



**Q&A WITH JOHN OLVER**  
see page 7



**VINEYARD TRAVELOGUE**  
see page 14

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 2

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 12, 2006

## New Town Offices, Library Project Stalled

**JOSH HEINEMANN WENDELL** - At their October 4th meeting, the Wendell selectboard gave an update on the status the building projects for the new town offices and library. The buildings are behind schedule and construction appears to have stalled. The contractor, Handford Construction, is working on a state project in Erving that will cost them a great deal of money if it is not completed on schedule, and this seems to be the focus of their attention. Davenport Construction, builders of the new town septic system in the Center, sent a letter to the septic system's designer, Steve Mason, about the shortage of materials for the septic system, a result of the difference between compacted volume and the delivered

volume of sand. Lewis said he thought an agreement had been reached, but selectboard member Dan Keller said they still do not agree on the numbers. He said, "I think it is their job to hammer it out." Keller reported that the building projects' clerk of the works was able to eliminate the need to dig up the town common again for the water line that will serve the town buildings, by running the lines along Locke Hill Road and Depot Road instead. The money saved will be less than \$25,000, and can be applied to the buildings, 75% to the library, and 25% to the town offices, in proportion to how the water use is projected. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Northpack, the framing subcontractors for

the new town buildings, had finished up the framing on the town office walls, but could not proceed with framing for the library since the foundation was incomplete. (Since then, framing has begun on the walls for the library addition, the part of the building that would have been built new even had there been no tornado damage to the historic building, now demolished.)

**Broadband Update**  
The board met with the broadband advisory committee, including former chair Lisa Hoag, who has passed the torch to Robbie Leppzer, the committee's new chair. Aaron Goldberg, a representative of Shutesbury's broadband committee, was also in attendance. see WENDELL pg 16

## Special Ed Enrollment at 25% in G-M Schools

**BY BETSY CALVERT** - The crippling cost of special education is a never-ending refrain in the debate over how to pay for public education. This year, however, the Gill-Montague Regional School District discovered its rate of special education enrollment had reached 25 percent of the general student population. That's well above the state and national average, and well above the rate at neighboring districts such as Greenfield.



SHAWN WOOLSEY PHOTO

G-M School District special education director, Cynthia Joyce

The state average for special education is 16 percent, while the national rate is 12 - 14 percent. Greenfield's rate for special education is 16 percent.

The regional school district, with a new special education director, Cynthia Joyce, who formerly worked for the Springfield schools, is reviewing its programs,

such as the pilot Old Mill program for students with severe behavior problems. And it is analyzing why its special education rate is so high, Superintendent Sue Gee

said. However, parents and other taxpayers should keep in mind, Gee said, that in the final analysis, the district has exceeded

see SPED pg 13

## Sewer Job Finds Tough Going on Avenue A

**JOSEPH A. PARZYCH TURNERS FALLS** - Ludlow Construction has licked the toughest part of the job on Ave A: getting the first piece of pipe in the ground. The pipe is 14 feet below the pavement, but the job called for removing an additional underlying five feet of peat and unstable soil to replace it with stone and granular material, to create a solid base. Getting the initial hole dug seemed hopeless. Ground water, peat, clay and loose soil made difficult going. Water poured in; silty soil followed, and the edges of the hole slumped. The water table is high here, because of leakage from the power



PARZYCH PHOTO

Lining up the pipe on Ave A

canal. Beavers have dammed up the old railroad bed and when the canal is drawn down, the water disappears and the beavers wander around bewildered, wondering where the water went. Had this job been coordinated with the annual canal draw-down, it would have been much easier. Ludlow Construction's crew prevailed by digging down as far as they could, quickly dumping stone in the hole and pumping muddy water into a settlement tank where mud

see SEWER pg 16

## School Closing Looms

**BY DAVID DETMOLD MONTAGUE** - In 1995, the Gill-Montague schools housed and educated 1640 students. A little more than a decade later, that number has declined by 29%. The Gill-Montague schools now educate 1178 students, and the school committee is grappling with a question that has been around for at least as many years: whether to close an elementary school in Montague, and if so, which one. With the bulk of G-M students now moving through the high school, and the numbers of elementary school children entering the district falling, the Montague elementary population now totals 252 students in Sheffield School (grades

3 - 6), 171 in Hillcrest (grades pre-K through 2), and just 86 in Montague Center (grades K - 3). The school committee has decided not to consider the possibility of closing the Gill Elementary School at this time, though with only 103 students in grades K-6 its classroom sizes are even smaller than Montague Center's. The regional district agreement between Gill and Montague stipulates that elementary children shall be educated in their home community, and as of now the committee is not proposing to alter that basic aspect of the agreement, though there is ongoing discussion about moving district sixth graders to the Great Falls Middle School.

Superintendent Sue Gee has said she believes students in 6th grade are closer developmentally to their peers in middle school than to students in the younger grades. The Great Falls Middle School has undergone extensive renovation in the past three years, yet its population has now declined to 89 students in 7th grade and 85 students in the 8th grade. Moving grade 6 from Gill to the Middle School would require a change to the district agreement, requiring the approval of both the Gill and Montague town meetings. After years spent studying the subject of the district's elementary school configuration, the Gill-Montague school committee reached con-

see SCHOOL pg 11



### PET OF THE WEEK Cute Overload



#### Kittens!

We have lots of friendly cute kittens in need of good homes! For more info on adopting kittens, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org).

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### ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

## Evening of Magic

BY MARCIA BERNARD

The Erving Public Library will host Ed the Wizard on Friday, October 13th at 6:30 p.m. This evening of magic is

appropriate for all ages. It is funded by the Erving Cultural Council.

For more information contact the library at 413-423-3348.

### CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

## Happy 100th Birthday, Carnegie Library!

BY BARBARA STEWART & LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - The 100th Birthday Party for the Carnegie Library will be held on Thursday, October 19th, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries have organized this event to honor the 100 years of service the library has provided to our community.

Light refreshments will be served, and Michael Nix will play classical guitar, mandolin, and the banjar.

The Turners Falls Carnegie Library is named after Andrew Carnegie, who donated \$13,500 at the turn of the 20th century to fund its construction. It is one of over 1600 libraries in the United States funded by Carnegie. The first Carnegie library in the United States was built in 1889 in Braddock, PA home to one of the Carnegie Steel Company's mills.

Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish immigrant to the United States in the mid-19th Century. He was born to a poor family, and was working full-time by the age of twelve.

Despite his disadvantaged

youth and the discrimination he faced as an immigrant, Carnegie built an industrial empire based on the manufacturing of steel.

When he sold his business empire and retired he was worth an estimated 400 million dollars.

Carnegie had two main reasons for donating money to the founding of libraries. First, he believed that libraries added to the meritocratic nature of America. He believed anyone with the motivation and ambition could educate himself. Second, Carnegie believed that immigrants like himself needed to acquire cultural knowledge of America, something libraries allowed immigrants to do.

Nearly all of Carnegie's libraries were built according to 'the Carnegie Formula' which required the town that received the gift to: demonstrate the need for a public library; provide the building site; and annually provide ten percent of the cost of the library's construction to support its operation. The style of architecture was chosen by the community and was typically simple and formal, welcoming patrons to enter through a

### FACES & PLACES



Allan Adie of Gill provided these examples of first cover seals on 1938 envelopes from Turners Falls, commemorating Air Mail Week.

[www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org)  
Arts, Culture, Recreation in Turners Falls  
Log on and find out what you are missing.

prominent doorway, nearly always accessed via a staircase. The staircase was intended to show patrons would be elevating themselves.

Similarly, outside virtually every branch, a lamppost or lantern symbolized enlightenment.

While hundreds of Carnegie's library buildings have since been converted into museums, community centers, office buildings and residences - or demolished - more than half of the libraries he founded in the United States still serve their communities, many in middle- to low-income neighborhoods, a century after their construction. Just like our library in Turners Falls.

For more information, please call the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

### Feel Like a Brand New Person!



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**ROAST PORK SUPPER**  
  
Montague Congregational Church  
Saturday, Oct. 28  
6 p.m.  
Menu:  
Roast pork, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, veggie, apple sauce, bread, apple cake  
Adults: \$9.00      Reservations: 367-2736  
Children: \$4.00  
Walk ins served as space allows

### Upcoming Events at the Montague Senior Center

The following are upcoming events at the Montague Senior Center. All programs are held at the Montague Senior Center unless otherwise listed. The center is located at 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls. Advance registration appreciated, pro-

grams will be canceled if less than 5 people sign up

**Tuesday, Oct. 17th**  
1-3:30 p.m. Fall Painting Classes Begin

**Thursday, Oct. 19th**

10 a.m. Book Review "The Secret Life of Bees"

**Monday, Oct. 23rd**  
9 a.m. SHINE Program and Prescription Advantage Enrollment

### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES October 16th - October 20th

**MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

**Monday, 16th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 17th**

9:30 a.m. Aerobics  
**Wednesday, 18th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 19th**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 20th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

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

medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

**Monday, 16th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, 17th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, 18th**  
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 19th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
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.

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# Turners Falls Sidewalk Geology Tour

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - Turners' own Steve Winters will lead a very interesting sidewalk geology tour on Saturday, October 14th from 10:30 a.m. - noon. It will begin at the Great Falls Discovery Center. I highly recommend the walk, which is a repeat of a program I attended on September 16th. I found the walk very informative and would like to share what I learned.



An outcropping of sedimentary rocks on 2nd Street shows millions of years of history

The interesting geology of Turners Falls is primarily the result of cataclysmic changes that started around 200 to 215 million years ago. About 245 million years ago, Pangea - the Paleozoic supercontinent that joined all the continents into a single worldwide land mass - began to break up. After hundreds of millions of years of volcanic eruptions and continental collisions that formed Pangea, resulting in several ancient New England mountain chains (and the Pelham Hills east of what is now the Pioneer Valley) the Earth was to undergo another massive reorganization - this time not due to the colliding of continents but to the stretching and cracking, or rifting, of the crust.

As Pangea pulled back apart, many rifts resulted along the east coast of North America, including this valley. The mountain chains on either side slowly eroded and left thick deposits. This rock is known as "Sugarloaf Arkose." It is similar to a conglomerate, with angular chunks of the old mountains cemented together.

Rifting was followed by numerous volcanic eruptions that filled the basin with lava that eventually cooled into basalt. Basalt ridges, such as Poets Seat ridge to the west, were formed during this era. Then came a calmer period where an evaporative lake spread across the area, known as Lake Hitchcock.

At that time, Turners Falls was near the equator. Tropical trees and large ferns coexisted

with dinosaurs. Mud and sand were deposited in the lake and built up into what is now known as "Turners Falls Sandstone." Plant fossils, small invertebrates, fish, and even dinosaur footprints are fairly common in our region. Eventually, the weight of all the deposits caused the layers to sink, but the layers also tilted to one side over time. This is why the numerous rock outcroppings in town tilt 30 - 40 degrees to the east.

One such outcrop is on Second Street, across from the old Cumberland Farms building. It shows 1 to 3 million

years of history. Some of the layers are very thin, others quite thick. These differences in deposition are the result of slightly different environments of deposition and, perhaps, climate change. During stormy periods, relatively thin, coarse, sandy layers were deposited in the moving water of the lake. During drier, quieter times, more mud and other fine particles would settle to the bottom of the lake and create thicker layers. Plant material would fall into the water and be buried in the mud. Worms would eat the plant material, and burrow through the mud. We found trace fossils in the loose rocks near some outcrops, especially worm squiggles and plant material.

I now look at the Turners Falls landscape with a more appreciative eye and plan to look for fossils in the plentiful Turners Falls sandstone. As our guide concluded, "Geology is all around us; keep your eyes open."

## CORRECTION

Due to a layout error, the punchline to a joke at the end of the story on the second annual Peoples Harvest in Riverside was accidentally cut off; (*Returning in Peace, Native American Gathering in Gill: IV #45*). For the record, here's how the story should have ended:

Asked if the Apache were known for having the best

sense of humor, Moondream said, no, that's the Navajo. For example, she said, a Navajo woman was walking down the road and a white woman in a car gave her a ride. The Navajo noticed a bag on the floor of the car. The white woman said that was some wine she got for her husband.

"Good trade," the Navajo replied.

## Cleaning Up the Millers River



PHOTO BY IVAN USSACH

Over a dozen volunteers participated in benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI) water monitoring sessions organized by the Millers River Watershed Council on Saturday, Oct. 7th. Above, MRWC volunteers Lula Field (L) and Shelly Hight (R) sample for macroinvertebrates from Mormon Hollow Brook, close to where it enters the Millers River in Wendell. The presence of macroinvertebrate organisms that volunteers scrape from rocks in the river provides a strong biological indicator of water quality.

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# Happy Birthday, Montague Reporter!

Most people don't pay much attention to the fine print, but in last week's *Montague Reporter*, just below the banner on the front page, was some fine print of which we, the *Montague Reporter* board of directors, were extremely proud. It reads: "Year 5 - No. 1." What this means, of course, is that your paper is now in its fifth year of existence. A lot has happened in the last four years in the towns the paper serves, and we like to think the *Montague Reporter* has brought you up to date each week (well, every other week in July and August) on what is going on in our communities.

We think of this as your paper, as your news, as a forum for your opinions and ideas and observations, and even as a place for your poetry and fiction. The paper has only one full-time staff member - our esteemed editor, David Detmold - yet a fair amount of the time the *Reporter* gets your news to you first.

When we brought out our first issue on October 10th, 2002, there were a number of skeptics who thought we'd disappear within a year. But we're still around, and we have plans to be around for a good many years to come. We know the

community now depends on us, just as we depend on the community for readers and advertisers and contributing writers. And we extend a hearty thanks to all of you who have shared our belief that our communities deserve a real community newspaper.

