



BOOSTER DAY

Turners 26 - Athol 6
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LIVINGROOM YOGA

On Chestnut Hill
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 2

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 9, 2008

Meet Your Friends at the Gill Store & Tavern

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

GILL – Creating an inviting and nourishing gathering space for local folks to come together is the main reason Alden Booth and his wife Lissa Greenough have again re-invented the historic Gill Store on Main Road, in the center of town.

Last Friday, they opened the Gill Store & Tavern and served a full house of dinner guests both Friday and Saturday evenings. The hearty laughter of diners enjoying a homemade meal with a glass of wine or pint of local brew had Booth grinning from ear to ear as he greeted many friends, neighbors and new faces on opening night.

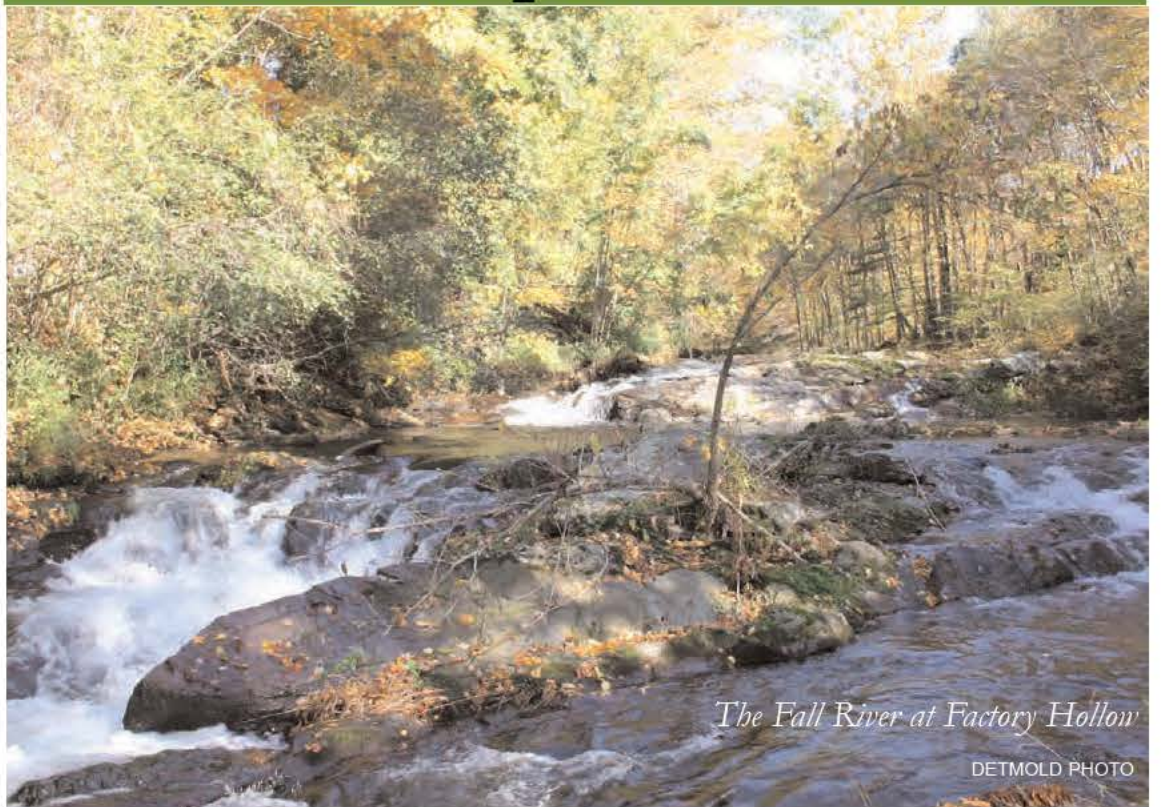
“People have their jobs and their homes, but a lot of small communities are missing that third place – the place you go to

meet your friends – the idea of the public house or tavern where you can go, have a beer, talk politics, play darts, have a meal, have a drink,” said Booth, who also owns the People’s Pint on Federal Street in Greenfield. “Twelve or thirteen years ago when we opened the Pint, it was the same thing. People missed seeing each other and we wanted to provide that gathering place.”

Equipped with a full liquor license, the Gill Store & Tavern offers patrons the chance to enjoy a brew from the People’s Pint paired with smoked barbecued wings (from free-range and hormone-free chicken) followed by a pulled pork sandwich with slaw; or a glass of Italian Pinot Grigio paired with

see **FRIENDS** pg 14

River Clean Up Starts At Home



The Fall River at Factory Hollow

DETMOLD PHOTO

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - In the old days, before garbage trucks came by once a week to bring trash to the transfer station, people would throw their garbage in a junk pile at the edge of the woods. Many of these old family junkyards still exist, leaching their contents into the watershed.

Ray Purington, who helped out with the 12th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup of the Connecticut River watershed in Gill this weekend, said, “Older household dumps are common throughout Western Massa-

chusetts. They are characterized by broken glass, broken dishes, tin cans, old soles from shoes...”

On Saturday morning, looking down the embankment behind 29 West Gill Road, in a section of town known as the Cascades, Purington watched a half dozen students from Northfield Mount Hermon and a half dozen students from Gill Elementary School scramble up and down a hillside made up almost entirely of trash: rusted metal, electric wires, old motorcycle parts, dead batteries, fire

extinguishers, anti-freeze canisters, oil filters, old clothes and every other household item imaginable, from bedsprings to basketball hoops.

“This is a more modern dump,” said Purington ruefully.

The students worked with shovels and garbage bags, gloved hands and elbow grease, in teams of two or three, to clear the hillside of the accumulated trash. They removed the surface debris, shoveled out the power cords and metal items, filled an NMH truckbed full of junk and

see **CLEAN UP** pg 10



Alden Booth, owner; Laura Carboni, manager

THEATER REVIEW

Tibetan Book Of The Dead

Presented by the Shantigar Foundation in association with Pilgrim Theatre Research & Performance Collaborative

Adapted by Jean-Claude van Itallie;

Directed by Kim Mancuso

BY SUDI NIMMS

MONTAGUE - We begin our journey to the other side of life with a Nobly Born friend. Among a spectacular skeletal backdrop of interwoven birch saplings in the Maezumi Institute, two spirit guides help our friend in his struggles and triumphs as he learns to let go of his body and the human experience to become one with the realm of the dead.

Tibetan Book of the Dead, or “the Great Liberation upon Hearing in the Intermediate State,” is a Tibetan text guiding one through “the experiences the consciousness has after

death, during the interval between death and the next rebirth. This interval is known in Tibetan as the *bardo*. *Bardo Thodol* is recited by Tibetan Buddhist lamas over a dying or recently deceased person, or sometimes over an effigy of the deceased.”

Playwright Jean-Claude van Itallie has adapted this text into an exciting stage performance with live music that takes you on an amazing existential romp.

The spirit guides call upon the natural elements of Earth to give our friend a compass of the familiar to face the world of the unfamiliar. Fire, air, water, and

earth each have their lessons to share — and their warnings to issue.

Our friend is tenderly beckoned by the spirit guides to not be afraid, and told that nothing can hurt him any more — he is already dead! He is encouraged to abandon all attachments and merge with the center of his being. From the East, the blue water sparkles wisdom, intelligence, and vision. From the West come the fire elements of compassion. From the North blows the wind of accomplishment, and from the South the earth element shines in gold harvest.

But watch out! Beware of pride, envy, lust, ambition, addiction, and hate. As in life, one must make careful choices in the afterworld.

From the moment Dorsey bumbles onto stage with a pushcart piled with baggage, he pre-



DETMOLD PHOTO

Susan Thompson, John VanEps, Kermit Dunkelberger, Court Dorsey, and Kim Mancuso at the final curtain in the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*

sents an amazingly facile performance, a kind of Charlie Chaplin in a postmortem *Modern Times*. It was a pleasure to watch him run the gamut of emotions so vividly, and often without a word, relying on facial expression and body language to reveal his inner dialogue. Kermit Dunkelberg and Susan Thompson provide his lost soul firm and seemingly effortless assistance as they help

him navigate the hurdles the soul confronts upon its deliverance from the bounds of corporeality. You could tell they are seasoned actors: their use of space was amazing for such a brief set. I loved how they created all manner of spatial arrangements with the barest minimum of props. The music, too, was amazing, resonant, filling the hall and bringing the audience

see **THEATER** pg 12

PET OF THE WEEK**Good Lap Dog****Gunther**

My name is Gunther and I'm a two-year-old male schnauzer mix in need of a good home. Look at me! I've got plenty of terrier attitude! At the same time I would probably be a good lap dog. I walk well on leash and love to go for walks. I'm always ready to try anything! I can live with kids over 10, other dogs, and confident cats. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email leverett@dpvhs.org.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**Mother Goose Loose**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Mother Goose on the Loose will be held Saturday, October 18th, at the Carnegie Library at 10:30 a.m. The program is an interactive mix of guitar and banjo music, rhymes, stories, puppets, and other visuals.

The free sessions are designed for babies through preschoolers and are performed by children's librarian Linda Hickman and musician

Michael Nix.

Monthly Saturday programs will be held through at least November on the third Saturday of each month.

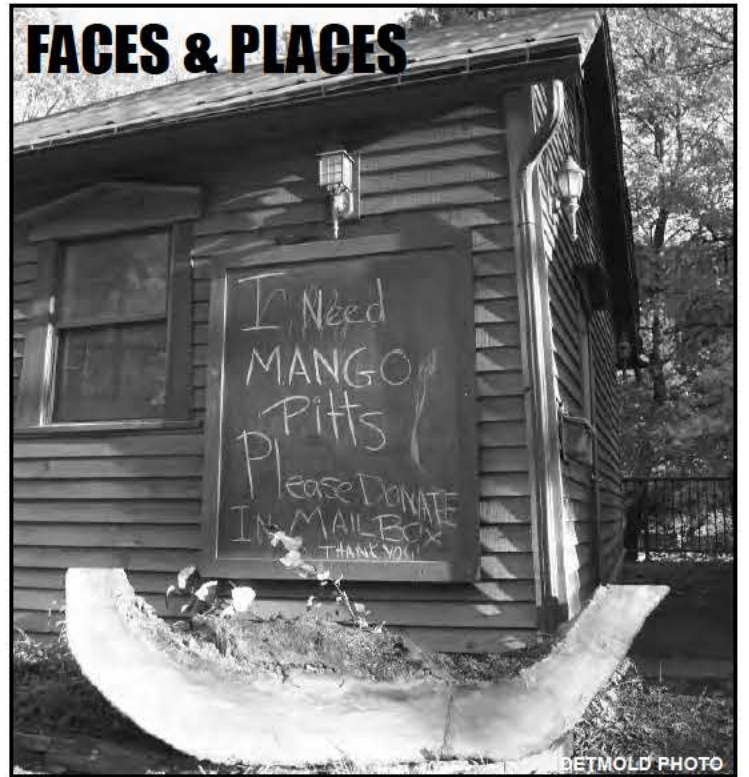
The programs are supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

For more information call 863-3214.

Streetscape Planter Celebration

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - There will be a streetscape planter celebration on Tuesday, October 14th, starting at 5:30 p.m. The main event of the celebration is a guided walking tour of the 35 planters along Avenue A that have been adopted and tended by local individuals, businesses, and organizations. Master gardener Dawn Ward of Montague will provide commentary on the plantings and will answer gardening questions. Individuals who have tended the planters will discuss their successes and failures. The walk begins next to the Great Falls Discovery Center, in front of the old

FACES & PLACES

Mango Pits Needed; Moore's Corner

Cumberland Farms building. Everyone involved in the project, and the public, are invited to attend. This event is sponsored by the streetscape committee, which coordinated the adoptions of all of the planters. For more information, call Linda at the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

Wendell Open Space Planners Seek Community Input

BY MARIANNE SUNDELL - The town of Wendell has just begun the process of updating its open space plan. All Wendell residents and landowners are welcome to review draft sections of the plan and suggest changes. The first draft section, which focuses on community setting, has just been completed.

It includes information about regional context, local history, population characteristics, and growth and development patterns. Next month we will review Wendell's environmental inventory and analysis including data on soils, water, vegetation, wildlife, scenic resources, and environmental

challenges.

Draft sections will soon be posted on the town website www.wendellmass.us. Please contact Marianne at 978-544-8981 or msundell65@hotmail.com with suggested edits, or to have copies mailed to you. Any comments received during the month of October will be

included the next draft of this section. The Wendell open space and recreation planning committee meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the meeting room at the town offices.

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FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
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Turners Falls, MA 01376

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Down Memory Lane in Moore's Corner

The Leverett Historical Society presents another oral history program with Marjorie Glazier (Wheeler) and Hilda Carey Williams (Towne), who will offer recollections of their early years as girls growing up and living in a small New England town.

Family, School, Work, Play and Friends - revisited!

All are welcome to join us for another evening of recollections of early life in North Leverett and Moore's Corner.

**October 23rd; 7:30 p.m.
Moore's Corner
Schoolhouse**

This event will take place at the Moore's Corner School

House, diagonally across from the Village Co-op on North Leverett Road, three miles east of Route 63. Both Marjorie and Hilda attended this schoolhouse.

Parking is available at the Village Co-op or up the hill at the church. Free and open to the public. For more info: please call 367-9562.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Oct. 13th to Oct. 17th

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

Monday, 13th

Closed for Columbus Day

Tuesday, 14th

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Foot Screening Gill and Montague

Residents only. Advanced registration needed. Fee: \$5.00
9 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Paintin
1 p.m. Canasta

Wednesday, 15th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 16th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 17th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

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

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily

at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-2584.

Monday, 13th

9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 14th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 15th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 16th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool

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

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Grade 6:

Zachary Demars

Grade 7:

Heather McKenna

Grade 8:

Nala Vaughn
Dakota Smith-Porter

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Veterans Recognize Rubins' Contribution

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS - In these parts, when the phrase "good citizen" comes to mind, it's pretty hard not to think of Benny Rubin, the indefatigable owner of Rubin's Auto Service at 190 Millers Falls Road in Turners Falls. Known as "Take A Break" Rubin, for the customary greeting he gives as he's whizzing through on the way to his next task, he received a handsome blue plaque Thursday, October 2nd when the board of directors of the Central Franklin County Veterans' District honored Benny and his brother Arnold "for their generous contribution and support of veterans and their families" in this area for the last 13 years.

"Benny and Arnold Rubin are the perfect models of good citi-

zens," said Leo J. Parent, Jr., who serves as the local veterans agent in this district from his office in the back of Rubin's Auto Repair. The Rubins, according to Parent, have given tirelessly of their time, along with material support for local veterans.

"I love these guys," Parent said. "You just couldn't ask for two nicer, more community-minded individuals."

Thirteen years ago, when things looked mighty grim for the local veterans office, the Rubins stepped in and quite literally saved the day. The town of Montague required new space in town hall, forcing the veterans office to look for a new home.

