about inanimate objects, objectifying them, even. A Massachusetts native, Product enjoys the Worcester accent most of all.

Sylvia Plath (1932-1963) attended Smith College in Northampton from

1950-1955. On July 10th at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, there is a poetry discussion titled "Watershed Poets and Their Rivers." Come learn about the Connecticut River Watershed, including its tributaries, from the perspective of the poets, including Plath.

Dr. Mary Clare Powell is a professor at Lesley University in the Creative Arts in Learning Division where she teaches poetry to teachers. In the last 25 years she has published three books of poetry—Things Owls Ate, Academic Scat, and In the Living Room.

from DAM page 1

the pond as a source for the fire department to draft water when fighting a fire.

Dan Bennett, who played a role in persuading the town's Community Preservation Committee to approve spending in 2008 to restore the historic 80 foot long North Leverett sawmill after the roof collapsed, said owner Lance Curley noticed water coming through the wooden section of the dam, across the river from the sawmill, following last week's extensive rains.

The Curley family had to hire a crane from Deerfield Valley Crane Service to reach across the roof of the sawmill to raise the gate on the sawmill side of the dam, allowing the mill pond to drain and relieve pressure on the breached side of the dam.

The 1868 sawmill, once powered by a hydro-turbine (which is still in good condition and could also be restored) has not been in active use since the 70s, Bennett said, and the gate cannot presently be operated manually.

"We haven't lifted that gate since Lloyd died four years ago," said Fran Curley, speaking of her departed husband, "so much silt has piled up now."

The silt build up behind the dam makes the pond less than optimal as a source of water for the fire department in an emergency, and the town had already been contemplating dredging the pond before the dam was breached last week.

The wood crib section of the dam where the breach occurred, near the southern bank, once held a power wheel for a blacksmith shop, whose foundations can still be seen.

Bennett, speaking to members of the selectboard on Tuesday night said, "You're a board, right? I want to put a bunch of

boards together and fix it."

Conservation commission chair David Powicki at first appeared to differ with this pragmatic approach.

"There are a whole series of regulations regarding dams and this may trigger that. We'll look at it tomorrow morning with the conservation agent."

But d'Errico told Powicki he regarded the situation in a different light.

"This is an emergency, because of the fire pond. [Fire chief] John Moruzzi did try to draft out of that pond when the house at the end of Juggler Meadow burned, but it was not deep enough." It may have been the silt piling up in the pond, due to the infrequency of opening the gate, that caused damage to the fire engine's pump filter after that attempt, d'Errico speculated. "This is a perfect opportunity for the town to dredge that pond."

After the selectboard approved the motion declaring an emergency situation at the dam and instructing town departments to take action, Bennett seemed relieved.

"Solid!" he remarked. "I believe in government at the moment."

On Wednesday afternoon, conservation commission chair David Powicki said, "I met with Lance Curley this morning. The conservation commission will be working with him to file an emergency order of conditions to get emergency work done [on the dam] within the next 30 days, under the Wetlands Protection Act." Powicki will conduct a site visit with conservation agent Josh Surette at the dam on Thursday, June 29th.

Hastings Farm

The selectboard supported an application to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

for a grant through the self-help conservation land acquisition program to purchase a \$375,000 conservation restriction on 147 acres of agricultural land on Teewaddle Hill Road known either as the Teewaddle Hill Farm or the Hasting Farm. Gwyn Hastings, whose family has owned and worked the farm since 1960, was at the meeting.

The land, which features a view of the Peace Pagoda, now supports 15 head of cattle, hayfields, and vegetable gardens. Once owned by the Adams family, it has been a working farm since the 17th century, according to Mary Alice Wilson.

The land has 1000 feet of frontage on Teewaddle Hill Road, enough for eight 'approval not required housing lots,' according to Kristin DeBoer, of the Amherst-based Kestrel Trust, who has been working with the Hastings to develop the application. DeBoer said the proposal would include \$25,000 worth of local fundraising to support the town and state share of the purchase.

The town of Leverett would be eligible for 60% reimbursement from the competitive state grant program, if the application is approved.

Public access to the land would be a condition of the grant, and conservation chair Powicki said his board has already been working with Hastings to map out trails on the property.

Hastings would retain a five acre parcel around the farmhouse, reserved from the conservation restriction, and would continue to have rights to farm the land, maintain livestock pens, barn, cattle ponds, and fencing.

Funding for the town's 40% match for the conservation

restriction purchase (\$170,000) may come from the Community Preservation Committee, and town meeting would need to approve the purchase.

If the grant comes through and funding is approved by all parties, a closing date is tentatively set for June 30th of 2012.

"There are only so many amazing places in town - but that's one of them. This is wonderful," said selectboard chair Rich Brazeau.

Online Permits

As of Friday, July 1st, all applications through the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program will be handled online, for building, gas, electrical and plumbing permits. For more information, go to: www.frcog.org/services/coop_inspect/index.php or call: 772-2026 x126.

All's not Well

The town's contract with the environmental monitoring firm ECS for testing private wells downstream of the town's former landfill on Cemetery Road has declined this year by about \$6,000, said town administrator Margie McGinnis. The decline is due to the fact the town paid for and installed a new well at the Duffy residence on Cushman Road, which now no longer requires monthly testing.

"That's the good news," said McGinnis. The bad news: the state Department of Environmental Protection is increasing the reporting level for the solvent 1,4 Dioxane from 3.0 parts per billion to 0.3 parts per billion, and though that chemical has not shown up at the tap, it has shown up in trace levels at the well of one of the downstream houses, McGinnis said.

"This is never going to end," said Brazeau. He said he would

be in contact with the Amherst Department of Public Works shortly to pursue a proposal to extend a water line up Cushman Road to Teewaddle Hill, a multi-million dollar proposition which would eliminate the ongoing problem of the town monitoring (and providing bottled water in some instances) for homes downstream of the former landfill.

In other News

The selectboard appointed Max Cowart to the fire department. A resident of Amherst, described as "not nearing retirement age," Cowart will be taking his EMT certification in September.

Responding to a report of unlicensed dogs barking in a way to disturb neighbors on an unspecified road in town, the selectboard asked for a written report on the situation from dog officer Roberta Bryant, preliminary to sending a fine of \$15 for a first instance in the calendar year of failure to license a dog.

In response to a multi-town rescue effort of Maya Hirsch, a visitor from the Northwest who was visiting her family home in Leverett when she fell and got lodged into a narrow passage while spelunking in the glacial ravine of Rattlesnake Gutter last year on July 19th, representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington) has filed a bill to allow towns to recover the cost of such rescues by billing the party involved.