We're asking for your presence - not presents - on this anniversary, but if you'd like to give your paper a happy birthday gift, spread the word to your friends and neighbors that the *Reporter* would like to be their paper, too. If you don't already subscribe, we'd love to have you among our 500-plus subscribers. If you operate a business in our community, and don't already advertise, then think about placing an ad in our next issue. And if you'd like to write or report, or just get involved with the paper, we welcome you, as well. Just as you've been here for us, we're here for you. Happy Birthday *Montague Reporter!*

The *Montague Reporter* board of directors:

Wesley Blixt, David Brule, Lyn Clark, Patricia Crosby, Veronica Phaneuf, Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Ali Urban and Jonathan von Ranson.

## For a Sustainable Future

BY WESLEY BLIXT

It has been exciting to hear about the Five Rivers Council, a grassroots effort to harness the living, enduring energy of our communities to serve the health of our people, our land, and our bonds to each other . . . to create a sustainable and equitable future.

It has been especially good to see folks like Randy Kehler, Karen Fogliatti, Suzy Polucci

and Dan Brown, and so many others, involved in bringing together an initiative that clearly has its roots in some of the best aspirations of this region - folks who have been living the vision of a just, peaceful and sustainable community for as long as we can remember. This is why many of us are here. It is why we gravitated to this area, and

see FUTURE pg 5

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Signs of the Season

J. HARMON ILLUSTRATION



The Quilters of the Erving Senior Center: (from left) Louise Golosh, Jeanne Black, Pauline Davenport, Arlene Clark, Marjorie Clark, Pat Stewart, Quilt Design by Polly Kiely. Their quilt will be raffled off Saturday morning, October 14th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., during the Erving Senior Center's harvest bazaar.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Work Day Thank You

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department would like to thank the following people for helping spread protective, wood-chip, playground surfacing at the Highland Park playground in Millers Falls on Saturday, October 7th: Valerie Felton, Emilee Felton, Nancy Dlugoenski, Marty Pappas,

Paul Sielis, John Mayrand, and the numerous youth soccer parents and kids who came over after their game to help out! Your sweat, muscle, and community spirit were greatly appreciated.

- Jon Dobosz  
Director,  
Montague Parks & Rec

### Terrific Newspaper

The *Montague Reporter* is a terrific newspaper and I look forward to it every week! I recommend it very much.

- Loretta Demers  
Laurel Lane, Montague

### Fundraising Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who helped put on the spaghetti supper over Columbus Day Weekend organized to raise money to send me to New Orleans to do relief work with Acupuncturists without Borders. I would particularly like to thank my corporate sponsors: the Brick House, St. Kaziermerz, F.L. Roberts, Staples, Big Y, Smith Paper Co; raffle donors Spencer Peterman, Anne Harding and Bonnie Nasca; entertainers the Fall Town String Band, Ed Shamo, Dancing Dragon, and most of all, Gloria Jardine, Vicki Hutchinson and Kirsten

Bergstrom. Many, many thanks to the people of Turners, who have given so freely and even joyously to help the city of New Orleans. Be sure I'll tell them how I got there!

- Karen Adams  
Turners Falls

We welcome your letters.  
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**American Dead in Iraq as of 10/11/06**

**US FORCES Casualties in Iraq as of this date**

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Afghanistan **338**

Wounded in Action **21,649**

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GUEST EDITORIALS

# Revoke Vermont Yankee's License to Operate

# We Do Not Want to Live in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee

**REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN KULIK (D) WORTHINGTON** - I applaud citizens from western Massachusetts who are stepping forward to demonstrate their opposition to the extended license and power uprate at Vermont Yankee. For more than two years, my legislative colleagues and I have spoken out and written letters to state and federal regulators expressing our opposition to expanded and continued use of this plant. We do so out of a belief that this plant is unsafe, and that the threat it poses to public health and safety is simply not worth the risk of continued operation. Unfortunately, the concerns of legislators and citizens have largely fallen on deaf ears, as the priorities of the NRC lie with benefiting the industry that it is supposed to regulate on

behalf of the public interest. The only interest that the NRC seems to care about is the profit margin of Entergy, which is enhanced by allowing the company to push the margins of safe and reliable operation with the continued use of an old and dangerous power plant. The people of Franklin County, Massachusetts bear a huge burden of both environmental degradation and the risk of catastrophic accident at this plant. The lack of concern and responsiveness by the NRC, the Vermont Public Safety Board, and our own Massachusetts Attorney General is appalling. Their unwillingness to hold this plant and its owner accountable is a breach of the public trust. I hope that the voices of so many concerned citi-



DETMOLD PHOTO

*Benjamin Franklin and the National Security Administration's famous Phone Tapping Ensemble take a bow at a recent Bread and Puppet performance at Hampshire College. The Glover, VT-based puppet theater will lead a 9 a.m. march from the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital to the headquarters of Vermont Yankee on Monday, October 16th, where B&P will perform at 11:30 a.m. prior to a legal rally and non-violent civil disobedience calling for a halt to the continued operation of the 34-year-old nuclear plant.*

zens taking part in this demonstration will be clearly heard in Washington, Montpelier, and Boston. Your education and advocacy is important, and I will continue to support your efforts to revoke Vermont Yankee's license to

**REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER DONELAN (D) ORANGE, MA** - I join you today in voicing my concern with the license extension and power uprate of Vermont Yankee. These are concerns that the Western Massachusetts legislative

delegation have expressed for two years, but to no avail and with no response. We have continually asked about the environmental impact on the Connecticut River, an issue now being looked at by the courts. We have asked time

and again about the quiet concerns of one member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that were quickly silenced. We have asked about emergency preparedness, or lack of same, in Massachusetts. There are no funds, no plans and there is no effective way to safely respond to a catastrophic event if you live in Southern Vermont, New Hampshire or Western Massachusetts. We in Massachusetts are frustrated that our communities and citizens are put at risk and we have no say or vote on this issue. We are further frustrated when the Vermont Public Safety Board refuses to respond to the many concerns of elected officials from Massachusetts. Today, the residents of Western Massachusetts join you in one voice. We say NO. We do not want to live in the shadow of Vermont Yankee.

## FUTURE continued from pg 4

why we work to stay. We would also like to offer a reminder, to ourselves perhaps more than anyone else, that it must be more than a vision if it is to survive, and that it must include us all. It is essential that we gather to change our awareness and our consciousness and our way of relating to one another. But that is not enough. Too often we have gathered to discuss the way we live and to change the way we live. Too often we have failed to challenge the world around us. Too often we have failed to include the world around us. To often, we have left much of the rest of the world to wonder, "Just what in hell are they up to, anyway?" The Montague Reporter will lend its energy and its voice to this process, and we commit ourselves to spreading the Five

River Council's message and momentum in the towns and villages from which we are lucky enough to draw our readers. We encourage you to attend, or at least to pay attention to, the inaugural gathering of the Five Rivers Council this Saturday, at the Four Rivers Charter School in Greenfield, beginning at 1 p.m. And we are grateful.

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## Fiver Rivers Council Inaugural

**JONATHAN von RANSON GREENFIELD** - The Five Rivers Council's first event takes place this Saturday, October 14th, at the Four Rivers Charter School, 248 Colrain Road, Greenfield (two driveways north of Greenfield Community College). The program runs from 1-7 p.m., followed by an optional supper, and everything is free. Walk-ins are welcome and are strongly encouraged to come at the beginning of the session. Briefly, the gathering might be described as an effort to get to better know each other, the problems we face in our county (the 'Five River' referred to are the watersheds of the Connecticut, the Deerfield, the Millers, the Green, and

the Sawmill), and some of the solutions currently underway. In meetings for nearly a year and a half, the organizers of this gathering have been operating under the belief there is room for broadening and strengthening the community of this area - as strong and healthy as it is in comparison to many other areas of our country. We believe there are not just reduced negatives in facing the many threats to the world together, but also great positives, like community-building, which has the effect of relieving much of the source of the problems. The gathering will feature short presentations of half a dozen examples of work being done in the Franklin County area toward the

Council's stated goals of health, equitability and sustainability. Public participation and small group discussion will follow. There will be a skit written and directed by Suzy Polucci, and a youth presentation under the guidance of Sarah Pirtle. There will be a report of the sense of the small-group thinking and suggestions of next steps for the Council. With music, snack breaks and good company, the inaugural event is designed to offer a mixture of fun and a chance to participate in an event of potentially great significance in the life of the "Five Rivers" area. For more information go to: [www.fiveriverscouncil.org](http://www.fiveriverscouncil.org).

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# GUEST EDITORIAL

## Republicans Keep Trying to Gut the Estate Tax. Isn't that Rich?

**BY CHUCK COLLINS**  
**JAMAICA PLAIN** - There have already been four votes this year trying to abolish the federal estate tax, America's only tax on inherited wealth that is paid exclusively by multimillionaires and billionaires.

Why four votes? Our money-driven Congress doesn't want to make some billionaires angry.

*Forbes Magazine* recently released its list of America's richest 400.

For the first time, they are all billionaires and their combined net worth is a record-breaking \$1.25 trillion. Many of them earned their money the old-fashioned way: They inherited it.

While some wealthy opponents of the tax have tried to paint it as a grassroots effort, just the opposite is true: Ten of the *Forbes* 400 wealthiest families are among the 18 that have bankrolled the stealth campaign to abolish the estate tax, accord-

ing to a recent report.

They include family dynasties such as DeVos (Amway), Dorrance (Campbell's soup), Gallo (wine), Mars (candy), Johnson (entertainment) and the (Wal-Mart) Waltons. If they succeed in gutting the tax, it would save these 10 superwealthy families about \$69.4 billion - and cost the rest of us \$1 trillion over 10 years. Not exactly good government at work.

Congressional Republicans are so desperate to kill the estate tax that, even after four failed tries, they plan to bring it up again after the November election.

You can understand why - with all those billionaires on their case.

*Chuck Collins, a former resident of Turners Falls, is co-founder of Responsible Wealth and co-author, with Bill Gates Sr., of Wealth and Our Commonwealth.*

# WORD ON THE AVENUE

How do you plan to vote in the Governor's race on November 7th, and why?

COMPILED BY SHAWN WOOLSEY

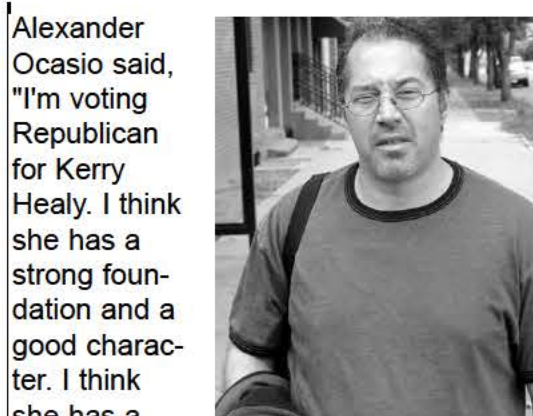


Steven Brown of Turners Falls said, "I'm voting for Deval Patrick. From what I've seen in the debates and the ads, he is a breath of fresh air for this state. He seems to me to be a man of integrity. I think he will be fair and keep an open mind for getting the best talent for our state."

Peter Kretzenger said, "I am registered to vote as a Republican in Turners Falls, but I do not know who I'm going to vote for as governor at this time."



At the Senior Center, Pauline Davenport said, "I'm going to vote for Deval Patrick because I'm a registered Democrat and I think they do more for the average working class people. The Republican candidate for Governor race has run a low-down campaign."



Alexander Ocasio said, "I'm voting Republican for Kerry Healy. I think she has a strong foundation and a good character. I think she has a strong character and I like the way she voices her opinions."



Brian San Soucie of Turners Falls said, "I'm voting for Democrat Deval Patrick because he's not Kerry Healy. I want to get rid of that whole administration, that whole regime. I want somebody with some fresh ideas, like Patrick."

Kim Wysmierski said, "I think Deval Patrick can do it. He's going to give back to communities like Turners Falls. Not just because he is a man of color. He is going to give Republicans a run for their money."



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**A DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY WOULD OFFER HONEST GOVERNMENT FOR AMERICA  
Questions & Answers with Congressman John Olver**

*Do you think the Democrats will take the House this November? Why should the Democratic base be energized to turn out this November?*

Olver: The national polls look good, but it's too close a call to tell for sure if the Democrats will take back the House. The majority in the House will be decided at the congressional district level, and each race has its own dynamics.

The best reason to give the Democrats a chance to govern is the honesty that we would bring to major issues. An honest accounting of how we are doing in Iraq; an honest look at our prospects for success in Iraq; an honest assessment of the cost of war; an honest accounting of the encroachment of executive branch of government on constitutional civil liberties and power consolidation from the legislative and judicial branches; and an honest assessment about the long-term fiscal prospects for Medicare, Social Security and the federal budget in general. Voters can count on the Democrats to deliver this kind of honesty, and we need it badly.

*When should US troops be brought home from Iraq? Should we leave any military bases behind?*

Olver: The U.S. occupation of Iraq will not solve that country's sectarian and civil strife. It only provides a recruitment bonanza and training ground for terrorists. We need to get our troops safely out of the middle of the developing civil war there - the planning

for that withdrawal should begin immediately - and then turn our attention to fixing the mess that Afghanistan has become. We should leave no military bases behind in Iraq.

*You recently sat in at the Sudanese Embassy in Washington to protest genocide in Darfur. With the Sudanese resisting UN peace-keeping troops, and the slaughter escalating, what can America and Americans do to make sure "Genocide: Never Again" is more than just a slogan?*

Olver: The only way to make sure that "Genocide: Never Again" is not just a slogan, is for the international community to intervene in such conflicts and put a stop to them one at a time. Right now the people of Darfur are being slaughtered daily. The United States must use its influence in the world and power at the United Nations to raise support for a U.N. peace-keeping mission in Darfur. An international force with worldwide support is the best chance to end the bloodshed in Darfur. At the same time, concerned American citizens must make sure that their voices are heard. They must let their government know that they believe the US must take a stand against genocide.