"Above all," Parent said, "I wanted to have a centrally located place, but that proved hard because the rents in this area

were so high at the time: between \$700 and \$800 a month. A search committee looked at several different locations. At one time Greenfield town manager Norm Thidemann attempted to work with the chairman of the Veterans District to help us move into the Greenfield town hall and share space with Charlie Loven, the veterans agent in Greenfield." But the Attorney General of Massachusetts ruled this move would be illegal.

"So at that point," Parent shook his head, "we were just about out of any possibilities. Then my good friends Benny and Arnold appeared out of nowhere and said they'd like to provide us with a place to do our work."

The Rubin brothers went to work, completely renovating an empty office space in the large building that houses their shop. They installed all new electrical wiring and sheet rock, windows, doors, carpeting and two handicapped bathrooms.

"Arnold and Benny paid a contractor to get the office open in just a month." In addition, the Rubins allowed a generous rent and utilities package: \$141 a month including utilities, and

kept it at the same price for 13 years.

Despite all the Rubins have done for the local veterans and their families, the 70-year-old

Parent has been the local veterans agent for 24 years.

Another development that pleases Parent is the help his office is able to render to women

veterans. Women have served in the military since the Revolution-ary War. "We're seeing a lot of women coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan," Parent said. "Over the years, things have improved for women veterans. We now have ladies in their 70s and 80s participating in the VA program for the first time."

In addition, Parent is extremely pleased about the quality of services delivered to former soldiers in our area. "Veterans are



Veterans agent Leo J. Parent, Jr. (left) presents an award to Benny Rubin in recognition of his contribution to the welfare of area veterans

Benny is quite modest about their community service. "We had to do this," he said. "The veterans, over the years, took care of us. Now they need services. The veterans are a great bunch. We're just helping the people who helped us."

Arnold Rubin himself spent 20 years in the Army Reserves, while brother Benny served in the National Guard for a decade.

In aiding veterans, Parent's office offers many services. Disability claims, pension issues, counseling and overall help with available benefits are just four examples of the assistance provided. "We like to think of our office," Parent said with a smile, "as an example of one-stop shop-

treated better in Franklin and Hampshire counties than anywhere else in the nation," he said. "The Northampton VA and the Greenfield outpatient clinic provide exceptional health care to our veterans. The Greenfield clinic has just been recognized once again as one of the outstanding clinics for taking care of veterans in the VA system."

Nationwide the picture is not as positive. "Our government has to make sure that VA health care has mandatory funding from Washington, not the discretionary system that's in place right now," Parent said. "Until this is done, the vets of this country will be denied the health care and services they have earned."

Mouth of the Millers

River Hike in Montague, October 11th

The Millers River Watershed Council invites the public to a rain or shine hike along the Montague side of the Millers River on Saturday, October 11th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Led by locals Betty Waidlich and David Brule, hikers will explore the shoreline, Mineral Mountain, ponds, marshes and hilly terrain near the Millers' confluence with the Connecticut River. Meet at

Cabot Camp parking lot near river confluence.

Directions: Take Millers Falls Road to East Mineral Road; continue to the end of East Mineral. Cabot Camp is located before the bike trail bridge. Bring liquids, snacks and appropriate footwear. For more information contact MRWC at 978-248-9491 or email council@millersriver.net.

Operation Touch of Home

The North Orange Grange and Diemand Farm have joined forces again to bring some comfort and joy to local soldiers serving overseas this holiday season. The groups are sponsoring Operation Touch of Home, an event meant to bring the community together to show support for our local troops. Supplies can be dropped off at Adams Animal Hospital, Diemand Farm, Athol YMCA or the Community Church of North Orange & Tully from now through October 31st, or at the New Salem Transfer Station on the morning of

November 1st.

Operation Touch of Home is currently seeking donations of supplies to fill the care packages and monetary donations for shipping the packages. Examples of supplies include travel-sized toiletries, individual-sized snacks, drink mixes, disposable cameras, sunblock, chapstick, paperback books, new greeting cards, travel-sized games and toys. The greeting cards will be included in the packages for the soldiers to send back home to their family and friends. Letters to service per-

sonnel are also encouraged.

Last year, Operation Touch of Home sent over 40 packages and 400 greeting cards to soldiers stationed overseas. For this to happen again this year, we need your help. Please contact Jessica Gale-Tanner at northorange-grange@gmail.com or by phone at 978-249-9425 with the names and addresses of soldiers stationed overseas, or for more info.

Donations can be sent to: North Orange Grange #86, c/o Jessica Gale-Tanner, 93 Royalston Road, Orange, MA 01364.

Dial-a-Lawyer for Veterans

On October 16th, only, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., free legal advice for veterans who have legal questions involving access to benefits, family issues, employment concerns, landlord tenant matters and other legal issues will be offered through the Dial-a-Lawyer for Veterans program, by calling 617-338-0610.

This program is being offered as a public service of the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) with the financial support of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. The MBA acknowledges its partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs and thanks them for their role in this program.

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24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor David Detmold	Layout & Design Claudia Wells Boysen Hodgson Katren Hoyden Karen Wilkinson Suzette Snow Cobb	Photography Joe Parzych Shawn Woolsey
Assistant Editor Kathleen Litchfield	<i>"The Voice of the Villages"</i>	Technical Administrators Michael Muller Michael Farrick
Editorial Assistants Hugh Corr David Brule	Founded by Harry Brandt David Detmold August, 2002	
Circulation Suzette Snow Cobb Don Clegg	Arthur Evans	

Budget Solution Can Be Found

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

MONTAGUE - As an appreciative supporter, and even champion, of the *Montague Reporter*, as well as a sometime contributor to its pages, I have most times found myself pleased by its contents, or at least challenged to take a new look at an issue. The October 2nd editorial, "Cut the School Budget," mentions a selectboard member who... "took exception" to the editor's remark that the "school budget was destroying the town..." I believe I am the selectboard member quoted in the opening of the editorial. No problem in that; however, the article in its entirety was most disheartening to this reader. It was marked by factual inaccuracy and a consistent pushing of a point to exaggeration, as if the school budget has been the main and only cause of Montague's and Gill's financial woes.

The editor cites the school budget figure as "\$18 million." As of June 13th, 2008 the schools were putting forward a figure of \$17,018,078. The failure of the district meetings to vote for any school budget, including two separate figures brought forward by the town, leaves Gill and Montague paying a percentage of \$16,820,004 as set by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Accuracy in the figures would not, I think, minimize the seri-

ousness of the budget situation.

The school committee recently voted to apply 50% of its 'Pothole' monies from DESE to the town assessments, lowering somewhat the monthly amount each town is currently paying of the 1/12th assessment. Although it doesn't solve the towns' problems, it is a meaningful acknowledgement of our financial difficulties.

I am not disputing that the towns have hit a limit in the amount each can pay for education. I do, however, adamantly resist the idea that the schools are responsible for every capital item we lack. Let's not forget that four times in the past the town brought forward designs for a new police station and voters turned them down. Let's not forget that the town turned down a new library although it could have received sizeable state funding toward its construction. Let's remember too that the new high school we are proud to call our own was funded 97% by state investment.

I don't know of any town or city that builds new municipal buildings by not funding its schools. The way this editorial exaggerates the realities we find ourselves in seems to suggest that school costs are the culprit behind everything we lack. That sounds convenient — it's handy to have one cause for everything that goes wrong. But it won't wash. And ultimately, whether or not the state through DESE contributes more this year to fund the schools, or to offer Gill some relief from its financial woes, the towns are still obligated to pay for each one's share of the assessments. It may be that our efforts to decrease the assessment amounts will succeed through careful negotiation with the schools.

Detmold's editorial paints as hopeless every avenue open to the schools and towns.

For example, he seems to suggest the schools should not accept grant funding to cover



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

nursing services for students for three, four, or five years, then pick up the cost in-house afterwards, when the town has no public health nurse. (In fact town meeting restored the public health nurse position to five hours per week.)

These are tough times. Taking grant money makes some sense, it seems to me, where the choice may be no services at all. By the same token, the five hours of town nursing weekly, while not great, are worthwhile having and, in fact, are what we can do now.

Gill and Montague have joined together this budget season as never before in my experience with the school budget process. This is useful in so far as both towns (along with many other towns) have reached the limit as to what we can pay for educationally, and perhaps in Gill's case, municipally. Gill is in

the unfortunate or perhaps fortunate position of having no reserve funds to attempt to hold onto.

Montague is in the fortunate, or perhaps unfortunate position of having one million, four hundred thousand in the assessor's overlay reserve, which sets up a mighty internal debate. 'To use or not to use, that is the question'. But Detmold states, "There is nothing left in the cookie jar but crumbs." In fact, what there is besides the reserve funds is a strong conviction abroad in the Gill and Montague finance committees and the selectboards that we need to hold onto those reserves to see whether we can forge a new level of state commitment to funding the schools. Or, more modestly, to see if the schools will either get more Pothole monies or lower the assessments. No one has yet

answered the question of what to do if neither of those eventualities occur.

Currently the towns are paying their percentages of the 1/12th assessment as required, in quarterly payments. Both towns acknowledge that this is more than we can afford for the year. The schools, the towns, and the state will meet next week to discuss what is possible in our present economic situation, and what is doable. Maybe the towns will have to stop the "poor us" and get with how we settle the school budget so that both towns and schools can go forward this year. Not doing so could be ultimately more expensive.

Patricia Pruitt is a member of the Montague selectboard. The opinions expressed here are her own, and do not necessarily represent those of anyone else on the selectboard.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Suspicious Motor Vehicles

Tuesday, 9/30

4:49 p.m. Assisted Gill police with welfare check on French King Highway.

9:59 p.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle at the French King Bridge, Gill side. Unable to locate operator.

10:20 p.m. Single car motor vehicle accident on Route 2 at Forest Street; no personal injury.

Wednesday, 10/1

12:10 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with attempted larceny call.

10:40 a.m. Report of unmarked car with flashing lights on Route 2 in Erving center. Found to be unmarked Massachusetts state police cruiser on a traffic stop.

3:55 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on North Street. Found to be a salesman from a vacuum cleaner company. All OK.

6:30 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Maple Avenue, driving up and down. Found to be a driver learning how to drive a standard shift motor vehicle.

Thursday, 10/2

7:30 a.m. Report of barking dogs at a Forest Street address. Spoke with owner. Both dogs inside of residence barking loudly. If continued would result in criminal complaint.

8:30 a.m. Report of elderly woman who fell at East Prospect Street. Assisted EMS; Orange ambulance transported subject.

12:48 p.m. Report of two-car motor vehicle accident with no personal injury on Route 2 at Smokin' Hippo restaurant.

Friday, 10/3

4:43 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revoked registration and with no insurance.

9:33 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Freight House plaza parking lot. Same moved along.

Saturday, 10/4

1:53 a.m. Report of loud neighbor at a Mountain Road address. All quiet upon arrival.

6:25 a.m. Report of large tree

across Route 2 in the Farley area. Tree cut up and removed by Mass Highway.

9:27 p.m. Medical emergency at a Maple Avenue address. Assisted fire department; subject transported by Orange ambulance.

11:40 p.m. Report of barking dog at a West High Street address. Dog inside and quiet upon arrival.

Sunday, 10/5

3:15 p.m. Report of vehicle parking on French King Bridge. Same moved off of bridge.

7:00 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted], for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

Monday, 10/6

9:10 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with motorcycle accident on Gulf Road.

Tuesday, 10/7

4:45 p.m. Arrested [redacted], for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, failure to wear seatbelt and speeding.

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 10/8/08



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

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GUEST EDITORIALS



Shame on you, American Women

BY DENIS BORDEAUX BRATTLEBORO - How could this happen? How could you let it slip away? Everything was in your hands, in your control. I'm talking about finally having a legitimate shot at making the most powerful man in the world... a woman! This wasn't a woman 'just for show' either. Senator Margaret Smith, Representative Shirley Chisholm, and even Veep pick Geraldine Ferraro were nothing more than the boys also letting the girls play.

Should I rethink 'the myth' that females are no good at math? Because it seems like simple arithmetic to me. Voting age women in the United States: 56% of the population. Voting age men in the United States: 44% of the population. Bang, Zoom, Slam Dunk! Every voting age woman from 18 to 98 had the power to actually, finally, change things. Here was a woman capable and smart, with political savvy, so obviously passionate about her country and the American people, it stymies me why any woman wouldn't vote for her. Even if another candidate were her equal (not), she's a woman! I thought the sisterhood would unite and storm the White House regardless of what any man thought or which way any man voted. Did you question her smarts or experience? Maybe she made a political faux-pas or you thought she'd be weak on homeland security.

Question 1. Smarts! Name a candidate or even president from the last 20 years who is actually smarter, including Bill.

Question 2. Experience! Being involved with world events and activism throughout high school and college, where a meshing of ideas and idealism brought her and William Jefferson Clinton together. From then on she has been at least 50% of that duo's decision-making process. A couple of terms as right-hand woman in Arkansas and of course eight years as #1A in the White House, where she was basically a second vice president with more real power than Al Gore. New York State, seeing a keep-

er, elected her senator on her own merit. Having an ex-president as #1A on Pennsylvania Avenue would have doubled the experience factor.

Question 3. Political faux-pas! I can think of only one. She wanted to get everyone in America health care. Gee! Terrible!

Question 4. Homeland security! My answer to that question is Margaret Thatcher and Golda Meir. Is there anything more ferocious or dedicated than a female when she's in 'protection mode'?

Now, I'm loathe to bring this up, because petty and shallow isn't your game, right? Did you not vote for Hillary because she had a straying husband? If so, get real and grow up! You are from La-La land (not California) and probably believe in Creationism and should never be allowed to vote again!

So, not a solid reason there, then it must be the biggies. That is, her hair, make-up, pants suits, jewelry, and the width of her hips were totally wrong. That ridiculousness is only topped by the Democrats penchant for screwing up worse. Missing out on Clinton/Obama, the Dems ignored the second strongest ticket: Obama/Clinton, and its accompanying 18 million votes, by taking Joe Blow Biden, who's never had an original thought in his life, and believes the one book he reads a year to be gospel.

Those Republicans, being only slightly brighter, saw those 18 million wandering, lost in Filenes basement sale dazed in limbo votes and took Sarah Palin to scoop up a few million of 'em. And they'll win, of course!

Obama's a good man, and his time may come later. But I know the hundreds of thousands of women who didn't vote in the primaries have since ordered Sarah Paladdin glasses, and will now vote and make the election close. When it's close, the Republicans will steal it. Again! Then we'll be just a small brain aneurysm away from having Annie Oakley

played by Doris Day as our next president.

So ladies, you have destined me to another eight years of mediocrity, but worse is having Sarah Pallidin telling you and your pregnant daughter what to do with your bodies. All in the name of a religion you just may not believe in. "Shame on you!" You should have stood by your sister no matter what. You could have changed everything!

