



GILL ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

This weekend: Oct. 13th and 14th!

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MONHEGAN ISLAND

Way off the Beaten Track

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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YEAR 6 - NO. 2

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 11, 2007

Montague Police Station Project Receives \$200,000 State Grant

BY JOHN HANOLD - Patricia Pruitt, select-board liaison to the police station building committee, reported that Montague has received one of the largest state grants for police station building construction, at Tuesday's board meeting. The \$200,000 figure, equaling grants given to Springfield, North Brookfield, Lowell and Boston, was 10% of the \$2 million in grant funds available at this time. Since 97 applications totaling \$37 million were submitted, this was a gratifying outcome. Board chair Pat Allen commented, "Obviously they were quite struck with us."

The funds will be available if the town supports the \$5.6 million project at tonight's special town meeting and at the subsequent

November 6th debt exclusion vote for project funding.

The police station building committee is continuing to explore other sources of grant funding for the new police station, which is proposed for a site adjacent to the present Turners Falls fire station on Turnpike Road. The town will seek to apply \$700,000 from next year's Community Development Block Grant funds to pay down the cost of the project, if Montague's application is successful.

Later in the meeting, the board voted unanimously to support the new public safety facility.

Wastewater pollution control facility superintendent Bob Trombley was the primary remaining attraction at

see **SELECTBOARD** pg 7

PROTECTING SACRED SITES



"If we understood land differently, we'd behave differently."

- Winona LaDuke

DETMOLD PHOTO

Winona LaDuke spoke at Greenfield Community College on Monday, Oct. 8th on Native America culture and the importance of protecting sacred sites.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - Winona LaDuke, a Native American activist from the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) tribe of Northern Minnesota, came to Greenfield Community College on Monday, October 8th to talk to a crowd of more than 100 people about the struggle to reclaim Native sacred sites. Her talk touched on efforts across the country, but it had relevance to two local reclamation struggles: the effort to preserve the White Ash Swamp from develop-

ment on Route 2 in Greenfield, and the work being done to keep a stone formation at the Turners Falls airport - claimed as an active ceremonial site by the Narragansett Indian Tribe and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah - from being bulldozed for a runway expansion.

LaDuke, who founded the White Earth Land Recovery Project in Minnesota, the Indigenous Women's Network, and Honor the Earth, a worldwide native environmental advocacy group, was Ralph Nader's running mate on the Green

Party ticket in 1996 and 2000. On Tuesday, with Indian corn spread before the podium and Indian summer in the air, she began her talk on Indian time - 25 minutes late - on a holiday set aside to honor Christopher Columbus, the 'discoverer of America.' She referenced Native oral history about this continent many thousands of years old.

Her audience was filled with a mix of fair-skinned listeners and people showing plain evidence of Native bloodlines. To members of

see **SITES** pg 8

Wendell Invests in 3.4 Acre Community Garden

JOSH HEINEMANN - Wendell, known for rocky soil and wooded lots, has never been a gardener's Mecca. Until now. With the construction of the new town office building on Morse Village Road, the selectboard decided to set aside the majority of the 3.4-acre lot for a community garden. In fact, one selectboard member, Dan Keller, got the first spade in the ground when he transplanted a number of raspberry bushes to the rear of the lot, to save them from being destroyed during the building's construction.

A community garden committee was established to guide the devel-



HEINEMANN PHOTO

Winter squash harvested from the first season of Wendell's new community garden

opment of the two-acre garden plot. The committee, now with about eight members, meets twice a month.

On October 3rd, two members of the committee, Kate Nolan and John Craddock, came before

the selectboard to ask for town funds to purchase tools and supplies for the new community garden. The town has set aside \$40,000 from excess funds from the new library and town office see **GARDEN** pg 11

Skeleton Crew Theater

GILL RESIDENT TAKES HALLOWEEN SHOW ON THE ROAD

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

GILL - Jonathan Chappell never thought the homemade scarecrow he discarded beneath the bushes in his front yard as a boy would lead to local police searching for a second body in the shrubbery.

Yet, believe it or not, that is what really happened to the now 31-year-old Chappell, after a woman crashed her hatchback on a dark night and stumbled onto his lawn when he was ten years old.

"Everybody was coming to look for her with flashlights. I remember my dad saying the moon was bright, and it was foggy. He said they found her lying on the ground with no pulse and when they began CPR, her head popped off," grinned Chappell. "A couple of hours later they found the real woman, and

see **THEATER** pg 13



LITCHFIELD PHOTO

There is more than auto repairs and car sales going on in Chappell's Auto Service garage on Route 2 in Gill. Here, Jonathan Chappell brings 'Dark Bark' to life

PET OF THE WEEK**Lounge Around****Justice**

My name is Justice and I am a 5-1/2-year-old retired neutered male greyhound racer from the track ready to find my forever home and learn what life is like outside the world of racing. There is so much that is unknown to me and I would be happy to be with a family that would help me experience the world in a safe way. Like most greyhounds, I like routine and consistency in my days. I am not super active and am content for daily walks with my owner and lots of dog beds so I lay down in every room of the house! For more information on adopting Justice please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS****Ancient Stone Structures in the Woods**

A free evening Powerpoint program with Eva Gibavic will be held Thursday, October, 11th at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Gibavic is a lifelong resident of Leverett. Growing up and still living at the base of Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Gibavic developed a keen interest in the unusual land formations and structures in her back yard, including the so-called 'monks caves' in Shutesbury. She has traveled extensively

throughout many parts of the US and England, photographing and researching ancient stone structures, and has developed this presentation to share her work. The program will be followed by a walk to an undisclosed location to view stone structures on Sunday, October 14th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (meet outside the Wendell Library for the walk). For more info, call the Wendell Free Library at 978-544-3559.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**New Saturday Hours**

The Carnegie Public Library in Turners Falls will change Saturday hours effective October 20th. The library will now be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This change is in response to requests for additional morning hours. The

library is open on Saturdays from the week after Labor Day up to the week before Memorial Day weekend.

No other library hours are affected by this change. For further information please contact the library at 413-863-3214.

Harvest Dessert Festival at Carnegie Library

There will be a Harvest Dessert Festival at the Carnegie Library on Thursday, October 18th, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. The event will feature live music by Michael Nix and a trivia con-

test. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries are running the event. Donations will benefit children's programs at the libraries and the local history and genealogy collection. For more information, call 863-3214.

Montague Libraries Awarded Federal Grant

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - The Montague Public Libraries have won an important grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services Technology Act administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The Montague Public Libraries have received a \$7,500 federal IMLS/LSTA grant to be used for a "Mother Goose on the Loose" project that serves babies through preschoolers and their parents and caregivers. The programs combine music, stories,

rhymes, puppets and visuals for babies through preschoolers and will be held starting in November - weekly at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. and monthly on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Outreach "Mother Goose on the Loose" programs will also be held monthly at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries Playgroup, G Street Headstart classrooms, and the Hillcrest preschool classrooms. The federal funds will be also be used to expand the three libraries' early childhood book, music, puppet

and DVD collections. Over 40 Massachusetts libraries pre-applied for the funding. Eight grants were awarded to the Agawam, Andover, Lynn, Monson, Montague, Newton, Princeton and West Boylston Libraries. These grants were part of over 1.3 million dollars awarded to 76 Massachusetts libraries. For more information about the grants, go to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners website at www.mass.gov/mblc. For more information about Mother Goose on the Loose, call the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Oct. 15th - 19th

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

Monday, 15th10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics**Tuesday, 16th**

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

Wednesday, 17th10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo**Thursday, 18th**

1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, 19th10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

A suggested donation of \$1.00 per exercise is appreciated.

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

ping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978-544-3898.

Monday, 15th

9:30 a.m. Exercise

9:45 a.m. Library

12 Noon Pitch

Tuesday, 16th

9 a.m. Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, 17th

9:00 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Weight Loss Group

12 Noon Bingo

Thursday, 18th

9 a.m. Aerobics

10:15 a.m. Pool

12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

FACES & PLACES**Cattails in Gill**

photo by Joey R. Parzych

Polish Pottery SaleSaturday Oct 13th
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.Montague
Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall
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Montague Center*"Just in time to
start your holiday
shopping!"***GFMS Students of the Week****Grade 6:**

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Grade 7:

Shawn Englehardt

Grade 8:

Emily Pollard

Kyla Kelly

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Erving Fall Festival Saturday, October 13th

All Day Events: music by TNT Prod., bounce house, Ed the Wizard, face painting, \$2 pony rides, crafts, old fashioned games in the field, karate demo, cider making, refreshments sale, Erving fire and police info tables, Bingo noon to 4 p.m., karaoke at 4 p.m., bonfire at 6 p.m. and more

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COME TO THE 15TH ANNUAL GILL ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 13TH - 14TH

BY BARBARA ELLIOT - The 15th Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival will be held at the old Riverside School (Four Winds School) on Route 2 on Saturday and Sunday, October 13th - 14th. The Arts and Crafts Festival is a weekend of fun for the entire family! Visitors will be amazed by the wide variety of fine crafts by regional artisans, technical demonstrations, music entertainment, food concessions, and hands-on activities for children. Browse through hundreds of handcrafted gifts and specialty items, including fine and folk art, pottery, quilts, wood and metal work, fiber art, photography, fused glass, and fleece wear. Join featured artisans in the demonstration tent for weaving, drop spinning, rug hooking, and other fiber arts. Produce wagons will display the bounty of the season with local produce, apple cider, maple syrup, honey, jellies and jams, and dried floral arrangements. Gather under the music tent for sounds of Celtic songs and folk music. Make your own beeswax candles, print your own greeting cards, or even make your own knitting needles.

The festival runs from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day, rain or shine. For information, call 413-863-9708 or email friendsofgill@yahoo.com.

Music

Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. George McLaughlin - Violinist, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Corner Boys - Celtic music.
 Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Jeff Martell - Guitarist, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Steve and Joyana Dean - Trumpet Duo

Antiques Appraisals

Sunday 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Do you have treasures in your attic? Bring them to the festival and find out, with Paul Gorzocoski, of Northfield Auctions. \$5.00 first item; \$2 per item after. Limit: 3 items

Logging on the River

Saturday and Sunday 10:30 - Noon. Join Bob Perry for this interesting tale of logging on the Connecticut. Learn about logger's breakfast of stove lids, blackstrap, logger berries, and



Good Dirt Pottery blue-glazed bowls will be on sale at the Arts & Crafts Festival this weekend

jerk water. All are welcome, but children should be accompanied by an adult.

Workshops

Visitors will be able to try a variety of fiber crafts at the fiber tent. Christine Copeland will have special workshops in the art of drop spindle spinning
 Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fresh Apple Pies

Treat yourself to one of these popular treats while they last!

Drawings

Sunday 3:00 p.m. - Drawing for Gill Scholarship Raffle.

Prizes include a Party of Eight on the Quinnetucket II, with box lunches from the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and sodas from Jan's; a trip for two to Foxwoods on Travel Kuz; a foursome with carts for nine holes of golf at Oak Ridge Golf Course; and a \$25 gift certificate to In Stitches. Tickets are good for

a year. Plan ahead for fun times. Sunday 3:30 p.m. - Drawing for Brick House Silent Auction. There's still time to bid on some of the special items first seen at Arts and Leaves.

Drawing for these items will be held at the Brick House booth at the festival.

Permaculture Workshops

Two permaculture-related workshops will be held at Laughing Dog Farm in Gill, the next two Sunday mornings, Oct. 14th (seed saving) and Oct. 21st (growing food in the off season) at 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The classes are open to anyone regardless of experience and are offered by donation. A pot of soup with further discussion will be available at the close. Class limited to ten, pre-registration, directions by email at: www.laughingdogfarm.com

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CORRECTION

Last week, in Anne Jemas' article on the blooming flower planters on Avenue A, one volunteer gardener was incorrectly identified. It was Meg Bowman who tended to the flower planter by the Farmers Market on 2nd Street, not Meg Ryan. Meg Ryan was on location elsewhere at the time.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Numerous Verbal Fights

Wednesday 10-3

9:24 p.m. Report of an assault at the Emergency Shelter on Farren Avenue. Both parties retreated to their rooms. No medical attention necessary. Every one advised of options. Peace restored.