*Could you comment on the Bush Administration's attack on American civil liberties in the name of the War on Terror? Do*

*you think the stripping of Habeas Corpus protections from the recent landmark tribunal legislation will survive Supreme Court review?*

Olver: The Military Commissions Legislation passed by Congress just days before



**Congressman John Olver  
(D) Amherst**

adjournment is just another step in the Bush Administration's systematic curtailing of civil liberties. It contains a number of serious infringements on the judicial branch and the rights of prisoners, the most egregious of which is the denial of habeas corpus, which essentially strips prisoners of the right to challenge their detentions in a court of law. This provision could lead to indefinite detention and raises serious constitutional questions. It is unlikely that the Supreme Court would uphold such a violation of the fundamental principles of the

American judicial system.

*You have been a long time supporter of Amtrak. What is your prognosis for Amtrak surviving the Bush Administration?*

Olver: I am a strong supporter and advocate of passenger rail service and I am extremely disappointed in the President's requests for the Federal Railroad Administration over the past six years. Fortunately, Amtrak has broad support in both the House and Senate. We should be planning for the future rather than burying our heads in the sand because of difficulties with the current system. Quite simply, I believe we have not put the necessary investments into passenger rail to make it a success in this country.

*What are two or three concrete things Congress should be doing to reverse Global Warming and create a sustainable national energy policy?*

Olver: US greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to climb every year. We need mandatory measures to curb GHG emissions to protect our environment and national security; that is why I am the lead Democratic sponsor of the House Climate Stewardship Act.

This year we saw record prices at the gas pump and record profits for major oil companies. Meanwhile, our dependence on foreign oil climbed to 60%. I oppose our current unbalanced energy plan, which relies too

heavily on increased production of gas, coal, and oil without adequate emphasis on conservation and efficiency. Americans deserve safe, clean, reliable, and affordable energy. We must invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency to reverse these trends.

*What do you most want to accomplish in the next two years for your district and for America?*

Olver: Working with local officials, my staff and I have been able to make significant strides in the area of transportation improvements for the Route 2 corridor, in terms of both road improvements and new transit options. I want to continue that work. Access to community health center care and Veterans Administration health care is another area where I've been fortunate enough to make progress, but more work needs to be done. Others areas are tourism and recreation. Economic development of the Berkshire-Franklin-north Worcester County "northern tier" is one of my highest priorities as a Congressman. At the national level, my immediate legislative priorities for 2007 are to raise the minimum wage, fix the Medicare prescription drug benefit's "donut hole," restore the buying power of Pell grants and federal student loans, expand public health programs to help cover the forty-six million uninsured Americans and enact mandatory greenhouse gas emission restrictions to curb global warming.

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

— William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by  
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno  
& Chris Janke

design by Boysen Hodgson

Readers are invited to send poems to  
the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd  
Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376;  
or email us your poetry at  
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### My World

The thrill of travel seized me early.  
How I would beg and plead to go  
to our tiny railway station,  
even if only to pick up or drop off  
to me it mattered not a jot,  
I only wanted the thrill  
of the greasy yellow light  
in hissing gas lanterns, to inhale  
the smell of diesel, great draughts of it  
as I stared at the tracks gleaming silver,  
streaking away into the night.

That way is China, I would think with awe,  
musing on Huen Tsang from the history lesson at school,  
his three thousand mile journey camelback  
two thousand years ago!

North, past Lahore where *Dada* lives  
in an old British mansion, is the Khyber pass  
gateway to India where Afghanis still raid..

Further yet is Samarkand, nucleus of trade  
on the silk road, where you find carpets from Persia;  
portable gardens for desert nomads,  
miniature paintings on ivory from India, jewels  
sold by impoverished nobility  
beggared by the British Raj, and even,  
they whispered, pale slave girls from Western shores  
where the earth dissolves into the sea.

Nearer at hand is Agra, abandoned Mughal capital;  
the Taj Mahal for picnics by moonlight  
as parents recline on Persian rugs  
sipping iced *nimboopani*, and servants deliver  
kebabs sizzling from the *angithi*.  
We children, grown heady  
on the enchantment of moonlight on marble,  
play exhilarating games in the gardens.

Only a hundred miles away is Delhi,  
and snooty city cousins who look down  
on our provincial life, where even the water,  
they complain, tastes awful.  
Here in Mathura, two thousand year old town  
through which the Goddess Jamuna endlessly journeys  
from the Himalayas to the sea.

—Ilina Singh

*Dada*: Paternal grandfather  
*Nimboopani*: Limeade  
*Angithi*: Portable brazier  
*Jamuna*: both Goddess and river

### Pulses


A pulse intensifies the barn  
sensing early in March  
possessive snow-cover ages  
a confluence of melt and cow urine darkens the yard  
challenges the mantle  
its crust and depth and strata  
secured our winter lives  
from rapid change

That pulse vibrates  
rubs itself, it bothers  
it fractures what holds it down  
preparing the way for sun advancing season  
when my still gloved fingers swivel the lock  
and the booted entourage  
me and hungry dogs  
enter the lower realm where chores and animals wait


The cows try to bully me against the wall, bored and rammy  
hemmed in slim from possibility  
more curious now to tempt the stretch of pasture where crusty edges  
cut haunches and nature erupts  
Determination finds them a bucket of mischief  
in the chicken yard  
They mangle the fence and stalks of fleshy oats reduce to empty straw  
The feeder dismantles  
cow tongue in mash  
cracked wood  
I don't know the antic  
til evening chores  
I hear a deep belch  
a burly  
bellow  
out of place  
and surprise myself with their  
gross presence, incongruous  
and disproportionate  
within delicate confines of  
chicken yard  
Nine new chicks emerge  
egg tooth their way out of oval shells and peek from under chicken  
breast  
The kitten stalks the chick  
the veteran cat the kitten  
the dog chases birds and weasels steal the night  
while well paid White House that crafty catalyst of change turns this  
natural pulsing loveliness  
into

a time of  
war

—Nina Keller  
Wendell



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### It's a Few Minutes to Seven

It's a few minutes to seven  
And well-heeled ladies are perched  
Under umbrellas in the drizzle,  
Warming themselves  
With thoughts of Danish and coffee,  
Tea and scones, in the café  
Which will open at seven  
It's a few minutes to seven  
And the Bread of Life Mission  
Disgorges its overnight guests  
Slightly rumped but clean  
Ready to huddle in doorways  
Warming themselves with thoughts  
Of past glories, future Thunderbird.

—Deborah Parzych Lambert

Note: Thunderbird is a  
potent cheap wine.

### You Got a Song, Man

For Robert Creeley (1926-2005)

You told me the son of Acton's town nurse  
would never cross the border  
into Concord, where the Revolution  
left great houses standing on Main Street.  
Yet we crossed into Concord, walking  
through Sleepy Hollow Cemetery  
to greet Thoreau, his stone  
stamped with the word *Henry*  
jutting like a gray thumbnail  
down the path from Emerson  
and his boulder of granite.  
We remembered Henry's night in jail  
refusing tax for the Mexican War,  
and I could see you hunched with him,  
loaning Henry a cigarette, explaining  
the perpetual wink of your eye  
lost after the windshield  
burst in your boyhood face.  
When Emerson arrived  
to ask what you and Henry  
were doing in there, you would say:  
*You got a song, man, sing it.*  
*You got a bell, man, ring it.*

You hurried off to Henry in his cell  
before the trees could bring their flowers  
back to Sleepy Hollow.  
You sent your last letter months ago  
about the poems you could not write,  
no words to sing when the president swears  
that God breathes the psalms of armies in his ear,  
and flags twirl by the millions  
to fascinate us like dogs at the dinner table.  
You apologized for what you could not say,  
as if the words were missing teeth  
you searched for with your tongue,  
and then a poem flashed across the page,  
breaking news of music interrupting news of war:  
*You got a song, man, sing it.*  
*You got a bell, man, ring it.*

Today you died two thousand miles from Sleepy  
Hollow,  
somewhere near the border with Mexico, the territory  
Thoreau wandered only in jailhouse sleep.  
Your lungs folded their wings in a land of drought  
and barbed wire, boxcars swaying like drunks at 3 AM  
and unexplained lights hovering in the desert.  
You said: *There's a lot of places out there, friend,*  
so you would go, smuggling a suitcase of words  
across every border carved by the heel  
of mapmakers or conquerors, because  
you had an all-night conversation with the world,  
hearing the beat of unsung poems in every voice,  
visiting the haunted rooms in every face.  
*Drive*, you said, because poets must  
bring the news to the next town:  
*You got a song, man, sing it.*  
*You got a bell, man, ring it.*

—Martín Espada  
Amherst

Woody Brown (1927-2006), long-time Montague resident, was a savant, raconteur, great generous spirit, and first president of The Montague Reporter Board of Directors.

Ilina Singh writes about India, its cultural terrain and from her experience of growing up there in the fifties. She is a graduate of Smith College and Bennington College. Her poems have appeared in *Trikon*.

Nina Keller has lived in Franklin County since 1970 on a productive organic farm. She is a flower-obsessed chicken lady, the mother of a diverse family of mixed religious and cultural backgrounds, a political activist-NQ NUKES and holds positions in Wendell town government.

Martín Espada's eighth poetry collection, *The Republic of Poetry*, is just out from W.W. Norton. Espada teaches in the English Department at UMass Amherst, and was recently named a Guggenheim Fellow. His favorite bookstore is the Book Mill.

Jay DiPucchio, a Democratic Party political operative, penned his "Drowned Towns" ditty in response to the recent announcement by the MWRA that they plan to draw more water from the Quabbin Reservoir.

Kathryn Flagg, a 60-year resident of Millers Falls, now resides with her son and family in Allendale, New Jersey.

### CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:



**Schizophrenia War Zones**

I Woman One Praying  
 I want to pray for hearing hope  
 instilling power into soul  
 Awkward concept, prayer  
 Can I pray with cigarette in hand  
 with vengeance smoking chimneys?  
 I want to smoke  
 I want to not want to but this world tenses  
 we recoil scared and nervous  
 sip coffee, wine or weed  
 tobacco, crack, smack  
 Look out!  
 I'm falling  
 I'm falling from towers and trees  
 Tears sprout wings I fly  
 cross continents to our children

II Woman Two  
 I'm about to lose my face to the bomb planted in  
 the onions  
 round like the fruit  
 round like the crater gouging  
 reshaping an image in my identity  
 we lose our sons  
 our daughters no longer are nurses  
 Palestinian-Israeli  
 nobody knows the answers  
 yet

III Woman Three  
 I have aid to offer  
 truckloads of contradiction  
 I pretend my rubber bullets  
 are dispensed as minerals and return to the soil  
 vitamins from blood lines we share  
 reverse sustenance  
 from belly to belly  
 I move a work force  
 the magnitude of WPA into the desert of Sinai  
 the trash heaps in Gaza  
 rebuild infrastructure and life can go on  
 work with the opposition  
 and fear their  
 wrath  
 their  
 idol worship  
 of gun

—Nina Keller  
 Wendell

**Debbie's Spirit**

Our daughter Debbie died  
 June thirteenth in 2005  
 But her spirit lives on  
 In the warm kitchen  
 Of my mind's eye  
 As a young child  
 Bathed in yellow sunlight  
 Eating tomato soup  
 The other woman  
 In my wife's room  
 At the hospital  
 Was nearing one hundred  
 And would not eat  
 What would you really like?  
 The kind nurse asked, kindly  
 I would like a marshmallow cookie  
 Or a jelly donut, she replied.  
 We don't have a jelly donut  
 But you can have a jelly graham cracker  
 A jelly graham cracker?  
 I never heard of such a thing.  
 After my wife was discharged  
 From the hospital that day  
 I brought the lady  
 Two jelly donuts  
 With Boston Cream filling  
 Topped with chocolate frosting.  
 Oh my! She exclaimed  
 And her eyes glistened  
 It was something  
 Debbie would do.

—Joseph A. Parzych  
 Gill

**Sweet Cider**

Sweet cider, sweet cider in the fall of the year, the corn is all  
 husked and I'm holding you near.  
 Sweet cider, sweet cider and a kiss with each sip, no cider can  
 sweeten the touch of your lip.  
 No cider can sweeten, oh, none can compare with tender  
 caresses from my lady fair.  
 Sweet cider, sweet cider, you can take all I own,  
 Just tell me your kisses will be mine alone.

If ever in heaven, should the angels above say "try our new  
 nectar, it's better than love."  
 I'll say to the angels and to Gabriel too, your kiss is more  
 fragrant than nectar or dew.  
 Your kiss is more fragrant no dew can compare with tender  
 caresses from my lady fair.  
 Sweet cider, sweet cider, you can take all I own, just tell me  
 your kisses will be mine alone.

Sweet cider, sweet cider, in the fall of the year, the pumpkin is  
 ripe and I'm holding you near.  
 Sweet cider, sweet cider, gone away the last sip but I still get  
 kisses from my lady's lip.  
 No cider was sweeter, oh, none could compare with tender  
 caresses from my lady fair.  
 Sweet cider, sweet cider, you're gone from my life, gonna  
 marry my darling, she'll soon be my wife!

Lyrics by Woody Brown  
 Music by Vern La Shier

**Milk**

Just now  
 his mother will be filling the basin  
 with steaming water  
 for the washing up.  
 You can set your clock by it.  
 He puts down his pen and rests his hands  
 on the desk top, waits for his next appointment.  
 He can picture her perfectly,  
 her large red hands pulling her hair back,  
 smoothing her apron down over her hips  
 while she waits for the basin to fill.  
 He smiles.