Message to the Messengers

BY KERRY KAZOKAS NORTHFIELD - I have been involved with the creation of three murals in Turners Falls over the last few years. I have worked with Karen Stinchfield and the Brick House Community Resource Center to paint with members of the community. Two murals are located on 3rd street next to the Brick House, and the most recent is located in the center of Unity Park on the Field House.

As I was walking around and enjoying the fabulous Arts and Leaves Tour in downtown Turners Falls last weekend, I noticed several recent tags and graffiti on the walls defacing

the artwork. I was very angry at first and then sad because I realized that the voices of our children and youth are not being heard. Maybe there is a way to include these silent and angry voices who risk being arrested to tag a building. Maybe I can reach out to them and try to listen, create a bridge instead of blaming them.

I decided to write a letter and put it up on the three different murals, right next to the graffiti. The letter reads as follows.

Dear Artist

I see that you have added your ideas and artwork to the see ARTIST pg 9

Credit Crunch May Impact Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD - A few weeks ago, Montague tax collector Patti Dion had just put the finishing touches on a portfolio describing the town in preparation for going out to bid for a one-year, three million dollar municipal bond. The next day, the steadily worsening financial crisis on Wall Street accelerated, and Dion's long-time financial advisor, Maureen Pacella, vice president of municipal finance at Eastern Bank, in Boston, warned Dion to hold off, for now. Trouble is, that three million dollar bond was intended to pay the bills for the contractors who had just began construction work on the town's new police station.

"We were ready to go out to bid two weeks ago for the police station, just before everything crashed," Dion recalled.

The credit crunch in the nation's financial capital has frozen the pipeline for cash for projects large and small throughout the nation, from a \$50 million bond for highway work in Maine to the \$7 billion cash infusion Governor Schwarznegger needs to keep state government functioning in California. No city or town is spared, not even little Montague, with our A- Standard and Poors bond rating.

"My financial advisor strongly advised not to go out for bid," Dion said, "until the market is a little more stable. In the meantime, we still have little bit of leeway here. The contractors [at the police station] just started, and they won't bill us until 30 days."

For now, Dion said, "We'll

use what money we have. We hope that within two or three weeks the market will settle down."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town had been fortunate to borrow \$2.8 million in anticipation of taxation in August, which gives the town enough working capital to meet expenses for the here and now. Dion was able to secure an extremely favorable interest rate on that bond, 2.35%. But she said now the rates would more likely be ranging between 5% and 7%, if money is available at all.

"You borrow \$500,000 at 7 percent for three months, that costs you \$8600," said Dion, who added the town has not budgeted for interest rates like that for the police station.

"The combined sewer overflow project, that's all taken care of," Dion added. "The borrowing for that project has been preapproved."

Abbondanzio said Dion had paid the initial \$1.9 million quarterly assessment to the Gill-Montague schools, to meet the temporary 1/12th budget imposed by the state in the beginning of July. But he said Dion had decided to pay only one month's worth of the second quarterly bill, "strictly because of cash flow difficulties."

"Part of the problem is [setting] our tax rate is being delayed because of the settling of the school budget," Abbondanzio noted. With no apparent irony he added, "We're between a rock and a hard place."

Until the Gill-Montague school district settles on a budget with the towns of Gill and Montague this year, the towns cannot set a tax rate and send out tax bills. At this point, the towns have no ability to send out bills estimated from last year's bills, so until the school budget impasse is settled, cash flow will virtually dry up at town hall, except for motor vehicle excise taxes, building permits and the like. But the worsening economy has put a crimp on local receipts as well.

Abbondanzio said he was hopeful the federal government would respond positively to Massachusetts Treasurer Steve Cahill's request for a financial relief package directed to the states, similar to what Washington has given Wall Street bankers and financiers.

Failing that, "We're dependent on a systemic solution in the short term bond market," Abbondanzio said. "It's critical that a resolution be found."

Abbondanzio said he had talked to Dion yesterday about the possibility of asking town meeting to authorize a transfer of funds from stabilization in anticipation of taxes, if need be. And possibly to ask for authorization to send out estimated first half tax bills next July, to alleviate the town's annual cash flow problem.

But for now, Dion said her office is in a holding pattern. "We're being very cautious," she said. "It's awful. You just feel... It's like my own money. You just have to be so careful."

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Days of Unauthorized Trench Digging are Numbered

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - With the sale of town owned properties complete, the Wendell selectboard had a short agenda for their October 1st meeting. After less than an hour of open session they went into executive session to discuss the health of a town employee.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reminded selectboard members that the trench regulations passed by the state will go into effect on January 1st. Before then, special town meeting will have to pass an article to allow the selectboard to appoint a permitting authority to collect fees and grant permits for anyone digging a trench in town. The state recommends the granting authority be familiar with trench work, and OSHA requirements.

Anyone digging a trench as defined by Massachusetts general laws must have a hoister's license and insurance, and must contact Dig Safe. An unattended trench must be

covered by a 3/4" steel plate, or be contained within a six foot fence. Once a permit is issued, the town's responsibility ends, unless someone makes a complaint.

A grave is not a trench, as defined by Massachusetts general laws. What is a trench? Glad you asked. A trench is defined as "an excavation which is narrow in relation to its length, made below the surface ground in excess of three feet below grade and the depth of which is, in general, greater than the width, but the width of the trench, as measured at the bottom, is not greater than 15 feet."

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested that the road crew digs most of the trenches in town, and usually they complete trench work within a single day. If the highway commission or the road boss were the permit granting authority the link between trench diggers and the permit granting authority would

be immediate.

Selectboard member Christine Heard thought the road crew has enough to do as is, and selectboard chair Ted Lewis thought the building inspector might be a better choice because, "You can't grant yourself a permit."

Although the town office heating system had been programmed for summer operation, the furnace continued running during the summer until it was turned off manually, and then the circulating pumps continued running until they were turned off, too. The heating system has not been turned on yet, and board members agreed that a representative from Johnson Controls, the company that supplied the computer control system, should come and give town officials a lesson on how to use the entire system.

Lewis suggested that Jim Slavos, a resident who had helped try to troubleshoot the problem earlier in the year,

might want to come hear the explanation from the company that installed it, but Keller thought Slavos wanted nothing more to do with the computer controls. Keller said Larry Ramsdell, town custodian, should definitely be included in any instruction.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation sent the town a notice that DCR might want to acquire a 27-acre parcel within the state forest, that has no access to a road, but is still privately owned. The land has been in one family for generations, and the owner continued to pay taxes even after the state acquired the land that isolated her piece. She wants to hold onto the land, but her son is more inclined to sell.

Heard said the landscape committee advertised for volunteers to mulch, weed and fertilize the shrubs around the office building, but only one person responded. The library hired two women to weed,

fertilize and mulch at the library, and Heard suggested the town hire the same two for the office building.

Lewis said, "I'll do it for nothing if you let me do it my way." He added that his way would require no further maintenance. He said he was concerned that once the town started paying for maintaining plantings the cost would only go up. Nonetheless, Lewis agreed with the other selectboard members to hire the two women once, for four hours of work this fall, and to let the road crew move the mulch pile from the library parking lot to the office building lot.

Keller said Tom Chaisson had the winning bid at the town auction on a piece of land that was not the piece he thought he was bidding on. Treasurer Carolyn Manley checked with an attorney and found that if the property Chaisson bought fails to perc he may back out of the deal, and lose only his deposit.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Thefts in Millers, Turners, Montague

Tuesday, 9/30

9:14 a.m. Medical emergency at an Avenue A address, Turners Falls. Subject removed to hospital.
11:22 a.m. Report of larceny at Rite Aid on Avenue A, Turners Falls.
2:22 p.m. Medical emergency at a Randall Road address, Montague.
3:00 p.m. Report of motor vehicle theft at a Franklin Street address, Millers Falls. Investigated.
5:03 p.m. Report of larceny at an Avenue A address, Turners Falls.

Wednesday, 10/1

9:14 a.m. Medical emergency at a Chestnut Street address, Turners Falls. Subject removed to hospital.
4:33 p.m. Medical emergency at a Greenfield Road address, Montague.
5:38 p.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering at Covenant Church, Bridge Street, Millers Falls.

Investigated.

8:03 p.m. Drug / Narcotics Violation at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested [REDACTED].
Charged with possession of a class A drug and with possession of a class B drug.

Thursday, 10/2

9:33 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a J Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Friday, 10/3

9:40 a.m. Medical emergency at Survival Center, Fourth Street, Turners Falls.
3:20 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Main Street address, Montague. Investigated.
3:44 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Park Villa Drive address, Turners

Falls. Investigated.

Saturday, 10/4
12:16 a.m. Medical emergency at a Hillside Avenue address, Turners Falls. Investigated.
1:12 a.m. Medical emergency at a Main Street address, Millers Falls. Subject removed to hospital.
1:56 p.m. Medical emergency at Turners Falls High School.


Sunday, 10/5

10:43 a.m. Medical emergency at Rite Aid, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Subject removed to hospital
4:10 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Hillside Road address, Montague.

Monday, 10/6

9:45 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Park Villa Drive address, Turners Falls.

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BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Building inspector David Jensen gave an update to the selectboard on Monday, September 22nd, on the progress of the town's case against Gary Kosuda, of Fort Lauderdale, owner of the derelict Railroad Salvage building in the Patch. Judge Dina Fein, of the Massachusetts Housing Court, found Kosuda in contempt of court on Friday, September 12th, for failing to follow the court's earlier injunctions to stabilize and secure the building and ordered him not to leave the state until he returned to court on Friday, September 19th.

On the 19th, Kosuda showed up in court with a structural engineer, Jensen said, and reported to the judge about the discussions he had held with a demolition contractor and an abatement contractor about removing asbestos from the accessible areas of the property.

"He has concluded that demolishing the four story section of the building was the preferred alternative at the moment," said Jensen. That part of the building - the major section - has been steadily collapsing in the direction of Power Street since May 27th of 2006, forcing the town to block off that road, one of only two access routes to the densely populated neighborhood known as the South End, or simply, the Patch.

More than 50 residents of the Patch signed a petition calling on the town to take action to reopen Power Street earlier this summer, and left a selectboard meeting in July with spokesperson Nancy Aubrey angrily denouncing the board for giving the neighborhood, "No satisfaction."

On the 19th, according to Jensen, Judge Fein allowed Kosuda two more weeks to produce an environmental assessment of the work that would be required to clean up, stabilize parts of the building, or demolish other parts of the structure, which was built in the 19th century as the Griswold Cotton Mill. The town asked to have a receiver appointed to administer the project at Kosuda's expense, but Jensen said, "The judge was wary of placing another level of bureaucracy on the situation. Mr. Kosuda's behavior is now under the direction of the court." He said Fein assured the town, "We're not going to drop the ball."

Kosuda was allowed to leave the state, before his next scheduled court appearance in two weeks. Jensen said the town is seeking to have Kosuda's name attached to the lawsuit, rather than naming only his limited liability holding company, Kosudaville LLC.

Jensen said the court was aware that the onset of winter would complicate cleanup operations at the building, which lacks a roof in most areas. "The judge took note that timeliness is important," he

said. "We're down to assembling numbers and a time schedule."

Strathmore Report

Moving right along the power canal, the board heard a presentation from Eric Benardin, an engineer from Fuss and O'Neil, of West Springfield, and Mark Sternick, architect, from Dietz Architects of Florence, discussing access, utility and structural issues relating to redevelopment of the Strathmore Mill. The report was prepared using \$80,000 the town received from a competitive state grant under the auspices of the Chapter 43-D special permitting law, offering technical assistance for the redevelopment of priority sites coupled with 120 day permitting. Montague is preparing for permitting the eventual redevelopment of the Strathmore with an additional \$20,000 from the same grant, according to town planner Dan Laroche.

In contrast to the Strathmore study produced by Finegold Alexander and Associates for the town of Montague in 2005, when the town was considering buying the property for \$300,000, Fuss and O'Neil's approach was characterized by an examination of the engineering issues, rather than the market feasibility of redeveloping the mill. The 2005 proposal sank under the weight of a \$14 million rehab estimate for the entire complex, \$12 million more than the level of debt financing the consultants said the project would be able to support in rents. Fuss and O'Neil's report did not take issue with the cost estimates employed in the earlier report, roughly agreeing with Finegold Alexander that the project could support approximately \$2,170,500 of debt for construction.

Of the cost estimates the new report did provide, the main emphasis was on repair or replacement of the existing pedestrian access bridge, which is structurally unsound. To correct the structural deficiencies and raise the footbridge to the level where it would no longer need stairs at either end, thus meeting ADA code, would cost \$619,000 to \$711,000, Fuss and O'Neil said. Repairing the existing bridge would be the moderately less expensive approach, although this would require the addition of a 60-foot truss support span at the Canal Street end of the structure. Replacing the entire structure with a 210-foot prefabricated steel truss span would cost only about \$100,000 more, the consultants said. Both alternatives would include a roof for the price estimated.

Fuss and O'Neil also examined the possibility of expanding parking for the Strathmore, both on the Canal Street side of the canal and on the roughly two acre mill site itself. With the demolition of an attached structure on the west side of Building #1 (now

standing alone, since the fire of 2007 that destroyed Building #10) additional space for onsite parking could be developed, with up to 29 spaces available on either side of that building.

Additionally, looking at the parking lots that are potential available within 300 feet of the pedestrian bridge, including at the former Dubois Garage lot, the consultants estimated it would be possible to create up to 234 parking spaces, although the use of part of the Great Falls Discovery Center lot would have to be negotiated.

As for utilities, the report concluded that new sewer, potable water, and electric lines should be hung off the pedestrian bridge. As for structural issues, the consultants conducted visual inspections of the mill buildings, and determined that the fire damage to Buildings #1 and #10 was not extensive, and could be addressed primarily by replacing the former elevator shaft in Building #1, where a new roof and roof support timbers have already been installed. Additionally, a new elevator and staircase should be built at the point where the new footbridge joins the mill complex, where Building #4 and Building #1 meet. From here, access to all the other contiguous buildings in the complex would be available. Extensive repointing and some repair of the existing masonry will be required, particularly in the area of the existing stairwell in Building 4 and the roof of Building #1, but much of the repointing work can be spread out over time.

The consultants believed the stand along building near Southworth, Building #11 would be ideally suited for artist live work space, with up to 20 units, including some lofts, if new staircases were installed at both ends of that building and some of the floors with low beam heights were altered.

The consultants suggested light industry in Building #1, left largely in as-is condition for the first phase of redevelopment, until rents or availability of capital allowed for further phases of renovation to the rest of the 244,482 square foot complex.

Additionally, Benardin and Sternick noted "several smaller buildings in disrepair," at the east end of the complex. "We recommend they be removed," Sternick said.

Town planner Dan Laroche said the new report emphasized repair or replacement of the existing footbridge because, "That's something the public sector is going to have to make work."

