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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 2

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 16, 2008

Zero Energy House Warming

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CITY - About 60 people - architects, educators, builders, politicians, and curious neighbors - showed up at a building lot behind 389 Montague City Road to have a look at the new house under construction there, being built by Bick Corsa for Doug Stephens and Tina Clarke. The home, built on a six inch concrete pad, with a second, interior, frame that will provide an envelope stuffed with 12 inches of packed cellulose insulation, with another 20 inches of blown loose-filled cellulose in the ceiling, is a simple "24 foot by 48 box," in Corsa's words. But this box will contain more than just three bedrooms, kitchen and bath. It will also, in a modest way, contain humanity's hopes for a sustainable future.

The house being built on Marsten's Alley is one of six

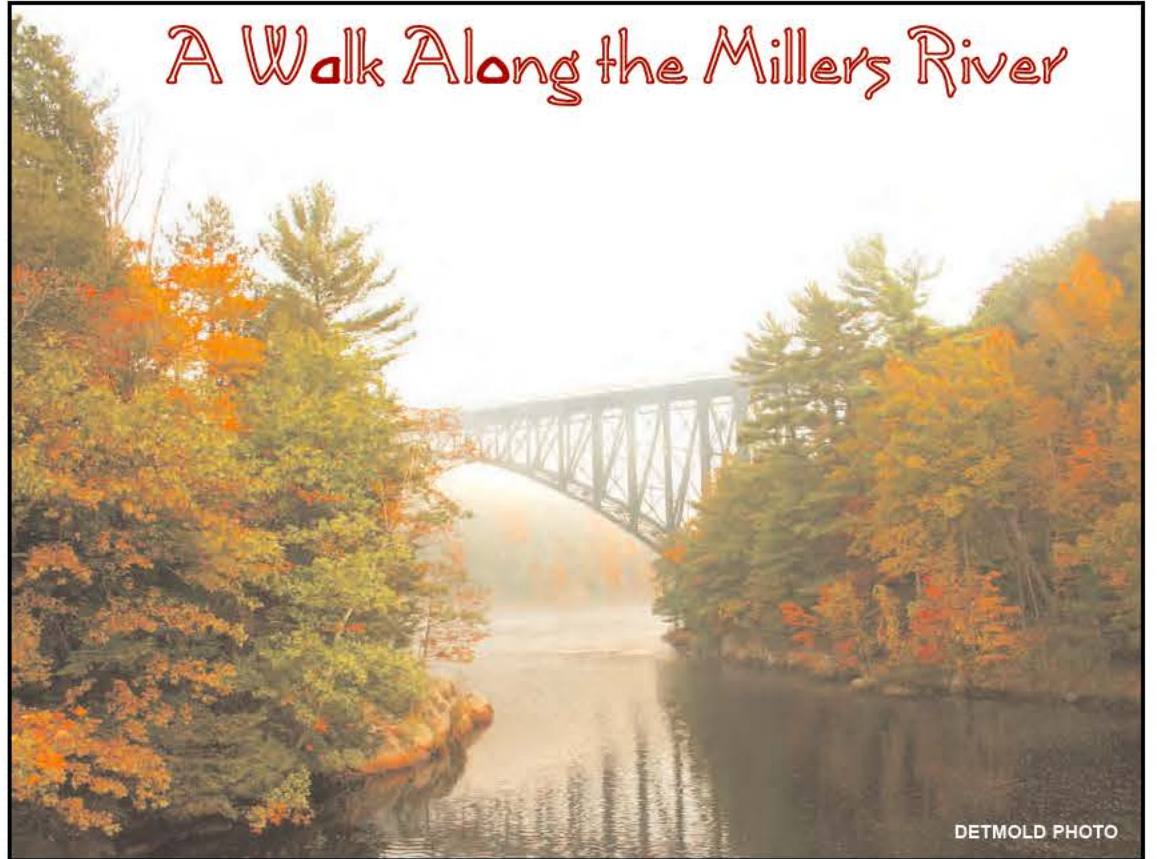
finalists in a statewide zero energy challenge, sponsored by Massachusetts investor owned utility companies: National Grid, NSTAR, Unitil and Western Mass Electric. Equipped with solar photovoltaic panels on the roof and a passive solar heat exchanger, once it is complete, Corsa, Stephens and Clarke say, the home will actually produce more energy than it consumes. And the energy form it does rely on as back-up from the outside - electricity - at least in theory can someday be produced entirely from alternative sources such as the solar and wind that do not rely on carbon or nuclear fuels.

Clarke, addressing the crowd gathered around the front door on Friday, which included Senator Stan Rosenberg, Greenfield Community College president see **ZERO** pg 12



Open House at the Zero Energy Home in Montague City

A Walk Along the Millers River



DETMOLD PHOTO

Mouth of the Millers at the French King Bridge

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MILLERS FALLS - Mist rises off the surface, as the sun climbs high enough to send the first few tentative fingers of light searching through the fog and overhanging branches of the gorge. The placid Millers River flows in slow eddies curling along beneath the colorfully bedecked banks. The maple leaves are orange, salmon, yellow, and here and there still green.

One of the more graceful works of man, the steel arch of the French King Bridge, describes a tracery of arcs and

rays in geometric symmetry above the confluence of the Millers and the Connecticut. A blue jay dives above the tributary's mouth, disappearing in a spruce tree on the northern shore. The motors of the passing trucks on Route 2 disturb the quiet of the morning; all else is calm and still.

On the granite escarpments by the mouth of the Millers, strata of rust stained rock reveal the various levels to which the river has risen in recent years. But before the Connecticut was dammed a few miles down-

stream in Turners Falls, rapids stretched along the river in the area where the French King Rock rises above the river's surface, almost in the shadow of the bridge, a monument to the days when the Connecticut flowed free.

In those days, the river ran twelve or fourteen feet lower than it does today, backed up behind the Turners dam. A tow path ran along the eastern bank, and beasts of burden pulled the boats upstream. A lock to lift the riverboats above the rapids was

see **WALK** pg 8

Our Lady of Czestochowa Celebrates Centennial

BY CORI FUGERE URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - Our Lady of Czestochowa Church has been designated a pilgrimage site for the Year of St. Paul just as the parish has begun the celebration of its centennial.