She smooths the apron down  
 and turns the water off.  
 She rubs a hand across the fogged window,  
 watches her husband as he crosses the yard to the barn.  
 He is limping today. She'll call the doctor later,  
 but he won't want to go.  
 Stubborn old coot.  
 His appetite was good, though,  
 she'll give him that.  
 Satisfied, she lifts the dishes and lowers them  
 carefully into the water.

He tries not to limp as he crosses the yard.  
 She'll be setting up some fool appointment.  
 The barn is warm and he breathes in  
 the sweet green odor of hay and manure.  
 It's so deeply embedded in his skin and hair  
 she says it goes to bed with him  
 and gets up with him in the morning.  
 She laughs when she says it.  
 She says she likes it.  
 He takes the pail and lowers himself into position,  
 leaning his head into the cow's side.  
 The boy was smart, he thinks. Got a life for himself.  
 He'll be seeing a client now, he thinks.  
 He pictures the client coming in, shaking hands with the boy.

The jets of milk stream straight and strong  
 Like music into the pail.

—Lyn Clark  
 Turners Falls

**Red-tailed Hawks**

You dip and dive, you swerve and soar!  
 How could there ever be a more  
 Majestic, silent use of air,  
 Your bird ballet, extremely rare!  
 How rich I am when I recall  
 That flock of red-tails in the fall.

—Kathryn Flagg  
 Millers Falls & Allendale, NJ

**Drowned Towns**

(To the tune of Downtown, with apologies to Petula Clark)

When you've got dough, but resources are low  
 You can always go drown towns.  
 When you've got power to make people cower  
 Seems to help, I know, drown towns.  
 Just listen to the gurgle of the Swift River Valley  
 Not so many people there, so they won't hold a rally.  
 How can you lose?

Enfield and Prescott's there,  
 Dana and Greenwich, forget all their cares.  
 So go drown towns, things'll be great when you  
 Drown towns—not much to waste for sure.  
 Drown towns— everything's wading for you.

Don't hang around and let the water surround you,  
 There are graves to move. Drown towns.  
 Maybe you know some little schoolhouse to blow-  
 Up before it flows. Drown towns.  
 Just listen to the rhythm of the water rising higher  
 Who's going to miss four little towns in the western shires?  
 Happy again.

And you may know you need more flow as your city's growing bigger.  
 Not so many votes out there, so go grab another river!  
 Divert the flow!

So maybe we'll see you there—  
 Forget all their troubles, forget all their cares.  
 Things'll be great when there's

Drowned towns, Drowned towns, Drowned towns, Drowned towns.

—Jay DiPucchio  
 Turners Falls



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Lyn Clark has run a business, taught English, sold dictionaries, raised a family, and now in retirement is happily gardening and working on publishing her first novel. She lives in her tiny Turners Falls home which she shares with her rescued stihl izu Maggie.

Deborah Parzych Lambert, daughter of Joseph and Edna Parzych, graduated Mt. Hermon (cum laude) and University of Washington, with a degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters Degree in Public Administration. She worked as a civil engineer in Washington until her untimely death from breast cancer last year.

Joseph A. Parzych, the author of Jap's Place, is a graduate of Mt Hermon and Bryant College. His writing has appeared in Yankee Magazine, Reader's Digest, and Hardhat News, among other distinguished publications. He is a former excavating contractor, father of four. He lives with his wife Edna in Gill.

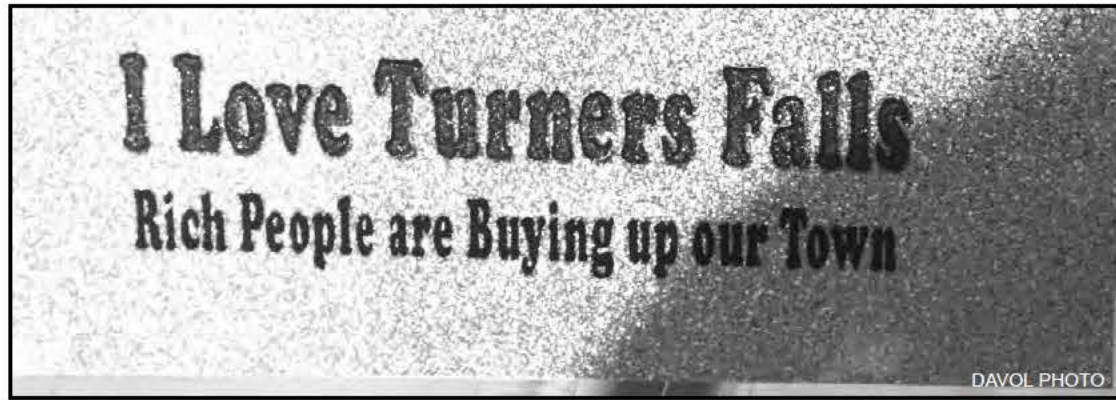


# Protest Stickers Pop Up in Turners Falls

**CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO**

**TURNERS FALLS** - In many cities in both Europe and the United States, urban stickering has become common. Light posts, mailboxes, bus stops and walls are often the repositories of messages. Some of the stickered messages in these cities are blatant advertisements for a product, or for a website that sells something. The majority, however, are messages that carry protests about one thing or another. During the Republican National Convention in New York, for instance, bands of self-proclaimed 'urban guerillas' plastered Manhattan with stickers proclaiming "RNC OUT."

Stickers are frequently used in the big cities, as well, to launch non-lethal bombs at gentrification. In San Francisco, stickers on businesses and condominium complexes near the old hippie mecca of Haight-Ashbury protest the encroachment of corporate interests in what used to be the 'people's terrain.' Ditto for Amsterdam, Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Barcelona and Berlin, where extensive postering and sticker-



One of many stickers found around town on the morning of Saturday, September 30th, some in Spanish. This one was found on the bus stop kiosk.

ing campaigns have called attention to the plight of those being forced out of what were previously affordable sections of those cities.

And now, ditto for Turners Falls, where on Saturday morning, September 30th, just before the Arts and Leaves open studio tour kicked off, a homegrown

'urban guerilla' (or perhaps guerillas) placed a series of stickers on our lampposts, on the sides of buildings, on businesses (including the Hallmark Museum and Suzee's Third Street Laundromat) and on the bus kiosk at Third Street and Avenue A.

"I Love Turners Falls," was

the bold message on one attractive iridescent sticker. Underneath this seemingly pro-Turners statement, in smaller print, was this line: "Rich People Are Buying up Your Town." The urban guerilla even posted in several places a sticker in Spanish that read: "Amo las Caidas de Turners Falls. Cada

*Uno Debe Tener Una Voz.*" (A literal translation reads: "I love the falls of Turners Falls. Everyone must have a voice." Note to poster: 'Caidas' [falls] would be better rendered by 'Cascadas'.)

As of press time, no individual or group has come forth to claim responsibility, nor have any new stickers appeared. The type on the iridescent stickers is wearing off quickly, leaving nothing but whimsical rainbow-colored lozenges behind to remind passersby of the calls for affordable housing and economic justice that had festooned the streets. But keep your eyes open. The public art kiosks about to be erected downtown will have room set aside for posters, but for now, anyway, the nocturnal graffiti artists seem unwilling to color inside the lines.

## Wild Turkeys on the Wing

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Fall is the time of change at the Breakfast Club. Beyond the pond, the maples and birches vie for attention in their scarlet and gold, and the little ducks have become teenagers and swim by on their own as twos and threes with mom nowhere in sight. The reflections in the pond in bright sun and shadow make a quiet and memorable scene.

Out of the blue, twelve large birds swoop into view. They are too big to be mistaken for our usual duck visitors, but it seems as if they would land on the water of our little pond. However, the flock crosses without alighting and disappears among the trees on the hill. The backs of big dark-winged birds give little help in identifying the strangers. Shortly, however, one of the regular turkey crew that struggles through the orchard in all seasons walked by the pond and foraged a bit before taking off with ease to cross the water and join her family. Turkeys flying!

But their visit was not over. A second turkey arrived. This one seemed unsure of what came next. Perhaps to get a view of



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

the countryside, it flew to the top of a weeping willow by the pond and picked around on the branches. Can this be the flock that delighted Montague folks with their 'turklets' last spring and brought them up with little regard for passing cars as they hunted in the fields by the road?

Against this bucolic background of autumn in the country, there is the busyness of change. The birds who grew up in the tiny nest in the blueberry bush are getting ready to take off for winter. The monarch butterflies that flocked through are continuing their southern trip. They particularly liked a clump of marigolds that matched their own shades of orange. At one time six lighted on the flowers and, with wings beating slowly, seemed to be tanking up for the long trip.

The frost has wiped out the corn and tomatoes, but the sheltered areas and hardier plants still hold their leaves and fruit. Black elderberries droop over the pond, raspberries celebrate the last of a good season, chrysanthemums entertain butterflies. The days of happy reaping and the restless accommodations to another cycle of survival are here.

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**SCHOOL**

continued from pg 1

sensus on Tuesday evening, October 10th, to recommend changing the configuration of the elementary schools to either a K-6 or K-5 model at all the district schools, indicating a change is certainly coming for the three Montague schools, each of which features a shorter grade span. The committee had reviewed a number of studies pointing to the educational advantage for young students of remaining in the same school community throughout the elementary grades, rather than transitioning between schools as Montague youngsters do now.

This summer, following the defeat of a \$600,000 school budget override request in Montague, school officials committed themselves to deciding the question of whether to close an elementary school, in hopes of realizing some savings in what appears to be an endemic gap between the district's operating costs and the towns' ability to pay. Budget deliberations for next year begin with a projected \$800,000 shortfall.

On Tuesday, facing an array of media not usually present at school committee meetings, including a cameraman from Springfield's Channel 3, committee chair Mary Kociela opened the discussion on the elementary schools by stating, "We want to make a decision [on school closing] before we are well into the FY'07 budget season, by December at the latest." Kociela told the committee she is working with the parent-teacher organizations at each of the elementary schools to organize a series of public forums on the question of school closing (see sidebar for tentative schedule). After public input has been gathered, Kociela anticipates the committee will deliberate through November before coming to a decision on whether to close a school, and which school to close, by December 12th.

At the September 26th committee meeting, Gee said she had determined it would be impossible to close Sheffield School,

since not enough classroom space presently exists in the other district elementary schools to absorb the number of students enrolled there. That narrowed the options for school closing on the table to two: Hillcrest and Montague Center. On Tuesday, Gee revised previous figures for how much the district would save by closing either of these schools.

Assuming the need to build three bathrooms in kindergarten classrooms in Sheffield or Montague Center, should Hillcrest be closed, at a total cost of \$75,000, Gee said the district could expect to save \$125,081 annually by closing that school. There is no requirement for bathrooms for kindergarteners, said Gee, but it has become common practice to install them.

Closing Montague Center would save the district \$174,775 annually, Gee said.

Checking in with her committee as to whether they were prepared to endorse the idea of closing one of Montague's elementary schools, Kociela found members leaning toward but unwilling to commit to that idea. "That's not really a whole lot of money you are looking at," said Rich Colton, committee member from Montague Center.

"That's why I am not convinced," Gill committee member Ted Castro-Santos followed up. "It's not going to solve our money problem." Castro-Santos asked Gee for figures to help the committee determine to what extent falling enrollment in the district is due to a decline of school age children in Montague and Gill, and to what extent it is determined by other factors (such as school choice out of the district, private school placements, and home schooling).

Mike Langknecht, committee member from Montague Center said, "I'm wondering if we have a consensus on 'growing the district'. I believe we need to make this district more desirable to our own parents and students. We could consolidate to our present capacity and have no hope of growing the district. Is it our hope to impact the bottom line in a positive way? Increasing

enrollment is another way to do that."

School officials use \$5,000 as a ballpark estimate for the amount of state aid the district loses per pupil when students 'choice out' of the district.

Both Langknecht and Colton talked of the need for a building program to either renovate or add onto one of the existing elementary schools as part of a plan to close Hillcrest or Montague Center school. G-M business manager Lynn Bassett and teacher's association president Nancy Daniel-Green talked of the recent Americans with Disability Act requirement upgrades and capital improvements to Hillcrest and the difficulties with the floor plan at Montague Center. Gee noted the likelihood that an elevator and ramp would need to be installed at Montague Center, if it were to house more students. An elevator would cost \$250,000, and a ramp could cost \$80,000, Gee estimated. School officials are seeking answers from the town building inspector and the state School Building Assistance Bureau to determine whether an increase in student population in and of itself would trigger ADA requirements for an elevator or ramp at the school's front entrance.

Wheelchair entrance to the eight-classroom, two-floor Montague Center School is currently through the auditorium. The twelve classroom, one floor

Hillcrest School presently meets state ADA requirements.

Langknecht said as the committee weighs school closing, it should confer with Montague officials to determine whether the town's future capital project needs could find use for one of the two elementary schools. "We should find out whether the town covets Montague Center because we want to build a fishing lodge next to that pond..." he suggested, facetiously.

Supporting an approach that would allow the school committee to go to the public forums with a series of options for elementary grade configuration and school closing, Castro-Santos said, "I don't think we really need to have a fixed plan here, especially if we're going to get shot down." Kociela and Colton spoke of the need to remain open to the ideas of the public, whose views they will be soliciting, before reaching a decision.

Donna Klaiber, a teacher at Sheffield who lives in Montague Center, said, "Sometimes I think the decision is so cut and dried, if you can separate all the [emotional] attachments. I know the attachments to Montague Center, because I have lived it."

Nancy Daniel-Green said, "No one wants to close a school. They didn't want to close the Green School in Gill. They didn't want to close Highland in Millers Falls. But just like the baby boomers,

buildings age too. Buildings don't live forever."

Kociela said, "I get frustrated when I hear people say, 'Why can't they just make the decision?' It shows the importance of this decision to the district. I'm grateful we're taking this time. I ask for patience from the community."