Selectboard chair Allen Ross said repair of the footbridge, currently owned by First Light Power, "is in the negotiation phase," with the utility company, which has a deeded responsibility to provide access to the mill site.

Ross called the Strathmore Mill "absolutely key to the

economic future of this town, in so many ways."

The Strathmore is currently owned by John Ancil, who has hoped to interest investors in his plans to renovate it and establish a state of the art film and video production facility and school, in a primarily pedestrian and bicycle accessed campus, at the site.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said Ancil will be required to pay half the back property taxes that are still due at the site, a figure in excess of \$93,000, on January 1st of 2009.

Laroche said, "If Swift River Group [Ancil's company] isn't able to move forward with the Strathmore, we have something to provide a developer if the town decides to move ahead and market the site to a developer. The information [in the consultant's report] will make it more feasible for a developer," to consider acquiring the site. He also noted that it would cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000 to remove and dispose of the rubble from the arson fire of May 26th, 2007, since the debris was contaminated with asbestos.

Heritage Landscapes

In other news, Laroche received the board's support for a grant application he will submit this week to the Department of Conservation and Recreation to provide technical assistance to the town in developing an inventory of 'heritage landscapes,' which could be either rural or urban in nature. These vistas should have cultural and historic significance for the community.

LaRoche said a proposal from Native American tribes to have the town of Montague partner with them to make Montague a destination for 'preservation tourism' would be "a wonderful fit" for the heritage landscape program. He encouraged Native American groups to add their list of heritage landscapes to the town's inventory, if Montague received the competitive grant.

Selectboard chair Allen Ross is meeting with the United Southern and Eastern Tribes at their conference in Nashville, TN this weekend to discuss the preservation tourism idea.

Pastor Sohyung Ryu and Chong Collete, from the Greatness Life Korean Church in Millers Falls asked for and received a letter from the selectboard in support of Ryu's efforts to clear up his immigration status with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The INS has disputed with the four year old church, which has fifteen members, whether the church is able to support Ryu as a full time minister. Collete said she was willing to support Ryu personally, if the church could not. The selectboard sent a letter saying they were aware of the church's activities in Millers Falls, and the documentation Collete had mustered to support Ryu's petition for legal resident

status.

Shea Sprinklers

Abbondanzio said the town had been recently informed, following an inspection of the Shea Theater, that the sprinkler heads in the fire suppression system had been rendered non-functional long ago when the theater was painted. The sprinkler heads also received a coat of paint, making them inoperable. The town will use \$5100 in program income money to replace the 51 sprinkler heads, and the work will be done as soon as possible. The fire chief was advised of the problem.

The board granted permission for Travis LeDoyt and the Lin Preston Band to play on the L Street side of Patty Cake Patty Cake on Sunday, October 5th from noon to 2:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Arts and Leaves Studio Walking Tour. The performance will be amplified, and LeDoyt will let the neighbors know in advance of the concert.

The board granted permission to the Peaceful Palm yoga studio to place a sandwich board directional sign at the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street for a two week trial period. Ross spoke of his concern that a rejuvenating business district could become cluttered with such signs on Avenue A, and may require a tighter policy in time to come. Building inspector Jensen said the particular location of this sign could be problematic for handicapped access to the sidewalk, with the onset of winter approaching.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Seniors Face Tough Winter Due to High Heating Costs

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - Roseann Martoccia, director of the Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC) in Montague City, came before the selectboard on Monday, October 6th to talk about the programs available to area seniors, as the onset of winter, record fuel prices and the worsening economic climate make it more difficult for seniors to stay in their homes.

"There's a lot of concern in many communities about the rising cost of fuel and the rising cost of everything putting an extra burden on seniors on fixed incomes," said Martoccia.

"Every year, we have people who call when they run out of fuel. We have a limited kitty from grant funding," with which to help in emergencies. We're all concerned that may ramp up to another level this year," she said.

In addition to working with local Councils on Aging, FCHCC provides Meals on Wheels to seniors in their 30-town service area, and has recently put together a two page list of resources available for seniors in need of fuel assistance and help with energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

Seniors can get a copy of that resource guide by calling: 413-773-5555. FCHCC also maintains a 24-hour emergency hotline for seniors at 800-922-2275. Referrals can also be given to area food pantries and help with groceries by calling these numbers.

"We work with seniors and their families, if appropriate, to help them locate fuel assistance, or to find alternate housing if that's appropriate," Martoccia added.

Montague police chief Ray Zukowski backed up Martoccia in her presentation to the selectboard. He said the \$9000 raised in the TRIAD program's Warm the Seniors golf tournament last week in Southampton would be made available to area seniors shortly, after the committee that organized the event decides how to best allocate it. Martoccia said

her agency is familiar with administering such funds for seniors.

"This is going to be a tough winter, no doubt," said Zukowski, who called the needs of seniors in Montague, "one of my special concerns."

Zukowski noted that the Franklin County Sheriff's office carries out home visits to "3000

their ability to respond to a regional emergency at the designated site: the Turners Falls High School.

"An all time high of vaccine will be available," wrote Montague board of health member Jay DiPucchio, "which means individuals do not have to worry about vaccine shortages this year."

The closing times of these establishments will now be set down on the liquor licenses, including stipulations that all serving of alcohol will stop 15 minutes before closing time (typically 1 a.m.), all patrons will be out of the establishment by 15 minutes past closing time, and all employees will be out of the establishment by 30 minutes past closing time.

"Closing time is the time when abuse," of the provisions of the liquor license "typically occurs," said board chair Allen Ross.

Zukowski said bar owners wishing to do late night maintenance to their facilities could simply call the police station to notify them of the planned work.

New Sewer Rates Set

Even after he applied \$180,000 from retained sewer earnings to lower the impact of the costs of the combined sewer overflow and treatment plant upgrades to sewer users, Wastewater Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob Trombley was still forced to ask for an average

annual increase to sewer bills of \$39, or 10%. The board approved the new rates for Fiscal '09, which are: \$5.40 per thousand gallons from Gill, Southworth and the former Strathmore Mill complex; \$5.82 in the villages of Montague; and a flat rate of \$324 per annum (up from \$294), for the 15 or 16 users in town who have private wells and also have sewer connections.

Trombley said even with the higher rates, the average sewer user in Montague will be paying a bill that is \$37 lower than state average (Montague average = \$448; statewide average = \$485). However, he noted the statewide average is based on 90,000 gallons a year of average flow, whereas the Montague average is 70,000 gallons a year of flow. If town sewer users used the same amount of water is the statewide average, they would actually be paying \$523 a year on the typical sewer bill with the new rates.

Charles Blanker, vice president of strategic development at Southworth Paper, asked why the sewer rate

for the village of Millers Falls had been averaged out to equal the rate for the other four villages, when Millers has its own sewer system.

Trombley replied the decision had been made years ago to equalize the rates for all the villages, and implied that sewer users in Millers were the beneficiaries of that rate leveling. Blanker wondered why, then, industries like his were not treated the same, instead of receiving surcharges for the higher density of solids in their sewage.

Reached after the meeting, Trombley researched the question further and found that in 1995, the last year when the village rates were differentiated, Millers residents were actually paying considerably less than sewer users in the other four villages: \$2.03 per 1000 gallons, compared to \$2.73. This was the same year when the town as a whole took on the debt burden for the capital expense of installing new sewer pipes in Millers Falls. Trombley speculated that the decision to equalize the rates, and have Millers pay more per gallon of flow than they had formerly, was to compensate for the fact the rest of the town was helping out with the capital expense of the sewer upgrades in that village.

Trombley said the contracted surcharge has been in effect with the Esleek Mill, and now Southworth, its successor, since the mid 80s. He said Australis and Lightlife also pay surcharges for their sewer use, since they have heavier solids or biochemical oxygen demands. Last year, the surcharge to Southworth amounted to \$105,469. If this amount were spread out to the other ratepayers of town, it would raise their rates to \$6.92 per thousand, and would remove the incentive the paper mill has now to conserve use of the sewers, Trombley said.

In other sewer news, Trombley received approval for \$2,338 to cover the cost of cleaning out a 150-foot sewer line that runs slightly uphill from the Greenfield Road combined sewer overflow structure to the headworks. This pipe had accumulated a great deal of debris over the years, limiting the flow and making it more likely that untreated sewage would flow



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

Mounds of debris removed from a 150-foot sewer pipe that had been installed years ago on a positive incline, from the Greenfield Road combined sewer overflow structure to the headworks of the treatment plant. The pipe was more than half filled with sediment, and had not been cleaned out in nearly three decades. WPCF superintendent Bob Trombley said the flow to the headworks is now much improved.

homes in Franklin County," to alert seniors to current scams, inspect homes and install safety equipment like smoke and CO detectors, provide equipment to aid mobility, give information on tax abatements and deferments and offer support to conserve resources and stay warm. To get involved with this program, the number to call for the Franklin County Sheriff's office is 413-774-4726.

Martoccia said, "People should be thinking ahead about how to make their homes better insulated. That's another way families can help, so seniors' dollars aren't going entirely to heat. But not everyone has family near or able."

"If seniors are having trouble with their medications, we may be able to help them sort that out to make it more cost effective," Martoccia added.

Subsequently, the selectboard reviewed plans being coordinated by the Montague board of health and the towns of Gill, Erving, and Wendell to hold a four town flu shot clinic, to test

Consequently, the board urged area residents to hold off getting their flu shots until Saturday morning, November 22nd, at the Turners Falls High School. Volunteers are still needed to staff the test clinic; call 863-3200 ext. 205 if you are interested in volunteering, or if you need more information.

In other news, the selectboard acted on recommendations by Chief Zukowski to empower fulltime officers to act as agents of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, to be able to enter and inspect the premises of establishments with alcohol licenses. "This will allow our officers to put the bar in violation if we witness any infraction or if they refuse to let us in for any reason," Zukowski said. "It also allows us to criminally charge owners if we see any infractions." Zukowski said that power would only be used if police witnessed repeat violations at establishments that serve alcohol.

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MONTAGUE from 7

into the Connecticut River during severe storms. He said progress on rectifying code issues at the treatment plant was ongoing, and a careful eye was being kept on cost containment.

Tax Protest

That was cold comfort for Ralph Kimball, of Avenue C, who protested the sewer rate hike. "It's still another increase for the property owners of Montague. When are we going to say, 'Enough is enough?' We just can't afford extra taxes on the property owner."

Kimball, who told the board at a budget hearing earlier this year that although he is officially retired, he continues to work several jobs in order to make ends meet, went on to say, "People are losing their homes. They're losing their retirements. You can't keep asking for more from us. We still haven't reached a settlement with the Gill-Montague schools..."

Continuing, Kimball said, "I'd like to go to my social security, or my retirement board and tell them I need a little extra this year, and ask them for a raise. What do you think they'd tell me? They'd say, 'No.' I don't know where the end is. I moved to this town eleven years ago from South Deerfield, and I've seen a 70% rate increase in my taxes since I've lived in this town."

Ross thanked him for his comments, and said, "It's a difficult juggling responsibility

to protect and preserve and hopefully enhance the services many residents feel are necessary to the character of this town, as opposed to your very real concerns."

Kimball responded by telling the board he had recently witnessed five highway employees deployed to fix three small potholes on his street. "The different departments need to control their own people." He also offered the opinion that, "The school department should be forced to live within a budget the town can afford."

From the audience, finance committee member Jeff Singleton pointed out that property taxes were bound by state law to no more than a 2½ percent increase. "I think that's reasonable. They don't go above that without overrides, and people can mobilize and vote against them," as they have three times in recent years. "I'm not seeing the numbers to support your argument," he told Kimball.

Kimball retorted, "It all comes down to an additional burden on the property owners of this town."

Five Year Study

The selectboard granted a retroactive special exemption to Jeff Singleton, as a special municipal employee, to perform contracted work on a five year study of the town of Montague

significantly lower percentages than the average 7% that has been the norm since fiscal year 2000, the historical period studied.

sensitive one."

Allen said, "My own feeling is, it [the word Indians] can be painted over. I would assume it would take a couple of years to resolve."

Patricia Pruitt asked, "Couldn't we foot the bill for just repainting one word?"

Allen said, "My suggestion is to put it up, recognizing we may be changing it in the future."

Ross said, "That discussion has to continue. There's a historic contradiction in our town."

Louis Everts' 1879 *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, Volume II*, describes the dawn attack by Captain Turner on the Indian encampment at the Great Falls this way: "Their arrival was signaled by a concentrated attack upon the unsuspecting and sleeping Indians, who, aroused from their slumbers by the roar of the English musketry, fled in confusion to the river and plunged in, some taking to their canoes, others swimming, while many sought safety under the overhanging rocks upon the river's bank. Very few, however, managed to escape. Of those who were not slain at the first assault upon the encampment, it is supposed that 140 were either killed while trying to cross the river or carried over the falls to destruction. When the brief struggle was over, a hundred Indians lay dead upon the ground, and, according to historical authority, fully 300 savages were destroyed on that occasion by the rolling flood and the guns of the English. The loss of the whites was but one man, so complete and thorough was the surprise, and so powerless were the Indians to attempt anything like a resistance."

Allen said placing the sign at the entrance to the town, "May be a good impetus for a discussion," about the high school mascot.

The board voted two in favor, with Pruitt abstaining, to place the "Home of the Turners Falls Indians" sign by the White Bridge.



This sign honoring the victorious Turners Falls High School teams of years past will soon be installed by the White Bridge, at the end of 5th Street. The sign was donated to the town by the Greenfield Savings Bank, and prepared by Hale Custom Signs of Greenfield

and the Gill-Montague school system's revenues and expenditures. Singleton handed in a draft narrative and budget analysis for review. Among the report's findings on revenue and spending: an austerity budget that limits town hall staff wage increases to 2%, assumes the town employees join the state Group Insurance Commission to hold down health insurance increases, and anticipates the GMRSD receiving half of the town's growth revenues is the only scenario of the three studied that would allow the town to more or less close the current budget gap by 2013. An austerity budget would hold the schools' assessment increases to

Turners Falls Indians

Board member Pat Allen brought a printed replica of a new sign honoring the victorious teams from Turners Falls High School who have won state championships in girls softball, golf, and baseball in the last 60 years. The sign, paid for by the Greenfield Savings Bank and donated to the town, will welcome people to Montague, 'Home of the Turners Falls Indians,' on the White Bridge entrance from Greenfield.

Discussion ensued about the appropriateness of a sign featuring a high school team mascot that pairs the name Turners with the word Indians, since the historical fact is that Captain William Turner, on May 18th, 1676 massacred the Indians who lived in this area.

Ross, who had recently returned from a trip to Nashville, TN, where he represented the town of Montague at the annual conference of the United Southern and Eastern Tribes, where he participated in a panel discussion about the possibility of making Montague a destination for Preservation Tourism, honoring the Native American history of the area, said, "The association of 'Turners' with 'Indians' is not a

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Report of Floating Head

Saturday, 9/27

3:05 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on West Gill Road.