"In the anniversary year of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls, I formally designate the parish church as a pilgrimage site for the Year of St. Paul," Springfield Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell wrote in an August letter to Father Charles J. DiMascola, pastor.

No other church in the diocese has received such a designation.

Pope Benedict announced the Year of St. Paul, a special jubilee year dedicated to the

saint, that runs from June 28th, 2008, to June 29th, 2009, to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of the birth of the early Christian saint.

Father DiMascola said it is exciting to celebrate the parish centennial with the Year of St. Paul. "For the past decade our parish has been involved in efforts of evangelization, and with the Year of St. Paul, the great evangelizer, we are going to offer more," DiMascola said.

The parish evangelization efforts include a cable television program on Channel 17 to explain the faith, called "Chronicles of Czestochowa," weekly televised masses, two websites and a booth at the

Franklin County Fair.

"We hope to explore other public outreach to share the faith as St. Paul would," DiMascola said.

"We don't have the luxury of sitting back anymore," he added. "For too long we have been satisfied with what we had. There was no need, it seems, to most Catholics to reach out beyond the people in the pew. But we cannot become pew potatoes."

He said the world has become more aggressively anti-Catholic and anti-Christian, and the message of Jesus is not being heard. "It's being drowned out by a secular and militant atheistic society," DiMascola said. "A casual and do-nothing approach will be our condemnation."

The centennial celebration begins with Forty Hours, on September 19th - 21st. The see **LADY** pg 13



Father Charles J. DiMascola

CORI URBAN PHOTO

PET OF THE WEEK

Valley Cat



Lilly

My name is Lilly and I'm a three-year-old female cat in need of a good home. I was found as a stray so I have experience with the outdoors, but would be happy to try being an indoor only kitty. I am friendly, talkative, and playful. I like to be the center of attention, and anything I can play with: people, ping-pong balls, and especially kittens! I also enjoy a bit of catnip from time to time. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS
Halloween Party

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - There will be a Children's Halloween Party at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 25th from 10:30 a.m. - noon. Children of all ages and

their families are invited to attend the free party. There will be refreshments, games, face painting, and arts and crafts. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. For more information, call 863-3214.

Iraq Moratorium

BY DAVID BLOT
GREENFIELD - The Iraq Moratorium is a national organization promoting peace in the Middle East. It has two objectives: to end the war and occupation in Iraq and to encourage more Americans to become involved in the peace movement. On the third Friday of each month people set aside some time to act for peace.

vigil on the Greenfield Common on the third Friday of each month from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. People gather behind Green Field's Market a little before 5:00 p.m. and march to the common.

The October vigil will take place Friday, the 17th. Everyone is welcome. Come and stand for peace. Bring family and friends, signs and banners too. For more information call 413-253-0283.

The Power of Cooperation

How Co-operatives Serve Coffee Communities Around The World

Wednesday, October 29th, 7 p.m.

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

Sponsor: Franklin Community Cooperative. Book signing of Dean's book: *Javatrekker*. Held at Second Congregational Church, Greenfield. Free.

Meetinghouse Work Day

BY MOLLY KAYNOR
WENDELL - The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse will be holding their annual fall work day on Saturday, October 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to about 5:00 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, October 19th.

own work gloves. If you want to help paint, extra paint brushes and scrapers would be appreciated; paint will be supplied. If you want to plant bulbs, bring crocuses or other early bulbs we can enjoy in early spring. The Friends will supply a wheelbarrow, a shovel, a rake and a pair of brush clippers for yard workers. A broom, trash barrel and dust rags will be supplied for people who might like to clean up the front foyer.

Scaffolding has gone up so project coordinator Jerry Eide can assess the condition of the bell tower, and stabilize it until more money can be raised. We hope the front of the Meetinghouse can get a fresh coat of paint while the scaffolding is in place.

Fresh cider, a pot of chili and various types of chips, dips and salads will be provided for volunteers in the gazebo from noon to about 2:00 p.m. that day. A donation jar for the restoration project will be placed in the gazebo too.

Come lend a hand with any project you choose, for any part of the day that you can. All ages and experience levels welcome. You might want to bring your

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Oct. 20th to Oct. 24th

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

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Painting
1 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, 22nd
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 23rd
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 24th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

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

Monday, 20th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 21st
9 a.m. Walking Group

Reminder - Brown Bag date will be Monday, November 3rd. Closed Tuesday, November 4th on Election Day.

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

Monday, 20th
9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 21st
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 22nd
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 23rd
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool

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

FACES & PLACES



DETMOLD PHOTO

A downy woodpecker makes his mark on an Avenue A facade.

Bottle Drive to Benefit TFHS Band & Chorus

The TFHS Band Boosters are running a can and bottle drive this Saturday, October 18th, from 9 a.m. - noon in the Food City parking lot. Please drop off your cans and bottles for redemption; if you are unable to drop them off, we'll pick up! Just call Stacey at 367-9418 or Dorene at 863-3001 to make arrangements.

After our initial drive, we'll resume our monthly can and bottle pick-ups on the second Saturday of each month, so once you've dropped off this load, mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8th, for our next pick-up! Just call Stacey at 367-9418 to get on the list for that day.

Band Boosters supports the activities of the Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School Band and Chorus. We raise money to help fund everything from marching band uniforms and general equipment to events like our high school's band and chorus spring trip for annual competition.

Thanks for your support!

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GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Grade 6:
Trent Bourbeau

Grade 7:
Hayley Westfall
Shelby Lewis

Grade 8:
Cameron Tucker

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Gill-Montague Schools, Towns to Meet with State Officials on Budget Impasse

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - The Gill-Montague school committee meeting began with an executive session on school security, so the public portion of the meeting did not begin until after 8 p.m.

The entire Gill-Montague School Committee has been invited to attend a meeting on Friday, October 17th in the Montague town hall from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to discuss the FY09 budget impasse. Both the Montague and Gill selectboard members will be there, legislators and representatives from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Revenue are expected to attend.