McGinnis estimated Leverett's cost at around \$1000 for that rescue, although emergency responders from a number of town's helped Hirsch finally extricate herself from the passage, after she chipped away the obstructing rock edges with a hammer lowered to her from above.



from NO NUKES page 5

lated there, and ratepayers can be forced to pay construction work in progress costs even if those reactors never operate, even if they end up as expensive mausoleums.

"The Vermont Yankee case is unique. This is the only one in the country where we have a case for shutting down a reactor. There are four nukes in California vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis. Oyster Creek in New Jersey, Indian Point in New

York, and Pilgrim here in Massachusetts all have active movements aimed at shutting them down. But here, there is actually a case in court, and the state's rights issue is extraordinarily clear.

"Entergy signed a contract with the state of Vermont saying they would abide by state law on relicensing. There's no other case where the state has such a clear contractual right.

"We shut six reactors down in this country between 1987 -

1991: including Yankee Rowe, Maine Yankee, Connecticut Yankee and Rancho Seco in California, by referendum. Since then, there have been no more nukes shut down in America.

"So, Vermont Yankee is actually a global issue. We need to pull the plug in the dyke.

"You have these decrepit reactors - Monticello, Oyster Creek - 23 Fukushima clones and seven more that are of very similar construction nationwide. Pulling the plug on Vermont Yankee is glob-

ally significant.

"Conversely, the industry will pour more and more resources into keeping Vermont Yankee open.

"If we shut a Mark I reactor after Fukushima, that resonates nationwide, with all the other Mark I reactors.

It will go to the Supreme Court. Are we optimistic about the Supreme Court?

"You never know.

"In my wildest fantasies, you could have Scalia writing a


majority opinion. If a contract is not valid, where is the rule of law?

"But we've been asking that since the year 2000, and now Obama is doing everything Bush did - except in complete sentences.

"Everyone who follows this issue knows this is the turning point here. They want to hold it at all costs. We have to be totally prepared for all the stops to be pulled out with this legal team for VY."



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On Books

Thinking about the Declaration of Independence - Part 3

BY JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CENTER - The preamble to the Declaration of Independence begins with perhaps the most famous (and most controversial) two sentences in American history:

"When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute

new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Yes those are only two sentences. They manage to pack in quite a few ideas, most notably the compact theory of the origins of government by the 17th century philosopher John Locke. We are taught not to write like this in high school and college. Be simple and direct. So kids, don't try this at home (or in the pages of the Montague Reporter). But these long, rather convoluted sentences are often read aloud and somehow they work a bit like poetry.

In fact, reading aloud may have been why they were written. There was no need for a lengthy preamble like this referencing the theories of John Locke, natural rights philosophy and the compact theory of government. The list of charges against the king might well have sufficed.

The preamble states that the reason for the declaration was that "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind requires that they [the colonists] should declare the causes which impel them to the separation." The stated purpose of the preamble was to explain the revolution to people in other countries. The problem here, according to the historian Pauline Maier, is that the declaration was not in fact widely publicized around the world in 1776. And if your main diplomatic goal is to create an alliance with the French under King Louis XVI, circulating a preamble stressing equality and the right to revolution might not be the best strategy.

But if you are a volunteer American soldier waiting in New York while a massive British army is assembling on Staten Island, then an inspiring document portraying your war as a world-historical struggle for liberty might be helpful. Thus one of the first readings was to Washington's troops, "formed in hollow squares in their respective parades." The declaration was also read in hundreds of colonial cities and towns, often at public rallies accompanied by ritual

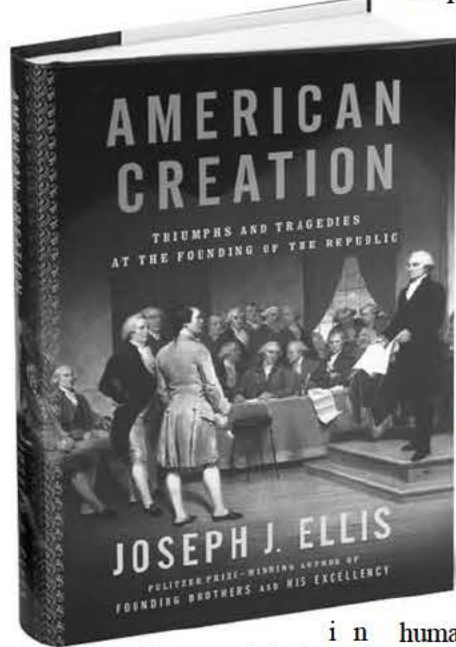
destruction of objects like statues of King George.

The fact that the Declaration was meant to be read aloud may help to account for some of its more unusual (and radical) features. For example, the Declaration flatly declares that "all men are created equal." This would seem to be a rather radical idea for colonial slaveholders and wealthy merchants to sign on to. The Virginia Bill of Rights, the model for the preamble, dealt with this problem by adding that men were equal in a state of nature, presumably a time long past. This wording is more compatible with the original theory of John Locke (and with the reality of slavery) but is not very oratorical or inspiring.

Then there is the idea of "Nature and Nature's God." The phrase probably reflects the fact that Jefferson and a number of other founding fathers were what we now call "deists." That is, they believed there was a god who initially created the universe but then stepped back, allowing the natural clock to tick by itself according to certain laws. In the Declaration, however, God almost seems to be a creation of nature. Historians sometimes theorize about the meaning of "nature and nature's god," but Jefferson may have employed this phrase for poetic effect.

The fact that the preamble was widely read in 1776, however, does not mean that its words were influential in the early years of the American Republic. One of the central arguments of Pauline Maier's recent study is that the Declaration did not become "American Scripture" (a quasi-religious statement of our democratic faith) until the 1820s. Joseph Ellis, in *American Creation: the Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic* tends to agree: "There is no evidence that Jefferson himself had any inkling that he had written the seminal statement of the American promise."

But it certainly had become the seminal statement by the middle of the nineteenth century. Abraham Lincoln referred directly to the preamble when he stated, in the Gettysburg address, that the United States was "conceived



referred to man's original state in nature.