11:45 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with warrant service on Main Street.

Monday, 9/29

9:55 a.m. Report of a helmet with a head inside (no body) floating down Connecticut Rive. Referred to Environmental police.

3:02 p.m. Loose cows on West Gill Road, assisted owner.

Tuesday, 9/30

6:40 p.m. Welfare check, and animal

neglect report at French King Highway residence, referred to MSPCA for follow up. Dog taken into medical custody.

Wednesday 10/1

11:30 a.m. Report of breaking and entering at a Center Road residence, under investigation.

1:21 p.m. Neighbor property dispute on Walnut Street.

Thursday, 10/2

4:41a.m. Report of suspicious activity at French King Highway business. Investigated same.

5:50 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Meadow Street

Friday, 10/3

7:15 p.m. Assisted resident with possible fraud on Main Road.

Saturday, 10/4

8:33 p.m. Disturbance / 911 hang-up call on Walnut Street. Parties spoken to.

Monday, 10/6

10:03 a.m. Assisted subject with court order on West Gill Road

9:02 p.m. Assisted Northfield Police with serious motorcycle accident on Gulf Road.

Tuesday, 10/7

6:20 p.m. Loose cow in roadway on Main Road, assisted farm.

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EDITORIALS CONTINUED

ART from page 5

wall. I am glad you are using your talents. It does make me sad though.

I am sad you chose to create your artwork over the art that was already here. Maybe you don't like the painting on the wall.

Maybe you have different ideas for what should be painted. I believe you have something to say. I believe you have great ideas.

Hopefully, we will be painting more pictures on buildings around town. I would like your help. You live here. You know what it is like to grow up here. I want to know what you think about Turners Falls. I want to know how you feel about our world right now.

Paintings on walls are called murals. Murals attempt to say something to the world, like a voice for the community. There are many things going on in our world right now that are awful: war, violence, sexual assault, substance abuse, depression,

racism, sexism, poverty, hunger, homelessness, unstable homes, divorce, disease, the list goes on. There is also a lot of magic and beauty in this world; the sunrise and sunset everyday, flowers, babies, puppies, rainbows, waterfalls, smiles, love, laughter, the first snowfall, the colors of the leaves, the stars and the moon at night, music, hanging out with friends, and artwork!

You are an artist and I want to hear what you have to say. Say it on a wall where people can see it and understand it, on a wall where you have permission to create in the daylight and even earn some money creating it. Learn how to work with paint and brushes. This world needs more artists to tell the story of our time, to tell your story. Please contact me and we can work together to create a powerful mural that you can share with your friends and family. You can create artwork you are proud of.

Thank you!

Kerry Kazokas (413) 834 7056

kerry@kerrykazokas.com

Belt Tightening for the Workers, Bail-outs for the Rich

BY SUSAN DORAZIO

PORT TOWNSEND, WA - Out here, on the glorious Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, the city of Port Townsend is scrounging for \$5000 to keep the public swimming pool open for the rest of the year. Meanwhile, the Federal government is spending big bucks on Border Patrol random checkpoints along Highway 101, casting a wide net for 'illegals,' drug dealers, and those with outstanding arrest warrants, while curtailing the civil liberties of us all.

Indeed, the intimidation and harassment of immigrant workers and their families, increasing disregard for the civil rights of all members of the community, the bailout of incredibly greedy and irresponsible financial institutions, the ongoing war and occupation in Iraq, and the escalating war in Afghanistan are causing outrage from coast to coast.

Not only has the US government unleashed its military power on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, it has declared war on its own residents.

Today, each and every city and town in the US is under siege, struggling to meet people's basic human needs. Will you just look at our schools? Our health care? The jobless rate? The number of

home foreclosures? Public transportation? Grocery and gasoline prices? Incidences of domestic violence?

Cut-backs and give-backs abound. Working people and their local governments are stretched to their breaking points.

And yet political action proceeds as usual, especially at election time. "Lesser-evil" wishful thinking is the rule of the day.

When will those of us with the most to lose from the perpetuation of the current economic and political system extricate ourselves from the rhetoric and opportunism of mainstream politicians?

In particular, why do we continue to give unquestioning loyalty to Democratic party 'lifers' like Stan Rosenberg, Steve Kulik, Ellen Story, and (for those in Port Townsend, Washington), Norm Dicks? Until we are willing to seriously challenge these people, and the corporate interests they represent, the basic needs of our towns will not be met. Instead we propose wage freezes, prioritize budget cuts, and donate school supplies to our kids' classrooms, while the rich take care of themselves very nicely.

The solution to the financial crisis of our cities and towns is to tax the rich. The Democrats, the self-proclaimed 'party of the

working man,' could make this happen if they chose to. Every year that our communities fail to demand this is one more year that workers who provide town services end up scape-goated and martyred by a heartless and hypocritical economic and political system.

If I were living in Montague still, I would say, "It's time for our towns to come together, fill a caravan of buses, and storm the state house!"

It's true that organizing for a steeply graduated state income tax, the introduction of luxury taxes, and a sharp tax increase on large inheritances won't solve our immediate budgetary problems; but what has the perennial 'belt-tightening' strategy accomplished? Nothing but the slow, agonizing demise of our towns.

We need to broaden our perspective on current issues, face the truth about the cruelty of the status quo, and create alternatives instead of illusions. Wishing that a wage freeze will save our schools, or that Obama will stand up to the Pentagon, won't make it so.

Susan Dorazio is the convener of the Women's Commission of the Socialist Party USA. She is a long-time resident of Montague, residing for the year in Port Townsend, Washington.

Flower Beds Rejuvenated at Norma's Park

BY JON DOBOSZ

LAKE PLEASANT - As part of the revitalization project the Montague Parks and Recreation Department has been implementing at Norma's Park in Lake Pleasant over the past few years, volunteers got together this past Saturday to prepare the soil for new flower beds. Using capital improvement funding from the town of Montague, the department has installed a new fence, a bench swing, and wood chip surfacing for the play area at the park, located beside Lake Pleasant Road.

The cost of constructing the flower beds, which include landscaping timbers, soil, and approximately 1,000 bulbs of various types of flowers, is being covered by the Calvary Baptist Church.

The Church's help is significant, as it allows the department to stretch its dollars

on this project even further. The Church also plans to volunteer on maintaining the beds, to provide a beautiful spot for relaxation and recreation in the village.

The Parks and Recreation Department will hold a rededication ceremony at Norma's Park next spring.



On Saturday, Ralph Morris and Pastor Dan Johnson (l-r) of the Calvary Baptist Church in Turners Falls prepared the soil for new flowerbeds for Norma's Park in Lake Pleasant.

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CLEAN-UP from pg 1 got dirtier and dirtier as the morning wore on.

On Friday morning, a dozen students from Franklin County Tech School had pulled four small pick-up trucks worth of trash out of that same embankment, said Purington, who volunteered his help at 29 West Gill Road both days.

"This is the worst site in

Gill," he stated flatly.

In the woods at the bottom of the trash heap flows Cascade Brook, a stream that gathers force a few hundred yards down to form a small waterfall just beside the old road to Factory Hollow. The stream crosses through a culvert beneath the old paved road, which is discontinued now where South Cross Road intersects with West

Gill.

After passing underneath the roadbed, Cascade Brook empties into the Fall River, which runs in laughing rapids by the burned out remnants of the Factory Hollow Mill, where Civil War uniforms were manufactured long ago.

There, the gaping abutments of the Factory Hollow Bridge stand 150 feet apart, with nothing in between them now but currents of air. On the Gill side, locked wrought iron gates stand on rusted hinges, with a bold print sign still warning: Keep Off the Bridge.

Gill and Greenfield made an agreement in the 1780s, recorded in an act of legislation by the General Court, regarding maintenance of the two bridges that spanned the Fall River between the two towns. The bridge upstream at Bascom Hollow fell to Greenfield's lot to maintain in perpetuity. And indeed, Greenfield is overseeing extensive repairs to that bridge today. Gill, on the other hand, had the foresight to choose the Factory Hollow bridge to maintain in perpetuity. That bridge was taken down in the



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Gill Elementary students Julia Paulin (l) and Krystal Cloutier fill a bucket with broken glass, as NMH students work near the bank of Cascade Brook 1930s when the French King Highway rendered it obsolete, and the road to Factory Hollow was subsequently discontinued, leaving nothing but memories and cracked pavement on the former thoroughfare to Greenfield. And a few castoff items.

After the Fall River passes through the rocky channel where the iron bridge once stood, it tumbles under a small bridge on Route 2 and joins the Connecticut.

"Motor oil!" yelled one youngster, unearthing an old metal can on the embankment above Cascade Brook.

"If it's empty, you can throw it in here," a parent chaperone told her.

"What is this?" asked one of the Gill Elementary students, holding up the remains of a seat cushion. "People are so stupid!"

A Kawasaki motorcycle gas can was hauled up the hill, rusted and punctured, empty of its contents.

"I got a wire!"

"I got a plug!" yelled the child on the other end.

"This is exciting, hunh?" asked Gill 6th grade teacher JoAnne Rabideau. "The whole hill is trash. I'm not sure what we should do about that."

She suggested just removing the material that was easy to get at, on the surface, but the students did not stop there. With

see CLEAN UP page 20



Some of the items pulled out of the embankment above Cascade Brook on Saturday: a car battery, anti-freeze containers, blacktop sealer, and a mono-ammonium phosphate fire extinguisher

99% of us think it's important to make clear family rules about teen drinking.

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Art Walk

IMAGES FROM ARTS & LEAVES WEEKEND IN TURNERS FALLS



Joe Landry leans on one of his Black Granite and Stainless Steel sculptures, in front of the Deerfield Valley Art Association gallery

The Lin Preston Band (below) lays down a smokin' rendition of The Seeker, putting Pete Townshend to shame, in front of Patty Cakes on Sunday. It was positively 4th Street



"I like the change of texture. When you get up close there are very delicate lines. At times it seems like an internal emotional landscape, and other times it's like a burning landscape. The stenciled numbers, reversed, come to the foreground, and present a challenge to our factual reality. The softer image reverts to the background. The numbers are floating up at you."
-Kathe Janke
Bartender at the Rendezvous, commenting on Steve Cahill's work (above)



Opeyemi, from Montague, takes in B. Lyons Zucker's "Night Girl" at the DVAA. Zucker states: "Night girl appears in the night as a shadowy figure, just before dawn. She is believed to be a runaway searching for her lost family. Some believed she was the silent helper to those who ran away to freedom."
-African American Folklore



PHOTOS DETMOLD & WELLS

Salvaged bus windows form a series of sandblasted paintings in Jack Nelson's Carriage House studios. Here, smoked glass gives a cold, matte feeling, with ghostly deer and moose crossing in front of the warm dog parade bus. More dogs try to climb aboard. Where is the mistress of ceremonies? Gone to New York City.



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- Musicians include the MacArthur Family, Charlie King, and Court Dorsey.
- Speakers include author Harvey Wasserman, VT Senate & President Peter Shumlin, VT House Speaker Gaye Symington, and Anthony Pollina.

For more information, contact the Safe and Green Campaign, (413) 624-8858 or rkehler@crocker.com.

MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: Oct. 10th - 16th

Eagle Cam: Not airing until further notice.	Depletion
Friday, October 10	Monday, October 13
8:00 am Preachin the Blues	8:00 am The Well Being: Snoring and Sleep Apnea
9:00 am Physician Focus: Healthy Minds	9:00 am Underground Railway Concert
10:00 am Over the Falls: The View from Wilder Hill	10:30 am Valley Idol Semi Finals
11:00 am On the Ridge: New England Brush Wolf Hunting	1:00 pm Valley Idol Finals
11:30 am Naturalist Laurie Sanders	6:00 pm Rise and Fall of Lake Hitchcock
12:00 pm Montague Update: Josh Goldman	7:00 pm Select Board (10/6/08)
12:30 pm EatonDoRyu	9:30 pm The Western Mass Democrat
6:00 pm GCC Talent Show	10:00 pm The Three Rights of Spring
7:00 pm GMRSD	11:00 pm The Well Being: Sky Awareness
10:00 pm Independent Voices	Tuesday, October 14
10:30 pm Into the Way of Peace	8:00 am Veteran Day
11:30 pm Katie Clark Band	9:00 am White House Chronicles
Saturday, October 11	10:30 am Wisdom Way Solar Village
8:00 am Journey to Wissatinnewag	11:30 am Turkey Day Game 2007
8:30 am Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee	6:00 pm The Well Being: Arthritis Rehabilitation
9:30 am MCTV Video Camp	7:00 pm Select Board (Live)
10:00 am Cal Ripken Baseball	GMRSD will be joined in progress after completion of Select Board meeting.
12:00 pm Coffee House Series	11:00 pm White House Chronicles
6:00 pm Common People: Denise Grendan	Wednesday, October 15
7:00 pm Darker Image	8:00 am Silly Wizard
8:00 pm Fossil Tracks	9:00 am Silly Wizard
9:00 pm Falls Table	10:30 am Skin N Bonz
10:00 pm Estate Planning	12:00 pm Songs for Wee People
11:30 pm Franklin County Matters	1:00 pm Source to Sea
Sunday, October 12	1:30 pm Tapping Maple Ridge
8:00 am GCC Talent Show	6:00 pm Red Cross: Prevent Home Fires
9:00 am GMRSD District Wide Meeting (9/17/08)	6:30 pm Refusal
12:30 pm Into the Way of Peace	7:00 pm The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion
1:30 pm Montague Machine	9:00 pm Safe and Green Campaign Forum
8:00 pm Montague Update: Ted Graveline	10:30 pm Seabrook 1977
6:30 pm On the Ridge	Thursday, October 16
7:00 pm Peoples Harvest	8:00 am Senses of Place
8:30 pm Poetry Music Jam	9:30 am Mighty Minds
9:30 pm Power Canal Draw Down	10:30 am Silly Wizard
10:00 pm Red Cross: Prevent Home Fires	12:00 pm Sustainable Energy
10:30 pm The Looming Crisis in Oil	1:00 pm Fall Town String Band
	6:00 pm Bernanke
	7:00 pm Select Board (10/14/08)
	10:00 pm An Inside Look into Iran

Breast Cancer Poetry

BY JANEL NOCKELBY

TURNERS FALLS - The Slope Editions/Rendezvous reading series continues October 13th with Wyn Cooper and friends. They will be reading from *Bow* by Penelope Austin, a poetry collection published posthumously, documenting Austin's fight with breast cancer.

The reading will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls.

Written while Austin fought terminal cancer, *Bow* is an exploration of intricacies: a quest to debunk everyday half-truths. "These poems are a testament to her will to live," Cooper writes in the introduction. "She lived a full

and complex life and wrote poems to match. This book is a record of both facing death and facing life."