**Great Falls Middle School  
Students of the Week:**

**Grade 7**  
Serena Korpita

**Grade 8**  
Ina Popovici  
Dan Skarzynski

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**Elementary Buildings and Configuration  
Proposed Public Forum Schedule**

<b>Tuesday, October 24th</b> <i>First forum to be held and televised in the media center at TFHS</i> 6:00-7:00 p.m. School Committee business meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Public Forum	Montague Center School 6:30-8:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, November 1st</b> 6:00-7:00 p.m. School Committee business meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Public Forum	Sheffield Library 3:30-5:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, October 26th</b> 6:30-7:00 p.m. Gill PTO Meeting 7:00-8:30 p.m. Public Forum	Hillcrest Auditorium 6:30-8:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, October 30th</b>	Erving Elementary School (Tentative) 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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# Turners Fumbles Match-up with Mahar

BY LEE CARIGNAN

**ORANGE** - The Mahar Senators defeated the Turners Falls Indians 21-14 in Intercounty League football action last Friday night. It was another devastating loss for Turners, who are thinking how, if a few plays had gone the other way, could easily have 4 wins on the season by now. Instead, the Indians go in to the bye week at 1-4. They had the top team in the league on the ropes until four fumbles, including two at the goal line, broke their momentum. The Turners squad were huge underdogs going in, but surprisingly outplayed Mahar for much of the game. It con-

tinues to be a frustrating season for the Indians, who have now lost three important divisional games by a combined 12 points.

After a scoreless first quarter, Mahar got on the board early in the second with a 1-yard touchdown run by Brian Beauchmin to put the Senators up 7-0.

But the momentum in the game quickly switched when Turners' Ben Banash recovered a muffed punt at the Mahar 15-yard line. On the very next play, Turners quarterback Adam Bastarache found Tom Field in the right corner of the end zone for a touchdown, to tie the score at



7-7.

Mahar fumbled the ensuing kick-off, giving Turners the ball at the Senators' 20-yard line. The Indians wasted no time, punching it in three plays later on a 1-yard touchdown by Evan Brusco, putting Turners up 14-7.

Turners held Mahar to a 3-and-out and had a chance to

go up by 14 points at the half. Bastarache quickly moved Turners down the field with completions to Greg Dorman and Tom Field, putting the Indians at the Mahar 4-yard line with 14 seconds left. But a goal line fumble shattered the Indians' momentum, and ended the Indians' drive, leaving the score 14-7 Turners.

The momentum continued to turn in the third quarter, when the Senators methodically drove the ball down the field on their opening possession. Ben Hause capped off the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run to tie the game 14-14.

Later in the third quarter Turners lost another fumble when Bastarache mishandled the ball in his end zone, where Senator defenders were there to recover it for the game-decisive touchdown that finished the Indians off.

Adam Bastarache finished the night with 4 completions on 10 attempts for 90 yards, and one touchdown pass. He also rushed for 51 yards. Evan Brusco had 38 yards on 16 carries and a touchdown. Tom Field led Turners with 3 receptions for 77 yards and a touchdown. Greg Dorman also contributed with a 13-yard reception.

## IRISH SKETCHBOOK

# Of Irish Wales and Ancient Martyrs

BY DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** - We held the wake last March, and a fine wake it was, even by Irish standards. We were all packed into Power's pub, the Harp, in North Amherst, and the stout, porter, whiskey and beer flowed by the gallon. And although there were neither coffin nor corpse (the two men who were being waked having died two hundred years ago), that didn't keep the mourners from celebrating them in the time-honored fashion.

The house was full of all manner of Irish professions: the judges, the lawyers, the teachers, the politicians, the poets, the bricklayers and the road-builders. The eulogies, stories, poems and toasts flowed, although there was no brawl nor miracle like at the infamous Tim Finnegan's wake:

*"Biddy O'Brien gave (Biddy O'Connor) a belt in the gob*

*And left her sprawling on the floor*

*Oh then the mighty war did rage*

*'Twas woman to woman and man to man*

*Shillelagh law did all engage*

*And a row and ruction soon began,*

*Then Mickey Maloney ducked his head*

*When a naggin of whiskey*

*flew at him*

*It missed him, falling on the bed*

*The liquor splattered over Tim*

*Bedad he revives and see how he rises*

*And Timothy rising from the bed*

*Says 'fling your whiskey round like blazes*

*Thunder'n Jaysus, do you think I'm dead?'*

*Wasn't it the truth I told you: lots of fun*

*At Finnegan's wake!"*

Truth be told, this wake wasn't like the Irish wake at the turn of last century that Doug and Abe Smith attended in Millers Falls either: At that one, the mourners had carried on all night on the whiskey and beer. The wake continued until the morning when they all charged up the hill to the Highland Cemetery for the burial, only to realize once they were up there that they had left the coffin and the deceased leaning in a corner in the house back down on the Flat! At least, that's the version we were told 70 years later, and if it came from Abe it had to be true.

So this wake was being held appropriately near March 17th, and we didn't get around to the burial until last Saturday, which could be considered

macabre even by Irish standards. Actually, it was more of a rising up or resurrection rather than a lowering down, since as I said, the defunct were not present, nor had they been for several hundred years. The two men who were not present at their own funeral were Dominic Daley and James Halligan, two Irishmen who in 1806 were in the wrong place at the wrong time in Protestant Massachusetts.

Accused of a murder in Wilbraham that they did not commit, they got a speedy trial, and since thousands of people were waiting to see the public hanging, they were quickly strung up in a field in Northampton, victims of racial prejudice and hasty blind justice. The whole tale has been related in a book: *Garden of Martyrs* by Michael C. White, St. Martin's Press. They were eventually pardoned on Saint Patrick's Day in 1984, by Governor Michael Dukakis. I'm sure they felt a whole lot better upon hearing the news somewhere up there in Martyrs' Corner of the firmament.

So the Irish gathering at the end of September was billed as a "Celtic Music Festival, celebrating Tolerance, Justice and Equality," in honor of the two men. The Pines Theater was an excellent venue, with its gently sloping lawn going down to the

stage and the towering pines as a backdrop.

You couldn't have asked for a more typically Irish day than this: roaring rowdy music, Guinness, good food, and what they call in Ireland "a soft, fine day." In other words, it was wet, really wet!

Unfortunately for the organizers, this "soft" day kept the crowds away, but those of us who were there had a great time of it. Many local Irish bands took a turn on the stage. The Greenfield-based Selkie started the morning off, followed by Spencil Hill, Tir Na nÓg, with John Allen's band the Big Bad Bollocks kicking up the volume and the driving lyrics. "Murphy's Men" had flown in from rebel Cork with rousing ballads in the Clancy Brothers and Wolfstones tradition, and tossed in some trademark Brit-bashing to the partisan crowd ("...we fought you for 800 years and we fight 800 more; give us our country back!") The headliners were Craig Eastman, a local fiddling wizard who has made it big in LA and who always draws a sizable Valley crowd - his main man in the band is Bo Fitzgerald, a rock-jawed bar-room and pub singer whose renditions of "Brendan the Navigator" and "Eileen Óg" generated enough heat to raise the fog from the pines. Just

about then, a gangling Great Blue Heron winged through the trees; both bird and crowd were quite startled, just before it disappeared as quickly into the fog as it had appeared. He was surely sent by St. Columcille, a great Donegal holy man, who befriended a heron while in exile in fog-shrouded Iona. Birds do not appear to the Irish without a reason or a message involved. There's more to it than meets the eye, as they say. But what that is, who knows?

After the heron came Maura O'Connell, formerly of the group De Danaan. She's now alive and well and living in Nashville. Powerfully talented, she belted out song after song, more like country soul than Irish ballad. With her, the day in the Pines was drawing to a close, but it was early yet, and in true Irish fashion, Harpo Power, who runs the award-winning Irish pub where this celebration all began back in March, announced that the party was moving to the Harp where he was putting on a free spread. The day ended there, where the wake began in March: the stout flowed, the good-natured Irish craic continued non-stop, the fiddles, guitars and bodhráns launched another mighty session. So Daley and Halligan were given a grand send-off after all, even though it was 200 years late!

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**SPED**

continued from pg 1

expectations in educating all of its students, despite the relatively high rate of poverty and transience in the region.

The federal government has, since the 1970s, required public schools to provide services to any student diagnosed as having special needs. The government also promised to pay the full cost of special education. The fact that this never happened is the subject of endless legislative argument at the federal and state level, Gee noted. Gill-Montague currently receives 75 percent reimbursement for any particular special education student, only after the district has already spent \$39,000 for that student in one year, said Lynn Bassett, the district's business director. Out-of-district placements start at \$10,000 per student, with a few students costing more than \$200,000 each, Bassett noted. For all students, the district receives about \$5,000 per student per year, Bassett said.

The label of special education is applied to students with problems ranging from moderate learning disabilities to severe physical disabilities. In reality, most of the kids falling into this category in Gill-Montague schools are diagnosed with emotional and behavioral problems linked to some trauma in their life, said Cynthia Joyce, Gill-Montague's new director of special education.

"What surprises me is the number of students classified with emotional difficulties," Joyce said of the district.

Joyce left her job in the troubled Springfield school district to work in Gill-Montague starting in July of this year. What she found here in rural Massachusetts was something of a shock, Joyce said recently. She found many of the same behavioral and emotional problems found in urban schools with high rates of poverty. What she did not find was the same level of funding and staffing to

handle these problems.

"For a small place, we have a load of urban issues," Joyce told a recent meeting of the school committee.

Of the Springfield schools, the Holyoke resident said, "I miss the resources and that fact that there were so many of us (staff in counseling and special education)."

In addition to the shock of government neglect for rural school districts, Joyce also discovered that record keeping and compliance monitoring for Gill-Montague's special education program had fallen by the wayside after several years of constantly shifting leadership. As a result, the state Department of Education is now breathing down the district's neck, looking for massive amounts of reporting on district spending.

The district spends more than 16 percent of its \$16.6 million operating budget on special education, Bassett said. That does not include recent grants for special education transportation costs. The state wants to know exactly how the district is spending these millions of dollars, and whether the district is following all the guidelines.

The district must meet all these reporting requirements by January, Gee said. None of the reporting is related to student achievement, however, the superintendent added.

While the small district struggles to meet the reporting requirements, it is also struggling with a special education pilot program for its most difficult students. This is the Old Mill program, begun last year with about two dozen students who would have otherwise been sent to programs outside the district. These are generally students with such severe emotional problems they may require physical restraints at times. On the day of an interview, Joyce looked up at her office ceiling, and noted that nothing was shaking above her, so it must be a good day in the Old Mill program. Part of the program operates on the top floor, above the

administrative offices on Crocker Avenue.

Gill-Montague began the program last year in an attempt to bring back students currently, or about to be, placed outside the district. Part of the goal is to save money, Joyce said, but there are other advantages for students being educated in their home district, she said.

"There's no question that it would be cheaper, but it's not my intent," she said.

Many of the children will be living in this region when they reach age 22, and are no longer covered financially by the state education system, she said.

*"For a small place, we have a load of urban issues."*

*-Cynthia Joyce*

Living in the district while they are growing up better prepares them to live here on their own as young adults, Joyce explained.

Not all parents want their children brought back to the district, both Gee and Joyce acknowledged.

"Many parents are committed to these places," Joyce said of the out-of-district programs.

School staff members work intensely with these families to make the Old Mill program work, however, Gee said. A majority of the 26 children enrolled in the program are returning this year, she said, indicating one early measure of success for the pilot program.

"That means to me there is parent satisfaction," Gee said.

To start the program last year, Gill-Montague hired a professional company out of Holyoke to run the program - School Based Services. The company also runs similar programs for Mohawk Trail Regional School District and Athol-Royalston Regional School District, Bassett said. The company's administrative fee for Gill-Montague is about

\$330,000 a year, Gee said. Given the cost of out-of-district programs, the district saves money by contracting with School Based Services.

Ultimately, both Joyce and Gee said, the district would like to take over administration of the Old Mill program, in hopes of saving more money. This year, staff will evaluate whether this will be feasible and cost effective, Gee said. Last year, the program ran into problems with district-hired paraprofessionals quitting the difficult job. So the company hired its own staff, at a considerable expense. If the program cannot be run efficiently and effectively by the district, Gee said, then the district will stay with a consulting company, or return to out-of-district placements.

There are several ways to address the problem of students unable to deal with early life trauma, Joyce said. One is to better link families with area social services or counseling when students are still young. Another is to invest more heavily in early childhood education. These are both goals Joyce is working toward in Gill and Montague, she said.

Another way to address the high cost of special education in Gill-Montague, Gee said, is to review how students are referred to the program. The district needs to determine whether it is referring too many students, or whether the shrinking enrollment is indeed disproportionately high in students with special needs.

"We haven't been able to fully analyze that. I'm really looking to Cynthia Joyce to use her experience and expertise to analyze that," Gee said.

Families and residents in these two towns should not be disturbed by the high rate of special education enrollment, Gee said, because the district continues to excel in many ways, despite its relatively high rate of poverty. For example, she said, 21 of this year's graduating class of 79 students are eligible for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship program through the state. The numbers were similar last year. These students managed to score the coveted "advanced" in the math or English test in the Massachusetts Curriculum Assessment System, better known as MCAS. They had to score at least "proficient" in the other test, and they had to score in the top 25 percent of their class. For this achievement, they can attend the University of Massachusetts or any of the state's other colleges for free.

"We have maintained a level of achievement in our seniors who are graduating," Gee said.

Of special education students, she said, most of them are passing the MCAS tests, which are considered daunting.

"If we do have a high percentage of them passing, we must be meeting their needs," Gee said.



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**JOE GRAVELINE**

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Vehicles Entered on Randall Road**

**Friday 10-6**  
7:42 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Randall Wood Drive address. A truck was broken into, and miscellaneous items were stolen. Report taken.