School committee chair Mary Kociela stated that the Gill-Montague schools still don't have an approved budget, and if the schools and the towns do not approve one by December 1st, the commissioner of the DESE will impose a budget on the towns.

The district has received \$255,000 in foundation Pothole funds from the DESE, to be used at the discretion of the school committee. Superintendent Ken Rocke stated those funds will be divided evenly between the schools and the towns.

Rocke added that the GMRSD will be applying for a newly developed grant to help fill the gap in transportation funds for special education out-of-district students. The first step in the application process is for the towns to make sure their routes are as efficient as possible.

Rocke stated that the DESE has assigned Peter Davies as a monitor to work with the Gill-Montague schools in building leadership capacity and improving the schools, in an effort to move the GMRSD off the state's

'underperforming' list. Rocke said Davies was encouraging and complimentary in his comments about the district's efforts to implement the district turnaround plan.

Joyce Phillips reported that the Gill-Montague Education Fund has awarded \$4997 to partially or fully fund 13 grants to provide academic enrichment programs in the classrooms. Grants were awarded to all Gill-Montague schools. Among the projects chosen were a day trip for five English Language Learning students from Turners Falls High School to experience a typical American city rich with US history; equipment for hands-on science curriculum in support of nature's classroom and environmental activities; a program for 81 students to participate in a field study offered by Heifer International (Ending Hunger, Caring for the Earth); a visit to a global village in Rutland, MA; and a program to teach students about their community and environment through a bike trip on the bike path from the Discovery Center in Turners Falls to the Masonic Lodge in Montague City. This project includes students devel-

oping artwork, maps and written materials.


Phillips announced the second annual Holiday Concert will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 2 p.m. in the Turners Falls High School Theater. It will feature the Gregory Caputo Big Band performing their Christmas Classics. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 dollars at the door. Ticket sales will be available on the www.themef.org website beginning October 25th, and at various outlets beginning November 8th. Proceeds from the concerts go towards the G-M Education Fund grants.

Kociela announced that Erving representative Sandy Minor has resigned. Erving is now represented on the school committee by Eric Overgaard and Jarod Boissonneault.

The school committee agreed to issue an RFP to address the upgrading of the key card system and a separate RFP to upgrade the school security system. This will provide the committee with information regarding costs involved so they can better evaluate whether or not to upgrade the schools' existing security systems.

Kociela ended the meeting by reading a statement indicating that committee members were free to express their objections to Question #1 on the November 4th ballot - which would abolish the state income tax - in their official capacity as school committee members, as the passage of the ballot initiative could cost the district 40% of their state funding.

With that, the committee adjourned to another executive session. The next school committee meeting will be held on October 28th at the Turners Falls High School television studio at 7 p.m.



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A Reckless Idea

BY FERD WULKAN

MONTAGUE CENTER - If you think things are bad in town now... imagine if Question One passes.

Question One is a binding question on the Massachusetts ballot on November 4th. It asks voters statewide whether or not to eliminate the entire state income tax, thereby wiping out 40% of the state budget. If Question 1 passes, there will be even less money to fix our bridges and roads; health care for seniors and the disabled will be threatened; public safety will be endangered; GCC and UMass fees will skyrocket; aid to our schools will be slashed. Our towns will need to make more painful choices of where to cut, and we would probably see larger class sizes, layoffs of essential town employees, and a deterioration of our quality of life.

Montague and all the surrounding towns are in bad financial shape. Our schools and our town services are underfunded despite the best efforts of our elected and appointed leaders. We are not getting enough support from the state. Imagine if the state suddenly lost 40% of its revenues - do you think they'll have much for us?

But we don't need to imagine. We can look at a detailed report from the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, a fairly conservative independent non-partisan research organization. It

concludes that after accounting for five legally mandated programs, the rest of state government would bear across the board cuts of 71.1%. Except for the portion of Chapter 70 aid that is legally mandated, state aid to cities and towns would be cut by 71.1%. [See www.masstaxpayers.org for the report.]

Our towns would be under tremendous pressure to increase property taxes, which are already high and regressive. The legislature will probably need to increase the state sales tax, which hurts low and middle income families more than the income tax.

The proponents of Question One argue that taxpayers would save \$3,600. This is a misleading average. The 14% of taxpayers earning over \$100,000 would, on average, save \$16,000. The 65% of us who earn under \$50,000 would save on average \$850.

But at what cost! Support for our colleges, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, the court system, human service programs, environmental programs - all shot to hell. And we'd end up paying it in other taxes.

The proponents of Question One argue that it would be easy to "cut the fat" out of state government. Laying off every single state employee would save \$5.3 billion - this is less than half of the \$12.5 billion that would be cut out of the state budget if Question One passes.

The elimination of the state income tax is a reckless idea and must be defeated - for the sake of our schools, our towns, our futures. Please talk to your friends and neighbors about this. When we vote on November 4th, let's not stop after the presidential candidates - go all the way down the ballot and Vote No on Question One.

Times are hard enough. Let's not make them worse. For more information, or to help with the campaign, please go to www.votenoquestion1.com



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

GUEST EDITORIAL

Question 1 and Seniors

BY ROSEANN MARTOCCIA

MONTAGUE CITY - Question 1 on the November 4th ballot will have a significant negative impact on services and programs for older people - and for just about everyone else in Massachusetts who relies on state or local services. Our schools, police, fire, road maintenance, local aid, and human services will all see a major loss of financial support if the state income tax is repealed. Equally important, Question 1 provides no alternative source of revenue to help soften the blow that would be felt by thousands of our friends and neighbors.

A Yes Vote on Question 1 would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for the tax year beginning on January 1st, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1st, 2010.

A No Vote on Question 1 would make no change in state income tax laws.

If voters repeal the state income tax on November 4th, the state budget will have to be cut by roughly \$12 to \$13 billion. Overall, this is around a 45% cut to the \$28 billion state budget. The cuts will not necessarily be equally applied to programs. But very few programs will be spared. This means dramatic cuts in local aid, cuts to police and fire departments, cuts to road and bridge repairs, cuts to day care programs for kids, services to the disabled, community colleges and universities, and programs for the elderly. Just about everyone whose life is touched by state services will be hurt.