Expansive in its scope, blatant in its purpose, *Bow* is a collection that pays homage to daily experience by dissecting it. "Truth is anything we avoid," writes Austin in *Bow*. That sentiment resonates throughout her collection.

What gives these poems their edge, their complexity, their intelligence, and ultimately, their beauty, is Austin's relentless willingness to pursue desire -- with its wins and losses, idiocies and gravities -- to the end.

"*Bow* is not a posthumous collection; it is one of the most

restlessly and vividly alive collections I've read in years," writes Kathy Fagan

Penelope Austin was born in Michigan in 1951. Her poems appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Kenyon Review*, *American Poetry Review*, and the book *Poets Against the War*. After living with breast cancer for almost 20 years, she died at her home in 2003.

Slope Editions is a small press based largely in Turners Falls, and publishing *Bow* was a labor of love for all involved. Slope Editions titles are available to bookstores through direct orders (orders@slope.org) or through Small Press Distribution (www.spdbooks.org).

THEATER from pg 1

into an entirely different dimension. With John von Eps' sure hand on the percussive score, the actors play beautifully off one another, providing the audience a one of a kind theatrical experience, along with a primer on the dimly charted territory where we must all embark some day.

Delivered as a kind of "Godspell" for Buddhists, the production is well worth experiencing first-hand -- which you will be able to do next weekend, October 17th - 19th, at the Northampton Center for the Arts.

The performances serve as a benefit to rebuild the theatre barn of the Shantigar Farm.

Founder van Itallie, a world famous playwright and student of Buddhism, created Shantigar, a non-profit educational foundation dedicated to theater, meditation and healing located on a spectacular mountainside in Rowe. There, the largest dairy barn in Franklin County was renovated in 1999 to contain a theater, a large kitchen, classrooms, meeting rooms, and a dormitory for workshops, classes,

performances and weekend gatherings. Three weeks later, the barn tragically burned to the ground, providing van Itallie an unexpected lesson in letting go. However, a dedicated group of supporters are determined to rebuild the theater barn.

Pilgrim Theatre, founded in Poland by Kermit Dunkelberg and Kim Mancuso in 1986, is a dynamic, growing collaborative of American artists, with offices and rehearsal spaces in Boston and in Ashfield, Massachusetts.

Pilgrim Theatre is a resident company of the Boston Center for the Arts.

Mancuso was director of the International Company of the Second Studio of Wroclaw, Poland and now directs most productions for Pilgrim, and Dunkelberg is actor and Managing Director.

Actor Court Dorsey is an associate artist with Pilgrim Theater, and a long time collaborator with Wendy Woodson and Present Company. He has written, acted, or directed in over 30 performance ensembles.

Actor Susan Thompson has performed and taught in Europe, Latin America and the

U.S. She finished the two-year professional program at Jacques Lecoq's International Theater School in Paris, and received her PhD in Theater History at Tufts.


Musician John van Eps has received an M.M. in Percussion Performance from New England Conservatory, and has composed themes for CBS, numerous songs for feature films and musical scores for Columbia TriStar and independent films.

Tibetan Book of the Dead will be presented Friday, October 17th, and Saturday, October 18th at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 19th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Northampton Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at Boswells (Shelburne Falls), World Eye (Greenfield), Food For Thought (Amherst), Broadside Books (Northampton) and at the door.

For more information, call (413) 339-4332.

For more information on Shantigar, log on to www.shantigar.org. This is a great play to see while you are still alive. Enjoy the show!

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Literature and Leaves

BY TARA GORVINE

BRATTLEBORO - The 7th Annual Brattleboro Literature Festival took place this past weekend, and the turning leaves and good weather set the stage for a weekend of literary bliss.

Every year the festival brings both well-established and new writers, making it a great place to meet a favorite author or discover a new one. The atmosphere is friendly and open, with question and answer periods at the end of the readings. It's a first-class festival and one that all area book lovers should take advantage of. Past years have included such luminaries as Saul Bellow (at the very first festival) John Irving, Ann Beattie, Jeffrey Lent, Dennis Lehane, Russell Banks, Sharon Olds, Galway Kinnell and many more.

The festival draws from the vast resources of the Northeast for writers, as well as more far-flung locales. Poets, novelists, essayists, historians, children's authors, and screenwriters were all represented. Over twenty readings and panels took place over the course of the two days, kicking off Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m., the time slot for the festival's big guns.

This year the poet (and former Poet Laureate) Robert Pinsky was the main attraction, and well worth getting up for early on a Saturday morning. Charming and funny, he read beautifully from his new book *Gulf Music*, interspersing his poems with anecdotes and explanations, giving insight into his writing process. Sharing the ticket with Pinsky was the novelist Alan Cheuse who read from two pieces of historical fiction about Ben Franklin.

Other highlights included

the poet Ellen Bryant Voigt, another top-notch poet who, luckily for us, lives in Vermont. The reading she gave was fierce and did exactly what a reading should do - left the audience stunned by her language and the breadth and depth of her poems. Her book *Messenger: New and Selected Poems 1976-2006*, is a must-read for poetry lovers unfamiliar with her work.

If you were in the audience for a late Sunday afternoon reading at the Brooks Memorial Library (downstairs if you arrived early, upstairs looking down over a short wall if you arrived late) you saw Beth Kanell and Castle Freeman read from their latest novels. Freeman, author of the 2008 novel *Go With Me*, read two chapters and left the audience wanting more.

Also on tap were panels on Robert Frost, exploring age boundaries in literature and adapting books to screen. Montague's own Susan

the Latchis and Hooker Dunham theaters, a couple of churches (though the sound was thought to be less than perfect in one of them), the River Garden and the Brooks Memorial Library.

While donations are welcome (and very much encouraged; there are donation boxes at every reading) the festival is completely free and open to the public. There are no tickets and you can go to as many readings as you desire. The festival is funded by a number of area businesses and schools, as well as individual donors. Unfortunately, the festival is feeling the effects of the faltering economy. According to the poet Wyn Cooper, one of the festival organizers (who will be reading at the Rendezvous in Turners on October 13th), with sales down at many of the Brattleboro galleries and shops, local businesses were unable to contribute the same level of support this year. Likewise, individual donors who generally gave \$200 - 300 each year, gave less this time around. Added to that, one of the granting organizations the festival usually relies on simply took the year off due to lack of funds.

All this combined meant the organizers raised \$8,000 less than last year. Luckily, the writers were for the most part drawn from the very deep well of talent in Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York, and hence required less in the way of travel expenses.

But these are behind the scenes worries. All it means for those of us in Franklin County is that we should be all the more grateful to have such a gem just a short ride north through the heart of New England autumn.



Robert Pinsky

Shilliday, screenwriter, producer and most lately owner of the Montague Book Mill, participated in the adaptation panel.

Each event lasted an hour and fifteen minutes, and the readings include two authors per segment. Venues include

Gill and Montague to Participate in Statewide Essay Contest

The towns of Gill and Montague were recently chosen by the Massachusetts Municipal Association as among the 86 communities to participate in the MMA's third annual essay contest for sixth grade students. This statewide contest is designed to promote the qualities of good local government and to encourage

future Massachusetts leaders to take an active interest in their community's activities.

Gill and Montague sixth graders are asked to share their hometown vision by answering the question, "If I were elected leader of my community, I would make a difference by..."

"We are truly excited by this opportunity to learn how our

young people would lead our community," said Gill select-board chair Nancy Griswold. "We are pleased to be working with our schools to encourage our students to participate and to learn more about what local government does each and every day to make our community a better place."



DETMOLD PHOTO

Among the many pleasures of last weekend's downtown Art Walk was the chance to talk with local crafters like Lisa Adams, from Lake Pleasant, who sells her homemade bar soaps, bath teas, and baby soaps out of her home, and at Cornucopia in Northampton. Seen here at the 2nd Street Bakery with her samples: lavender, patchouli and cherry almond.

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Turn It Up! Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Independent record stores and national chains alike have been foundering in the downloadable digital music age. But Dry Hill Road resident Patrick Pezzati has found a formula that works with Turn It Up! CDs, and now he's bringing it all back home with a brand new store at the Montague Book Mill, opening this Friday.

"The Winter Pills, local heroes on Signature Sounds, are doing a pre-CD release show here at 5 p.m. on Friday. It'll be broadcast live on the River," said Pezzati, taking a break from setting up shop in the former Montague Machine die stamp building on Tuesday afternoon.

Northampton's Winter Pills, an acclaimed acoustic pop group with bittersweet male and female harmonies, will make their new CD, "Central Chambers", available to the



Patrick Pezzati arranges the CDs in his new store, at the Montague Book Mill Shops. Beneath the CD bins, Pezzati also stocks plenty of use LPs. "Vinyl is making a huge comeback," he said. "People love that warm analog sound." Grand opening of the new store is Friday, with the Winter Pills performing live at 5:00 p.m.

public for the first time at this event. You can't buy it anywhere else. You can't even download it yet. So stop by and pick up a copy.

The Montague Center outlet

is store number five for Pezzati, or six, if you count the short-lived shop he opened in Hanover, NH in 1997. The stores in Keene ('97), Brattleboro (2003) and

Easthampton (2004) are thriving, along with the original Turn It Up! on Pleasant Street in Northampton, opened in 1995 with 2000 CDs and \$2000 in start-up capital. But now you

won't have to travel so far to get great recorded music, whether it's the warm sound of vinyl you prefer, or the crisp, bright audio of CDs.

Wylie Smith, who managed For the Record in Amherst for many years, is going to be managing the Montague store for Pezzati now. He was there on Tuesday arranging the CDs in their bins, as a painter touched up the floor to ceiling windows that bring the autumn riverside light into the store. The walls are done in Tigerlily shades of ochre and tangerine.

Like every good rock collection, the Montague store's begins with Abba, (including the unbelievable Greatest Hits CD, and an alternate Greatest Hits selection that includes a

continued next page

FRIENDS from page 1 mussels marinara and scallops wrapped in bacon; or a house specialty mixed drink with Vermont Duck a l'Orange, or a grilled ribeye steak with gorgonzola butter and roasted potato wedges, or... well, you get the idea.

All the food served at the Gill Store & Tavern is homemade from scratch, with many local ingredients. Lunch offerings include deli style sandwiches with sliced meats and cheeses, fresh salad, homemade soups, cookies, muffins and Pierce Bros. Coffee.

The dinner menu – which always includes beef, seafood, chicken and vegetarian options – changes weekly and offers simple but delectable choices prepared by chef Chris Yobst, who has 20 years of culinary experience in Franklin County, Booth said. Much of the produce served comes from farms in Hadley.

Next spring and summer, Booth plans to source as much produce as possible from right here in Gill, including from Laughing Dog and Upinngil farms, as well as from his own garden.

Gill resident Tony Mathews built the handsome new bar using pine from his land and ash from Gill resident Dick French,

who, along with his son Sam, also milled the store's beautiful new ash hardwood floor.

Managing the restaurant and bar is Laura Carboni of Gill, whose Italian heritage helps shape the menu and specialty house drinks; bartender Anthony Reid and server Amber Sumner are taking a break from staffing the People's Pint to help out here.

While Greenough works mostly behind the scenes on business administration, Booth is presently doing "a little bit of everything" as the restaurant gets going. He hopes the new homegrown eatery will offer a central location for residents of Gill and its neighboring communities to gather for lunch, dinner, or just a place to pick up a few groceries on the way home from work.

"It's definitely evolving," said Booth. "The emphasis now is on dining, but we're also trying to create a balance between that and having groceries that people want to buy."

Among the grocery items are dairy (Our Family Farms Milk and local cheeses), eggs, juices, sodas, local meats (ground beef from Fox Bard Farm in Shelburne), Bart's ice cream, and snack foods.

Historically, there have

always been stores and taverns in Gill, said Booth, pulling out a copy of *A Bicycle Quest into Olde Gill* researched and written by Gill resident Liz Gardner.

As she relates, "The first Gill Store was opened by James Gould in 1801 for sale of general merchandise. In 1803 he bought Squire's property, went into partnership with Elijah Gould and erected a new building on the site, which he ran as a store until 1837," the history reads, "when Ichabod Battle took over, operating the store as well as a wheelwright and woodworking shop on the premises. From 1855 to 1867, Mr. Canning owned the store; in 1874 Mr. Hale bought it and moved it back on the property to make room for a new addition, which currently serves as the Gill Store."

"Gill's first store operated on this site for more than 100 years, until the new road to and from Turners Falls was put in in 1923, and Mr. D.O. Paul moved the store to its present location, remodeled it and continued to serve as proprietor of this Gill Store."

Just up the road, where the Slate Library is today, Isaac Chenery of Montague ran another successful store and tavern called the Golden

Pumpkin, starting in 1823. "This tavern and Inn was the oldest of the three taverns that operated at the Center, and was said to have, at one time, played host to George Washington!" the history reads.

While Booth is optimistic about the success of the Gill Store & Tavern, he is also realistic and knows it's a tough endeavor to undertake in these economic times.

"It's not like it used to be 100 years ago," he said. "It's hard for communities to support small businesses these days, especially because we have the government giving lots of breaks to large businesses, and very few to small businesses. It's risky, and it's tough, but I just feel like this town wants this and the fact that we're centrally located between Bernardston, Northfield, Turners Falls and Erving – you could say we're in the middle of nowhere, but we are also in the Center."

Booth and Greenough purchased the Gill Store from Suzy and Phil Maddern in 2004, and ran it as a general store and deli for 18 months under the management of Vicki Van Zee, now of Shelburne. Construction and detours on Main Road, as well as the large chain grocery stores nearby, presented

challenges for the store's viability, so in August of 2007 they closed it and took a break.

Having invested so much into this community institution, by February of 2008, Booth was ready to begin a new venture here, drawing upon the success of the People's Pint as a restaurant and tavern providing that "third place." He called upon the community for assistance, and gratefully accepted the helping hands of many locals, who donated time and money painting walls, installing floors, cleaning, organizing and working behind the scenes.

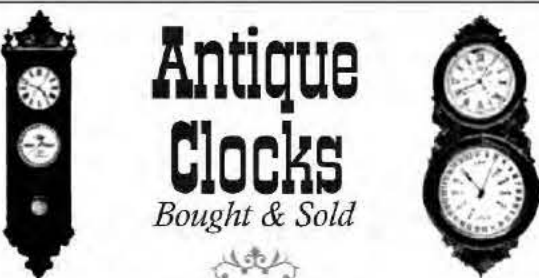
Looking over the dinner menu yesterday, Booth said he hopes the Gill Store & Tavern provides the gathering space community residents seek, and that it fills a real need.

"This is about providing a service for people."

The Gill Store & Tavern is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sundays for brunch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 863-9006 or simply stop in, greet your neighbors and experience the store's welcoming new ambiance for yourself!