Thursday 10-4

2:08 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Turners Falls Road, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Friday 10-5

12:37 a.m. Report of a fight at a Turner Street, Lake Pleasant address. Found to be verbal only. Everyone advised of options. One party left for the night.

7:40 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 2nd Street, [redacted] was

arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating without headlights, and having a child under 5 without a car seat.

Saturday 10-6

4:15 a.m. Report of a suspicious person near Doyle's Car Wash on Montague City Road. Subject placed in protective custody.

9:13 p.m. Report of a fight in the area of the laundromat on 3rd Street. Subjects advised of options. Parties took a walk to cool off.

Sunday 10-7

9:43 p.m. Walk-in to station reported an assault at the Exxon on 3rd Street. Subject states she was assaulted by her daughter. Officer spoke to both parties and advised them of their options.

Monday 10-8

12:46 p.m. Report of a larceny at

Couture Bros.'s warehouse on Avenue A. 40 pallets were stolen. Report taken. Under investigation.

Tuesday 10-9

3:48 p.m. Report of a fight behind the Pizza House. Found to be verbal only. Peace restored.

4:35 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a 12th Street address.

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

8:37 p.m. Report of an assault at a Massasoit Street address. Parties advised of options. One subject left for the evening. Peace restored.

Wednesday 10-10

8:19 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a 3rd Street address. An apartment had been entered. Under investigation.

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Town Leadership Working Toward Fiscal Solutions

BY PAT ALLEN

MONTAGUE - In Jeff Singleton's op-ed piece "No Road Map, No Police Station" (MR V#46) he addresses many financial issues that face the town - all important, all impacting our future ability to function, and all that need addressing on their own.

Jeff indicates there is no leadership in town attempting to address the fiscal crisis the town is facing - "no strong commitment to developing a coherent plan to confront Montague's structural budget problem." I assume the former chair of the finance committee includes himself in this leadership role, since it relates to financial planning. What about the town administrator's sixty-plus page report with its in-depth focus on the history of our finances and projections for the next five years based on various spending scenarios? What a great tool that is in helping us work towards prudent financial management. It clearly demonstrated exactly what Jeff's concerns have been - that we cannot sustain our current budget approach (too large expenditure increases without commensurate revenue increases).

Unfortunately this report and its possible solutions have already been thrown seriously out of whack by the recently passed additional \$300,000 financial support for the school budget. Each year for at least the eight years I've been involved in town government, we have been frustrated with decreasing state and federal aid for the schools, have recognized the school system's genuine needs, and have come up with compromises from our local coffers to fill the gaps as best we can - we've gone from \$30,000 to \$300,000 - and still there's no relief in sight. We

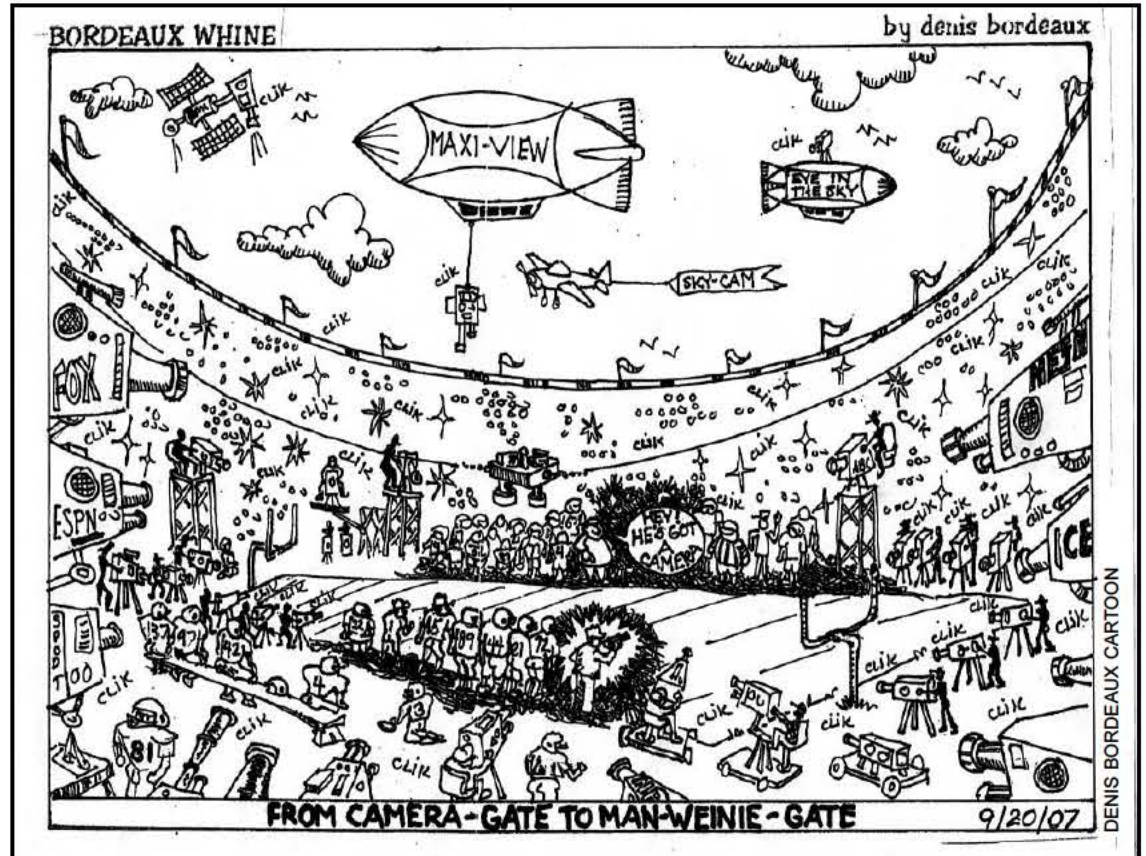
all know there is no local solution. There are regional efforts now being proposed that may actually help.

Jeff mentions the \$10,000 financial plan proposal. If that warrant article had been worded to indicate it was for a \$10,000 study with the town providing half and the schools the other half, I know it would have had a far different response from at least one selectboard member. But the original presentation at a combined selectboard and finance committee meeting was quite adamant that the town should pay for the entire plan, since it might not happen if the schools had to pay. It seems to me they need the possible answers as much as the town does, and it is in the schools' financial interests to underwrite the project too. Let's both buy into a solution to our budget woes.

Jeff then implies that almost no one on the selectboard has done anything to encourage the town to join the GIC. At several meetings the selectboard was on record as stating how important joining the GIC could be to our finances. Staff time was allotted for discussion and information, staff were encouraged to ask questions, and town hall was basically closed so people could attend the information session. In addition, the board broached the subject of joining the GIC at union discussions early last spring before most people were even aware of what GIC was. Furthermore, because health care is such a personal issue, some of us felt it was more appropriate to spend our time listening and answering questions on an individual basis.

Having said that, people have the right to vote the way

see FISCAL pg 5



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax the Rich

In his guest editorial in the October 4th issue of the Reporter, Mike Naughton sums up our town's financial crisis this way: "The plain fact is that we don't have enough money to pay our bills, and we are frittering away our savings while we debate what to do."

I suggest that Montague residents decide to take charge of this situation by making contacts with residents of other Western Mass towns to organize ongoing demonstrations at the State House. The purpose of these actions would be 1) to demand that the legislature implement

progressive taxation, and 2) to advocate for a major redistribution of federal tax revenue from the military budget to education, health care, mass transit, and affordable housing.

It is only by refocusing the issue from budget-balancing to sources of state and federal revenue that our cities and towns will ever be able to provide a first-rate educational system and high-quality social services.

Components of a progressive tax structure for Massachusetts would include the enactment of a steeply graduated income tax (through a constitutional amend-

ment that I would gladly collect signatures for); a tax on luxury items; and an increase in the tax rate on estates.

It's time for our state legislators to show the political courage to tax the rich for basic human needs. But they won't budge unless we make it crystal clear, in word and action, that we working people are sick and tired of carrying the brunt of both the tax load and the budget cuts. Let's get organized to save our town. The 'fiscal train wreck' can still be prevented.

- Susan Dorazio
Montague Center

Setting the Record Straight

There are errors in your October 4th article, "Zoning Plaintiff, Town Both Say They're Bewildered," (MR VI#1) numerous and serious enough to deserve the attention of your readers. As I seem to be one of two main sources for the story, I hope I can help set the record straight.

First, your reporter states that "Anderson lost the view from his house... when the town last year erected the long, fairly high town office building 25 feet from his boundary line and 25 feet from the road - both dimensions approved by the town's zoning board of appeals. These set-backs are half what is normally required under the town's bylaws."

In fact the office building meets one of those two set-back requirements, the side set-back, which is the distance from the building to Mr. Anderson's boundary line. The town bylaws require a side set-back of 25 feet. The building is actually 33 feet from the boundary, 8 feet more than required by the

bylaw.

The variance granted to the town by the zoning board of appeals applied only to the front set-back, the distance between the building and the road. The variance allowed the town to construct the building 25 feet from the road, but the building was actually built about 31 feet from the road, six feet further away than the variance allowed.

Another important error concerns the town's position on Mr. Anderson's claims, which your reporter summed up by saying, "Keller acknowledged that by forwarding a letter to the insurance company, the selectboard acknowledges, implicitly, that it feels Anderson's request has some legitimacy." This is an incorrect summation of the town's position, and apparently a misunderstanding of what I said in a phone conversation.

Mr. Anderson is not making a request, he is suing the town and has demanded that the building be vacated, and apparently would like monetary compensation, for which he has not

yet made a request. The town is doing what it would do in response to any lawsuit filed against town officials: the first step is always to refer any see STRAIGHT pg 6

We welcome your letters
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VIEW FROM THE STATEHOUSE

Casinos Harm Regional Economies, Imperil State Lottery Aid

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN KULIK

(D) WORTHINGTON - As the weather cools and the leaves turn color, the legislature has returned to formal business and a busy agenda on Beacon Hill. Much of the discussion will focus on Governor Patrick's recent proposal to legalize casino gambling in Massachusetts. This has dominated the political news in the past few weeks, and the big lobbying campaign by gambling proponents has begun in earnest.

Although I support many of the Governor's initiatives, we differ on this one. In past sessions, I have always voted against expanded gambling in our state, such as slot machines at racetracks, and I am opposed to the governor's plan to open three "destination resort" casinos - including one in western Massachusetts.

The governor believes that casino gambling represents a sound economic development policy for the state. However, this view simply is not supported by the experience of other states that allow casino gambling. What casinos do is harm the regional economies that surround them by shifting spending away from local restaurants, hotels, retail shopping and entertainment. Casinos also bring high costs to society for infrastructure, public safety and dealing with problem gamblers and their impacts on families and communities. We also need to recognize that most

of the obscenely high profits that are generated in casinos will leave Massachusetts to line the pockets of the big out-of-state developers who build them. This money does not stay in our state to circulate in our economy and support other local jobs and businesses.

One final point to keep in mind is the impact that casinos will have on the state lottery and local aid to our cities and towns. All agree that our lottery is struggling to maintain current levels of local aid, and that casinos will cause lottery sales to decline further. The governor says he will hold lottery receipts 'harmless' using proceeds from casinos. However, this assumes only level funding of this important source of state revenue sharing for our towns.