Finally, as historians like Joseph Ellis have shown, the founding fathers — Jefferson in particular — were acutely aware that slavery contradicted the words of the Declaration. In northern states, this awareness led to the abolition of slavery. Unfortunately in the states with large African-American populations where slavery was the economic and social base, the preamble may have had the opposite effect. If you declare that "all men are created equal" but insist on holding Africans as slaves, the tendency is to redefine these African men as not

human. Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Do we agree with Lincoln's assessment now? For most of our history, the preamble has been viewed as the best statement of our national identity: political and economic liberty for the individual and democracy as our form of government. Not only that, but the Declaration seems to suggest that we should promote this vision, sometimes called "liberal, democratic capitalism," to the rest of the world.

More recently, however, many Americans have also noticed that the Declaration in fact contradicted the reality in 1776, and for nearly 200 years thereafter. Many of the signers — including Jefferson — were slaveholders. The preamble did not suggest that women had "inalienable rights" or that men without property should be allowed to vote. Indeed if you factor in adult women, slaves, and men without property roughly eighty percent of the adult population was probably disenfranchised in the early years of the American republic.

Most historians would argue that both things are true and worth noting. The Declaration was a radical and inspiring document that in many ways was inconsistent with political and social realities of 1776. They also point out that the Declaration was a justification for revolution, not a constitutional blueprint for a new government. The natural rights arguments generally

There is no reason to put the founding fathers or the Declaration on a pedestal. There is nothing wrong with noting the historical reality — the gap between the Declaration's preamble and the colonies in 1776. Yet if all we do is carp about this we also miss another historical reality — the fundamental radicalism of the American revolution. The rhetoric of the preamble produced a democratic republic over a huge geographic area; a creative balance between federal, state and local sovereignty; the elimination of hereditary political power, the end of state-supported religion, and a written constitution with a bill of rights. It also established a strong justification for expanding democracy in the future.

The founding fathers were not perfect (and neither are we). Yet the Declaration reflected an idealistic political culture ready to experiment with new forms of political organization in an unstable and unpredictable era... We could use some of that attitude in 2011.

HERITAGE from page 11 to the others — from New Haven and Hartford, CT to Springfield and Greenfield, MA to Brattleboro and Springfield, VT. The movement of machinists throughout the region and the informal sharing of information helped spread critical skills, encouraged innovation and also created links between communities (and hence the museums.)

Terapane spoke of a set of unwritten rules or code of ethics that is part of the machinist culture — it is of course important to have a good work ethic, do the job well and it is also important to leave a job at a good time — leaving your employer mid-project is frowned upon and well respected machinists see their projects through completion.

Like all trades, to be successful you must also learn new skills — see **HERITAGE** pg 18


HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG Counterfeit Bills

- Monday, 6/20**
- 8:30 a.m. Business on Dole Road reported counterfeit money received on purchase of product; under investigation.
- 12:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with suspicious person on the railroad tracks on Gill Road.
- Tuesday, 6/21** 4:50 p.m. Assisted Erving police with processing a house break on Old State Road.
- 7:20 p.m. Reported assault and battery suspect at the Franklin County Boat Club, suspect on River at this time.
- Thursday, 6/23** 9:10 a.m. Past domestic situation on Boyle Road, handled thru the attorney of suspect.
- Friday, 6/24** 9:40 a.m. Reported tractor trailer unit stuck on the G-M Bridge, assisted same.
- 11:45 a.m. Resident on Mountain Road having problem with fisher cat in the area.
- 1:35 p.m. Animal complaint on Franklin Road; owner of dog located.
- 6:09 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with three car motor vehicle accident on Route 2.
- 9:45 p.m. Assisted Northfield police department with a 911 hang up call on Main Street.
- 11:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Boyle Road.
- Saturday, 6/25** 2:45 p.m. Arrested resident on default warrant on Riverview Drive.
- 5:00 p.m. Report of truck "burning out" at state boat ramp; gone on arrival.
- 11:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police department for out of control family dispute on Gill Road.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Larceny, Harrassment, Deer Accident

- Tuesday, 6/21**
- 5:20 p.m. Report of possible crash on Paper Mill Road. Found to be a motorcycle with a blown motor.
- Wednesday, 6/22**
- 12:42 p.m. Report of larceny and identity fraud on Stachen Street. Under investigation.
- Thursday, 6/23**
- 2:15 p.m. Report of criminal harassment involving Erving resident. Report taken. Under investigation.
- 9:15 Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without a license, possession of a Class E drug and defective equipment.
- Friday, 6/24**
- 3:10 p.m. Report of suspicious person at Lillian's Way residence. Checked same. Report taken.
- 4:00 p.m. Dispatched to Barton's Cove in Gill for loud crash. Was motor vehicle vs. deer accident.
- 9:10 p.m. Report of kids playing basket-

- ball in the street on Church. Spoke with same. They will pack it in for the night.
- Saturday, 6/25**
- 4:45 Report of past breaking and entering into a motor vehicle. Found to have happened in Gill.
- 10:55 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic disturbance on Gill Road.
- Sunday, 6/26**
- 1:25 a.m. Suspicious persons at library. Just hanging out. Moved same along.
- Monday, 6/27**
- 6:50 p.m. Report of black truck speeding on North Street.



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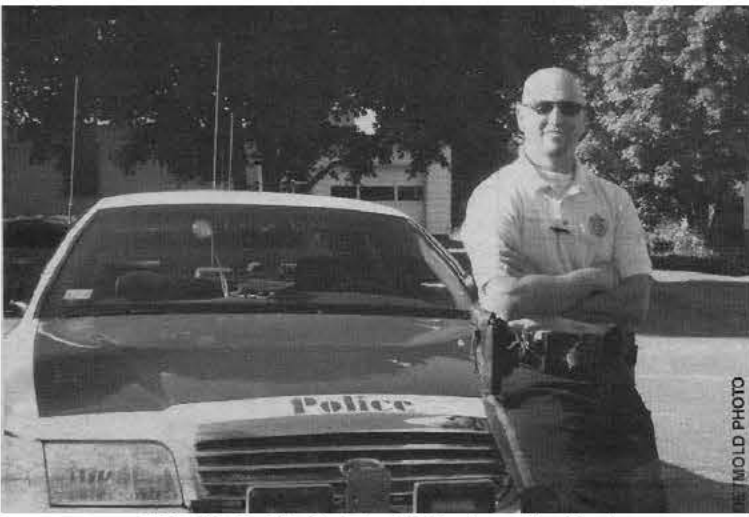
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Gill Holds Steady on Part-Time Police Officers



Gill Chief of Police David Hastings (file photo)

BY DAVID DETMOLD - They say it's hard to vote against the police budget when the chief of police is sitting right there in front of you.

Nevertheless, 16 citizens of Gill stood up at the continuation of annual town meeting on Saturday in support of reducing the budget for part time police officers by about \$10,000.