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Turn it Up! continued

French version of "Waterloo", where, presumably, Napoleon wins!) and ends with ZZ Top. The ZZ Top selection looked disappointingly sparse earlier in the week, but it did contain "Afterburner", with the timeless track "Rough Boy". But we'll hope for more from Billy Gibbons and crew someday soon.

The musical genres available by no means begin and end with rock, no matter what some might say. Although CDs were still being pulled from their crates on Tuesday, the Country section was filling in nicely (they got the Dixie Chicks, what else do you want?) and Classical Music was well represented, along with Enya (category unto herself), Reggae, Folk, and Jazz from Thelonius Monk to Madeline Peyroux and Diana Krall.

Hey, they got it all, including DVDs and VHSs: five for \$20. And when you're done watching or listening to your



The Winter Pills, an acoustic pop sensation from Northampton, play live at the Grand Opening of Turn it Up! at the Book Mill in Montague Center on Friday at 5:00 p.m., in a pre-CD release party. Their newest work is "Central Chambers". Hear it first at Turn it Up! in Montague.

purchases, you can bring them back, sell them or trade them in for store credit and pick out more.

Pezzati said he's looking forward to sharing in the "synergy" the Book Mill Shops will provide his new store, with a busy café at Lady Killigrew, the Night Kitchen and the vast used book store right at hand.

How does he make it work? "We don't try to sell top of the line new releases. We sell the best CDs we can get at a moderate price."

Pezzati noted, "Downloads are great for getting that certain single, but they're not so great for album-oriented listeners who are trying to fill in their back catalogues." And he credited Smith as being an indispensable asset at the Montague store. "No matter how you program a computer, you're not going to replicate a guy with 30 years experience who knows the customer's tastes."

Besides, "Digital files are ethereal. People love to collect things, physical things they can peruse on a shelf. Books, videos, CDs, we know they're there. There's a kind of comfort in that."

Now we can take comfort knowing another great audio and video collection is close at hand and available seven days a week at the newest Turn It Up! outlet, right in Montague Center.

Zer gut, dude!



The Power of Cooperation: How Co-operatives Serve Coffee Communities Around The World

Wednesday, October 29th, 7 p.m.

Dean Cycon of Dean's Beans speaks about his experience with coffee co-operatives around the world.

Sponsored by Franklin Community Cooperative. Book signing of Dean's book *Javatrekker*. Held at Second Congregational Church, Greenfield, free.

Conflict Resolution Day

By Proclamation of Governor Patrick, Thursday, October 16th, 2008 is Conflict Resolution Day in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On this day the Commonwealth honors all of the organizations, volunteers and professionals who assist people in the resolution of their disputes.

The Mediation & Training Collaborative (TMT) is one such organization. Founded in 1987, TMT is a community mediation program located in Greenfield, serving clients in Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties. TMT is a non-profit program of Community Action. Whether people are involved in a small claims dispute, embroiled in a conflict with their co-worker, landlord or neighbor, in the process of getting divorced, or

arguing with their "Ex" over a parenting issue, TMT can provide professional mediation services to help.

TMT also leads trainings in mediation, conflict resolution and communication skills, and coordinates mediation programs for students in our local schools.

Mediation is a process where people in a conflict sit down together with one or two skilled mediators to talk the issues through and see if they can come to a resolution that is satisfactory to everyone. The mediators, while taking no one's side, support all parties by assisting them to engage in effective communication.

If you, or someone you know is involved in a dispute, consider mediation! Call the Mediation & Training Collaborative today for a free consultation. (413) 774-7469.

Community Notices

Vigil in Memory of Domestic Violence Victims

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and NELCWIT has planned a candlelight vigil in memory of Massachusetts domestic violence homicide victims.

According to Jane Doe, Inc., so far in 2008 there have been 36 domestic violence-related deaths in Massachusetts.

The candlelight vigil will take place from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, October 16th at the

Greenfield Town Common, at the intersection of Main Street and Bank Row.

The public is invited to honor those who are no longer with us due to family violence. A visual arts display at the vigil will include Silent Witness Silhouettes and the Clothesline Project.

For more information, please call 413-772-0871.

Four-H Food Drive Underway

Massachusetts 4-H is seeking food donations to benefit area shelters and pantries as part of its "4-H Cares About Community" food drive, which began October 5th. Sponsored by Cumberland Farms, the food drive coincides with the start of National 4-H Week.

4-H club members and adult volunteers all across Massachusetts will be collecting food and donating it directly to their local pantries and shelters - many of which have reported depleted food reserves recently. Additionally, Cumberland Farms stores statewide will have collection boxes available from October 27th through November 15th to accept donations of non-perishable items, which 4-Hers will

also be transporting to those in need.

One in every seven Massachusetts residents lacks adequate food, according to the USDA and US Census Bureau. That is nearly 450,000 people in the Commonwealth alone. Hunger is on the rise and the Project Bread Status Report on Hunger in Massachusetts reports that the prevalence of hunger in low-income communities has reached an all-time high. With the current economy and winter approaching, many more families will need to choose between heat and food this year.

Those who would like to donate food, but don't know a 4-H member or have no Cumberland Farms store near-

by, are being encouraged to call the local 4-H office at 413-545-0611 or visit the 4-H website at www.mass4H.org for details, suggestions of food items, and information on how to help 4-H reach those in need. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and can be sent to a local 4-H office, payable to the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation.

"With a difficult winter approaching, thousands of people need your assistance and 4-H thanks you for any help you can give," noted UMass Extension 4-H Educator Gretchen May.

Last year, 4-H clubs in Massachusetts collected more than six tons of food for area shelters and food pantries.

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Turners Falls Romps! on Booster Day



Ben Banash (7) and Tim Carlisle (25) block for Evan Brusco (40) as Turners rolls to a 26 - 6 victory over Athol

BY MATT ROBINSON - On Saturday, October 4th, a crisp cool autumn day, the Turners Falls Football team played a crisp cool dominating football game. What better way to celebrate Booster Day? The students, dressed in pink, red, purple and yellow, color coordinated to their class, screamed and cheered and banged inflatable noisemakers as they stamped their feet on the metal benches. The marching band blared out their encouragement as the cheerleaders led the crowd. And they had plenty to cheer about.

Turners played like it was 1976. Well, maybe 1977. In other words, they ruled! It did take the boys in blue a while, however, to hit their stride. Turners was a bit shaky in the first quarter. Third downs are key plays, and Turners stopped Athol on their first two plays from scrimmage. But on their third play, Athol broke it open and scored. So instead of receiving the ball on a punt, Turners found themselves in the hole, 6 to nothing.

But they were undeterred. On Athol's next possession, Turners stopped them again, for two downs. But on third down, Athol had another huge gain. This time, however, with the cheerleaders, the band, and the multi-hued fans going wild, Turners' defense stopped them before they scored. And Athol never scored again.

Turners finally settled down in the second quarter. Their defense kept Athol off balance and out of the end zone, while

their offense took the lead. Tim Carlisle caught an 11 yard TD thrown by Eric Bastarache. Tom Field kicked the extra point and Turners found themselves winning at the half. Pleasant clapping and distracted cheering greeted the football players as they headed to the locker-room, leading 7 - 6.

Suddenly, the same students who were clapping and cheering flew into action. Students were running everywhere. Kids scrambled to join their classmates to cheer for their float. Several band members and two cheerleaders literally "switched hats," putting on Royal Sashes as they took their positions to be officially announced to their subjects. Hannah Neville and Deb Partridge handed out flowers and directed the Royal Court. The marching band moved

into position. And a desperate voice came over the loud speaker, requesting that several vehicles be moved so the floats could be brought into position.

The pink-clad junior class screamed with enthusiasm when their Cinderella float won first place, and as Scott Brown, the junior class Prince, ran with the pink 2010 class flag. And then we all waited as the marching band members from the Royal Court took off their sashes, grabbed their instruments and ran onto the field to conclude half time festivities.

The football team came out of the locker room to a pumped up crowd. And they didn't disappoint. Turners scored twice in the 3rd. Bastarache ran a one yard keeper and then threw an eight

yard pass to Carlisle to increase the lead, 20 to 6. The defense kept the pressure on.

Late in the fourth quarter, with the score 20 - 6, Turners got the ball back. The crowd was going wild. "How much time is left?" a student yelled. "We can score a couple more

times!" The band played, the fans stood and cheered and Turners scored again. After a long run by Andrew Straughn, Evan Brusco ran it into the end zone. And Turners found themselves with a 26 - 6 Homecoming victory.

How sweet it is!



Eric Banash (11) passing downfield



MATT ROBINSON PHOTOS

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Flu season in the northern hemisphere can range from as early as November to as late as May. The peak month usually is February.

The vaccine can be administered anytime during flu season. However, the best time to get inoculated is October-November. The protection provided by the vaccine lasts about a year. Adults over 50 are prime candidates for the vaccine because the flu can be fatal for people in this age group.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that up to 20 percent of the population gets the flu each year. More than 200,000 flu victims are hospitalized annually in the United States; about 36,000

people die from complications of flu.

Flu is a contagious illness of the respiratory system caused by the influenza virus. Flu can lead to pneumonia, bronchitis, sinusitis, ear problems and dehydration.

Droplets from coughing and sneezing spread the flu. An adult with flu can infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five days after becoming sick. Children may spread flu for more than seven days.

The best way to combat the bug is to get the flu vaccine. You have to get inoculated annually because new vaccines are prepared every year to combat new versions of the virus. When you battle the flu, you develop antibodies to the invading virus, but those antibodies don't work on new strains. The vaccine does not prevent flu in all people; it works better in younger recipients than older ones.

Contrary to rumor, you can't catch the flu from the vaccine. The flu vaccine is not made from a live virus.

You can get the flu vaccine from your doctor, at public health centers, senior centers, pharmacies and supermarkets. About 145 million doses of influenza vaccine - a record output - will be produced for use in the United States during the 2008-09 influenza season.

The recovery time for the flu is about one to two weeks. However, in seniors, weakness may persist for a longer time.

The common scenario for flu is a sudden onset of symptoms, which include chills, fatigue, fever, cough, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, muscle aches and appetite loss.

While nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can be related to the flu, these are rarely the primary flu symptoms. The flu is not a stomach or intestinal disease. The term 'stomach flu' is inaccurate.

When symptoms strike, get to a doctor as soon as possible; the faster the better. There are prescription antiviral drugs to treat flu. Over-the-counter medicines can help relieve symptoms of the flu. You should also drink liquids to prevent dehydration, and sleep to bolster your immune system.

The CDC reports vaccination rates are better for those over 65. Overall, 72 percent of seniors get their flu shots. The CDC's 2010 goal is the vaccination of 90 percent of seniors.

For more than four decades, the flu vaccine has been strongly recommended for older people, but now some scientists say the vaccine probably doesn't work well for those over 70. About 75 percent of flu deaths happen to people in this age group.

A recent study found that people who were conscientious about maintaining their health were the most likely to get a flu shot. Those who are frail and more likely to die are less likely

to get the vaccine, the study said.

The authors of the study contend that previous analyses had measured the difference between seniors who get vaccines and those who do not. Earlier studies did not measure the protection against the flu virus, the authors asserted.

The new study is not accepted by everyone in the health field and the findings have not reversed the recommendation that older people get a flu shot.

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

Editor's note: The Montague board of health, working in conjunction with the towns of Gill, Erving and Wendell are encouraging seniors to wait and get their flu shots this year at the four-town test clinic at the Turners Falls High School on Saturday morning, Nov. 22nd

Living Room Yoga on Chestnut Hill

BY DONNA PETERSON

MONTAGUE CENTER - You can get there from here! Your

path to the benefits of yoga may take you through Montague Center, across Route 63, travel-

ing through a few hundred yards of Leverett, and winding up the hill to the top of East Chestnut Hill Road in Montague. There, Lisa Enzer's Living Room Yoga color-drenched, light-filled home studio awaits you. Pick your spot on the hardwood floor, select a pad and colorful blanket, and perhaps a lavender, balsam, or chamomile-scented eye pillow. From there, Enzer will guide you on your journey to the flexibility, stress reduction, and the spiritual insights

yoga can bring.

After earning a master's in Creativity in Learning at Lesley College, Enzer worked in the performing arts, built a home and raised a family. As she approached her 50s, she sought to return to the yoga practice she had once enjoyed, and created a home-based business to help others access yoga's potential benefits.

Enzer trained at the Kripalu Center in Lenox and elsewhere. She became a certified yoga instructor with 500 hours of training. A former instructor at

the Green River and Shelburne Falls yoga studios, Enzer opened Living Room Yoga on Chestnut Hill three years ago.

Enzer describes the yoga she offers as an eclectic blend of techniques adapted to the needs, desires, and abilities of her clients. She has worked with people with brain injuries and developmental delays. She offers 'body-friendly' classes at her home studio, and at the Leverett library. Gentle yoga classes are for those who need

see **YOGA** pg 14

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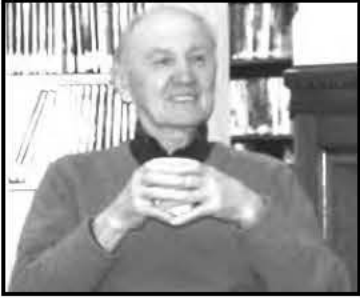
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JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope, and Other Disasters Part XCIII

Foreclosure Fears



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - The thoughts of Pa not being able to work were bad enough - now, I had the added worry of the bank foreclosing.

I wondered where we'd go or what we'd do if that happened. I wondered what Anne could do for Ma. If the mill wasn't hiring what was the use of traipsing all

over the countryside for nothing, I thought. Discouragement settled over me, worse than ever. We continued on to Anne's house. She invited us in and asked Ma to sit down.

"I'm sorry about the fire and your husband being in the hospital and all," she said. "Tell me; how I can help you?"

Ma told her about going to the mill to find there were no job openings and that they wouldn't even let her talk to anyone.

"Well, Mrs. Parzych," she said. "I can't promise you a job, but I can promise you an interview. Come to the office tomorrow morning and ask for

me." She held Ma's hand in both of hers as she said goodbye.

Next morning, Ma was at the Keith Paper Mill office. I don't know what kind of influence Anne had, but she made good on her promise.

Ma figured even if she didn't get a job, at least she would have a shot at one. But the super didn't have good news.

"There are no job openings; I've got men with families to feed, who are laid off."

"My family has to eat, too, and my husband is too sick to go back to work. Give me his job, or any job; I'm strong. Give me a job no one else wants. I'll even clean toilet."

The super gave her a job, sorting rags in the rag room - and cleaning toilets. She didn't like cleaning toilets - hated it, in fact - but it was only for a couple hours out of the day. And a deal was a deal.

My sister Mary's husband built a small shed out of slab wood to shelter the cows for the first winter. In a week or two, Pa came home from the hospital. He was weak, and seemed a changed man. He told us the doctor said about a third of his heart muscle was dead. He walked slowly and smiled a lot. The heart attack mellowed him, making him a different person, at least for a while

I showed him the cart I'd

made to replace the one he'd made me, the one that had burned up in the fire. I was proud of the job I'd done. The cart was almost identical to the original. I waited for him to praise me.