Question 1 could cause an enormous shift of burden from the income tax to the property tax. Many retirees pay little or no

state income tax. Many seniors are living on their Social Security and a small pension or modest investments. But the tax they cannot get out of is the local property tax. There is the Circuit Breaker (worth \$800) and other property tax exemptions. But imagine what will happen to your town budget if local aid for police, fire and schools is slashed by 45%. The state might be forced to repeal or amend the Proposition 2½ law, and shift to the property tax instead. This could force many seniors to be priced out of their homes.

Another possible scenario is a

major hike in a broadened sales tax, which again would hurt tens of thousands of consumers who have to purchase not only food but also drugs as part of their daily life. Question 1 could force a significant hike in the sales tax, and eliminate the current exemptions from that tax. That could mean higher costs for basics like groceries and clothing.

It's important to remember that when large amounts of state aid are cut, it is people who get hurt.

Roseann Martoccia is the executive director of the Franklin County Home Care Corporation.

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US FORCES
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Afghanistan **611**

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Hires Library Director

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The six-year stint of library trustees running the town library has come to an end. This week, the trustees have finally been able - with increased funding from the town - to hire a professional library director.

Barbara Friedman had her first day on the job Wednesday. She accepted the \$17,000 a year, 17-hour a week unbenefitted position after the trustees worked their way through a list of six candidates for the opening.

"She has a well-rounded background in librarial work," said trustee Beth Bazler. "She's been a library consultant, and she worked as the library director for the town of Westminster for five years. When she walked out of the interview, we looked at each other and said, 'She's the one!'"

Friedman, a resident of Westminster (40 miles east on Route 2) worked in the public library at Fitchburg for 15 years, and also in the Lunenburg library, before taking the post at Westminster. She designed the first web pages for more than one of those libraries.

"I like tecchie stuff," admitted Friedman, "and I've worked as the support person for an integrated library program and an over the phone distance learning program. But I really wanted to get back to working with books and people."

Friedman, reached a few hours into her first day on the job, said, "Seventeen people have been in already. Everyone's been very friendly. Our youngest patron this afternoon seems to be

just about 11 months old. Our oldest patron so far was 87. She comes in every week to take out three large type books. She lives alone and loves the library; it's really important to her."

Another patron showed up to discuss a \$100 fine for extremely overdue books, and Friedman encouraged him to return them anyway, and reduce the fine by eliminating replacement costs for the books, and get back to regular use of the system. She also helped a youngster find materials for her report on Nigeria.

Friedman's opinion was clear. "This is really a great library!"

During the six years the library trustees have not only

quadruple, while parents and children alike have benefited from innovative programming that has brought everything from touring menageries to skydiving parachutists to encourage youngsters to read and learn.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners said the Erving library trustees may be unique in the Commonwealth for the length of time they have run the public library in the absence of a library director.

The Erving selectboard met in a brief session on Tuesday, following the Columbus Day holiday, to go over details of Friedman's contract, which they referred to town counsel Donna MacNicol for review.

Dorsey Road Purchase Tabled

In other news, the board discussed the proposal by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to purchase and permanently conserve 21.3 acres of land near the French King Bridge, on Dorsey Road. DCR land protection specialist Jen Soper came to the selectboard on September 15th, with Erving conservation commission chair David Brule and Franklin Land Trust director Rich Hubbard to ask for the town's financial backing to help the state purchase the property from the estate of the Carroll family.

The state is negotiating with the landowner to purchase the property for an undisclosed sum, but has asked the town to contribute \$45,000 towards the purchase price.

On Tuesday, with board chair Andy Tessier absent, the board split on the proposal, with Andrew Goodwin saying, "As of this moment, I'm not in favor of this. I think we should hold a hearing, so we can hear the townspeople's thoughts on it. Most of the residents I've talked to so far are not in favor of sponsoring the state's projects."

Linda Downs-Bembury countered by saying, "The conservation commission has been working on this. This is a way of enjoying all the benefits of conserving the land without purchasing it ourselves."

"This is a way of subsidizing the state with \$45,000," replied Goodwin.

The matter was tabled.

The board approved an initial payment of \$14,232 to architect John Catlin, of Quincy, to continue work on developing bid ready plans for a new senior center, to be constructed on town owned land near the Erving Elementary School. The money comes from a \$142,310 federal block grant the town received to support the project.

The board signed a loan agreement with the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust, a state revolving fund, for \$4,511,419, at 2% interest for 20 years, for the renovation of the Erving waste-water treatment plant. Construction is set to begin this fall, with R.H. White Construction of Auburn the low bidder for the job. Among the items on the punch list for the

project are replacing the treatment plant roof, which is leaking, the windows and doors, all new wiring and lighting, and a switch to ultraviolet treatment, instead of chlorine.

The board approved bids recommended by highway superintendent Paul Prest for salt and sand. The town will pay \$84.60 per ton for 90 tons of salt from Granite State Minerals, and \$9.30 a ton for 600 tons of washed sand from Bob Cooke.

"I'm glad it's not dirty," quipped Goodwin, referring to the washed sand. "I wouldn't want dirty dirt on the roads."

Five appointments were approved to the Erving cultural council: Andreanna Garcia, Katelyn Mailloux, Lisa Rau, Donna LaClaire, and Jean Lawrence.

The board, acting in capacity of Erving's lead town role in the 10-town loan fund administered by the Franklin County Community Development Corporations to provide bridge financing for small business development in the county, approved three loans recommended by the CDC's Alan Singer: \$60,000 for the Double Edge Theater to upgrade performance space and facilities in Ashfield; \$65,000 for David Streeter to renovate Streeter's Store in Bernardston, which he is purchasing from elder family members; and \$12,000 for renovations at the Red Rose Motel in Charlemont.

Singer said Streeter plans to occupy only a third of the huge general store located on Route 10 at the 1-91 intersection. He plans to renovate the basement into a auto service center, and operate a bottle redemption center in another part of the building.