They were outvoted by the 28 citizens (including three members of the chief's immediate family) who stood up to support the full \$14,356 appropriation for part timer officers.

An even closer vote followed, when a motion to purchase a new police cruiser failed on a vote of 22 in favor, 21 against.

Proponents of the new police cruiser found themselves boxed in after supporting an amendment to finance the purchase by borrowing the money over three years, at which point town counsel Donna MacNicol pointed out that a two-thirds majority would then be needed to borrow the money.

If town meeting had gone ahead and bought the cruiser outright (the money to do so was available within the tax levy limit), the one vote majority on the final motion would have carried the day.

The upshot is, if any one of the citizens who stood up for or against the police budget happens to require police assistance in the year ahead, it is more likely a Gill police officer will respond, but that officer may be driving a 2004 cruiser with transmission issues when the call comes.

Such are the ups and downs of democracy in small town New England.

Tupper Brown, chair of the finance committee first made it clear that his committee (by a vote of 3-2) had supported the full appropriation for part time police officers, which would essentially maintain Gill's present level of coverage. He then rose to amend the amount downward to \$4,500. His wife Sandy stood up to second the motion.

"This is an ongoing issue," said the finance committee chair. "We had fewer policemen some time ago. The size of the force was increased by grants. The grants went away. The question is, how much policing does the town want?"

Brown said exact figures had been hard to determine, but two full time police officers could provide coverage for the town at about 12 hours a day, seven days a week. With the additional amount of money being requested for part time officers (on top of the \$16,000 voters had already approved for part time officers in the omnibus budget), Brown estimated the department would be able to provide 16 hour a day coverage, seven days a week.

"My suggestion is to pare it down to a more manageable police force," said Brown, who argued the town is juggling a number of competing priorities in terms of school budgets and capital projects, with only \$132,000 currently in its stabilization account for a rainy day fund.

Speaking of rainy days,

finance committee member Claire Chang pointed to the missing ceiling tiles (that happened to be just above the public address system on the stage) that had been damaged and removed due to a leak in the town hall roof.

Replacing the leaking roofs at town hall and the police station itself "could easily clean the stabilization fund out entirely," said Chang.

Brown said that in looking into the data for the past year, he found that the chief of police had only been called out from his home (something that happens when no other police officer is on shift to respond) twice in the last 11 months.

He said crime statistics were a little harder to pin down, but it appeared the department had responded to somewhere between 40 and 71 calls for criminal activity in town in the last year.

"There is not a lot of crime in this area," said Brown. "It seems to me we can get back to where we were. We can get back to two full time police officers."

Brown sat down and police chief David Hastings stood up to counter his argument.

"Mr. Brown's figures aren't even close," he said. "If you vote the lower figure, you would be extremely uncovered in the town of Gill. We just had a house break last week with no Gill officer and no state police available."

Hastings said Brown had not accurately tallied the amount of part time hours that would be needed to cover for the full-timers' vacation days, sick time, training, and court time. He estimated the two fulltimers, with reduced part time help, would only be able to provide about seven hours a day of coverage, on average.

"We have a very safe town," the chief added. "Mr. Brown is correct. But we do have crime and we need someone on."

Peter Conway supported the full appropriation. He said there are only two state police officers on at any given time to cover most of Franklin County. "You'll be whistling Dixie if you think you'll get state police to cover."

Brown stood up again. "I don't understand this seven hours a day of coverage," figure that Hastings had advanced, he said. Brown posited two full time officers should in theory be able to offer the town up to fourteen hours a day of coverage. "Vacation time and holidays don't reduce that from 14 hours a day to seven hours a day. I keep calling for clear numbers... it can't be that extreme."

Selectboard member Ann Banash said, "Any citizen of Gill who needs the police department, whether it's for a dog barking or an accident or something more dire, I want a Gill police officer to answer. I don't want to wait for Northfield or Erving."

Finance committee member Jim Poulsen supported the full appropriation for part time officers, saying it would only add \$18.96 to the average tax bill.

Ernie Hastings said, "Maybe we don't have crime because we have police officers. We can't forever expect Bernardston and Erving and Northfield to show up. It's time for Gill to face its responsibility."

Bill Tomb said, "There's a lot of things the town would like to afford but can't. Given the demands of the fire department, the schools, even the cemetery commission... I don't object to paying taxes one bit, but I empathize with people who are too stressed to pay more."

Sue Kramer said every department in town should be able to provide clear, undisputed figures about staffing and coverage to the finance committee.

Brown got up again. "The one thing I think this town does not need is a police force that can respond to every barking dog. We have plenty of coverage for criminal issues. We might be able to afford 24 hour a day coverage, if we didn't care about education."

Chang said, "I lived with a drug dealer two doors down from my house for two years with three officers on the force. I'm not sure all crime is dissuaded by the number of police officers on the force."

Ivan Ussach asked about the town's overall finances. If all items on the town meeting warrant were approved, including the full appropriation for the

part time police salaries, Banash replied, the town would still be under the property tax levy limit by \$500.

Selectboard member John Ward said, "We have a seriously underfunded stabilization account, with roofs to repair and boilers to replace. I feel that what we've done for a number of years is let our infrastructure deteriorate. We have deferred maintenance in our town buildings. We've beaten the regional school district to keep their budget in line... yet we give cost of living adjustments for town employees."

"This is one of the things we could do without hurting ourselves too seriously, in order to put money elsewhere as needed."

David Hastings, responding to Chang's earlier comment, said his department had conducted a two year investigation on the drug dealer she was referring to, on Oak Street in Riverside, "and that guy is still in jail. I still have his gun. That could be any of your neighbors."

Ernie Hastings said, "The school system has not suffered, but the town has been hurt big time."

Former finance chair Paul Nowill said, "Crime is expensive. You won't save anything by cutting back on part time officers."

Finance committee member Alden Booth, responding to a comment from Peter Conway

see **POLICE** page 16

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POLICE from page 15 suggesting the finance committee uses the police department for budget cutting target practice year after year, said, "I don't think we've always solely taken on the police department. We are really trying to look at the numbers. It's tough for the highway and fire departments. We're trying to have good conversations."

Booth added, "Obviously, we are not going to have full time coverage. There is not always going to be someone on when crime happens."

Hastings said Bernardston and Northfield both have three full time police officers, while Erving has five.

Brown said, "We're trying to get this town on a solid financial basis, to pay our annual expenditures out of a reasonable

tax rate. Can we have this level of police coverage and pay our annual costs and build our stabilization?" to be able to cover future costs, he asked.