Pa looked at the cart and smiled as if to say it was a nice try but not anywhere near as good as the one he'd made. I should have known, by then, that he was not anyone who liked to hand out approval. I think he was afraid I would get a swelled head. I would have liked to have had him praise me, but at least he was calm and wasn't yelling or hitting me.

- Continued Next Week

YOGA from pg 13

modified postures, and she also works with private clients. Proper breathing and the classic positions adapted to groups and individuals will increase energy, stamina, balance, muscle tone, and often will engender a

positive outlook.

Enzer stresses the ability of yoga practice to allow balanced bodies and open minds to initiate change and control practitioners' reactions to changes in our environment and situations. Yoga can help break repetitive thought patterns that

may impair our growth and creativity. Toward that end, Enzer offers 'Yoga for Creativity'. Want to unblock your writer's block? Uncover new artistic expressions? Or perhaps find ways to live your everyday life more creatively? Her creativity workshop employs yoga, art, lectures, and discussion to help participants find the creative self. The workshop will be held on October 18th and on November 2nd from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Living Room Yoga Studio; call 413-367-2658 to reserve a spot.

Enzer is also developing a program called 'StressLess', designed to help participants handle and reduce the stress in their lives. Given the situation

in the country and the world at large, demand for this course offering should be high.

Montague is fortunate to have a number of yoga options. Enzer's clients can experience the peaceful relaxation of the final savasana (literally the 'corpse' pose) and then walk out into the natural beauty of Chestnut Hill. You can check out her website, www.livingroomyoga.net and see if this out-of-the-way studio may be just the place you need to start your yoga journey.



Left to right Tony Diemand, Deb Rose, Aethena Enzer-Mabier. Photo by Noah Stevrilia

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GREAT FALLS - Are you interested in birds or bird watching? Join the bird club at the Great Falls Discovery Center! Meet monthly to bird watch and learn about birds by playing games, reading books, and participating in science and art activities. The bird club is open to everyone, but geared towards school-aged children; (younger children with chaperones, please). Each meeting builds on learning from previous months, so commitment to the club is recommended. Participation in the club is free. First meeting: Saturday, October 11th, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., followed by meetings on November 8th, and December 13th. For more information please visit www.greatfallsma.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHIN ILLUSTRATION

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Craft Night, 7 p.m. on. Careful mixing knitting and drinking though - remember, it's all fun and games until somebody loses an eye.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th
The Greenfield Community College Chorus performance of music by Handel and Haydn, 12:15 p.m. Part of the Mid-Week Music Series at All Souls

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10th

At The Bookmill, Montague Center: Welcome to **Turn It Up!** and all their CDs and movies to the Montague Mill in the shop just a few steps from our door! The *Winterpills* special concert at 5 p.m., and Monty from WRSI. Grand Opening on 10/11.

Great Falls Coffeehouse: Francis Doughty, folk instrumental guitarist. Inspired by Leo Kotke, John Fahey and a wide range of classical music, Francis has used those influences to develop his own unique voice on the guitar. Donation of \$6 - \$12. Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Yarn! CD release party. Americana/alt, country/bluegrass from Brooklyn, NY, 9:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance or Die* (indie-electro djs), \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Indie rock with *Wildwood Unplugged*, 9 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10th & 11th
Shantigar and Pilgrim Theatre presents Jean Claude van Itallie's, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* or *How not to do it Again!* Directed by Kim Mancuso, at the Northampton Center for the Arts. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY to SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10th to 12th
Ja'Duke at The Shea Theatre, Turners Falls: *The Producers*. Co-written by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan. The Producers skewers Broadway traditions and takes no prisoners as it proudly proclaims itself an "equal opportunity offender!" Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. (413) 863-2281 ext. 2. Adults \$12/\$10 for 12 & under & 65 & older.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls: Paul

Caponigro - *Select Photographs: 1956 thru 2005*. Public Artist Reception 1 to 5 p.m. Public illustrated Artists Talk in the auditorium at Hallmark Institute of Photography, 27 Industrial Boulevard, at 7:30 pm Photos on display until December 14th.

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Photographers' reception 1 to 3 p.m. Meet wildlife photographers Don Cooper and Linda Henderson exhibiting this month.

Dancing With The Muse: Unique Evening of Contemplative Music and Movement with John and Miro Sprague, and Guests. 7:30 p.m. At The Maizumi Institute's House of One People, Montague. \$12.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Honkey, Thumbelina and the Skinnyman*, \$3 cover, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Sissomen* and *Ottomatic Slim* opens, rock'n blues, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Acoustic folk/singer song writer *Richard Chase Group*, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls: 2nd Sunday Comedy show. 7:30 p.m., Three Comics for \$5!

Deja Brew, Wendell: Warped Americana, *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 7:30 - 10 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT Karaoke, 8 p.m. to midnight, free.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13th
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: The Slope Editions/Rendezvous reading series continues with Wyn Cooper and friends. Reading from *Bow* by Penelope Austin, a poetry collection published posthumously documenting her fight with breast cancer, 7 p.m.

The Quinnetukut II Riverboat Cruise, enjoy the fall foliage & learn about our river. Boarding at 1 p.m. at the Northfield Mountain Riverview Picnic Area off Rt. 63, Northfield. For costs and to reserve seats, call the Friends of GFDC, 863-3221, ext. 3. Walk-ons accepted if space.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14th
Streetscape Planter Celebration, guided walking tour of the 35 adopted planters along Ave. A. Master Gardener Dawn Ward of Montague will provide commentary on the plantings and will answer gardening questions. Begins next to the Great Falls Discovery Center, 5:30 p.m.



Annie Hassett and Friends play at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House on Saturday, October 18th at 8 p.m. Open Mic begins at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit The Montague Reporter and the Wendell Community Garden.

Unitarian Church, Greenfield.

Great Falls Farmers Market: rain or shine, corner of 2nd St. & Ave A, Turners Falls. Farm products, baked goods, maple, crafts, 3 - 6 p.m.

Heart of the Valley Chorus Guest Night. Like to sing? We've got a place for you! At JFK Middle School, Florence, No professional experience required. 665-0924, www.heartofthevalleychorus.org, 7 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quizmashad Chad's Quiznite Quiz, 8 p.m. Form a team! Win prizes!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16th
At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: 75th Anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp Celebration. Slide show of the 2008-2009 Duck Stamp art contest submittals, winner being announced just two days later. 7 p.m.

Montague Business Association Third Thirsty Thursday at Millers Pub, Millers Falls, 5 to 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Blues based roots music with "Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault and Co.", 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th
Mudfest at the Brick House, 24 3rd St, Turners Falls, 6 p.m. A concert hosted by Danny Cruz and Nick, featuring Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth and other punk/metal bands.

At The Great Falls Discovery Center: Sensational Seasons! Rachel Roberts workshop for families with young children. Featuring *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehler. Science & art project, 10 a.m.

FRIDAY to SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17th to 19th
At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theatre presents a hauntingly funny new musical *In Good Spirits*, by local author/composer Howard Odent. Fri & Sat. at 8 p.m. Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m. Continues Oct.17th - 26th. Tickets \$13/adults, \$11 seniors & students.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th & 18th
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Back to the Future. Great Scott!* The ingeniously clever and inventive story of a young man who inadvertently travels back in time from the 1980's to 1955. Ashfield resident Harry Keramidas, who edited this and its 2 sequels, will be present Saturday to discuss the film and editing process. 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th
Family Fun Day at Unity Park, Turners Falls, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin carving, face painting and bake sale.

Harvest Supper, Montague Congregational Church, 5:30 p.m. Adults \$9, children under 10, \$4. Reservations and take-out 774-7256.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell: *Annie Hassett & friends*. Annie will dish up an evening of jukebox favorites delivered with an uncommon dollop of soul. She just knows every song that has ever been written with solid backup from Bob Rosser, Tina Horn, and other talented friends. Annie promises a layer cake of standards and surprises, frosted with a little tenderness all her own. **Benefit for the Montague Reporter and the Wendell Community Garden.** Open Mic at 7:30, feature at 8 p.m. \$6 - \$12 at the door, kids 6-12 \$2, under 6 free. www.wendellfullmoon.org.

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Climate Change Jurassic Style*. Geologists Steve Winters and Professor Dick Little talk on the astronomical cycles behind climate change, then walk through Turners Falls viewing evidence of climate change in the early Jurassic period 200 million years ago. Free to members of either Pioneer Valley Institute or Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, others \$10/children, \$5. 10 to 12 p.m. (413) 775-1671, herbert@gcc.mass.edu.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th & 19th
Annual Gill Fall Arts and Crafts Festival. 10 to 4 p.m. Exhibitors, demonstrations by Pioneer Valley artists, and children's activities. Honey, maple syrup, soap, and herbal products, apple pies. Four Winds School grounds, Rt. 2, Gill.

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DETMOLD PHOTO

Cascade Brook

a few hundred yards downstream from the dumpsite at 29 West Gill Road

CLEAN UP from page 10

With shovels and hands, they dug out bags of trash, pieces of furniture, unspooled wires, decaying clothes, and more automotive parts and containers that once held motor oils and coolants. A plastic sled. A Harley Davidson oil filter. A black pepper can.

Purinton said the current owners of 29 West Gill Road have been trying to make some progress on cleaning up the trash

heap, which predated their ownership of the property. But the scale of the problem was too big. When organizer Beth Bazler was scouting a different site along the abandoned section of South Cross to Factory Hollow that was in need of cleanup, she talked with the nearby property owners, who called her back to say, "We've got this site that really, really needs some work."

Krystal Cloutier, a fifth grader at Gill Elementary, said it was "not good at all," that the family

that once lived at 29 West Gill Road had thrown so much garbage down the hill in their backyard. "It's not good for the environment. It will slide down the hill to the river. The wildlife might die."

Earlier, before she joined the group swarming down the hillside to pick up all the garbage, Cloutier said, "Some of this stuff isn't biodegradable. It won't dissolve into the Earth."

Along the abandoned road to Factory Hollow, volunteers from NMH worked through the morning to pick up trash that had been dumped there over the years: metal debris, auto parts and the like. Before noon, they had pulled a truckload of trash from that site, to join the two truckloads that came from the embankment above Cascade Brook. As the sun reached its zenith, the humans returned home, leaving no sign of their presence in the autumn woods, except for a few tire tracks in the soft soil by the road.

A few leaves had already fallen in the tire tracks. Snow would come next, and by spring, when frogs' voices fill the warming woods, no visible trace would remain to tell that humans had walked here, or worked here, this day.

Isn't that the point?



Volunteers Pick Up the Watershed

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREAT FALLS - On Friday and Saturday, 275 volunteers - including about 100 students and faculty from the Franklin County Tech School - worked to clean up 33 sites in Montague and Gill, during the 12th annual Connecticut River Watershed Source to Sea Cleanup. Again this year, most of the local cleanup activity was focused on the Montague Plains, where employees from Smith and Wesson in Springfield joined Boy Scout Troop #57 from Belchertown and about a dozen members of the Mohawk Ramblers motorcycle club for the annual roundup of illegally dumped trash.

Among other items, the local volunteers picked up 225 tires, and again this year most of the tires were found on the Plains. "We estimate three 30-yard dumpsters were filled. But the big story was the tires. I think they may have had 250 in the Plains alone, and we found another 88 tires at the river sites. Seems like no matter how many tires we remove, two more pop up to take their places! The numbers on the Plains - 10 in a pile, 16 in a pile - make us wonder if there isn't some illegal dumping by a small service station going on?"

This begs the next question, are the efforts of hundreds of environmentally concerned volunteers helping to permanently improve the watershed, or are people simply taking advantage of the opportunity to get rid of their junk for free each year, knowing others will pick it up for them and dispose of it properly?

Watershed clean-up organizer Beth Bazler, of the Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, said, "There are some areas that stay clean. But the Plains are a perennial problem for illegal dumping."

Bazler said, "We nabbed eight

TVs this year," in the run-up to the national switch to digital television. Mattresses and microwaves and a used car body were among the illegally dumped items retrieved and disposed of properly.

She said, "This is one area where the environmental community engages in something approaching social work for people who cannot afford to dispose of their things properly." Bazler said one eventual solution may be for stores that sell tires or television sets, for example, to bundle the cost of disposing the buyer's old items right in with the cost of the new merchandise, "so people could simply take their old ones to the place where they buy the new."

This year, Bazler noted, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District's Clean Sweep Day fell on the same date as the annual watershed cleanup. Proper disposal of items like used tires (\$4 a piece) was available that date as nearby as the Northfield highway garage.

The volunteers on the Plains this past weekend were able to use ATVs for their clean up efforts, with special permission from Fish and Wildlife. Vehicles are normally banned on the Plains.

In recent years, spokespeople for the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife have talked about the possibility of blocking off a number of the access roads that lead onto the Plains. Bazler said that might make it easier to monitor the problem of illegal dumping on the Plains.

She said she may attend a meeting of the Montague selectboard in the future to discuss the dumping problem on the Plains, now a wildlife preserve, and invite other stakeholders to take part in a discussion about how to curtail dumping there.



2008 Source to Sea Cleanup 12th Year Successes

Anne Harding emptying a bucket of broken glass into one of three dumpsters filled during the Source to Sea Cleanup.

Thanks to the financial assistance and strong muscles of the 275 folks listed below, trash was removed from beautiful natural areas in the towns of Montague, Millers Falls, Turners Falls, East Deerfield and Gill.

- Results - items removed:**
300 tires
4,000 pounds of scrap metal
Three full 30-yard dumpsters of other debris
8 televisions, 3 microwaves, 2 stoves,
1 dishwasher, 1 couch & 1 recliner,
3 mattresses

Please support and congratulate these organizations that make Franklin County a better place to live!

Volunteer Groups:

- Franklin County Technical School
- Northfield Mount Hermon School Outdoor Team
- Smith & Wesson
- Mohawk Ramblers
- Belchertown Boy Scout Troop #57
- Trial Court Community Service Program, Franklin Division
- FirstLight Power Resources
- Gill Elementary School Sixth Grade
- Athol Congregational Church Youth Group
- Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center
- All the great families & individuals that volunteer

Donors:

- Smith & Wesson
- FirstLight Power Resources
- Northfield Mountain
- Northfield Mount Hermon School Outdoor Team
- Silvio O. Conte National
- Fish and Wildlife Refuge
- Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
- MA Department of Conservation & Recreation
- Covanta Energy
- CWPM Waste Removal and Recycling Services
- MassWildlife CT Valley District
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection,
- Emergency Response Section
- Town of Montague Transfer Station
- Friends of the Great Falls
- Discovery Center
- The Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Coca-Cola of Greenfield
- Connecticut River Watershed Council

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