Rather than rely on speculative revenue from casinos, the state needs to develop a stronger state and local partnership, along with progressive and stable revenue sources to support education, public safety, and road and bridge maintenance. I do not believe that casinos will get us there, and they are certainly not an inevitable part of our future. However, the legislature will give the governor a fair opportunity to make his case for casinos, and we can be sure it will be a lively debate.

Speaking of education, I have been asked to write a few words



about the education project getting underway in Franklin County. I will leave the details to a more formal announcement to be made soon. However, all of the school districts in the county, along with the legislative delegation and some local officials, have been meeting for the last seven months to develop a project that will examine innovative ways to address the challenges faced by our local schools. These may include a variety of collaborative efforts, as well as looking at issues such as transportation, school choice, funding formulas, mandates, and so forth. We will be looking at best practices in other parts of the country that also face the challenge of providing quality education in small schools in predominantly rural areas. The project is supported with funding from both the state and a private foundation. There will be opportunities for input from the public, and we hope to end up with recommendations to improve and strengthen education throughout Franklin County.

I also want to congratulate the staff and retirees of the Gill-Montague Regional School District for voting recently to switch their health care coverage to the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC). This option resulted from legislation that became law in July, giving municipalities the opportunity to reduce health insurance costs by joining the state's system. Many area school districts belong to an insurance purchasing group that has seen annual premium increases of 15% to 20%, and

have struggled to accommodate these high increases into tight school budgets. In contrast, the GIC has seen annual premium increases of only 5% to 6%. By joining the GIC, the GMRSD has taken an important step to stabilizing health care costs for both the district and its employees. I hope other districts will follow suit, and I applaud everyone involved for taking advantage of this important new option for schools and municipalities.

Congratulations are also in order this week to Montague for being awarded a \$200,000 grant in support of the proposed new police station. In early August, we toured the current police station with Lt. Governor Tim Murray. We asked for his support of the town's application to the state's grant program for planning and construction of police stations through the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPS). Under Chief Ray Zukowski's leadership, the town submitted an excellent proposal for this limited and highly competitive program. There was only \$2 million available statewide, and EOPS received applications totaling \$30 million! The fact that Montague has received 10% of the total awarded speaks volumes to the town's need for a safe and modern police facility.

In closing, I just want to mention two ongoing issues that I have been working on this summer: broadband and dairy farms. On broadband, I joined with the Patrick administration in July to announce its proposed Broadband Initiative, which has the goal of bringing high-speed broadband service to the state's 32 unserved communities by 2010. The idea is to use public investment to leverage private sector funding to build the infrastructure and networks necessary to bring broadband telecommunications to every community in

Massachusetts (including those with only limited service). This will build on the work already underway through Pioneer Valley Connect and our local town broadband committees, and it represents the kind of commitment from state government we have all been working towards for several years. In the near future, we expect that the governor will file his legislation, and I will be working with my colleagues in the legislature to move it forward expeditiously.

As for dairy farms, I was appointed in July to serve on the Dairy Farm Revitalization Task Force. We are charged with making recommendations to support and strengthen the dairy farming industry in Massachusetts. It is vital that we do so, since dairy farming provides us with valuable open space, aquifer recharge areas, and is an important part of the agricultural sector of our region's economy. We will be issuing our report in November, and will follow up with several legislative initiatives to help stabilize the economics of dairy farming.

I expect to be able to report on progress with our educational project, the broadband initiative, and the dairy farm effort soon. In the meantime, I am always glad to have your input on these or any other subjects.

You are welcome to contact me at 413-665-7200; by email at rep.stephenkulik@hou.state.ma.

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they consider to be the best from their understanding. To my knowledge staff have shown a willingness to be open to the proposal - the biggest concern seemed to be the short time factor and a sense of being coerced into something too quickly.

But looking at the total, I agree entirely with Jeff that we need to look at our finances in a new way. We will be bankrupt within a cou-

ple of years if we continue the way we are going. At the very least we will have to cut services and employees, and that will negate all the momentum we have achieved. We actually are seen in the region as one town that has accomplished much and can get things done. Let's keep the dialogue open and our focus on solutions.

Pat Allen is the chair of the Montague selectboard.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



STRAIGHT from 4

demand to the town's insurance carrier. By doing so, the town is not giving any "legitimacy" to Mr. Anderson's claims, other than to say he has a legitimate right to file a lawsuit if he feels he has suffered damages by the town's actions. The question of the legitimacy of those damages, and the legitimate amount, is a question that would be decided on the first

round by the insurance company. If they can present a solution that is acceptable to all parties, that would be the end of it. If not, the discussion of the legitimacy of these claims would move to another level, whether that be the court, or the town meeting.

I believe the *Reporter* article creates the impression that Mr. Anderson was steamrolled and treated unfairly by the town. This is unfortunate, since the town

boards, committees, and town meetings which guided the building process made a determined effort to conduct an open and inclusive planning process, which spanned over three years and included four town meetings, public hearings by the planning board, and literally hundreds of publicly posted committee meetings. During this process no objections were ever raised to the plans for the front set-back of the office building.

Thanks to the *Reporter* for its effort to present the facts of what are often complex and difficult town discussions.

- Dan Keller
Wendell

With regard to Jonathan von Ranson's article "Zoning Plaintiff, Town Both Say They're Bewildered" published on October 4th, (*MR VI #1*), one clarification: When the town office foundation was put in, I was somewhat unhappy to discover how close to my property line the building would be. This was my main concern, and I think many homeowners would have a similar reaction under similar circumstances: 'this big building is going in close to my house.' My understanding is the building is in conformance with regard to my lot line. It was placed at the minimum 25-foot setback.

I didn't think about the building's proximity to the road, and therefore its proximity to my house on a north-south axis, nor was I aware, until December of last year, that a variance was

needed for the setback from the road. More generally, I didn't object to the placement of the building as it was being built because I assumed the town was proceeding legally. Why would I complain about something that a municipality has the legal right to do? I was not looking to undermine the project, and I saw no reason to look over anyone's shoulders.

It would seem that everyone, including town officials, agrees this has been an unfortunate series of events. This is a legal issue and there are intermediaries involved, so there is always the possibility of reaching an impasse and having to overcome it. I can only ask town officials to join me in a more proactive attempt to reach some solution outside of a courtroom.

- Brian Anderson
Wendell

MCTV Schedule Channel 17: Oct. 12th - Oct. 18th

Friday, October 12

8:00 am Common Man Concerts: Eric Goodchild
9:00 am Montague Select Board (10/9/07)
10:30 am On The Ridge: Jennifer Broome
11:00 am Seabrook 1977
6:00 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Biological Biosphere
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (10/9/07)
9:30 pm Over The Falls: Dennis Guyer
10:30 pm Independent Voices #37
11:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Denise Gendron

Saturday, October 13

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Biological Biosphere
9:00 am GMRSD Meeting (10/9/07)
11:30 am Over The Falls: Denise Guyer
12:30 pm Independent Voices #37
1:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Denise Gendron
6:30 pm The Well Being: "Prostrate Health"
7:30 pm GED Connection #21: Geography
8:00 pm Positive Profiles In Courage
9:00 pm Discovery Center: Waterfowl Identification
10:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-Ness"

Sunday, October 14

8:00 am The Well Being: "Prostrate Health"
9:00 am GED Connection #21: Geography
9:30 am Positive Profiles In Courage
10:30 am Discovery Center: Waterfowl Identification
12:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-Ness"
6:30 pm Special Town Meeting (10/11/07)
10:00 pm Encore Body Art: Helga & Crabby

Monday, October 15

8:00 am Special Town Meeting (10/11/07)
11:30 am Encore Body Art: Helga & Crabby
6:00 pm Montague Update: Lisa Enzer
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (10/9/07)
8:30 pm Our Lady of Czestochowa: "The Gem of Franklin County"
9:30 pm Physician Focus: Becoming a Smarter Patient

10:00 pm Over The Falls: Dennis Guyer

Tuesday, October 16

8:00 am Montague Update: Lisa Enzer
9:00 am Montague Select Board: (10/9/07)
10:30 am Our Lady of Czestochowa: "The Gem of Franklin County"
11:00 am Physician Focus: Becoming a Smarter Patient
11:30 am Over The Falls: Dennis Guyer
6:00 pm The GED Connection #21: Geography
6:30 pm Independent Voices #37
7:00 pm GMRSD (10/9/07)
9:30 pm Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night
11:00 pm On The Ridge: Dennis Guyer

Wednesday, October 17

8:00 am GED Connection #21: Geography
8:30 am Independent Voices #37
9:00 am GMRSD (10/9/07)
11:30 am Discovery Center: Open Mic. Night
1:00 pm On The Ridge: Dennis Guyer
6:00 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Biological Biosphere
7:00 pm GED Connection #22: Science
7:30 pm Great Falls Middle School: Soccer
8:30 pm The Well Being: "Prostrate Health"
9:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Eric Goodchild
10:30 pm Discovery Center: Waterfowl Identification

Thursday, October 18

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Biological Biosphere
9:00 am GED Connection #22: Science
9:30 am Great Falls Middle School: Soccer
10:30 am The Well Being: "Prostrate Health"
11:30 am Common Man Concerts: Eric Goodchild
12:30 pm Discovery Center: Waterfowl Identification
6:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Shekinah"
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (10/9/07)
8:30 pm Art Fest: 2007
10:00 pm Discovery Center: Butterflies

More on Wendell Zoning Dispute

Thank you for your report on the status of the ongoing dispute between Brian Anderson and the town of Wendell. I have a few brief comments on the report. First, the article states that the

25-foot setbacks to Morse Village Road and to Mr. Anderson's property line are both "half of what is required under the town's bylaws." This is incorrect. While the legal "front yard" setback, or setback to the road, is 50 feet, the legal "side yard" setback (distance to neighboring property line) and "rear yard" setback (distance to rear property line) are 25 feet. I believe the original zoning variance was specific to the front yard setback, as the side yard setbacks are in compliance.

It is truly sad that Mr. Anderson believes he is a "pariah among town officialdom." Firstly, I hope this isn't true; secondly, town officials must realize that while their hard work and their volunteerism is appreciated and

commendable, many of their decisions affect the legitimate property rights of individuals and must be carefully approached.

If Mr. Anderson did not receive notice from the ZBA, this would be a major error, somewhat surprising from a board whose almost singular duty is to hold public hearings on variance requests.

- Raymond DiDonato
Wendell

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GRANT

continued from p. 1

Tuesday's meeting, wrapping up two issues from last week and taking advantage of the short agenda to offer a free update on WPCF activities. Last week, the selectboard asked Trombly to discuss with town administrator Frank Abbondanzio his recommendation that a job posting be upgraded from Custodian to Truck Driver/Laborer (Grade 3 Step 1, \$13.96 per hour). Trombly requested the change in the 25-hour per week position to attract

broader interest in the posting, and to encourage employee retention. In addition, tasks can be assigned to any of three available employees, and each employee's particular skills could be better utilized. All three would share custodial duties at the sewage treatment plant, which continues the facility's current practice. Because the position has been vacant for some weeks, there will be no adverse impact of the 70-cent per hour salary increase on the current year's budget. Trombly has several months to cope with the effect on FY09.

Trombly also reported on the status of replacing a pump generator at First and L Streets. Both the town and the insurance company responsible for the cost are anxious to begin the project, but state procurement requirements prescribe a chain of steps before this can occur. With this urgency in mind, the board authorized Abbondanzio, as chief procurement officer, to select "the lowest responsible responsive sealed bidder," in the next days, contingent on ratification by the selectboard at their meeting in two weeks.

Other operations at the facility are proceeding well, with progress on deferred maintenance and an imminent start on the next phase of the combined sewer overflow project, affecting travel on Greenfield Road. Pat Allen noted that with the opening of the bike path, drivers need to slow down near the treatment plant anyway.