The town answered, 'Yes, we Can,' by a vote of 29 in favor, 16 opposed.

The debate on the new police cruiser was also long and heated, with those opposed saying the 2004 cruiser, which has 86,000 miles on it, ought to be able to be maintained for another year, by which time more fuel efficient models for cruisers might be on the market. The old cruiser gets 14 miles to the gallon, the new model was expected to get 16 miles to the gallon, and as Booth said, gas prices are likely to continue climbing in the years to come.

Kramer said, "When do you decide to buy a new vehicle? I buy my cars when they have 80,000 miles on them."

Hastings said an emergency responder's vehicle cannot be measure by the same metrics as a private vehicle. When you need a police officer to respond, the cruiser has to be ready to cruise. He said he has deferred some transmission work on the 2004. He said he had no information on more fuel efficient cruisers becoming available anytime soon.

[At the Montague town meeting on May 7th, police chief Ray Zukowski told

meeting members Ford would have a fuel efficient cruiser on the market by next year.]

But once the majority of Gill town meeting voters agreed on Saturday to borrow \$28,000 to purchase a new cruiser, only then did town counsel point out that a two thirds majority would now be required to approve the borrowing.

Although proponents mustered a one vote majority for the purchase, that fell far short of the two-thirds threshold needed.

Voters subsequently agreed to establish a capital stabilization account for future capital needs, and put \$28,000 aside in that account, with the understanding it would be set aside to purchase a cruiser in a future year.

Voters made short work of most other items, passing a 1.3% cost of living increase for town employees totaling \$6,283 by majority voice vote, and approving the \$1,365,159 omnibus spending measure for all town departments and the Tech School with almost no discussion.

The voters also approved spending \$1,390,476 to support the operations of the Gill-Montague schools. As Brown noted, "The school district has

now level funded their budget for two years," in a row.

A routine article to set aside \$3,000 to fund the triennial revaluation of real property in town turned personal when Paul Seamans of Munns Ferry Road rose to address the meeting.

"Some of us oldsters retired several years ago," he said. "We are earning \$20 - \$22,000 a year. Our assessments have increased beyond that. We fear for the ownership of our homes. We're among an increasing number of people who do. Mum and I have lived in our home for 60 years. I wouldn't know what we'd do if our taxes increase beyond our ability to pay for them."

Seamans noted he had served four years in WWII, and in Korea after that.

Tomb said, "Unfortunately, we live in a capitalist system. I haven't been able to find anything that says if you can't afford it, it's still yours. When I can't afford my house, I'm going to have to sell it."

Brown said the town should look into measures taken in states like Florida (where property taxes are frozen with only small percentage increases allowed for homeowners once they turn 65). "If it requires a legislative change, we ought to

go for it," Brown said.

Voters also approved a change in the size of the finance committee, reducing the number of appointed members from nine to seven.

"It's much easier to manage a smaller number," said the committee chair, Brown. He added, "A smaller number may focus the members on their business."

The annual meeting began with tributes to recently departed resident Tony Mathews, who served 25 years on the conservation commission, and Bill Burnham, a member of the zoning board of appeals and the agricultural commission. Both Burnham and Mathews succumbed to brain cancer in the past year.



In Memory of Nadine Taylor
a resident of Riverside who died this week

A friend to all in the Community Garden

Nadine weeded the perennial beds, with her oxygen tank in tow, for the last three years, with a great deal of care. She painted beautiful signs. She was always cheerful, to strangers and acquaintances alike. She helped our garden grow. We will miss her perennially.

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In Support of Sgt. Chris Demars

The Gill annual town meeting unanimously passed an article brought forward by Paul Seamans in support of the family of Sergeant Chris Demars, of Main Road, Gill. The resolution called for the town to create a "statement of town support and sympathy in recognition of the contribution by town resident Chris Demars and his family, as well as for the sacrifices of all town veterans of foreign wars as recommended here today by Paul Seamans, a citizen of the town of Gill."

Demars, who joined the National Guard after 9-11 and was deployed to Afghanistan, was seriously wounded by a suicide bomber on May 9th. He is recovering now after being discharged from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Letters of support may be sent to Demars at Mologne House, 6900 Georgia Avenue N.W., Building #20; Washington, D.C. 20307-5001. Financial support for the family, who are incurring expenses to be by his side, may be sent to his wife Terry Demars, at 35 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. Are we like wine? Do we improve with age?

(This article is a companion to an earlier column on research showing that emotional intelligence increases with age.)

It's clear to me that most of us improve in one area. I believe

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: More About Emotional Intelligence

we become better people. My mother used to insist that individuals don't change. We had many arguments about this.

I think our opinions are highly influenced by perception and personal experience. It's difficult to prove either side of the argument. However, there have been studies done on "emotional intelligence" that indicate we are like Cabernet, not water.

Emotional intelligence is a relatively new concept. It was popularized by Daniel Goleman, a psychologist who was a science journalist for The New York Times. His 1995 book, "Emotional Intelligence," was a bestseller. There are more than five million copies in print in 30

languages.

The term emotional intelligence (EI or EQ) was coined by psychologists John Mayer of the University of New Hampshire and Peter Salovey of Yale.

According to these psychologists, EI improves social relations. The emotionally intelligent person:

- Perceives emotions, uses them in thought, understands their meanings, and manages them better than others can;
- Solves emotional problems with less thought;
- Has highly developed verbal skills;
- Tends to be more open and agreeable than others;
- Seeks occupations involv-

ing social interactions such as teaching and counseling;

- Avoids self-destructive behavior such as smoking, excessive drinking, drug abuse, or violence.

- Owns objects with sentimental value.

How important is EI in living a successful life?

"No one can yet say exactly how much of the variability from person to person in life's course it accounts for," Goleman wrote in his book. "But what data exist suggest it can be as powerful, and at times more powerful, than IQ."

Mayer disagrees with Goleman on this point.

"Dr. Salovey and I had published our review article, "Emotional Intelligence" in 1990, and a demonstration of how emotional intelligence could be measured as well. In 1993 we published a further article entitled, "The Intelligence of Emotional Intelligence". My colleagues and I made no such claims about the power of EI in those articles – or in any of the many articles we have published since. In fact, we have tried to explain why such claims are unrealistic in a number of ways."

If you would like to learn more about EI, go to Mayer's website: http://www.unh.edu/emotional_intelligence/index.html

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

MAHAR from page 7

Judicial Court. It may take six months to a year to resolve the case. CNE is an energy broker that supplies electricity to Mahar through another energy broker, NEEP.