4:39 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

**Saturday 10-7**  
2:31 p.m. Report of a larceny at a Randall Road address. A vehicle had been entered and several items were stolen. Report taken.

3:32 p.m. Report of a larceny at an Industrial Boulevard address. A kayak was stolen. Report taken.

**Sunday 10-8**  
3:46 p.m. Report of an assault at the laundromat on 3rd Street. Found to be a verbal disagreement.

8:30 p.m. Report of a larceny at a Turners Falls Road address. A credit card was missing. Report taken.

**Monday 10-9**  
4:37 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a

Montague City Road address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with breaking and entering for a misdemeanor and vandalizing property.

**Tuesday 10-10**  
2:04 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Montague City Road, [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

6:48 p.m. Report of an assault at a 5th Street address. Caller reports that someone tried to run her over. Under investigation.

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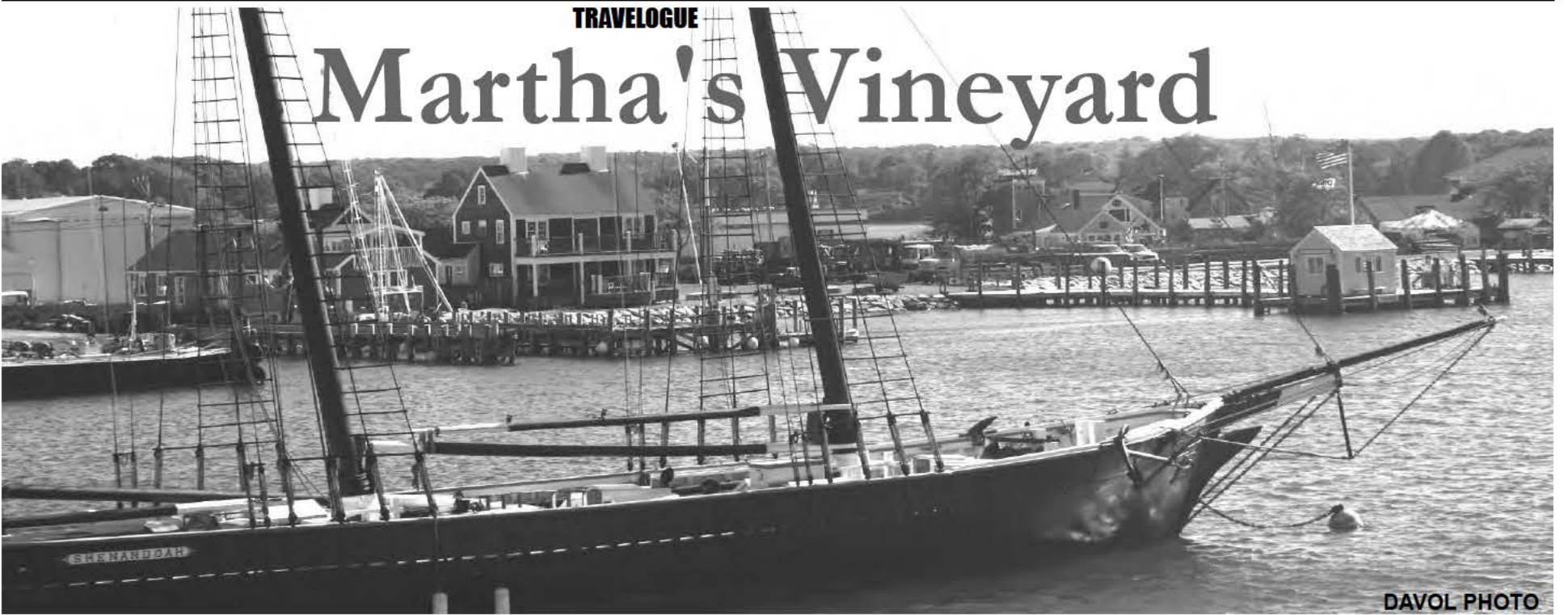
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DAVOL PHOTO

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** ideal New England weather, sunny and warm, with an orange Harvest Moon on Friday night

**WEST TISBURY** - Columbus Day weekend favored us with

seated like a great pumpkin on the rise of Mill Hill. While most of Greater Boston choked the highway West to peep at leaves, we went East, down to Woods Hole, across Vineyard Sound to the isle of fame, Martha's Vineyard, where millionaires, presidents and princesses mingle with run-of-the-mill rock stars in the summer and the descendants of whale men, Portuguese fishermen, and single parent families deal with some of the highest unemployment and the lowest median income levels in the state the rest of the year.

Called Noepe by the Wampanoag, who settled it first and have stayed the longest, the triangular island, including the nearby islet of Chappaquiddick, measures 19 miles (some say 20) from stem to stern, 90 square miles in area, and rises to a grand height of 311 feet somewhere in Chilmark. For wanderers from Turners Falls (and we were not the only folks from town on the ferry that day), much of the island resembles nothing more than the scrub oak and pitch pine barrens of the Montague Plains. Except their bike paths are complete, and there are over 75 miles of them, and they are paved.

Many of the bike paths serve

as part of a larger firebreak between the central 5,000-acre state forest and the rest of the island.

The state forest was established in 1908 as a reserve to save the endangered heath hen, an effort that failed. The heath hen, once plentiful, found its last refuge here on the island, and began to enjoy something of a comeback in the teens of last century, rebounding from 50 individuals to nearly 2000 before a fire wiped out much of their protected habitat. The goshawk and disease carried by domestic turkeys finished the species off in 1927, when the last surviving heath hen perished from this Earth.

Among the rare birds successfully protected on the Island is one of the nation's oldest and most respected weekly newspapers, the *Vineyard Gazette*, the island's "newspaper of record for 160 years." Purchased in 1968 by Scotty Reston of the *New York Times*, who ran it as a costly sideline for 20 years before turning it over to his son and daughter-in-law, the *Gazette* had established a storied position in the echelons of American journalism long before New Yorkers lit upon the island as a place to solidify their assets and liquify their

summers.

It achieved this stature under the helm of 'Country Editor' Henry Beetle Hough, who with his wife Betty received the *Gazette* as a wedding present in 1920 when it had a paid circulation of 600, and ran a tight ship at the office in Edgartown for 65 years. "...He was a jack of all newspaper trades. He could, and often did, set his own copy on the Linotype.... He could run the presses. He inserted and wrapped newspapers for mailing when he was needed; he carried them to the post office for mailing. He gathered ads."

Here is another passage from his eulogy, from the June 7th, 1985 issue of his own newspaper: "Weekly newspapers," Mr. Hough wrote in *Country Editor* (his first of 24 volumes of fiction and nonfiction), "... are a sustained chronicle of the life which they report and represent. There are certain threads which carry through, year after year, recurring as the seasons recur in nature. Most often the best front page stuff is acutely typical rather than violently exceptional, a respect in which the weekly newspaper differs radically from the daily."


I picked up a copy of the see VINEYARD, pg 15

## MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: Friday, October 13th through Thursday, October 19th

<b>Friday, October 13</b>		
7:00 am Barton Cove Eagles	9:00 am Montague Update	
9:00 am Montague Update	10:00 am Farmers Market Music: Tom Carroll	
10:00 am Montague Selectboard 10/9	11:00 am Rhythm in Motion	
1:00pm Booster Day Parade	12:00 pm Greenfield Road Forum May 2001	
1:30 pm Ovarian Cancer: The facts that could save your life	6:00 pm Classic Arts Showcase	
6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #11	7:00 pm Selectboard Meeting "Live"	
6:30 pm The Discovery Center Presents	10:00 pm Discovery Center Presents	
8:00 pm Montague Update	11:00 pm Montague Archives Tuesday, October 17	
9:00 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up	7:00 am Barton Cove Eagles	
<b>Saturday, October 14</b>		
7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles	9:00 am Classic Arts Showcase	
9:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #11	10:00 am Discovery Center Presents	
9:30 am The Discovery Center Presents	11:00 am Montague Archives	
11:00 am Montague Update	5:00 pm Montague Update	
12:00 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up	6:00 pm NASA Connect: Glow with the Flow	
6:00 pm Montague Selectboard	7:00 pm Special Town Meeting	
8:00 pm NASA Connect: Glow With The Flow	10:00 pm Montague Archives	
8:30 pm The Well Being: Health Peace & Community	<b>Wednesday, October 18</b>	
9:30 pm Ovarian Cancer: The Facts That Could Save Your Life	7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles	9:00 am Montague Update
<b>Sunday, October 15</b>		10:00 am NASA Connect: Glow with the flow
7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles	10:30 am Montague Archives	6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #11
9:00 am Montague Selectboard 10/2	7:00 pm GED Connection #10	7:00 pm GED Connection #10
11:00 am NASA Connect: Glow With The Flow	7:30 pm GMRSD Meeting 10/10	7:30 pm GMRSD Meeting 10/10
11:30 am The Well Being: Health Peace & Community	10:00 pm Source To Sea River Cleanup	10:00 pm Source To Sea River Cleanup
12:30pm A Lake Pleasant Slideshow	<b>Thursday, October 19</b>	
6:00 pm Montague Update-TBD	7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles	9:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #11
7:00 pm Farmers Market Music: Tom Carroll	9:30 am GED Connection #10	9:30 am GED Connection #10
8:00 pm Rhythm in Motion	10:00am GMRSD Meeting 10/10	10:00am GMRSD Meeting 10/10
10:00 pm Greenfield Road Forum May 2001	12:00 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up	12:00 pm Source to Sea River Clean-up
<b>Monday, October 16</b>		6:00 pm Montague Update
7:00 am Barton's Cove Eagles	7:00 pm Montague Selectboard 10/16	7:00 pm Montague Selectboard 10/16
	10:00 pm Montague Archives	10:00 pm Montague Archives
	10:30 pm "Wind Changes" Body Art	10:30 pm "Wind Changes" Body Art

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# VINEYARD

continued from pg 14

*Vineyard Gazette Reader*, "An Anthology of the Best of the Island Newspaper, 1970 - 1995" in the Bunch of Grapes bookstore in Vineyard Haven, a lovely place to browse as you wait for the boat back to the mainland. It contains a rich lode of island lore, including a great snapshot of Black middle class vacationers in Oak Bluffs by Dorothy West that begins, "We were Black Bostonians on a train full of white ones. Because we were obviously going the same way, laden as we were with all the equipment of a long holiday, children, luggage, last minute things stuffed in paper bags, a protesting cat in a carton, in addition to the usual battery of disbelieving eyes, we were being subjected to intense speculation as to what people with our unimpressive ancestry were doing on a train that was carrying people with real credentials to a summer sojourn that was theirs by right of birth."

You can learn a lot from a good weekly.

Folks from Montague might notice another similarity between their home and the island town of Oak Bluffs, where the first dozen or so families of Black Bostonians purchased summer cottages on the grounds of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. Only a stone's throw from the salty harbor town and its campy tourist traps, the gingerbread cottages on the Camp Meeting grounds remind us

of what Lake Pleasant might have looked like if the great fire of 1907 had not swept most of its original cottages away. The Lake Pleasant enclave was made up mostly of Spiritualists after the more established religions decamped; the far larger summer colony in Oak Bluffs was and still is denominated Methodist. The cottages are beautifully maintained and preserved on their quiet lanes,

centered round an open-air temple in the middle of a glade of oaks. You feel as if you had stumbled into a land of Victorian dollhouses, each with quiet tenants waiting for the season of noisome shutter-bugs to pass.

Up-island, tiny crossroad

Wampanoag, live in the recently renamed township of Aquinnah. Berta Giles Welch, whose copper-colored skin echoes the hue of the nearby cliffs at sunset, said it took two votes in 1995 to convince a majority of the townspeople in Gayhead to revert to the



Gingerbread cottages on the grounds of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association

hamlets with white clapboard meetinghouses are interspersed along shady roads with not infrequent sculpture gardens in the pines. A working vineyard plays Marvin Gaye in the salesroom and offers scrumptious sniffers of

ancient place name, which means "land under the hills" in Wampanoag. Pausing between sales to tourists of her artifacts made of purple wampum carved from quahog shells, at her gift shop between the Gayhead light-



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Waiting for renovations, the moviehouse in Vineyard Haven

the latest vintage. Don't wait to hear it through the grapevine; we recommend the Merlot. Farmhouses with long picket fences sport oversized placards crying, "End the War!" Have they a permit for such temerity?

At the western tip of the island, far from the uber-rich of Edgartown, a few hundred of the First Nations' only federally recognized Massachusetts tribe, the Gayhead

house and one of the last nude beaches in America, Welch confided, "This is a strange place to live."

Strange, perhaps, and beautiful, Martha's Vineyard has always held that which is prized beyond reason by mainlanders, whether it be a cache of rare purple shells, or the insular fellowship shared by islanders and sensed only fleetingly by interlopers on a fine fall day.

# Gill Arts Poster Revives a Craft

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - A poster with a distinctly hand-wrought flavor has appeared in recent weeks advertising the Gill Arts & Crafts Festival, taking place this weekend at the Route 2 Municipal Building. Fans of letterset printing will recognize the poster as a fine example of old style offset printing using woodblock type. It is a product of Verona Press, a little known basement printshop on Franklin Road in Gill, Massachusetts, home to Joe and Barbara Elliott and their son Stuart. Stuart, working with his fellow letterset craftsman, Ed Rayher, of Swamp Press in Northfield, produced the broadside, printed on ochre cardstock in shades of dark purple and magenta using old hand carved wooden type he salvaged from a former practitioner of the printer's trade who was giving them away.

"He was a man in his 80s looking to get rid of the set as a whole to someone who would print with it," said Elliott. Packed away in boxes, Elliott found a variety of type faces, carved with a jigsaw and glued to blocks of maple and holly. The type was manufactured during the Civil War era at Page & Company, a manufacturer located in Greenville, CT, Elliott said.