A first for renovated Peskeomskut Park will be observed on the afternoon of October 28th, when Joseph Potts and Emily Ellis will be married in the presence of 100 onlookers. Such a use requires a

registration for assembly, which was granted with best wishes and congratulations to the bride and groom.

Similar good wishes were extended to the re-emerging Montague Business Association, whose kickoff meeting last week attracted over 100 interested people. Pruitt noted that a large number of them checked survey boxes indicating future interest in the association. The next MBA meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on November 2nd at Patty Cake Patty Cake on Fourth and L Streets.

MORE NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Sewer Rates to Rise Slightly

BY DAVID DETMOLD
At their meeting on October 1st, the Montague selectboard held a sewer rate hearing with wastewater treatment facility supervisor Bob Trombly. Pending the approval of town meeting on October 11th, Trombly proposes to use \$130,000 of retained earnings from the sewer enterprise fund to lower sewer rates for the upcoming fiscal year. The selectboard supported his plan, which will raise rates for Gill sewer users, Strathmore Mill, and the Southworth Paper Mill from the present rate of \$4.87 per 1000 gallons to \$4.94 per 1000 gallons, an increase of 1.4%. Users in Turners Falls, Millers Falls Lake Pleasant, Montague

Center, and Montague City will experience an increase of .4%, from \$5.29 per 1000 gallons to \$5.31 per 1000 gallons. Flat rate users will see an increase of 2%, to \$294 a year. The agreement would leave roughly \$68,000 in retained earnings for the sewer fund. David Hauth, spokesperson for Southworth Paper, the largest sewer user in town, said, "Southworth is comfortable with the proposal. We do think, philosophically, when there's a surplus it should be rebated sooner so there is a match between rate payer activity and the surplus." Last year, Trombly held the entire retained earnings fund in reserve, rather than applying the funds to reduce sewer

rates. That sum - \$130,000 - held in reserve since '07, is the same amount now being used to lower rates for '09. Trombly proposed moving toward a standard reserve fund, in future years, to act as a bulwark against emergency repairs and unexpected cost increases at the wastewater treatment plant. Before going into executive session for discussion of real estate, the board announced that trash sticker fees had increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00 a sticker. The increase went into effect on October 1st, two days after the Source to Sea Clean-up brought 225 volunteers out to pick up eight truckloads of illegally dumped trash on the Montague Plains.

Montague's History on the Move

BY LIL FISKE

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Montague Historical Society has found a new home for their archives at the Montague Grange. Since 1995, we were using four rooms at the Masonic Hall in Montague Center, for a modest museum. However, when the Montague, Northfield and Turners Falls lodges merged, the Montague lodge was sold in the spring of 2004, and the Historical Society had to store our holdings in our old district schoolhouse on Federal Street, built in 1822. That building has neither electricity nor water, and there is no parking space: hardly a suitable museum. The aim of the Historical Society is to preserve and display items that show the pattern of life throughout the history of the five villages of Montague. After a search for suitable space,

the society has been welcomed to use the second floor of the Montague Grange, across from the village common, for storage, and for limited access for researchers. The Historical Society will be able to hold meetings in the main hall, and will be afforded some display space in the foyer as well. The society considers the offer of space at the Grange to be a good fit, since the aim of both organizations is community service, and the Grange is the center of much of the social activity in the village. However, before the move can be accomplished, an extensive renovation of the Grange's upper floor will be needed to facilitate proper storage of our collection of photographs, post cards, manuscripts, genealogies, uniforms, and Indian artifacts. Estimated cost for new

ceiling installation, sheetrock, plaster repair, painting, new lighting, security locks and possible purchase of shelving and archival storage material is in the \$3700 - \$4000 range. Fortunately, the society received a generous donation by Jean Donovan of Sokolosky Real Estate, who donated the funds from her commission on the sale of the Masonic Hall. The society thanks her for her generosity. We hope to raise the remaining amount through various fundraisers, and through donations. As the Grange was the former Unitarian Church built in 1834, and is on the National Historical Register, these repairs are urgently needed. For more information, contact Mary Melonis: 413-367-2184, or Lillian Fiske: 413-367-2280.

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Senior Farm Share Dinner

DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - About 40 seniors from Gill and Montague gathered at the senior center on 5th Street on Friday, October 5th to sit down to a harvest dinner prepared by workers from the Red Fire Farm in Granby, who served up a the three course feast using organic ingredients grown on their farm. The meal, funded by a \$200 grant from CISA, the South Deerfield-based Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, was the culmination of the third year of the 12-week 'Farm Share' program at the Power Town Apartments, which gives area seniors a chance to share in the bounty of locally grown produce.



Gloria Holmes serves organic watermelon and grapes from Red Fire Farm to Josephine Zabko and Marie Kelsey at the senior Harvest Supper on October 5th.

CISA's Kelly Coleman explained that funding for the Farm Share program comes from individual donors, contributions from religious congregations and the 10K Bridge of Flowers foot race in Shelburne Falls, and from a \$50,000 state grant from the state Department of Elder Affairs.

This year, CISA was able to provide grants for 326 produce shares for seniors throughout Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties, under the Farm Share program. Fruits like apples, peaches, and enough plums for a few lucky recipients were added to the vegetables distributed this year.

Sharon Cottrell, manager of

the Power Town Apartments said, "The program allows seniors to receive a share of the harvest. It's been a wonderful thing." Cottrell said increased funding from CISA allowed the program at Power Town to serve 50 seniors this year, up from 40 last year. Participants come to the community room at Power Town each week to pick up fresh vegetables and fruit, delivered from the Granby farm to Montague by a farm worker each Friday.

Each share is worth approximately \$150 of produce, said Coleman.

Jean Thurber of Gill said she particularly appreciates the fresh tomatoes and peppers in her weekly produce share. She uses them in salads, and freezes what is left over. "It's just like home grown," she said.

Ryan Voiland, Red Fire Farm owner, was sitting down to

dinner with the seniors on Friday, with a number of his helpers. He rotates 25 acres planted in vegetables at his 60 acre farm in Granby, all certified organic by the Bay State Organic Certifiers. He said the Farm Share program, "Works out very well for us." This year, Red Fire Farm has added another Farm Share distribution site in Chicopee to their weekly delivery route.

On the menu Friday was a delicious spinach lasagne, salad with fresh grated vegetables, a perfectly spiced potato leek soup, and organic pumpkin pie with ginger. Mary Tirrel of Sunrise Terrace said she loved the menu offerings. She became a vegetarian three years ago, after reading about "meat, mad cow disease, and all that baloney." Tirrel said, "I love to cook; I love the vegetables."

One of Tirrel's recipes is included below.

CINNAMON CARROT PIE

According to Mary Tirrel, this pretty orange pie is better than pumpkin pie ever thought about being.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2 cups mashed carrots | 1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. |
| 1 (12-oz) can evaporated whole milk | 2. Combine carrots, milk, sugar, eggs, salt, ginger and cinnamon; beat for two minutes. Pour into unbaked pie crust. |
| 1 cup sugar | |
| 2 eggs beaten | 3. Bake 15 minutes; lower heat to 350 degrees and bake 45 minutes longer, or until filling is set. |
| 1/2 tsp salt | Serves 8. |
| 1/4 tsp ginger | |
| 2 tsp cinnamon | |
| 1 (10-in) unbaked pie crust | |

SITES from pg 1

the Judeo-Christian tradition, LaDuke posed the question, "Is it possible the Holy Land is not an exclusive concept? We believe this is the Holy Land as well." But she said white settlers in America are essentially a transient culture, exploiting the Earth for its resources, rather than honoring the Earth as a sacred gift from the Creator for all generations to share.

Mother of five children and author of five books, LaDuke's most recent title is, *Recovering the Sacred, the Power of Naming and Claiming* (2005, South End Press). Taking a leaf from that book, she told stories about four North American sites considered particularly sacred by the tribes who live near them.

The first story she told concerned a mountain on the north shore of Lake Superior, where long ago the giant Nanabijou lay down to rest. The Ojibwe noticed the thunderbirds would stop regularly on this mountaintop to rest on their easterly migration, and the people would give thanks, understanding the relationship between thunder beings and water, air and land. Nowadays, though the area around the mountain is still called Thunder Bay, the mountain itself is called Mount McKay.

"This illustrates a pervasive problem," said LaDuke: "The naming of large mountains after small men." She gave a few local examples of place names that are objectionable to Indian people: Amherst, named after the British lord who referred to Indians as vermin, employed dogs to hunt them, and encouraged the distribution of smallpox-infested blankets to the Indians during Pontiac's Rebellion. And Turners Falls, named after Captain William Turner, who laid waste a 12,000-year-old joint use settlement at the bend of the Connecticut River in a pre-

dawn raid in 1676, killing more than 300 women and children and old men, refugees from Metacomet's Rebellion (King Philip's War). LaDuke said a case of "historical amnesia" allows the use of such place names to perpetuate.

Referring to the use of genocidal place names and Native mascots for sports teams - the 'Turners Falls Indians' being the obvious local example - LaDuke asked, "How do you think it feels to indigenous young people to have a place named after someone who killed your ancestors?"

She told a story about "the sixth resting place of the Ojibwe" on their migration from east to west. According to the Ojibwe oral tradition, "Prophets came to our people and told them to follow a shell which appeared in the sky, until we came to the place where food grows on the water," a reference to wild rice. The place so indicated, according to LaDuke, was the aptly named Spirit Mountain, near modern-day Duluth, MN, where developers recently attempted to get permission from the city to build a golf course, though there were already three golf courses in the area.

During the course of negotiations on the golf course, the city council took testimony from LaDuke, who spoke in front of a room packed with Ojibwes and their supporters from environmental groups and an interdenominational crowd of religious leaders. At the end of her allotted three minute testimony, one city councilor corrected her rendition of Ojibwe history, saying her tribe did not migrate across the country, but had been brought to Minnesota by French explorers. "He was telling me, 'Your whole oral history is wrong.' When Natives confront the dominant culture, 'There is an assumption they know more than you do,'" LaDuke said. Linguistic evidence shows a

see SITES pg 9

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

continued from previous

clear link between the Ojibwe and Algonquin speakers of the East, including the Abnakis and Wampanoags, LaDuke said, and besides, shouldn't tribal people be trusted to know their own origins?

In the end, the city council voted to withdraw the work permit for the golf course proposal on Spirit Mountain, only to have the mayor of Duluth overturn their decision.

However, that mayor failed in his re-election bid, and the first thing the new mayor did upon entering office was to establish a joint council with the Ojibwe, and cancel the proposed golf course on their sacred mountain, LaDuke said.

She told the origin story of Bear Butte in South Dakota, a site held sacred by the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Lakota peoples. According to tradition, this butte, in the midst of Paha Sapa, the Black Hills, was raised up when a sleeping bear was taunted by some wayward children. When the bear chased them, they ran to the top of the butte and, as the bear scratched at the base of the butte, raising it higher, they eventually ascended into the heavens to become the Pleiades. Now, Bear Butte is a place where Native people go to fast and pray and hold vision quests. Recently, developers advanced a plan to establish a recreational complex with "a world class shooting range" next to Bear Butte.

Native people, with support from local ranchers, won the battle against that development by investigating the source of funding for the recreational complex. It turned out promoters were hoping to access federal Community Development Block Grant funds to build it, and had included the demographics of the local Indian reservations to express need and show that the recreation area would benefit low-income populations.

Now, the battle to maintain Native rights to pray in peace at Bear Butte has turned to organizing bikers to oppose the granting of liquor licenses to bars

within a 2½ mile radius of the sacred site. Bikers are an important group to organize, because the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in nearby Sturgis, SD is the main cash producing event for Mead County, where Bear Butte is located. LaDuke said her organization is having some success organizing bikers, with a campaign dubbed, "Don't Drive Highway 79."