Barbara Friedman takes a break after a busy first day at the Erving Library

overseen the library but also worked the front desk. Erving has seen patronage of the library triple and borrowing of materials

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill to Repair Front End Loader

BY P.H. CROSBY

GILL - After lengthy discussion and significant disagreement between members, the Gill selectboard voted two to one in its meeting October 14th to put money toward extending the life of the highway department's sixteen-year-old front end loader, rather than turn to Chapter 90 funds to purchase a new one. The estimates for currently needed and prospective repairs, outlined by highway supervisor Mick LaClaire after an examination of the vehicle by Town Line Equipment, totalled close to \$20,000 dollars. In the end the board decided the loader could be put back on the road and could last anywhere from another six months to two years, with repairs costing between five and ten thousand dollars.

"We can't spend over \$106,000 on a new loader out of Chapter 90 in a budget year like this, when we don't know what's going to happen with Chapter 90 in the future," argued board member Ann Banash.

"But it's not smart to put

twenty thousand into a sixteen-year-old machine," answered member Leland Stevens. "I just can't vote to do that."

"I'm tired of not being able to buy things the town needs because we're still waiting to hear what's going to happen with the school budget," griped board chair Nancy Griswold.

Since Chapter 90 can't be used for repairs, it was decided expenses to get the loader back on the road would be charged in part to operating expenses and the rest to the 'machinery earnings' account, a fund of leftover Chapter 90 funds from past years.

With regard to other highway business, the board signed for the loan from the Bank of Western Massachusetts to purchase the new truck approved by town meeting, and noted the Bascom Hollow bridge project is complete, and the road should be open soon.

Tax bills were due October 1st, and Banash inquired about the tallies. Town treasurer Ronnie LaChance noted that a little more

than half of the payments were in. A number of residents have called to ask for more time or to make arrangements for incremental payments; others have simply not responded. Members noted that the fee for late payments should be better publicized.

LaChance noted that she had paid just one third of the GMRSD quarterly assessment bill now due, waiting to see what might change with the school budget by the end of the quarter.

LaChance then reported for the Gill Cultural Council committee. This year's projects are almost complete and proposals for next year's are due October 15th. Still to come among this year's projects are the Gill Fall Festival, this weekend. The Historical Society is still looking for a seamstress or tailor able to take on the project of restoring or creating vintage clothing for Historical Museum programs. Other cultural council projects were very successful, with the library activities and Music on the

Common singled out for particular praise.

"Our librarian Jocelyn Castro-Santos is doing a wonderful job," LaChance declared. She went on to nominate Castro-Santos to fill an empty seat on the Cultural Council, since Lissa Greenough has resigned. Castro-Santos will recuse herself from any decisions about library arts projects. The board approved the appointment.

Banash reported on a meeting with Northfield and Bernardston officials on the subject of creating a shared police chief position with Gill. It's an opportune time, since those two towns are currently working with interim chiefs. However, Bernardston is taking the discussion to town meeting and Northfield and Gill do not expect to gain enough in cost savings if they partner without a third town, so the experiment is on hold.

Banash expressed the view that towns may eventually be forced to consolidate, so doing it ahead, "on our own terms" might be advantageous.

Board members are looking forward to a meeting Friday morning, October 17th, with state

Education and Department of Revenue officials in Montague to discuss the school budget situation. Materials developed by Montague finance committee member Jeff Singleton that analyze school and town budget resources over the past several years, and highlight the trends, of diminishing state support will be used to shape the agenda.

"Jeff has done an amazing job putting this together," board members agreed. In the view of chair Griswold, "The school has done nothing to try and alleviate the problem," posed by current assessments to town finances on both sides of the river. She wondered if the school system itself is prepared for what may happen if December 1st comes and the state really does "take over" the school finances.

Board members asked to see the school budget in a form they could understand. Comparisons were made to the Franklin Council of Governments budget, which is still in outline form, but clearly indicates budget categories and the revenues (including grants) that support them.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Rash of Auto Accidents and Thefts

Tuesday, 10/7

10:08 p.m. Unwanted person at Farren Emergency Shelter, Turners Falls. Subject taken into protective custody.

Wednesday, 10/8

9:20 a.m. Report of accident with personal injury at a Wentworth Avenue address, Turners Falls.

12:51 p.m. Report of accident with property damage on Avenue A at Avenue A Cafe area, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

Thursday, 10/9

12:36 p.m. Report of accident with property damage in Park Street area, Turners Falls. Investigated.

8:41 p.m. Report of accident with property damage on Sunderland Road, Montague.

10:11 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, second offense, operating to endanger, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and marked lanes violation.

Friday, 10/10

1:03 p.m. Report of accident with property damage at a Randall Road address, Montague. Services rendered.

1:25 p.m. Report of accident with property damage at a Turnpike Road address near the fire station, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

Saturday, 10/11

8:17 a.m. Report of vandalism at the ball field, Lake Pleasant. Referred to an officer.

10:39 a.m. Report of accident with property damage at G and Eleventh Streets, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

11:39 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a G Street address, Turners Falls.

4:33 p.m. Report of accident with personal injury at a Canal Street address near Southworth Papermill, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Sunday, 10/12

1:09 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Power Street address, Turners Falls.

8:35 p.m. Report of larceny at Farren Care Center, Montague City Road, Montague City.

Services rendered.

10:21 p.m. Report of vandalism at Cumberland Farms, Montague City Road, Turners Falls. Referred to an officer.

Monday, 10/13

8:30 p.m. Report of possible suicide attempt at a K Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Tuesday, 10/14

8:16 a.m. Report of accident with property damage on Greenfield Road, Montague. Investigated.

1:35 p.m. Report of vandalism at an Oakman Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.


2:17 p.m. Report of accident with property damage on Avenue A in front of Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls.

2:42 p.m. Report of larceny at Montague Garage, Station Street, Montague.

5:45 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Turners Falls Road address, Montague. Advised of options.

6:51 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a G Street address, Turners Falls.