Elliott spent time over the last year meticulously cleaning the wooden type with a toothbrush and a light bleach solution and press wash, removing old ink and mold from the block type. He and Rayher set the type for the poster on a 1949 Vandercook press, one of four old presses in the basement of his parent's home.

"We had no difficulty printing the posters," said Elliott. "The type is in pretty good shape."

The bold capitals on the top of the poster forming the word GILL are formed from Norwich type, a font developed around 1870. Other than a bit of Playbill utilized for the hours of opening, Elliott said the other typefaces used on the poster come from families of type developed between 1857 -

and 1859 in England: Clarendon and Antique Tuscan.

Elliott's print shop, which he uses as a hooby to print occasional letterheads, wedding invitations and the like, is named Verona Press after the printing press his father and mother ran in New Jersey between the years 1956 and 1966, before Joe Elliott moved the family to Gill to take a position as chair of the music department at Northfield Mount Hermon. He also ran the NMH print shop until Recitation Hall burned down in 1975, his son said.

The Vandercook press, before it found a new lease on life in Gill, was employed by Ginn Publishers, a textbook printer in Cambridge, MA, that produced the Dick & Jane Basal Readers, among other childhood classics.

Beside the Vandercook, Elliot also owns two English Adanas, small platinum presses suitable for printing wedding invitations and the like, as well as a Chandler & Price American built platinum press, a huge, clattering contraption that runs off leather belts. "You have to watch out for that one," said Elliott. "It's dangerous."

The Gill Arts & Crafts Festival will take place this weekend, October 14th and 15th, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., on Route 2.

At 1:30 p.m., both Saturday



and Sunday, Joseph A. Parzych will read from his memoirs of growing up in Gill, "Jep's Place" at the Historical Society in the Riverside Building. Ask him about the fire at Recitation Hall; he probably knows how it started.

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## SEWER

continued from pg 1

settled out and water flowed away. The excavator operator dug another hole next to the one filled with stone. Once the water level dropped, he filled it with stone and the pumping process was repeated. The process of alternately digging a hole next to the preceding one, filling it with stone for the pump suction hose, pumping it down and repeating the process got the area within the digging box about five feet below the elevation of the 4' concrete pipe.

The project superintendent is Scott Pio. Dean Logee of Hanson Pipe & Precast was on the job on Friday, October 6th. "Scott has a degree in accounting, and he has everything organized," Logee said. "He's doing a fantastic job. He has a good grasp of the situation and is methodical in planning and getting the job done."

Once the crew had stone in place and the pump operating, they lowered a 45-degree angled pipe that needed precise alignment with both a manhole on the edge of Bob's Autobody and the alignment of the sewer line going up Avenue A. The crew used a plumb bob to align the pipe with two alignment lines stretched from points set by surveying instruments.

The crew is not entirely out of the woods. More peat lies underneath the path of the pipe for a considerable distance, but with the stone and pump in place, the worst of the water problem is over.

The 4' diameter pipe has a 4' x 2' reducer to accommodate a 2' pipeline to cross Avenue A to the manhole on the property of

Bob's Autobody. The reduction of the 4' pipe is intended to allow the larger pipe to serve as a retention pond to store excess water during times of heavy runoff. The smaller pipe simply acts as a restrictor, holding the water back and allowing it to flow to the treatment plant at a more gradual rate. Until now, heavy rain in the area has periodically resulted in excess water and sewage flooding the wastewater treatment plant or discharging directly into the Connecticut River through an overflow pipe in the vicinity of Food City.

According to former Montague DPW sewer expert Charlie Richotte, like the brick sewer on L Street and 5th Street, the deep drain that runs behind Food City is made of brick. A manhole goes down 20 feet or more and water rushes through the pipe like Niagara Falls, according to Richotte.

It passes below the canal and discharges into the Connecticut River by Western Massachusetts Electric Company's power plant. Richotte estimates the pipe to be about 4 feet in diameter.

Once the Ludlow crew finish their work, the overflow pipe, and the craftsmanship of the masons who constructed it, will become just another piece of local history. But Pio and his men aren't home free yet. To make their challenging job more interesting, ledge lies dead ahead on the Avenue A job. You might say the excavators are caught between a rock and a soupy place.



Robbie Heller said one problem is that many of the major tech companies are located in places like Arizona, California, Nevada, and Kansas, and so do not have a real understanding of the impact of trees and hills on network design.

The planning board and ZBA have given permission for a wireless connection test using the Locke Hill tower, and the company that owns the tower has allowed the committee a month to conduct such a test. But because the leaves are already falling, that test will have to wait until spring to be valid.

Leppzer said a solution to the problem might not be within the towns' means, and might require a political effort. Just as 60 years ago electricity came to Wendell through political action, high speed internet might also require state and federal support. Goldberg suggested the selectboard send a letter to our state representatives supporting legislation to promote high speed internet access in the hilltowns, emphasizing competitiveness, public safety, and education rather than simply convenience. Keller asked the committee to draft a letter for the board to sign.

## WENDELL

continued from pg 1

Leppzer reported that all the hilltowns are in the same boat with lack of high speed internet connections, because cable companies do not see profit in hooking up customers in towns with low or dispersed populations. Goldberg said Leverett and Shutesbury had received an estimate of \$4.6 million to connect residents of those towns with fiber optic cable, the service least likely to become obsolete. He said Verizon has put up a brick wall when Pioneer Valley Connect, which represents 30 underserved communities in the area, has tried to communicate about the problem of high speed internet access in the hilltowns. Comcast has at least responded to inquiries, Goldberg said.

Hoag said another solution might be to run a fiber optic spine through the center of town, with wireless distribution through the rest of town. Another solution might be to establish a completely wireless connection, but Wendell's hills, valleys, trees and leaves will all work to impede service to homes and businesses; foliage can block the signal.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

### Wandering Livestock

#### Wednesday 10-4

8:15 p.m. 911 call from a West Gill Road residence. Officer sent; misdial.

#### Friday 10-6

8:45 a.m. Officer called to a Mountain Road residence, advised the front door was open, and no one was home. Officer was sent to the area. House was secured without incident.

11:30 a.m. Loose horses at a West Gill Road residence. Officer made contact with the owner. Horses were returned to their home.

12:35 p.m. Report of someone underneath the Gill-Montague bridge collecting fossils. Officer requested to the area. Report taken and the

Environmental Police contacted.

#### Saturday 10-7

11:40 a.m. Be on the Lookout report from the Greenfield area. Operator was said to be traveling erratically, heading eastbound on Route 2. Officer in the area stopped the vehicle and found no problems.

1:24 p.m. Complaint of loud all terrain vehicles in the area of West Gill Road. Officer sent and parties spoken to.

3:10 p.m. Report of a loose cow in the area of the Gill Store. Officer sent. Owner of the cow found and the cow returned to pasture.

3:45 p.m. Walk-in to the station turned in a set of keys found on the French King

Bridge. Keys are stored at the station.

5:10 p.m. Report of loose cows in the area of South Cross Road. Officer sent, owner found and cows returned to pasture.

#### Sunday 10-8

9:30 a.m. Officer requested for well-being check of an Oak Street residence. Officer sent, all OK.

#### Monday 10-9

9:08 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Pisgah Mountain Road.

11:41 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with motor vehicle accident on Brattleboro Road.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

### Railroad Brush Fire

#### Tuesday 10-3

9:00 p.m. Domestic problem on Mountain Road. Subject requesting information on custody issues involving minor children.

#### Thursday 10-5

5:15 p.m. Patrolled Erving Center looking for two loose black dogs. Unable to locate.

5:52 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop, [redacted] arrested on a warrant and

also charged with seatbelt violation.

#### Friday 10-6

4:30 p.m. [redacted] was arrested at the French King Motel on a warrant.

#### Saturday 10-7

11:00 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a motor vehicle accident near the Box Car. Made contact with both parties

who stated they had already exchanged information and would be handling it themselves. Very little damage.

#### Monday 10-9

11:45 a.m. Report of a large brush fire off Route 2A near Copper Angel. Found to be burning in several towns along railroad tracks.

3:30 p.m. Assisted subjects at a Swamp Road address with a dispute over a motor vehicle.

## Stone Road Salvage Yard

Robin Pierce of Stone Road introduced Lou and Ryan Porter, brothers from Hope Valley, RI who hope to establish a business of buying, sometimes repairing, and selling used cars, using Pierce's Stone Road property for limited storage and limited repairs. Lou Porter said most of their sales will be on e-Bay and only a few of the vehicles will actually be on the property. The Porters have seen the restrictions on Pierce's Class III license and they believe they can work with them. Lou Porter said they want to keep traffic in and out of the property limited, and their intention is to buy and sell, more than to do repairs.

Heard told them the license transfer would require a public hearing, with abutters notified. Pierce asked if they would need a Class II license to sell cars, and Aldrich asked if town bylaws would allow a new Class II license. Heard said only Class III licenses are limited in town, and Lewis suggested that the Registry would have an answer as to how many cars could be sold from a location before a Class II license was required. The hearing date was set for

November 1st, which Porter said worked well because the sale was set to happen on November 6th. Lewis reminded them the license will be good only until January, when it will have to be renewed.

## In Other Business

Harry Williston from the highway commission and Kelly Condoa from Verizon met the board next, in a continuation of the pole hearing for four new poles to supply the house going up at 416 New Salem Road. The tree hearing for removal of trees in the way of the line extension was continued until the next planning board meeting. The selectboard approved the four poles as marked by white posts in the ground, contingent on the results of the tree hearing.

Aldrich reported the town has received a property tax bill for Fiske Pond in fiscal year 2006. The town owned Fiske Pond for all of fiscal 2006, and Aldrich said she had asked the assessors how the town should pay itself, and why the bill was sent. Tax collector Penny Delorey, looking in from her office next door, asked if the town could put a lien on Fiske Pond, and then acquire it for unpaid back taxes.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Committee inspected the WRATS, commented on the piles of wood salvaged from the old town school, but found the recycling facility met requirements on all criteria considered.

The board scheduled an auction of surplus town property on Saturday, November 4th at 10:00 a.m. and asked Aldrich to encourage the department heads to give her their respective lists before she has to place the advertisements. They asked her to put out a town newsletter in October, in time to inform town people about the auction.

The town nuclear advisory committee created at the last annual town meeting has only one member, Nina Keller. Aldrich said only the planning board responded to her request for members, and their answer was that no one on the planning board could add another committee to their responsibilities. Police and fire departments are also supposed to supply committee members, but have not responded.

The meeting ended with the board going into executive session for discussion of real estate.





**THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

# Mental Side Effects of Heart Surgery

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** *I may have to undergo bypass surgery and I heard that it can really mess up your mind. Is that true?*

If you have coronary bypass surgery, you could suffer from what some in the healthcare professions call 'pump head.'

During traditional surgery, a patient is put on a heart-lung bypass pump to oxygenate and circulate blood. This machine may create clots that could harm the brain. In addition, a surgeon handling the aorta - the main heart artery - can free bits of accumulated plaque and they can block blood vessels in the brain.

Some patients report a memory loss. Or, they say they are

confused. Some feel that they just aren't as mentally sharp as they had been. These side effects seem to be more common among people who are older, drink too much, or suffer from high blood pressure or lung disease.

But there's a lot of disagreement among experts over the entire subject of the mental effects of bypass surgery.

One study indicated that only half of those undergoing bypass surgery developed memory or thinking problems within days after the operation, and that these problems continued for five years. However, other researchers found that mental deficiencies are common after bypass surgery, but that most



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

people recuperate in 3 to 12 weeks.

The pump-head phenomenon led to the development of 'beating-heart bypass.' It's done without using a heart-lung machine. About one in five bypass operations is now done with a beating heart.

In a bypass, an incision is made down the center of the chest to expose the heart. The surgeon takes a section of healthy blood vessel, often from inside the chest wall or from the lower leg, and attaches the ends above and below the blocked artery so that blood flow is diverted around the narrowed portion of the diseased artery. This eases angina, the chest pain that comes when there is an insufficient supply of oxygenated blood.

Because the heart beats constantly, it needs a steady flow of fuel. If a fuel shortage is serious, you have a heart attack and muscle begins to die. Heart attack is known officially as 'myocardial infarction.'

The surgery usually takes between three and six hours. On average, surgeons repair two to four coronary arteries. After surgery, patients spend a day or two in the intensive care unit. Recovery takes 6 to 12 weeks.

About half a million Americans a year have coronary bypass surgery. For every 100 Americans who undergo it, 1 to 2 die within a month and 2 to 3 have a stroke. The long-term results of the surgery are excellent.

Among the techniques in development is minimally invasive heart surgery which uses smaller incisions.

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

**FINDING BALANCE**

# Leaves Reflect the Colors of our Lives

BY JENNY CHAPIN

**MONTAGUE CENTER - I** look at life as microcosms within macrocosms, with our individual human lives mirrored by the larger world around us. Every piece of the puzzle of seasons and cycles and happenings holds a lesson for my own way of being in this lifetime.

This connection to what goes on around me in nature helps me make sense of and find my place in it. Understanding that I am not separate from the world, in fact, helps reveal me to my own self. New England autumns are a particularly rich mine of metaphor.

When new leaves come out in the spring, they are so welcome to us. Light green softens the stark gray landscape that our eyes have become used to, and allows us to believe again in life, in beauty. As the months go by, the green gets darker, the leaves get bigger - and I get used to them as they are. The memory of winter fades away -

could it have really been so cold, so harsh and bleak? - when all that exists is this lushness of growth and greenery.

When the seasons shift again in late September, I am surprised once more. It never fails to astonish me, when the leaves change color: the trees transform their usual selves into something so exquisite, it's like a completely different world. Leaves that were born green and have been green their whole lives, are now yellows, browns, reds, oranges. No longer stuck on the branches, they dance in the wind and blanket the ground with their brilliance. Colors that were always there but never seen, coming forth because as the night temperature gets colder, leaves stop producing chlorophyll and the green fades away. What was normal makes way for something new that is yet still part of what was always there.