"It's very difficult to pray when you're surrounded," by biker bars, LaDuke said. She wondered if bars or shooting ranges would be allowed at the base of Mt. Sinai.

As a last example of how Native people are working to protect their sacred landscapes, LaDuke referred to the efforts of Gwich'in people, the most northerly of North American tribes, in the effort to stop oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Preserve. Opening the reserve to oil would provide America with the equivalent of "52 days worth of oil reserves," LaDuke claimed. Yet, the reserve, which the Gwich'in call "the place where life begins," is the site where 150,000 caribou calve their young each year.

To date, the United States Senate has resisted the Bush administration's repeated attempts to open the reserve to oil development.

"I don't know how the end of that story is going to be written," said LaDuke. "It depends on us."

When she is not busy with national advocacy, LaDuke has been working with the White Earth Land Recovery project at her tribe's reservation. After fruitless efforts to work through the courts to reclaim 90% of the 837,000 acres granted to the

Ojibwe by an 1867 federal treaty, which have since fallen into non-Indian hands (primarily the Weyerhaeuser Co.), the Ojibwe have since bought back 17,000 acres of their ancestral lands. They have worked with the Minnesota legislature to ban Monsanto's genetically engineered wild rice from the state, to protect the Ojibwe's claim on that native food source, and to support Native fishing rights. The Ojibwe are also investing in wind power turbines, and plan to use their abundant wind resources to become an electricity exporter in years to come. The tribe purchased a closed public school on reservation land for \$275,000, and is petitioning the FCC for a license to open a tribal radio station.

"We looked around. We aren't the richest group of people, but we're the ones who live here. We decided to try to do the things we can do."

LaDuke's talk was sponsored by the Friends of Wissatinnewag, the local Native advocacy group that purchased "the last undeveloped quadrant of the ancient Native American village and burial grounds that originally surrounded the Great Falls on the Connecticut River," according to Friends president Monique Fordham. The Friends purchased and permanently protected that site, formerly used as a sandpit by the Mackin Construction Company, on the western bank of the Connecticut River in 2001, for three quarters of a million dollars, with the help of Camille Cosby. LaDuke serves on the Friends of Wissatinnewag's advisory council.

Fordham, an Abnaki, is an attorney specializing in the

protection of Native sacred sites. She works for the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation in Washington DC, the agency examining tribal claims about the significance of a stone formation on a hill at the Turners Falls Airport. She said Native involvement in protecting their own sacred sites was mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in the 1970s, for any sites on federal land, or requiring permitting or funding by the federal government, such as the Turners Falls runway expansion. Still, tribes play only a procedural role in determining the fate of those sites, Fordham said. She described the consultative process as one of federal agencies telling Native Americans, "Thank you for your views, now bring in the bulldozers."

She continued, "Only public opinion can save those sites."

Speaking of the Native village that preceded modern-day Turners Falls, Fordham said, "Turner led a massacre against the village in 1676. Three hundred women and children and elders were massacred there. The village had a 12,000 year history of continuous occupation," before Turner led the pre-dawn attack on May 16th, 1676, in one of the last chapters in the regional conflict known as King Phillip's War.

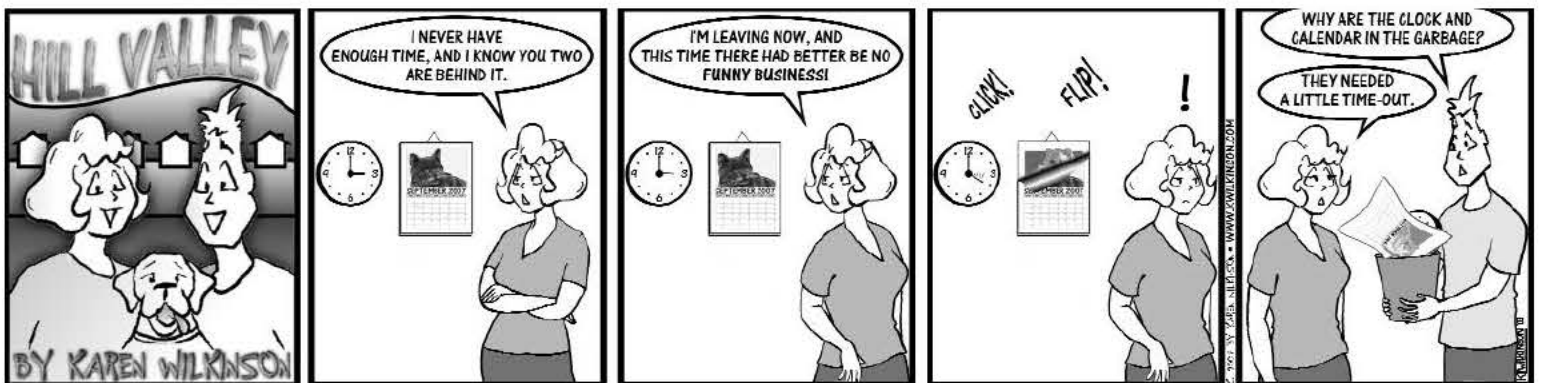
She said the massacre extinguished the native Pocumtucks as an independent tribe, but remnants of the Pocumtucks fled north to Abnaki territory, others to New York State, and others to their protectors, the Narragansetts, in Rhode Island. "They exist in all of us," Fordham said.

Regarding the Turners Falls High School's use of a Native American mascot, represented by a Native American wearing an eagle-feathered headdress typical of Plains Indians tribes, Fordham said, "A group of people who are not Native American using the name 'Turners Falls Indians' compounds the insult. This is a twisted sense of history. Turners Falls Indians are dead."

She added, "It is not necessary to keep an offensive mascot in order to have good sports team."

Turning to the struggle to protect 10 acres of land known as the White Ash Swamp from development in Greenfield, Fordham said a great number of Indian remains were dumped into the swamp during construction on Route 2 in the 1960s. She introduced George Nelson, of Northfield, who was in the audience with his wife, as the man who faced public derision and condemnation for verifying claims of these disturbed burials. She said Nelson had been searching for arrowheads along Route 2 during this period, and had witnessed "ribcages, skulls and bones easily identifiable on the surface," being dumped with tree stumps and fill into the nearby swamp.

The Friends of Wissatinnewag recently secured a pledge from one potential commercial developer to protect the White Ash Swamp, Fordham said, but that developer subsequently withdrew its application with the city of Greenfield. "We may have to start the whole thing over again with another company," she concluded.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Upper School Gains on MCAS Scores

TFHS, Great Falls Test Results Impressive; Sheffield Scores Flat; Gill Placed on State Watch List, Narrowly

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Great Falls Middle School and the Turners Falls High School have experienced impressive improvement in MCAS scores over the last year, according to figures released at the G-M school committee meeting on Tuesday, October 9th.

Reviewing the scores, upper school curriculum coordinator Anne-Stine Ohlson took the opportunity to brag a bit about the students' achievement: "We out-performed Greenfield, Mohawk and Gateway school districts in all categories. It's

pretty exciting." This, from a school district the state Department of Education labelled "underperforming" earlier this year. Go figure.

Ohlson said in Grade 10, English Language Arts scores showed students continuing to move out of the failing category, from 11% failing in 2004 to 2% this year. Grade 10 math scores showed improvement from 17% failing in '04 to 3% failing in '07. Tenth grade students scoring proficient in math rose from 25% in '04 to 43% in '07,

Ohlson reported. At the middle school, Ohlson said, "Test scores are off the roof!" In English Language Arts, eighth grade students showed movement from 16% in the warning category last year, and 2% in advanced, to 6% in the warning category this year, and 11% advanced.

In math, eighth grade students made "incredible gains," Ohlson said, moving from 48% in the warning category last year to 23% this year. Similarly, advanced eighth grade math students rose from 3% in '06 to 17% in '07. Science and technology scores showed gains at the middle school, as well.

"We had the lowest amount of kids in warning categories of our neighboring school districts," Ohlson concluded.

Upper school principal Jeff Kenney attributed the gains to professional development grants from the state DOE of \$25,000 in '06 and \$12,000 this year, allowing the middle school to achieve many of the goals set out in an intervention plan, after being placed on the state's



G-M administrators (l-r) Chip Wood, Jeff Kenney, Anne-Stine Ohlson and Bob McDonald report on MCAS scores on Tuesday night

underperforming list two years ago. Another year of strong test score improvements will allow the middle school to move off the state's watch list.

Results were not as good at Sheffield School, which remains on the state's 'needs improvement' list. Test scores there were flat, or showed slight gains. Sheffield principal Chip Wood marked this down to a mid-term change of math curriculum, a failure to establish broad grade span education in district elementary schools, and a percent-

age of low income and students with disabilities at Sheffield (60% and 21%, respectively) far above the state average.

At Gill Elementary, where very small class sizes magnify shifts in data, principal Bob McDonald said he was not worried about missing the state's average yearly improvement goal by 0.6%, thus falling onto the state's 'needs improvement' list.

"Our staff has been challenged, said McDonald. "They will rise to the challenge."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Explosive Device Removed

Tuesday 10-2

12:20 a.m. Responded to a fight on West Gill Road, parties separated, declined to seek charges.

9:20 a.m. Assisted with disabled tractor trailer at Gill Lights.

Wednesday 10-3

10:00 a.m. Assisted board of health inspector with residence inspection in the Riverside area.

10:35 a.m. Checked area of Route 10 for loose horse.

7:33 p.m. Report of an erratic operator on West Gill Road, unable to locate same.

Thursday 10-4

7:50 p.m. Responded to Barney Hale Road residence for an explosive device located inside. Device removed by State Police bomb squad.

Friday 10-5

10:25 a.m. Report taken on South Cross Road for property damage.

8:33 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on West Gill Road.

Saturday 10-6

12:20 a.m. Report of suspi-

cious activity on Gill-Montague Bridge. Checked area, unfounded.

7:06 p.m. Hit and run motor vehicle accident at Main Road business. Under investigation.

11:05 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on Riverview Drive, no problem found.

Sunday 10-7

1:14 p.m. Assisted with suicidal subject on Boyle Road, same transported to FMC.

7:05 p.m. Officer on patrol observed subjects removing property from side of French King Highway, under investigation.

7:54 p.m. Report of subject on Gill-Montague Bridge, looking despondent. Checked area, one subject located, no problem found.

9:32 p.m. Assisted Montague Police on Gill-Montague Bridge with subject that had jumped off same, and was being held by officers, until pulled back onto bridge.

Monday 10-8

1:01 p.m. Vandalism report taken on Mount Hermon Station Road.

11:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police at Windmill Motel with un-wanted subject.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

In Search of a Restroom

Wednesday 10-3

4:31 p.m. Advised of a large piece of concrete in middle of Route 2, east of Erving Center. Gone on arrival.

9:00 p.m. Alarm sounding in Erving Center. Key holder arrived and reset alarm.

Thursday 10-4

10:00 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for marked lanes violation and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Friday 10-5

10:00 a.m. Assisted tractor trailer in Farley Flats with a flat tire.

6:40 p.m. Reported tree down on railroad tracks at Moore Street intersection. Patrolled area, no tree found.

Saturday 10-6

10:10 p.m. Loose dog on Old State Road. Owner located at Ridge Road.

Sunday 10-7

1:24 a.m. Motor vehicle vs. pole accident with entrapment and personal injury on Route 2 at Dorsey Road. Two transported by BHA.

7:21 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Longo Auto. Two individuals looking for rest room. Both moved along.

8:34 p.m. Deer vs. car accident on Route 2. Minor damage.

Tuesday 10-9

3:27 p.m. Breaking and entering into motor vehicle on Hansen Court. Report taken.

8:25 p.m. 911 call from High Street for suspicious motor vehicle in neighborhood. Information taken.