Mahar's electricity costs per kilowatt hour almost doubled between December 2008 and January 2009 as a result of an "automatic renewal" clause in the five-year contract with NEEP that ended in December 2008. This clause stated that NEEP would send the district a notice indicating the end of the contract, and if the district did not respond in 15 days, the brokers would appoint a representative for the district and negotiate a new rate. Subsequently, a new five-year contract was negotiated without input from Mahar, significantly increased the rate.

Baldassarre contacted NEEP and reported at the November 4th, 2009 school committee

meeting that he had searched for and found no record in the school's files of an end-of-contract letter from NEEP, and that NEEP had no interest in renegotiating the rate. Mahar then filed a complaint with the state inspector general (IG).

The IG initially provided an advisory opinion stating that the renewed contract negotiation was contrary to Section 30b of state bidding laws.

However, Coleman reported the IG had written another letter in November 2010 to Arlington schools in which it appeared to be "backtracking" from the advisory opinion to Mahar.

Coleman characterized CNE/NEEP as a "multi-million dollar company" that was "litigating aggressively" because it has similar automatic renewal contracts with many school districts.

Coleman said that consultants associated with CNE/NEEP

had been advocating "behind the scenes" with the IG to step back from the advisory opinion prepared for Mahar.

He said that when the state issue (whether the contract was contrary to state bidding laws) is decided at the SJC, the case may go to federal court, where CNE/NEEP has filed suit against Mahar. For Mahar, the federal court issue is "breach of fiduciary duties," or whether the brokers were representing the best interests of Mahar in negotiating the contract renewal in 2008.

The committee voted to continue with the litigation.

Kwiatkowski told the committee that Orange had approved installing a photovoltaic electricity generating system at the town landfill. The town administrator said the facility would produce excess capacity, which the town could sell to Mahar, presumably at a market rate, when the con-

tract with CNE/NEEP expires in 2013.

School Choice

Baldassarre presented the committee with statistics regarding students "choicing in" to Mahar and said that school choice is "becoming a positive financial situation."

Noting that 77 of the 86 choice students entering Mahar come from Athol, Orange representative Paul Gervais remarked, "It's good for us, but bad for them."

Baldassarre informed the committee that the Gateway to College program, a joint program between Mount Wachusett Community College and Mahar for students at risk of dropping out of college, would be given a separate school code for state reporting and statistical purposes. Because the program serves at-risk students, its dropout rate is high. When the statistics for standard Mahar program and

Gateway to College are lumped, the Mahar dropout rate is "inflated to 8% or 9%" according to Baldassarre. With the new school code, statistics will be reported separately. According to Baldassarre, having two school codes is similar to a large school district that has several different high schools, each with a separate code.

In the committee re-organization for the next year, Maureen Donelan of Orange was re-elected as committee chair and Cara Dean of Orange was re-elected as vice-chair.

Baldwin announced that Johanna Bartlett will be taking over as Wendell's representative to the Mahar committee.

Mahar Teachers Association (MTA) chair Bill Curtis wrote the committee that he is resigning as MTA president and that Matt Parsons will be the interim president until elections are held in September.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Domestic Disturbance, Break In, Bear Sighting

Tuesday, 6/21
11:54 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Services rendered.
Wednesday, 6/22
3:02 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Bulkeley Street. Peace restored.
7:29 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on East Main Street. Referred to other agency.
Thursday, 6/23
1:17 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Laurel Lane. Peace restored.
12:56 p.m. Unwanted person on Church Street. Services rendered.
9:49 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]
10:56 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at Crocker Building on Avenue A. Services rendered.
Friday, 6/24
4:49 a.m. Brush fire at mulching plant east of Judd Wire on Turnpike Road. Services rendered.
1:24 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Advised of

options.
3:10 p.m., 5:48 p.m., and 10:06 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Powertown Apartments on Fourth Street. Advised of options. Referred to an officer.
3:41 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Franklin Street. Advised of options.
6:35 p.m. Animal neglect complaint on Fifth Street. Investigated.
7:26 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation on Fifth Street. Citation issued.
Saturday, 6/25
1:33 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for involvement in a fight.
9:51 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery and intimidating a witness.
7:35 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Franklin Street. Peace restored.
Sunday, 6/26
12:14 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unregistered use of a motor vehicle, forgery, misuse of a RMV document.
8:15 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for misdemeanor breaking and entering and trespassing, at Franklin County Regional Housing

Authority.
Monday, 6/27
5:17 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Industrial Boulevard. Services rendered.
8:38 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Avenue A. Services rendered.
9:20 p.m. Animal complaint (bear) on X Street. Unable to locate.
Tuesday, 6/28
3:57 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Main Street. Investigated.
8:11 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]

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from **HERITAGE** page 14 Terapane said the most difficult challenges for him was the changes in the drafting of prints – with 8 years of blueprint reading under his belt, it was a challenge when the computer industry revolutionized the world of drafting.

Experienced machinists are aware of the importance of Franklin County to the industry. Terapane worries younger generations believe machining to be a career of the past. When he moved to Greenfield huge changes were underway – with

jobs leaving the area, large companies closing and established leaders in the industry struggling to adapt to new technology.

Terapane believes machinists remain important to the social and financial health of the area. While there are no longer massive plants employing hundreds and thousands of workers, there continue to be many small shops involved with the development of new technology as well as those that continue traditional roles of the trade. Several shops work with the UMASS science and technology departments on experimental work and prototype development. Terapane spent much of his career working for companies that were spin-offs from UMASS technology research – microwave communications and biotech research. You might not think of these as machinist friendly industries – but they all depend on rapid prototyping – and nowadays much of the machining work is done

with very small tools used under a microscope.

Like many of his fellow board members, Terapane's original interest in the tools and technical side of the machinery soon gave way to a growing interest in the social story. He believes the museum is a lens through which to view local history. He thanked Peter Miller for his continuing help and expansive historic knowledge. The updated exhibit area continues to evolve but visitors to the museum can take a trip through the centuries, beginning with a look at how we view time (the transition from a day's work in an agricultural society to the time-clocks of the factories during the industrial revolution).

The exhibits travels through time to tell the importance of the cutlery industry and how its innovations were the precursor to the modern tap and die industry. The Russell cutlery factory was one of the first to use a trip hammer to save time and energy and deliver a more consistent product. Several other competitors joined the fray during the 1800s and examples of their products are also on display in the exhibit area.