We, too, were, so to speak, born green, and we generally



just get greener as we go along. We come into a certain family, culture, and society, and we take on their ways. We're clothed in their ideas of who we are, and how we're supposed to be. We get used to our greenness, and think it is who we really are. Even when, to quote Kermit the Frog, "it's not easy being green," we hold to entrenched notions of what we're capable of, and how we're limited, as if releasing that green skin would make us traitors to our own lives.

But beneath the covering of green, there are other colors, other facets. These qualities often come forth only when we're challenged - like the leaves are challenged by the colder weather, only our challenges are things like illness, loss, betrayal, and grief.

While we would rarely choose the events of our lives that rip into and tear us apart, if we don't resist them they can open us to qualities we might not otherwise connect to. I spent this last weekend doing yoga with an incredible teacher, a woman so radiant you'd never guess her son had been shot to death three years ago. That tragedy deepened her love and compassion for everyone.

Hardship and difficulty pull us out of our regular lives, push us to go deep into ourselves to find our courage, our strength, our willingness to soften in the

face of pain and to keep opening our hearts so that our anguish does not become our life.

Hopefully we don't wait, as the leaves must, until the ends of our lives to uncover and reveal those deeper qualities. That beauty is and has been there all along. It is our fire, our internal light, dancing with a multitude of colors.

*Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com.*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH**  
Program on the history of contra dance at the Guiding Star Grange, 7 p.m., Greenfield. Sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute, \$5 for non-PVI members and free for members and children under 12. Demonstrations of contras, squares and round dances by fiddlers David Kaynor and Steve Howland. Steven Alves will be showing his film *Together in Time*, produced in 2001.



Steve Woodard, Melanie Reneris and Josh Momaney in *Arena Civic Theatre's production of Finian's Rainbow* at the Shea Theater October 13-15 & 20-22.

Narrated by Peter Coyote, a prize-winning documentary about the history of New England contra music.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH**  
At the Bookmill, Montague Center psychedelic folk master Gary Higgins. 8 - 11:30 p.m. \$10

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Catamount*, classic rock & roll, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH**  
3rd Annual Family Fall Fun Day Refreshments, scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin carving & decorating. Adopt your scarecrow now; they go fast! Unity Park, Turners Falls, scarecrows \$5 each, pumpkin decorating \$1 each. Rain or Shine! 1 - 3:30 p.m. Call: 413-863-3216 for more details.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *John Sheldon & Blue Streak*, original rockin' blues! 9:30 p.m.

At the Book Mill, Montague Center. Agua Dulce with the Clay Jazz Band, Tickets \$10 advance and \$12 door. 8 to 11:30 p.m.

**Montague Center and Leverett Arts Tour** and the 26th Annual Harvest Fair A variety of crafts, food, tag sale items, display of classic bicycles and a book-signing. Pancake breakfast at the Leverett Elementary School (8:30 a.m.), crafts and booth in the school parking lot (10:00 a.m.), rescue vehicle demonstration (11:00 a.m.), Open Studio Tour featuring two dozen stops in

for "Peace" Caravan to Cuba and *Convictions: Prisoners of Conscience* about the annual pilgrimage by thousands of nonviolent protesters to the gates of Ft. Benning, GA. 22 min. 7 p.m. free, discussion to follow.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH**  
Montague Reads. *The Secret Life of Bees* - at the Gill-Montague Senior

Center, Fifth St., Turners Falls. 10 - 11 a.m.

A 100th Birthday Party for the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls at the library from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Organized by The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries celebrating the 100 years of service the Carnegie Library has provided to the Town of Montague. Michael Nix will perform on the classical guitar, mandolin, and banjar. The party is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Limited edition commemorative candles will be sold by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries. More info. call 863-3214.

**FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH TO 15TH**  
Arena Civic Theater presents *Finian's Rainbow* Performances at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Continues 10/20-22. Call 863-2281 x 3

**14th Annual Gill Fall Festival and Craft Fair** Features a blend of

Leverett & Montague Center. Maps available at Leverett Crafts & Arts (11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), and a spaghetti supper (4:30 to 6:40 p.m.). Events held in Leverett.

2nd Annual Huun-Huur-Tu-Tuvan Throat Singers Workshop & Concert Experience this otherworldly music rooted in the sounds of nature. Workshop open to all ages, no experience needed (3:00 to 5:00 p.m.) At Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls. Concert at 7:30 p.m. 413-625-6878

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH**  
Montague Reads - *The Secret Life of Bees* - Tea & Discussion - at Books & More, 74 Avenue A - Turners Falls. 2 to 4 p.m.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16TH**  
Montague Reads. Tea & Discussion, Montague Center Library, 7 to 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH**  
Montague Reads. Tea & Discussion at the Millers Falls Library, 7 to 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH**  
Montague Reads. *The Secret Life of Bees* - Refreshments & Discussion - and a visit with the folks from Warm Colors Apiary. 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Documentary Film Series on "Active Nonviolence" at the Arms Library, Shelburne Falls. on Wednesdays in October & November. Oct. 18th: *Who's Afraid of the Little Yellow School Bus?* The dramatic story of a "Pastors

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

**MONDAYS** - Drop-in, 3-6 p.m.  
**TUES & WEDS** - Ongoing Music Project, 3-6 p.m.  
**THURS** - Drop-in, 3-6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6-8 p.m.

Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.  
Info: Jared at 863-9559.  
Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House  
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376.

**Upcoming at the Discovery Center**  
Seasonal hours through mid October:  
Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**SUNDAYS, THRU OCTOBER**  
Family Nature Program geared towards the family group. Programs at 12:30 p.m.: Nature Craft, 2 p.m.: Meet an Animal, 3:30 p.m.: Nature Activity

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH**  
Pillow Basalts & Dinosaur Footprints. Geologist Steve Winters leads short geological hike to the pillow basalt exposures in Gill, and a discussion of dinosaur habitat in New England over 200 million years ago. Intermediate-skill level hike begins at the Great Falls Discovery Center 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Geowalk. Join geologist Steve Winters for a "sidewalk geology" tour of Turners Falls. Learn about the fascinating changes that occurred millions of years ago that made the geological foundation of Turners Falls. \$5 per family. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**  
What lives beneath the soil? Come and investigate the life beneath our Earth's surface. Learn how to use a microscope & identify different microorganisms. Geared towards ages 3 - 5. Will include a story at the end of the program. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**UNTIL NOVEMBER 4TH**  
Pioneer Valley Institute: Great River Art Show in the Great Hall

**Great Falls Discovery Center** www.greatfallsma.org  
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863.3221

fine crafts, demonstrations, food concessions, and youth activities. The Gill Historical Commission Museum will be open. At the old Riverside School on Route 2 in Gill. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or shine. 863-9708 or 863-2212

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST**  
Pat Humphries and Sandy O., perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Town Hall, Leverett. Tickets are \$12/\$10 seniors. Opening by singer-songwriters, Bess Hepner and Masie Sylvan.

**ONGOING**  
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Photographer/digital print artist John Paul Caponigro displays his work through December 17th. More info. www.johnpaulcaponigro.com  
Memorial Street in Deerfield. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 774-3768

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2. THE DEPARTED R DAILY 6:30 9:30 DTS sound MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
3. THE GUARDIAN PG13 DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:30 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. JACKASS 2 R DAILY 6:45 9:15 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. OPEN SEASON ....PG DAILY 6:45 9:15 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. GRUDGE 2 PG13 DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:10 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, 12 00 3 00
7. THE MARINE PG 13 DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:10 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, 12 00 3 00

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## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## September Song

BY LESLIE BROWN  
MONTAGUE CITY -

*But it's a long, long time  
from May to December,  
And the days grown short  
when you reach September;  
When the autumn weather  
turns the leaves to flame,  
One hasn't got time for the  
waiting game.*

*Oh, the days dwindle down  
to a precious few...*

*September, November...*

*And these few precious  
days I'll spend with you.*

*These precious days I'll  
spend with you.*

*- Maxwell Anderson and  
Kurt Weill, 1938.*

Fall is a bittersweet season, full of bright colors and intensity of light, of harvest and holidays. It also marks the shortening of the days and the closing of the garden season, leading us to the season of long nights. The clear cool days bring joy and energy for the last garden tasks: final harvesting, garden cleanup and, most happily, the start of plantings for the next year's

season.

Here by the river, we have not yet seen a frost because Mother Nature is still providing the early morning blanket of fog. Even in this week-end of the full Harvest moon, the last crops have escaped the freezer. Still in the ground are peppers, leeks and carrots. My pepper crop is late again this year, and I have left the fruit on the plants, hoping to see the green ones turn red or orange and the purple ones become a yummy, chocolate brown. The hot peppers are responding, shading gradually from bright green to red, but the other fruits are resistant to change. They'd much prefer hotter temperatures and longer daylight.

There's not much point in holding out any longer on the green ones, so I'll be bringing them in. After rinsing and thoroughly drying these beauties, you can easily preserve them by placing them in zip-lock bags and putting them in



the freezer. Unlike softer fruits and vegetables, they hold their color and crispness well. You can cut them while they are still frozen slightly and proceed with your favorite recipe.

My leeks will receive the same treatment. After rinsing them, remove the roots and the long green leaves. Freeze and slice the white part of the bulb while still frozen, chop and use in your favorite recipe.

Carrots, I believe are like apples, all the sweeter for experiencing a light frost. So as always, this is the garden's last crop to be harvested. Some gardeners like to mulch their carrots heavily and pull them as needed throughout the winter. Since newer houses no longer boast a root cellar, that's probably not a bad idea as long as you can access the carrot bed and keep the soil warm enough to allow you to continue the harvest.

Carrots can be stored for quite a while in the hydrator of your refrigerator but they will eventually get punky and become prone to rot.

If you like canning, you can preserve your carrot crop this way. I prefer freezing fruits and vegetables because I think the resulting product tastes more like the original and it's a lot less labor intensive.

Most cookbooks recommend blanching before freezing. Blanching involves brief immersion in boiling water followed by immediate icing to stop the cooking process. Blanching

helps retain the original color of the product and also halts enzyme action, preserving your veggies at their flavor peak.

Sadly, I am lazy in these matters and rarely blanch my vegetables prior to freezing them. However, I recently read that a couple of minutes in the microwave can achieve the same results with much less fuss. Perhaps in these days of *e coli* scares a quick blanching in the nuker isn't a bad thing. We'll see. I am not a great fan of the microwave oven, probably because I don't pretend to understand how it works and dislike anything to do with waves or rays (except of course those found in ocean and sunlight).

Well, we won't get into the area of superstitions right now. Suffice to say, I've never blanched a pepper and they taste great anyway.

Once, when we were house hunting, I met an elderly gentleman who showed me his method of preserving tomatoes. He simply sliced firm, blemish-free fruit, laid it out on cookie sheets until frozen and then packed the slices. Straight forward and simple and known from thereafter in our household as "Mr. Davis tomatoes."

When the harvest is complete, it's time to put the garden to bed. If your garden looks like mine, you've harvested crops from beds that also sprouted a good crop of weeds. If you can put the time in now for some basic garden hygiene, you'll have less work and more fertile ground to plant in next year. Take the time to pull this last crop of weeds so they don't sow the start of next year's crop.

Put your vine crops where you compost your weeds, not in the bins you use to create garden ready compost. Most vine crops begin to show some powdery mildew, wilt or mold. Removing these plants means you'll avoid reintro-

ducing disease into the ground.

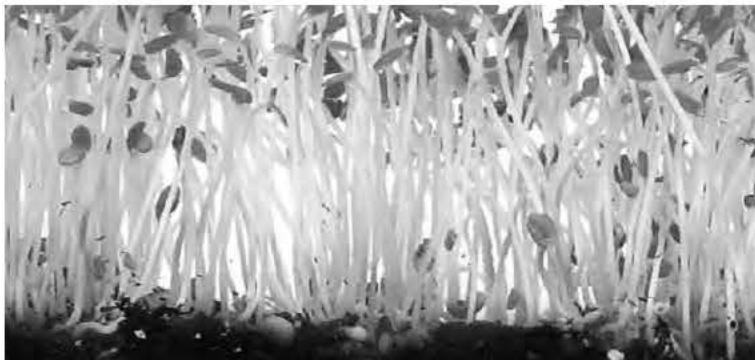
Once the garden space is cleaned up, spread it with well-composted manure and turn it under. If you spend the time now, when you're ready to seed in early greens and peas, all you'll need to do is loosen the soil with a rake and you'll be ready to plant.

Many people spade or rototill in the spring. Once a season is enough, and fall is really the best time. You are putting a clean garden to bed. In the early spring as the ground begins to soften, earthworms will start to work the soil for you. Why discourage them with sharp metal tools?

Although the end of the season has its regrets, you can enjoy planting some crops in anticipation of the return of longer, warmer days next spring. In addition to the spring bulbs many of us like to plant now, if you enjoy garlic, you can plant these bulbs too. Garlic planted in the fall starts growing strong roots before the ground becomes rock hard and will be ready for harvest late next summer.

Choose a spot with good drainage, and turn in some composted manure. Make a trench a couple of inches deep and line it with bone meal if you have it. Buy 'seed' garlic at your local farm store or use garlic purchased at your food store; just make sure it comes from a relatively local source so you know that it will do well here in New England. Separate the individual cloves and plant, skin on, in your trench, covering the cloves with an inch or so of dirt. Garlic is a relatively heavy feeder, enjoying side dressings of compost or fertilizer, but you'll end up with a product that is fresher and more pungent than the dried out bulbs that show up in the grocery stores.

Happy gardening! And remember, winter may be coming, but there's always spring on the other side!



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