10:30 p.m. Domestic situation on Strachen Street. Party gone on arrival.

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GARDEN

continued from pg 1

building project to fix floors, install acoustic tiles, aid in the interior design of the town offices and complete landscaping around both new buildings. The committee was hoping to tap into some of these funds for garden tools, a tool shed, soil amendments, and an underground pipe with a number of spigots that could make it possible to reach the far ends of the lot with a single length of hose.

Nolan had gotten estimates for basic tools and pre-built sheds, and Craddock had drawn a layout for the pipe that would allow it to be drained in the fall, so it could be buried only inches below grade instead of four feet down to protect it from freezing. His plan called for a quick disconnect at the building, so the pipe would be connected only when in use.

Previously, the committee had asked informally if the town could mow the part of the lot available for a community garden. Although the early darkness of October made it hard to see, it appeared some of the mowing had already been done. The rest was completed by the weekend.

Selectboard member Christine Heard, who is also on the town buildings' landscape committee, had already said the community garden could use some of the composted manure the landscape committee had ordered for plantings around the office building. She suggested the garden committee spend the money for quality tools, including a wheelbarrow. The selectboard approved a tool budget of approximately \$350.

Nolan was thinking of purchasing a 6 foot by 8 foot shed, but selectboard chair Ted Lewis said, "You will need more room than you think," and suggested a 10 foot by 12 foot shed instead. The cheap-

est sheds are pre-made sheet metal, but no one liked those. The most expensive was a kit built on site by the company, with opening glass windows. Other options were kits built by garden committee members, or a shed of the committee's design built with local lumber.

The selectboard felt the tools and shed should be bought soon, while there is still money available. Lewis said in spring highway workers might use a backhoe to dig a trench for the water line.

While some squash (and a very few raspberries) have already been harvested from the community garden this season, the committee plans to really get the garden going next year. Anyone interested in a plot should call Kate Nolan at 544-2306.

Boundary Work Declined

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich opened the meeting by reading a letter from the town of Orange inviting the Wendell selectboard, along with the other towns that share a boundary with Orange, to send a selectboard member or representative to survey and mark the shared boundary, and share the cost of that work with Orange. The cost for Orange's entire border survey would be \$3,525.

Lewis said that if Wendell marked the boundary with one neighboring town it should mark the boundary with all the neighboring towns. Heard said, "I would rather they put the money into schools, and paid their fair share of the Mahar budget." She asked Aldrich to return a polite, "No."

Harry Williston from the board of health asked the selectboard to appoint a board of health representative and an alternate to the senior center renovation committee.

Library Parking Meeting

The library trustees asked the selectboard to come to the

new library to discuss the parking there. The old library's six available parking places were seldom all utilized, but the ten-space lot at the new library is often full, and overflow cars are supposed to park across the north common on Center Street, next to the cemetery. The cemetery commission complained the cars are killing the grass. A meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 13th at the library. As a highway commissioner, Williston said the highway would be represented at that meeting. The planning board, selectboard, police, and cemetery commission will also be there.

Lewis said the value engineering done to bring the building projects' budget down had cut parking at the library, and "now we have to pack it in again." He said one hearing on library parking had already been held, and overflow parking on Center Street had been approved then.

Reached after the selectboard meeting, librarian Rosie Heidekamp said since the new library opened this summer, "The number of people in the door and the number of books in circulation has doubled." She said she hoped the configuration of parking lines at the library lot could be adjusted to allow a few more parking spaces.

Surplus Equipment Auction

The town needs to schedule two auctions, one for real estate, the other for surplus town equipment. Treasurer Carolyn Manley said she has to get everything in order first, and hopes the real estate auction can be held in March. Lewis said the surplus equipment auction should happen soon, before the weather becomes too cold, and he suggested Saturday, November 3rd or Saturday, November 10th. Before then, the town needs a list of surplus items from the highway, police and

fire departments.

Town Office Dedication

The selectboard and building committee will hold a dedication of the new town office building on Saturday, October 20th. Open house will begin at noon; the dedication will happen at 12:30; refreshments will be served afterwards. Invitations have been sent to Senator Kennedy, Senator Kerry and Representative Olver. Architect Margo Jones, clerk of the works John Flemming, Mark Sullivan, Leo Handford, and Handford Construction's final project manager have all been invited.

The planning board submitted a report from their forest conservation project for selectboard members to read, review and comment on.

The planning board also forwarded for comment a special permit request for a guest cabin at 125 Montague Road. The building exists, but an abutter protests that it is not properly permitted; the owner

said she applied for a building permit, but never got a response. The selectboard will seek more information from the building inspector and the zoning board of appeals, and planned to read the application over and consider their decision for the next selectboard meeting.

Aldrich relayed information from the town's insurance representative to the effect that reducing the town officials' liability deductible amount from \$7,500 to \$5,000 would increase the annual premium by \$87. Heard and Lewis both voted for the change.

Selectboard member Dan Keller was absent from the meeting. But board chair Ted Lewis and board member Christine Heard signed appointment slips for new members of the landscape committee, and the office interior design committee, and for the new selectboard clerk, Laurel Brenneman.



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BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I was at a party recently when a nurse told a friend of mine to see a doctor because his nails were kind of white. He went to the doctor and found out he has a liver problem. Were these two events just coincidental?

The condition of your nails can tell medical professionals a lot about your health. Most doctors include a nail examination during a physical checkup. Common problems that produce symptoms in the nails are the following:

- White nails - liver diseases

- Thick, pitted nails - psoriasis
- Nails that are half pink, half white - kidney diseases
- Red nail beds - heart conditions

- Thick, yellow nails - lung diseases

- Pale or concave nail beds - anemia

- Light yellow nails, with a slight bluish at the base - diabetes

Nail growth is affected by disease, hormone imbalance, and the aging process itself. Many seniors suffer from nail problems because nails thicken as we age, there are greater circulation difficulties, and we use more medications that impact nails.

Before we go on, some nail anatomy:

The nail plate is the part of the nail you can see on a digit. A nail

bed is the skin under a plate. The cuticle is the tissue that overlaps the plate. The matrix is the part of the nail that's tucked under the cuticle. The lunula is the crescent moon at the base of the nail.

Nails are made primarily of keratin, an extremely strong protein that is also a major part of skin, hair and teeth. The nails grow from the matrix.

Some interesting facts:

Nails grow faster in the summer than in winter. Fingernails grow faster than toenails. The nails on your dominant hand grow faster than the other hand. Men's nails usually grow more quickly than women's, except when women are pregnant or seniors. Nails grow about one-tenth of a millimeter daily.

Most minor injuries to nails

heal without help. Some nail problems can be treated with medicines. Other conditions may require nail removal. If a nail is infected, discolored, swollen, painful, get to a doctor.

Taking good care of you nails can avoid many disorders. Here are some tips:

- To prevent infections, wash your nails often and keep them dry.

- Thick toenails, which come with age, are difficult to trim. Soaking your feet in warm salt water will soften them and make them easier to cut. Trimming after a bath or shower makes sense.

- Toenails should be cut straight across so that the nail does not extend beyond the tip of the toe. Do not round off corners

- Don't bite your fingernails... if you can help it.

- Don't remove cuticles.
- To remove any snags, use a fine file.

- Disinfect your nail-trimmers and files.

- Don't try amateur surgery on yourself to fix an ingrown toenail. Get professional treatment.

- If you use public showers, wear flip-flops to prevent getting infections.

- Make sure your shoes and socks fit properly and they are made of materials that don't suffocate the feet.

- Shoes and socks should be changed often. Healthcare professionals recommend changing more than once daily.

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

THIS WILD PLACE

The Barred Owl

BY KARL MEYER

COLRAIN - It was a sultry 75 degrees at 5:30 p.m. The sky was powdery gray with some slight breaks of sun. Some vaguely threatening rain clouds were perched on the western horizon above Shelburne as I headed up the ridge above Greenfield's Highland Pond. The summer weather felt strangely normal, despite the fact this was the first week of October. Climate change and a droughty September had rendered any predictions on fall weather and foliage moot.

As I scrambled the last few feet to the ridgeline at Sachem's Head it was obvious this would not be a neon-bright foliage season. The red maples slowly dropped dark ruby leaves along a windless path, and dull-brown hemlock needles slipped off stems to find their way into my hair and cling to the back of my neck. This is not a fall phenomenon, just the fallout of the hemlock woolly adelgid, an aphid-like insect from Asia that's now making light work of killing these fabulous trees up and down

the East Coast.

What remained nicely predictable as I topped the outcrop closest to the confluence of the Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers was the movement of fall migrants along the ridgelines. Popping up above the leaves on a rip of Triassic Age basalt traceable all the way south to the Palisades above the Hudson River; I found birds migrating along its 200-million-year old compass line. My presence was not entirely welcome. Some of these creatures were on thousand mile pilgrimages, and their business was hawking bugs. Still, the warm weather and lack of wind must have been making it an easy evening to grab dinner before launching southward after sundown.

There were a lot of alarmed chips and much fluttering in the low bushes as I ambled northward along the rocks. The light was poor, but I did recognize the orange-red outer tail markings of a male American redstart in the pre-dusk. This tiny warbler was following an ancient route that

would take it all the way to Central and South America. This night my movements would push it a few hundred feet north as it kept to the low vegetation, waiting to snap up flying ants around the edges of fall woods. The flashy markings on redstart tails are said to aid in their bug-hunts, momentarily startling insects in that second before they become a meal.

Most other birds - and there were dozens, were just dusky silhouettes. Night was washing the color from the landscape. I dropped back into leafy woods and continued another half mile, just out of sight of the ridge. Coming into a fairly dense mix of hemlock and broad-leaf trees some larger movement caught my eye. It was maybe 50 feet ahead, and 20 feet up - a shadow moving silently through shadowy wood. My eyes followed its dark flight, which ended just ten yards further on. I wondered, late hawk? Owl? These seemed the only two options. There was mass and bulk. Whatever it was, it had alighted somewhere near

the trunk - about thirty feet up - in the trees ahead.

I moved slowly along the path, curious. If it was a hawk, I didn't imagine it would sit long. Night was coming and it needed a roost. If it was a great horned owl, I knew it could easily blend itself in tight with the tree stems, becoming nearly invisible against the ragged bark. It turned out to be neither. As my sight line took me to a patch of sky that could silhouette the lower branches of a maple tree I saw a long, thick body, topped by an unmistakably round head: a barred owl.

Barred owls do tend to be about and somewhat conspicuous at certain times of the year, particularly in late winter. But this was the first time I'd happened upon one in leafy fall foliage. If you move slowly, they don't tend to spook that quickly. I did just that, stood still mostly, as the owl and I gave each other the once over. Again there was much chipping, and some scolding from a squirrel down the path. This owl was news to all of us, causing quite a stir. Birds flitted beneath



ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

it, keeping it safely in view. It looked down at me, head cocked, but the details of its face - the moist, brown eyes and wide facial disks - were mostly lost in shadow. So too were the bold, barring streaks down its breast that give this night raptor its name.

I observed for a minute or two, the owl quite aware of me, and all the potential food squawking nearby. The foot-and-a-half tall bird was clearly in its element and felt no need to move on. It took in its surroundings, the night ridge and woods it would hunt for the next few hours, and the human character that couldn't see quite as well as it could. I did the same and decided it was time for me to move on. I mumbled a quiet g'day to the hunter, then proceeded to stumble at my first step back toward civilization. I looked back and saw that it watched me still. I'm not sure if it registered my embarrassment, which was momentary.

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WAY OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Pathways to Fairy Land

BY FLORE

MONHEGAN ISLAND, ME - Where are these pathways located? Do they really exist?

Or are they just imaginary roads?

In fact, there are 17 solid miles of them! Picture in your mind a small island afloat on the wild coast of Maine. You can even catch the beam of its lighthouse from the nearest point, 10 miles from Port Clyde. To be precise, at latitude 43°40' longitude 69°19'.