One can see the importance of Franklin County's industrial heritage while moving from the sheer abundance of industry in the 1800s – with as many as 22 mills on the Sawmill River in Montague – to the 1900s when local companies became major forces. In the 1940s when Greenfield Tap and Die ran its Emergency War Plant it was the largest company in the world. At the same time a small local company developed the first mobile police radio.

The next century brought the pain of endings with the closure of plants like Lunt Silversmiths as well as the opening of new companies like Ewing Controls who specialize in building generator controls for steam turbines.

There is a section of the exhibit that focuses on European immigration as well as the advent of railroads and the westward migration that changed the output of many local factories (John Russell's Green River Factory is reputed to have shipped 720,000 hunting and skinning knives to the American West). One panel looks at the Owseichik family story – from immigration to the United States

and eventual move to Greenfield to the three generations of GTD employees. Another looks at the importance of rivers and canals to transportation and how things changed when railroads gained prominence.

The exhibits also takes a look at the Northampton entrepreneur and inventor, John J. Grant whose patent for a new "threading tool" paved the way for the new industry that put Greenfield on the map and traces the evolution of the tap and die business.

The workshop allows visitors to try out tools if a volunteer is available to help. Board member, Jay Stryker was my personal tour guide and started me on an 1890s era Goodell-Pratt treadle lathe. He explained these lathes were typically used to make chair rails or other wood components and were for home use as well as farm and small business use. Parts could be manufactured to repair equipment and "inspired inventors" could make and test their ideas.

The next workbench housed a vise that alternately held blank nuts and bolts. It was here that I realized what taps and dies actually do as I used a "fluted tap" to add threads to a brass nut and a "die" to add threads to a brass bolt. This was an easier task as the hand-held tools seemed to be simply turned in a clockwise direction. Stryker patiently cautioned me to feel for clicks and hesitations, a signal to back the tap out and let the scrap brass escape through the narrow flutes or channels in the side of the tap.

I was curious how many nuts and bolts were manufactured during the industrial heyday of the area but soon learned that was not Franklin County's niche. Similar to the grain mills producing the flour for a baker to use in the creation of an end product; the county was famous for manufacturing the taps and dies for others to produce the nuts and bolts – in fact, at one time Franklin County was the largest producer in the world.

Moving around the workshop, our next stop was an antique Steinway woodworker's bench with a large collection of wood-working tools – there was an amazing wooden vice and an ingenious set of moveable wood pegs that could be positioned to hold your piece of wood steady while working on a project.

Hand operated drills, block planes, jack planes and other tools were available to use. Stryker talked about the tactile and aesthetic enjoyment of using hand tools where the project was enhanced by the sense of touch, sound and smell and noted the simple elegance of the "foot power" tools.

One can also drill holes in metal with a bench drill from the 1910 era followed by a look at the Cadillac of 1920s era home workshops – it included a horizontal milling machine, a bench grinder, lathe, drill press and metal cutting hacksaw in a frame guide. The final section exhibits 1950s era electric tools and accessories (some so heavy, they are hard for one person to lift).

Across the hall in a small library board member Chris Clawson ran a computer animation he built from historic mill photos spanning two hundred years. Clawson assembled a series of views and angles to come up with an animation that would be relevant to the viewer. The museum sits on the banks of the Green River where Native Americans created fishing weirs out of saplings to capture fish during the annual spring migrations. The weirs created a dam of sorts which was added to by settlers and early users of mill wheels. The "rights to the water" were the roots of industry as grain mills led to lumber mills, forging, water hammers and eventually industrial plants.

The museum offers a great opportunity to learn more about our industrial history. For more information, visit the website at www.industrialhistory.org.



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Public Notice of Notice of Intent Leverett

Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo) has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Leverett Conservation Commission seeking approval for a transmission structure reconstruction project in the vicinity of the Richardson Road beaver impoundment within an existing utility right-of-way (ROW) in Montague and Leverett, Massachusetts. The Applicant, WMECo, is proposing to remove eight (8) existing wooden structures from a span along WMECo's existing 354 Transmission Line and replace them with four (4) steel structures in the same span.

Portions of the project will occur in "Areas Subject to Protection and Regulation" under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. As part of the project, WMECo is proposing to implement a wetland mitigation program within land known as the Wentworth Farm Conservation Area in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Information regarding the NOI may be obtained by calling the Leverett Conservation Commission at (413) 548-1022 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The NOI may be viewed at the Leverett Conservation Commission office located at 9 Montague Road. You may also call John Morissette of WMECo at (860) 665-2036 Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. with questions or to arrange to view the NOI.

Copies of the NOI may be obtained from the Leverett Conservation Commission by calling the number above or by calling Meghan Fulham of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. at 617-924-1770. You may be charged a fee to obtain a copy of the NOI.

The Leverett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the NOI. Notice of the public hearing (including the date, time and place) will be published in a local newspaper at least five business days before and posted in Town Hall at least 48 hours in advance. You may also call the Leverett Conservation Commission at 413-863-3200 Ext. 207, to determine the date, time and place of the hearing.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

SATURDAY, JULY 9th & 16th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Country Players present *Anything Goes*. Also a matinee on July 17th.

FRIDAY, JULY 8th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse featuring *Same Old Blues*, ragtime country blues from the 1920's and 1930's. Winners of the raffle prize will be announced. This will be your last chance to buy a ticket for a new bike! 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, Free, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 11th
Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*, 7 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, JULY 12th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Movie Night - Blue Velvet*. Free.

Apicella & Iron City Jazz CD Release Party for "The Business," 8:30 p.m.

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

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

SUNDAY, JULY 17th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canalside Nature Walk*, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS, JULY 5, 12, 25
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope*, story, activity and craft hour for young children ages 3-6, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

NOW through JULY 31st:
Great Falls Discovery Center: Artist *Norm Vexler* presents *Underwater Life*, a photographic exhibition. Artist reception on July 2nd at 1 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 30th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, Country & City Blues Guitar and Vocals 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 1st
Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ton of Blues*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, 9:30 p.m.