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BY DAVID DETMOLD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Strathmore Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ross called the Strathmore Mill "absolutely key to the

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

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

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

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

Heritage Landscapes

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

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

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

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

status.

Shea Sprinklers

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

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

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

MAPLE VALLEY SCHOOL HOLDS A COMMUNITY MEETING

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
WENDELL - Maple Valley School held an open informational meeting in the Wendell Free Library on Wednesday, October 8th. Chris Ezzo, the school's executive director, opened the session with an overview of the school's operation, its organization, and its mission.

A dozen Maple Valley School staff members showed up for the presentation, more than the number of Wendell residents who came. Two of the Wendell residents who showed up work at the school and spoke in behalf of the school.

In the back of the room were hand outs, refrigerator magnets with school contact information, a list of "helpful hints if a Maple Valley student shows up at your house," copies of the school organizational chart, procedures the school follows in case of an AWOL, and a list of families in the neighborhood on the AWOL telephone tree. Cookies and treats were available in the front of the meeting room, baked by students as part of the Shamrock Diner, which the students run for school personnel.

The meeting was called as a result of an incident that occurred this summer. A

neighbor, recently moved to town, heard a knock on the door at about 4:00 in the morning. The young man at the door asked to use the telephone or to get a ride to Orange, and was polite and not aggressive when the couple refused. Still they were upset that they had not been notified by the telephone tree that a Maple Valley student had gone AWOL.

Ezzo said the school is an open residential care facility, meaning there are no locks, no bars. He said that a child at risk is best off if treatment can be given to him in his home situation; second best is treatment while he lives with another family member; if neither of those options is helpful Maple Valley School may provide a stable living situation for six months to a year and a half. The school may give such a young man appropriate role models and a head start towards living a productive life out in the world.

Potential residents are screened to exclude felons, boys who have used weapons, or boys with heavy gang involvement. Dr. Elaine Campbell, the school's assistant executive director and clinical director, said Maple Valley School is expensive, and the administration's goal is to accept only students who will benefit from the program. Cost of tuition is shared by the state and the sending school district.

The new charter allows no more than 59 residents at the school, plus eight in the separate house closer to town, and two



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

Chris Ezzo, executive director of the Maple Valley School invited residents to visit the campus

similar houses in Greenfield. There are no plans to increase that number. Today, there are 45 residents at the school itself, and others at two separate houses in Greenfield, and one house in Wendell. The boys are always under adult supervision.

During the day, the ratio of students to staff is four to one; and at night the ration is six to one, and nighttime checks on sleeping students are carried out at fifteen minutes intervals. Medical staff is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The school's program includes academics, vocational training in the Shamrock Diner, recreation, and the six pillars of character: 'Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Citizenship and Caring'.

Ezzo said that students who

disappear are usually upset about something immediate, and are often found on campus. Only two in the last three months have gone missing. Most often they are running away from something, not towards something. If they are not found within 15 minutes, calls go out to the telephone tree. After 30 minutes, the police are called.

The school was opened in the early 1970s as an alternative school with boarding and non-boarding students. The Lake Grove corporation acquired the school in the mid 1980s and renamed it Lake Grove School at Maple Valley and began to accept and treat sexual offenders of school age.

The school began to change its population to exclude the see **MAPLE** page 11

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Mill Trespass Arrests

Thursday, 10/9

3:15 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle in a neighborhood. Kirby Cleaners working in area. Advised subjects of solicitation bylaws. Subjects were present due to regular appointments.

9:41 p.m. Evidence of illegal dumping found. Three marine batteries at entry to DPW yard.

Friday, 10/10

11:59 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

12:22 p.m. Report of 911 hang up call at a Mountain Road residence.

1:31 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for domestic assault and battery and two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

2:42 p.m. Report of a two car accident near the French King Bridge, Route 2.

Saturday, 10/11

8:20 a.m. Report of vandalism to camper at a West High Street residence.

Sunday, 10/12

12:05 p.m. Report of two suspicious white males entering tunnel at International Paper Mill. Officer at paper mill, assisted by Northfield and Gill police, search of property. Arrested [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] Both charged with trespassing and breaking and entering.

6:56 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Monday, 10/13

7:05 a.m. Report of car vs. deer accident in Farley Flats area of Route 2. Unable to locate deer or vehicle.

Tuesday, 10/14

2:45 p.m. Report of larceny / forgery of check. Under investigation.

3:45 p.m. Report of carbon monoxide alarm sounding at a West Main Street address. Erving fire handled same.

4:55 p.m. Dog complaint at a North Street address. Owner not home.

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WALK from page 1

located just north of the spot where the eastern abutment of the French King Bridge stands. The Millers was shallow enough to ford. On its southern bank a toll taker lightened the purses of the boatmen for the privilege of conveying their cargo through the lock. The toll keeper was housed in what is now called Cabot Camp.

At the spit of rock below, a sawmill was cantilevered above the Millers, anchored to the granite by iron bolts whose remnants can still be seen. Taverns for the wayfarers were located all along the eastern bank of the Connecticut, including one just a few hundred yards up East Mineral Road from the green truss bridge that has spanned the Millers at this point ever since the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio put it there in the 1870s. The bridge has all new planking and stout wooden rails. But it is blocked off to all but foot traffic and bicyclists now.

The old Taft Tavern on the

dwelling there was destroyed by fire.

Betty, 78, has been a horsewoman all her life, since her childhood in Lenox, where she used to ride horseback up October Mountain. She came to Franklin County to teach riding to the girls at Stoneleigh-Burnham, and met her husband at the airport in Turners Falls.

"I met him in April, 1949," Betty recalled. "He was an army pilot." She had been dating a Navy pilot before that, but traded up when she met Henry.

Henry's mother and father came over from Poland and Austria, respectively, during World War I, and his father purchased the first 92 acre lot on East Mineral Road at auction during the Depression, for \$3500. He added to that subsequently, until the family owned more than 300 acres, which was cleared for pasturage. The Waidlichs kept 70 head of dairy cows, Guernseys and Holsteins, and sold bottled milk along a route through Millers and Turners Falls from the back of a horse and wagon in the

Betty helped milk the cows, and raised the children, but never lost her love of horses. "I still ride my little Arabian," named Johar, fourteen and a half hands high. A hand is four inches; horses are measured to the withers, or shoulders, the highest point on a horse. "He prances and twirls but I never lose my balance," said Waidlich, proud of her steed and her undiminished ability to ride him.