You may even need a magnifying glass, to locate this idyllic place on a plain atlas.

Then, after much search, here stands Monhegan Island! So small a dot, almost vanishing under strong wind and wild current.

It was known to Native Americans as a fine fishing spot to take sustenance from the nourishing sea. Today, fishing and lobstering is still a main source of income for the islanders.

Its wintertime population does not exceed 60 permanent residents. In summer, the rate

climbs to 600. So be aware!

Scarcely a square mile in area, it was visited by the explorer Captain John Smith back in 1614. Now, writers fall under the spell of its beauty and remoteness.

Birders visit Monhegan, following the migratory paths of their subjects.

The island has been drawn and painted by artists from all its sides, by the likes of Rockwell Kent, Jamie Wyeth, Robert Henry and Edward Hopper. "It's a soul home," declared writer and painter Ted Tihansky, a regular yearly guest.

Add to its landscape a real little school house, with seven students diving in a constant



FLORE PHOTO

A scene on Monhegan Island

educative open book; a small library and post office, maintained all year round, even when the waves are high and winter's gales blow. But the best secret is yet to come. This is Fairy Land. Yes, truly, Monhegan is also inhabited by a special group of beings: Fairies!

Should you be walking on the Cathedral Trail, you will

notice numerous small shelters made of various materials: bark or shells or driftwood branches. These are the welcoming 'Fairie Houses'. In fact, in order to keep these sprites from leaving the island, the passersby make sure to build a new one, so a new fairy will move in!

Should you want to discover this breathtaking land, know

that no cars are allowed. Get a trail map and some solid walking shoes. Though the seagulls might lead your way, it's easy to get lost! Be aware of storms and the huge waves called 'Combers.'

Ideally, plan a three-day stay. We met a group of friends who have come for the past 20 years, and for them a week on the island gets them through the active year!

Follow the wise sailor's saying when feeling adventurous:

"Always keep a bulwark
Between you and the sea
Whenever viewing the surf."

Ferries run from Port Clyde, New Harbor and Boothbay at specific schedules. One should make reservations prior to arrival. Not all housing facilities have heat and some have only partial electricity. Stock up with basic food, if you travel off-season, as fewer stores will be open. For more info, check: www.Monhegan.net.

Finally, be aware of the Island's spell!

Bon Voyage!

THEATER from pg 1

my dad brought me back the scarecrow, still wearing that same menacing grin."

It is to this story of his youth - and the fact that his dad first mistook the scarecrow for Jonathan's brother when he spied it in the boys' treehouse earlier that year - that Chappell attributes his zest for crafting realistic, life-sized puppets with wooden joints simulating human motion, whose eyes light up and whose mouths ask riddles of passersby.

"It's cool; it's fun," said Chappell, painting the finishing touches on "Dark Bark," a tall dark brown tree whose bushy black eyebrows move sneakily up and down.

Working inside a rented bay of his father Lou Chappell's garage on Route 2 in Gill, Chappell said he sells cars when he's not employing his more creative side.

"I read a lot of Tolkien when I was young. My brother works for Microsoft. I like to say he got the brains and I got the talent," he laughed.

Anyone driving down Route 2 in years past has probably found Chappell's life-sized puppet cre-

ations hard to miss, what with their colorful paint, sinister expressions and graveyard environment menacing the roadside across from Barton Cove.

"As an artist I wanted to be my own boss, of course. I wanted to have fun all the time and get paid for it, and also give people a good story," he said, dismissing the "boo scares" of many Halloween haunted houses as lacking substance.

Chappell is giving residents of the Valley and beyond a total of 11 good stories (plus more than a few surprises) when they attend his "Skeleton Crew Theater" at the Northampton Clarion Hotel, every weekend in October, behind the Grand Pavilion Tent (rain or shine).

Matinees, suitable for children (and somewhat "Harry Potter-like," said Chappell), happen Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m., while adult versions of the stories (saucier, scarier) happen Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 to 11 p.m. The hotel is located at 1 Atwood Drive in Northampton (413-586-1211).

Basically, Chappell's puppets - although "they're really animatronics with a human persona" -



LITCHFIELD PHOTO

Jonathan Chappell, 31, of Gill, the mastermind behind Skeleton Crew Theater.

ask riddles of audience members, who move from fully-automated set to set, interacting with the characters and answering questions for clues as to where to head next.

"It's part scavenger hunt and part theater," said Chappell, whose business partner Mike Glazier has worked with him

every step of the way. Music is performed by Chappell's longtime friend Colby Kuzonhkowski (the two attended Gill Elementary School together). Also part of the "skeleton crew" are Chappell's girlfriend Becky Rand and Mike Glazier's wife Nayanna.

Each of the 11 sets is its own fully automated theatrical environment, painstakingly hand-crafted from wood, PVC pipe, metal and paint, and includes music and illusions. Each character comes with its own personality, individual storyline and voice effects, performed by Chappell and his friends.

From Chappell's description, the overall experience of Skeleton Crew Theater seems a collaborative work of art. And a costly one at that.

So far, Chappell has spent \$20,000 on this venture, something he hopes will break even

and allow him to create additional characters and theatrical experiences for other holidays, perhaps including Christmas and Valentine's Day.

Halloween, however, is the perfect time of year to debut this cast of characters, he said, which includes Jack Pulpit, owner of a tremendous pumpkin patch, Gourdy (you guessed it, a gourd), Hex, a spider with legs made of an old bicycle wheel and pedals, Seymour, a giant snake, and Burt, a huge drunken troll made with a backpacking harness.

"Everybody likes Halloween. It's a big time of year for these kinds of attractions," said Chappell, who holds annual Halloween parties for his friends, featuring cryptic messages and scavenger hunts. His parties have grown every year from 10 to 50 attendees, as friends bring more friends. These experiences also gave him the confidence to go public with his colorful, storied, life-like characters.

Chappell hopes people leave Skeleton Crew Theater "with a smile," he said. "We want people to enjoy the whole experience. Basically, this is a work of love."

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

Down in the Well

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL - The autumn harvest of potatoes was marked by a falling water table. At summer's end, the well often got low. Pa would put a ladder down and send someone to clean it out. When the older kids had all left, it came my turn to descend into that deep forbidding place.

My hands shook as I climbed down, down, down, into that fearful dark hole in the ground. I always fought claustrophobia in the cold dampness at the bottom. It got worse when Pa

hauled the ladder out. I looked up. The opening looked small and far away. My bare legs felt like they were freezing in the icy water. The air became ever harder to breathe as I worked to scoop clay into a bucket with an old kettle. Steam from my breath hung in the air.

My imagination ran wild, thinking the tiles would crack and break, or that I would dig too deep and cause the tiles to drop and tip, trapping me in that chilly tomb. I struggled to keep from yelling in panic for Pa to put the ladder back. I scooped clay from the bottom of the

well, pouring off water before dumping it into the bucket he'd lowered on a rope. When the bucket was nearly full, I'd stand against the wall and hold my hands over my head in case the rope let go. Sometimes bits of clay fell from the bucket, hitting me on the head or shoulder, giving me a start, thinking that the rope had broken or come loose and the bucket was coming down to crash into my head.

Then Pa lowered the bucket, and I crouched down again in that cramped place to scoop more clay. Stories of tiles that

had been undermined and dropped went through my mind - tiles turning sideways to trap the person in the well. The thoughts filled my brain and made the possibility seem ever more certain.

"Dig deeper," Pa said, looking small up there so high in the world above. His words echoed off the cold wet walls. "Not much water coming, yet."

My body began to shake from cold, from fatigue, and from nervousness. Each time I straightened up, my feet would be sunk deeper in the clay, now more like quicksand, and it

became harder and harder to pull free. I dug some more. Water rose until my butt was wet. My breath formed a cloud of fog in the cold and airless place.

At long last, he sent the ladder back down. I worked to get my feet free from the suction of the clay that seemed to want to claim me for its own. I climbed the ladder quickly as I dared, feet slipping on the rungs slippery with clay. I hurried in near panic to reach sunshine and air to breathe.

- Continued next week

Annual Bulky Waste Collection

BY AMY DONOVAN

GREENFIELD - The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on Saturday, October 13th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland recreation facility on Route 112

south, the Northfield highway garage, and the Whately transfer station.

District residents may bring a wide range of items that are typically difficult to get rid of such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris,

computers, televisions, propane gas tanks and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. District residents are from the towns of Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath,

Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell and Whately.

Residents do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected from residents during check-in at each site. A complete list of

prices for the most common items is available at local town halls, town transfer stations, the district office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and on-line at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Businesses may participate. For more information call: 413-772-2438, or contact us at the email above.

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VENDORS WANTED for Wendell Holiday Fair, Dec. 1 & 2. For info contact: Marianne at 978-544-8981 or msundell65@hotmail.com.

CARTOONISTS Wanted for discussion group. Amateur or pro. Call 659-5339 or email klwilkinson@comcast.net.

WANTED: Metal ice cube trays with center divider. Call 413-863-8386.

HELP WANTED: Sunday brunch and line cook positions open at The Copper Angel Restaurant. Call 413-422-2885.

Arena Civic Theatre Presents "The Phantom Tollbooth"

TURNERS FALLS - Arena Civic Theatre will present a musical adaptation of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, the beloved children's novel by Amherst author Norton Juster, at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. The music for the new version was composed by the late Arnold Black, founder of

the Mohawk Trail Concerts. Lyrics are by Sheldon Harnick. Matinees will be Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st at 2 p.m. Evening performances will be held Saturdays Oct. 13th and 20th at 7:30 p.m. Please note that there are no Friday evening performances.

Tickets can be reserved by calling the Shea Theater, 863-2281, ext. 3, or purchased at the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and the Jones Library in Amherst. Ticket prices are \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students and \$8 for children ages 12 and up.

High School Student Film Makers Compete Nationally

TURNERS FALLS - On Oct. 13th, a group of Turners Falls High School students will pit their film making skills against other students' from around the country.

Targeted to high school and college students, "The Insomnia Film Festival" challenges young film-makers to complete a short film in 24 hours or less.

"These students will be going up against some of the finest young film-makers in the country," said Douglas Finn, who teaches video and film classes at Turners Falls High

School. TFHS staff will be present to provide oversight and advice; however productions must be written, filmed, edited and completed entirely by students.

Entries to the contest will initially be rated by visitors to Apple's website. This means that no matter how good a film is, the choice is ultimately up to the people who support the film makers.

"To really succeed, we need help from the community - people need to get online and look at our film," said Finn. "The more that family and

friends watch and rate our work, the better chance we have of making the top 25."


The top 25 films are rated by a panel of judges including writer Nora Ephron (*When Harry Met Sally*), director Barry Sonnenfeld (*Men in Black*, *Get Shorty*) and writer Jim Sheridan (*My Left Foot*, *The Name of the Father*).

TFHS student films will be available for viewing and rating shortly after the contest ends. More information about the contest can be found online at apple.com/education/insomnia.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12TH
Joseph Parzych, author of *Jep's Place: Faith, Hope, and Other Disasters*, will be a guest on radio station WHAI with Jay Fidanza, and the Valley Morning Show. Jep's Place is a memoir of growing up in a family of 13 children of immigrant parents.

Deja Brew, Wendell-Nexus, eclectic Rock. 9 to 11 p.m. no cover.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
Athol Bird & Nature Club and Millers River Environmental Center invites birding enthusiasts to join Mark Taylor for **Fall Migrants in the Connecticut River Valley** - an all day trip through Hatfield, Hadley, and Northampton in search of late migrating shorebirds and passerines. Meet at 7 a.m. at parking lot opposite the *Pocket Saver Store* off Route 2, Erving Center. For info: (978) 248-9491 jem499872@yahoo.com.