The Sweetback Sisters play at the Rendezvous on July 14th at 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Heather Maloney*, indie folk rock/pop, with special guest *Brad Yoder*, singer/songwriter, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zombie Nurse*, *Rebel Base*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 2nd
Montague Bookmill: *Duo Orfeo*, featuring *Joseph Ricker* and *Jamie Balmer*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Matt Koziol*, blues pop rock, 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Triple Goddess Concert*, Musical *Mistresses of Myth* and *Magick* with vocalists *Wendy Rule*, *Kellianna*, and *Sharon Knight*. 7 - 10 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 3rd
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites Backyard Bash*, Reggae Fantastico! 9 - 11 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 5th
Gill Commons: Summer Concert Series, *Nicole Alexandra*, tunes from Berklee College of Music, 7 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, JULY 7th
Greenfield's Energy Park: Summer Coop Concert Series presents *Joe Graveline*, *Michael Orlen*, and *Kathy Chapman & Blue Moon*, 6 - 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, *Brian Mallet* and *Lefty Cullen* playing all your favorite oldies from the 50's & 60's, 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Jolly Beggars*, 7:30pm.

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio features *Quebecois Music* with *Cynthia Thomas*, *Chris Darrow*, & *Doug Feeney*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 8th & 15th

Recover Project, Greenfield: Grand opening Gala for the *Recover Project's* new space, at 10 Osgood Street in Greenfield MA, including an unveiling for the first time the screening of the *Recover Project's* new video. Light refreshments will be served. 8 - 11 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, Acoustic driven originals, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Mike Stetson Band*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 9th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Children's Series: *Petals and Thistles*. Drop in anytime between 10:30 and 2:00- stay for a minute or an hour, leave with a better understanding of the greatness of the world of petals and thistles.

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Water Under The Bridge Historic Bridges Bike Tour*, a leisurely two hour bike ride along the Turners Falls Canalside Bike Path that highlights the history of the bridges in Turners Falls and Montague City. Bring your bike, water, bug spray, helmet, and sun block. 863-3221. Meet at the main entrance at 1:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Al's SouzaPalooza Band*, Folky/ Country/ Alternative Covers and some originals, 9-11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Steve Nelson* and *Timothy Hill*, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Roger Salloom* and *Charles Neville*, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 10th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Poets and Their Rivers*, learn about the Connecticut River Watershed, from the perspective of the poets. 2 - 3:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JULY 16th and SATURDAY, JULY 17th
Greenfield Community College: *Green River Festival*. Opens at 12 p.m.

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

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

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

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Charlie*



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Giving Back and Taking Care

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - It's been an interesting month: hot, cold and wet beyond belief. We've had four inches of rain this month according to my new rain gauge. The weeds have flourished; the crops are a bit confused.

As we dry out a bit, we learn what plants are as resilient as we New Englanders. The cold crops did well, until the heat set in. The tomatoes and peppers sulked through the cool, rainy weather and jumped back when the heat came.

The weeds are legion. It's really no surprise that some expect the end of the world. If you are a reader of the

Bible, you recall the floods and pestilence we have brought upon ourselves. If you believe as I do that we are living with the choices we have made, the end of the world as we knew it is approaching. We have so polluted the air that we now have global warming. The ocean waters are so toxic that we are on the edge of wiping out several species integral to life in the sea. We have lowered the standards to allow nuclear plants to continue to operate even when they are clearly no longer predictably safe.

We gardeners can in our own small ways, try to tend and keep Mother Earth. No-till gardening (using cardboard to keep down weeds instead of tilling) arose on my small horizon for two reasons. First, the soil is badly depleted by use and over-use and multiple chemical treatments. Secondly, soil that is not

tilled retains carbon and nitrous oxide, rather than release them to the air, since both are contributors to poor air quality. Soil quality is improved, erosion and evaporation reduced and water retained.

One last benefit deserves mention: less stress on the aging gardener's joints. This garden has always been tilled manually, one spadeful at a time. Now, there is more time for planting and harvesting. Less time spent weeding on hands and knees. Raised beds can be weeded while the gardener is sitting on a low stool. Manure and compost can be spread over the disintegrating cardboard, and will have entered the soil before spring.

The strawberry plants tire. A half cup of berries here and there, but not enough for short-cake or pie. Being behind in the planting of summer crops, this weekend I pulled out the strawberry plants and their neighboring weeds and planted pole beans, winter squash and cucumbers.

The weed and plant harvest revealed one of the major benefits of no-till gardening. This bed was less successfully managed with landscaping cloth. The fabric was light and airy, allowing weeds to grow beneath it. Just the same, this limited cover also encouraged gardeners' gold in the form of huge, fat earthworms, the workers of the soil. These vigorous, active critters turn the soil, aerating it with oxygen while also feeding it with their castings.

It only needed the addition of a bit more manure and compost to the hills I created before the seeds could be planted.

I am late in these plantings but hopefully the climate, which seems to be moderating as we watch, will again produce an extended season supporting these hot weather crops.

Meanwhile, the peas are developing nicely; the tomatoes and peppers are setting fruit. The roses are bountiful and have a heady, spicy scent. Soon the daylilies will open. Summer moves on apace.

In the fields the Indian paintbrush and daisies dance among the blades of grasses. The edges

of the yard are overcrowded with weeds and saplings. We think removing all of that will wait for cooler hours, right along with the remainder of the woodpile that still needs to be stacked.

The somnolence of the long hot afternoons calls us to the hammock or to putting the canoe or kayak in the water. Cooking fish and vegetables on the grill keeps more heat out of the kitchen. It's the season of sun tea, ice cream and a cold glass of wine or beer.

When the cool comes early in the evening, it's not too dark to return to the garden or walk down the bike path one last time before the mosquitoes take up active residence.

Gardening gives us many gifts: fresh food for the stomach and more food for the soul. We empty our heads of worries while working with our hands. We become highly cognizant of sound, smell and sight. We think of much for which to be thankful. We give back as we take care. I feel blessed.

Happy gardening to all tenders of the Earth!



IVAN USSACH PHOTO

Trail guide Josh Knechtel gestures to a massive granite formation in the Wendell State Forest.

from **FOREST** page 7 the Green Mountains in southern Vermont.

Gazing out across the Connecticut River Valley, few signs of human presence were visible. From our comfortable perch on a large stone ledge, we followed the march of a power line corridor to a gap we figured to be the Connecticut River, upstream of the French King Bridge. Knechtel has seen the bridge lit up at night from this spot.

It was still early, but we both had things to attend to. I started thinking about our next hike, maybe getting close to those ledges along the Millers River, even if there is no Scenic Vista

marked on the trail map.

"You can't go wrong exploring Wendell State Forest," Knechtel said.

For those interested in contacting Josh Knechtel about his trail guide services, reach him at 978-544-7142, or email nqwoodswalks@gmail.com.

He enjoys hiking with people at all levels, including beginners.

"I've

been taking people into the woods for a long, long time," he said.

For more information on the 7,900 acre Wendell State Forest, call 413-659-3797 or check the DCR website.



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