Horseback rides along the river, and the paths leading up

we passed through areas where the woods have overgrown old pastures; rock slides have tumbled down and obscured old trails, and the cabs of old trucks, hubs and axles have drifted down embankments, but Waidlich remembers each aspect of the landscape as it once appeared, starting with the old toll taker's lodgings, now known as Cabot Camp, after its most famous lodger.

That would be Philip Cabot, capitalist, manufacturer, and

sum of ten thousand dollars, for ten years. He renovated the property to include an added meeting room, kitchen, carriage house, and numerous outbuildings, built of durable post and beam construction, with slate roofs, all surrounded with fieldstone walls.

"The Cabots talked only to the Lodges," said Waidlich, quoting a timeworn New England aphorism, "and the Lodges talked only to God." But Philip Cabot talked a bit to God



Betty Waidlich points the way to a cave on Mineral Mountain

Millers side, built in the early 1700s, is now the Waidlich farmhouse, home to family members of different generations. Betty and Henry Waidlich built their house a quarter mile up the hill, and on the other side of the road their son Jon lives in a farmhouse built by Franklin County Tech students after the original

early days, and from a series of Dodge trucks as the years passed.

and down Mineral Mountain, figured largely in Waidlich's raconteurship as she led a small group of hikers along the Millers on Saturday morning. Among them was David Brule, a prime source of natural lore along this stretch of river, and his wife Monique, who frequently accompanies Betty on her horseback rides around Mineral Mountain. Monique boards her thoroughbred - quarterhorse mix, Fletcher, (17 hands high) at Waidlich's stable.

As we followed the Millers upstream on the Montague side,

banker, Boston Brahmin, and former president and director of the Turners Falls Company, Amherst Power Company, Amherst Gas Company, Easthampton Gas Company, Agawam Electric Company, Greenfield Electric Light and Power Company, Fall River Electric Light Company, etc., etc. When he retired from his stint atop the chain of the command at the Turners Falls Company in 1920, Cabot persuaded his partners in that firm to lease him the former toll house and grist mill site, for the

too, according to Waidlich, who said he came to the camp with a severe case of diabetes, and not long to live

"The addition was built almost like a chapel, and there he said his daily prayers, and just as he was about to die, they came up with insulin, and he lived to a ripe old age," dying in 1941 at the age of 69.

Since Cabot passed away, Waidlich said the camp has been little used. But the Millers River Watershed Alliance (MRWA) used it for its annual meetings see WALK pg 9



Carriage House at Cabot Camp



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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Creatures in the House

BY DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE - We lived in the city once. Not just any city, either. The city of Light - *la Ville Lumière* - that is Paris, with its bright cafés, museums, concerts, bookstores and cinemas. The city of *joie de vivre, savoir vivre*. But in spite of all that, I found myself scrutinizing the Eiffel Tower for a glimpse of the fierce little falcon who lived in the steel girders, that touch of the wild that reminded me of my Connecticut River valley home.

I was making frequent trips to the Impressionist museum, then located in the *Jeu de Paume*, before the *Musée d'Orsay* opened in the 80s. The *Jeu de Paume* was smaller, more intimate, and I found myself lingering before the snowscapes of Monet, Pissarro and Sisley, with pangs of homesickness and longing for the country, for the familiar beauty of snow filled

woods, the graceful slope of blanketed fields.

During those years in the city, we had discovered Konrad Lorenz, an Austrian naturalist and animal behavior specialist, and we wanted to try out some of his experiences. What Lorenz did, in addition to many technical aspects of his research, was to live in close association with his animals, not as master but as a fellow creature, to get to know them and what motivated their actions and behavior.

The European-American notion of taming the wild, of pushing back the Wilderness, of fighting a war on nature to promote our concept of civilization as opposed to living in harmony with the natural world was, and still is, a driving force in our culture, a key feature of Western civilization. This all sounds pretty familiar these days, but in the 50s and 60s, it

was cutting edge thinking and very appealing to the country people we were, exiled in the

other projects, to emulate Konrad Lorenz, to bring more animals into our lives, to learn



Mallards LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

city, even if that city was Paris.

So when we saw our chance to make our way back to Millers Falls to settle into the old family homestead on the Flat, we booked passage on an ocean liner and moved back to the Valley, fully intending, among

more about the creatures that lived just outside our kitchen and living room. As it turned out, some of these creatures actually came into our kitchen and living room.

Our first experiment was with ducks, flying mallards to be

exact. Some of my 7th grade students were raising ducklings, but their parents determined they had too many and wouldn't I want to raise a few? We jumped at the chance to try out Lorenz's theories, especially to see if the ducklings would imprint upon us as their parents, in spite of our lack of feathers.

So that weekend the ducklings moved into our kitchen, next to the kitchen table, where they lived in an improvised warm box incubator for a few weeks where they ate while we ate, and observed us chatting, drinking coffee, writing and so on. This worked fine, their clever eyes picked up everything and we learned their various ways of communicating with us through voice tones, eye contact, and posture. Then one day, they found a way to push

see RIVER page 10

WALK from page 8

for many years, after Henry and a number of his contemporaries founded the group in the early 1960s.

During Henry's youth, the Millers had been a great spot for trout fishing and swimming, but after a time the Erving Paper Mill polluted the stream so badly with untreated effluent from their paper recycling and manufacturing that the river was noxious, devoid of oxygen, and splotchy with colored dyes.

"We got tired of seeing it, and that river smelled awful," said Waidlich. "This used to be one of the best fishing rivers around."

The MWRA sued Erving Paper to clean up the river, and finally won the suit around 1972, she said. "Charlie Hausen ran the paper mill at the time," Waidlich recalled. "And he told us, 'I'm not going to change anything unless I have to.'"