6th Annual Family Fall Fun Day, Unity Park, Turners Falls. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Scarecrow Stuffing, Pumpkin Carving, Bake Sale, Pumpkin Fun Run and much more! Adopt your scarecrow now; they go fast! Fees: Scarecrows: \$5 per, Pumpkin Decorating: \$1 per. Call 863-3216. Rain date, October 20th.

Erving Fall Festival, Veterans Field, 18 Moore Street. All day events: music, face painting, old fashioned games, scarecrow making and bonfire at 6 p.m. Info. 423-3242.

Benefit Concert for Katie Liimataien - in support of Katie's battle against leukemia. 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls. Performers include Lost in the

Groove, Curly Fingers Dupree and House Party. 100% of the door, 100% of the ticket sales of raffle items and a portion of the kitchen proceeds will be donated to Katie and her family to cover medical and personal expenses. 21+, Tickets \$10 at the door or by reservation (413) 659 3384.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH & 14TH
Gill Arts & Crafts Festival. Food, music, demonstrations and antiques appraisals. Held from 10 to 4 p.m. at the Old Riverside School, Route 2, Gill.

Arena Civic Theatre presents Phantom Tollbooth. At the Shea Theater, Ave A, Turners Falls. Continues on October 20th & 21nd.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
Contra Dance at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Potluck supper at 6 p.m., dance with the All-Comers band. Open mic for callers, and all musicians are welcome to play in the band. Free; donations accepted for Grange upkeep.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Second Sunday Comedy series. Three comics 8 p.m. \$5 cover only.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
Deadline for proposals to the Montague Cultural Council for grants for community arts, humanities, and science projects. Priorities for applicants: concerts, festivals, plays, projects led by local artists, environment, nature, science programs, arts & cultural organizations, school programs. Form & guidelines: Lisa Enzer at 367-2658.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
Preserving and Using Herbs - Mary Ellen Warchol of the Stockbridge



John Crankshaw on drums, Mitch Pine on piano, Dan Grip on bass plus violinist Eve Boltax and Doug Hewitt perform at the Amherst Unitarian Church on Saturday, October 27th, 8 p.m.

Farm Cooking School will demonstrate how to preserve herbs and show samples of herbal concoctions, like herbal vinegars, syrups, sodas, and dressings. The North Quabbin Garden Club sponsors this program. There is a \$5.00 fee for non-members. 7:00 p.m. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Open Mic**, all levels welcome. Host Peter Kim. 8:30 p.m. to midnite. No cover.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ray Mason Band* and *Angry Johnny and the Killbillies*. Come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH
Chris Chandler, folk singer/songwriter and spoken-word performing artist will appear at the Echo Lake Coffee House at the Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett. Chris will be accompanied by Boston-based musician, Jim Infantino. Admission is \$12/\$10 seniors. 413-548-9394.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
Scandinavian dances are Third Sundays at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Music for traditional couples dancing will be played by Marilyn Butler, Andrea Larson and Amy Parker & friends. Finnskogspols and other dances will be taught by Joan and Jim Savitt. All levels of experience are welcome! No partner necessary.

\$8 donation suggested. 3 to 6 p.m.
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*, local rockers. Come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
Healing Environment Concert Series at the Franklin Medical Center on the last Friday of each month, either in the main lobby or, weather permitting, in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden. Future concerts include Tim Van Egmond, hammered dulcimer, October 26th; Jerry Noble and Bob Sparkman, jazz duo, November 30th; and the Northside Saxophone Quartet in a special holiday concert, Friday, December 21st.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
Doug Hewitt Group Concert, 8 p.m. at the Amherst Unitarian Church, 121 North Pleasant St. (413) 253-2848. \$8 The acoustics of this hall are fabulous! The Doug Hewitt Group performs original jazz, rock and folk, drawing from 20 plus years of song writing. Mind-blowing covers ranging from Coltrane to the Beatles. Expect great music played by amazing musicians.

Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra and Chorus begins its 69th season of Youthful Visions with a program of "Auspicious Beginnings," featuring early works of Barber, Bernstein and Puccini. Local tenor Alan Schneider and baritone Anton Belov join the PVS in Puccini's only choral mass, *Messa a 4 Voci*. Paul Phillips, PVS Music Director, conducts. Music at 7:30 p.m., with pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Greenfield High School Auditorium, 1 Lenox Ave, Greenfield. Advance tickets are \$20 general, \$16 senior, \$12 student and \$6 children. www.pvso.org or 773-3664

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
Moonlight and Morningstar appearing live at Smokin' Hippo restaurant this Friday and every first Friday of the month though February. The Smokin' Hippo, 20 French King Highway (Rt. 2), Erving. (413) 423-3220, www.thesmokinhippo.com.

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Photography presents National Geographic photographer Michael Yamashita's *Great Wall of China & The Silk Road*. On display through December 16th.

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MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. THE KINGDOM R
DAILY 6:45 9:15
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:15 3:15
6. ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE PG13
DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:30 3:30
7. MICHAEL CLAYTON R
DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:30 3:30

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH Great Falls GeoWalk. Join DCR Park interpreter and geologist Steve Winters for a leisurely 90-minute stroll back in time to rocks that formed in the Mesozoic Era about 200 million years ago — including real dinosaur fossils! About 3 miles. GeoWalk meets 1 p.m. in the Discovery Center lobby.	TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, IN OCTOBER Nature@8 is an early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Meet at the bird bath outside the main entrance at 8 a.m. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes, never more than about 2 miles over level pavement.	410 miles of the Connecticut River watershed without ever getting your feet wet.
	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH Discover watershed wonders: exhibit tour. 1 to 2 p.m. Join fish and wildlife service staff for an interpretive tour and exploration of our exhibits. Journey the	October Photo Display by John Green - Naturalist Photographer. Visit the Great Falls Discovery Center's Great Hall to see these natural history photographs.

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

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COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND A TREASURE TROVE OF LOCAL FINDS

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - In the early years of our marriage, Woody and I were invited to his father's in Florida for a week each winter. One of the duties involved in these visits was taking Dad to tag sales on Saturdays, searching for things needed or simply wanted for a price that could not be refused. My father-in-law searched the newspaper for probable addresses and then co-piloted (or should I say drove from the backseat) through the mazes of suburban Fort Lauderdale streets and terraces.

As the owner of three homes, a barn and numerous storage sheds, Dad had absolutely no need for any more things. It was about the hunt. And it was about the price. This octogenarian millionaire had the embarrassing habit of asking if the seller of a fifty cent item would take a quarter for it. He often won. He always went home with some kind of present for his wife.

Perhaps those first tag sale experiences developed the interest in what became a Saturday morning habit for Woody and me, which eventually evolved into an addiction. I still have the habit today.

So it was that on a still foggy Saturday of the past long weekend, I sat over coffee marking a route in the paper and soon was driving to a South Deerfield address, which promised an attic cleanout, including antiques. Sure enough, there were two old, wooden framed mirrors propped on the edge of the driveway that immediately caught my attention. An attractive wall mirror can be a simple way to enlarge a small space. I began to look them over.

The beveled mirror on one indicated good age; the carved wooden top needed only a little cleaning, and the price was good. The frame had cracks that would need repair. The second mirror was more solid, but it lacked the interesting curves, and the glass

was plain. I could walk away with either of these mirrors for a mere ten dollars.

In addition to starting me on an addictive habit, my father-in-law had created in me an aversion to talking down the price. If you don't want it, don't buy it; for me, that's cardinal rule number one.

Generally items at tag sales are reasonably priced because the seller doesn't want to put them back into his house. Those sellers who haven't figured that out and who hope to recoup their initial investment on a pair of shoes or Grandma's antique teacup will still be looking at these items at the end of the day. Tag sales are all about bargains and about moving along items you no longer want or have a need for.

As I weighed the choice of these two mirrors, an unusual thing happened. Eager to sell, the gentleman offered me the mirror of my choice for five dollars. Cardinal rule number two: don't argue. I took the beveled one.

At this same sale was an interesting wooden box with handsome brass hardware. The box itself wasn't anything too special; no dovetailed corners and a bottom which was likely not original. But it was prettily polished and the heavy hardware made it special. It was marked eight dollars, and as I looked it over it was offered to me for five. Sold!

The fog had burned off as I made my way up Route 116 to the Ashfield Fall Festival. This

annual charmer is a pleasant blend of seasonal foods, arts, crafts, rummage sales, live music and games for kids. The weather had become warm and humid, belying the season. Still, folks lined up for such heavy-duty treats as winter soups and chowders, hot applesauce sun-daes, crawfish pasta (from the

particular. It will be interesting to see what this cottage kitchen looks like in the light of evening. In terms of ambience, light and lighting are huge considerations. Look at what lighting has done for the small space that is DiPaolo's, for example.

I strolled the craft and food booths without incident, but then

the expected natural foods. The deli is the same with a two-board listing of sandwich options plus the addition of two homemade soups. For a mere \$5.99, I take home an enormous chicken salad wrap overflowing with at least a cup of tarragon-flavored chicken, with dill pickle.

So I wind my way home to sit outside in the unseasonable warmth and eat my chicken salad.

Last, a hike on our own Montague bikeway. The almost finished bike path is a complete joy. The downtown leg, next to the breadth of the river and the cove, brings one close to the nurturing water, home to eagles, boats and fishermen. The section from the fish ladder, underneath the Gill-Montague bridge, along the power canal allows views of our historic past of paper mills as well as a voyeur's peek into backyards of homes where owners have set out tables and chairs to take advantage of the view and the breeze off the water. Next, probably my favorite, the wildest section of the path from the Patch to the end of Depot Street, where the wide pond of water immediately before the power generating plant is often populated by migrating ducks, geese and mute swans. Lastly, the tree-lined tunnel of the final leg between the Masonic Hall and the refurbished railroad trestle across the Connecticut, connecting the bikeway to East Deerfield.

I am pleased to see the path so often used by families on all sizes of bikes, by the occasional group of serious cyclists, by the roller-bladers, and by many like myself, pedestrians seeking both exercise and inner peace that comes from being out in the quiet in our natural surroundings.

It's been a pleasant late summer day's enjoyment. I haven't traveled far this Columbus Day weekend, but then I haven't had to. It's all right here in our own backyard.



The scenic bike path passes over the Connecticut River at the confluence of the Deerfield

post-Katrina owner of Elmer's) and plate sized servings of fried dough slathered in a pool of spreading maple cream. Kids attacked the castle keep with foil-covered soccer balls, climbed the rope challenge and attempted to slither a plastic ball uphill between two metal poles to 'cross' Ashfield Lake. There were beautiful crafts of glass, turned and polished wood, fabric, and metal.

I stuck my head into Elmer's, more out of curiosity than need. I'd read that in addition to breakfasts, the store's new vision was of lunches and dinners. The space is charmingly decorated with oils by local artists, similar arts and crafts, a coffee bar, cheese cooler and a smattering of fruits of the season, punctuated by small, dark wood square tables with straight up chairs.

I admit that when I go out to eat I am looking not only for fine tasting food but ambience in par-

fell prey to the library book sale, purchasing three first American editions of English mysteries for my collection, for a mere two dollars each.

Then downhill yet northward towards Buckland and Shelburne Falls. The fall foliage is still incipient, as it needs the brush of cold to complete its palette. Still, there were striking trees of red and orange; the swamp or soft maples are brilliant. I stopped in town for a take-home sandwich. For those who have mourned the loss of McCusker's Market, it's still there as a co-op; now you can own a piece of it too. The storefront is quite unchanged and the name's the same. The space only seems a bit lighter and more open, probably owing to the change of a narrow space crowded by two shelves, replaced by one wider one. The offerings are the same: organic cosmetics, homeopathic remedies, seasonal fresh produce and

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