With the success of the lawsuit and the passage of the state Wetlands Protection Act in

1972, untreated effluent could no longer be dumped into the Millers, and the river gradually ran cleaner. "But the PCBs stay forever, down in the bottom," Waidlich added grimly.

The Waidlich's farm is under a permanent conservation easement now, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation is negotiating to purchase and conserve another 21.3 acres across the Millers, on Dorsey Road. The Nature Conservancy and DCR own large parcels on the Gill side of the French King gorge as well. Mink and otter are common along the banks, hoot owls hunt the night, and deer roam the woods in numbers.

Waidlich pointed out areas where vernal pools provide important habitat for small creatures in spring, and for those higher up the food chain that feed upon them. Her son Jon, who lives across the road from his parents, tried stocking a larger spring fed pond near his house with trout for a time, but a

blue heron would mock his efforts and display his daily catch from a dead tree at the side of the meadow.

Waidlich said Mineral Mountain got its name centuries ago, when 12 men received a grant from the King of England to mine the hillside for whatever they might find there. "They found nothing but feldspar," said Waidlich, who added that she had always wanted to write a book about Mineral Mountain titled, *No Minerals and Not Much of a Mountain*.

She said that when the blasting and excavations were underway during the construction of the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro storage project, miles away, in the early 70s, the tremors along the fault line that extends to the Montague Plains caused rock ledges to tumble down the hillside, disrupting her usual bridle paths.

We walked over tumbled scree and boulders balanced like menhirs, weighing many tons. "Glaciers brought them," said

Waidlich, "Glaciers will take them away."

She stopped and let the rest of us go forward to search for an old cave, where local youth like Buddy Desbien and "the Lambert boy" once carved their names during carefree rambles, before shipping off to World War II, never to return. A bobcat had once been in the habit of perching above that cave and watching her as she rode by, Waidlich told us.

We could not find the cave, unless it was a narrow one with the scat of porcupines covering the ground within. In a nearby hole, the very corpse of a porcupine lay in a decomposing shard of quills. But no old carvings could we find. The rock face above the porcupine cairn was covered with a breed of scaling black lichen of ancient origin.

Much about the place is ancient: East Mineral Road was constructed on the Native footpath that once connected the land of the Pocomtucks and

Norwottucks to the south with the fastness of the Squakeag to the north, in modern day Northfield, southern Vermont and New Hampshire. Waidlich said it was common to find arrowheads and other relics in the fields around the old tavern, where pieces of carved bottle glass could also be easily recovered from the tavern's backyard dump. In Colonial days, more than one settler was killed fording the Millers from Pocomtuck land to the Squakeag territory on the other side.

Nowadays, the bustling stage coach route is just another memory, the taverns closed and burned or turned to private residences. The years fall by like autumn leaves, drifting slowly in the curling eddies of the stream. It is quiet here where the Millers meets the Connecticut. A good place to walk in the morning, while the dew dries on the slate roofs of the old toll house, and the blue jays dive across the gorge, as they always have.

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RIVER from page 9

open the cardboard flap on the box that separated them from us, and, turning this flap into a drawbridge, down marched all five ducklings onto the table, triumphant, and pleased with themselves!

They made a bee-line for our food dishes (er, rather, our plates) assuming their 'parents' were willing to share with them. That was the signal that it was time for them to move out.

But it also began years of wonderful adventures with these

beautiful and intelligent animals, and besides they did know how to fly! In the mornings they left their hutch in the garden, and flew to the Millers River, several hundred feet away through the woods. And when we spent time on the deck for coffee and a book, they flew in, circling the house at the level of the upstairs bedroom windows and landed on the porch (often barely missing us) to sit with us while we chatted.

They apparently liked to listen in on our various

conversations. They settled under our chairs, beaks under wings, with contented murmurings and slept. They never actually came back into the house, but they lived outdoors in a small hutch not far from the door. We were thrilled with our success in following the Lorenz example, and thus began years of close association with animals, both wild and domestic.

One of our wild brethren who made it into this old house was a female opossum. Somehow she found an abandoned pipe that led from the small creek beyond the yard to the basement and by following her nose, she made it into the cozy cellar for the winter. I should have known when vegetable peelings that we had tossed into the compost the day before mysteriously began reappearing in a dark corner near the furnace. When one evening we heard scratching at the cellar door, and opening it a crack, looked into the impudent eyes and fierce bared teeth of the lady opossum, I knew we had a new boarder.

Instead of investing in a Havahart trap, we waited to see what would develop and what we could learn from this opportunity. By investigating every corner of the crammed cellar, we found her nest, and believing correctly that babies were on the way or were already here somewhere, probably in her pouch, we let her finish out her child rearing. Later in the spring that pipeline to the opossum luxury suite was sealed up!

A notable experiment in our pursuit of rural felicity and insights to the nonverbal world of animal behavior involved geese. We acquired goslings, one male and two females, of the Pilgrim variety. The gander of this particular breed is snow white, and ours was promptly named Martin, since every gander in Brittany and provinces beyond is a Martin, and not a François, for example. The two females were a demure soft grey, and were named Josephine and Lizzie.

The three of them lived together in a small A-frame shelter and earned their keep by pulling weeds, dandelions, trimming the grass in the back yard, walking and inspecting all corners of the property, ready to alert the rest of us if any intruder approached. They thus emulated their forebears who saved Rome from its enemies millennia ago, by raising the alarm as invaders approached the outskirts.

I'm sure that the Miners and Staffords next door on the Flat did not always appreciate Martin and his noisy honking, especially at midnight if a raccoon was moving around the yard, but gradually the geese became part of the micro-habitat at this end of the neighborhood. They too spent time with us on the porch, coming to sit with us and enjoying the conversation on the warm boards in the sun. Martin always kept himself between us and his mates, but did wait expectantly for me in the evening at his front door, for his ritual of conversation in soft tones, his elegant neck curved, as I scratched and tickled him first under one wing offered, then the other, my fingers deep in that wondrous down.


Of course the day came when Martin's last mate, Josephine, died. We were in the kitchen, then looked up to notice his head peering through the screen door like a periscope to see us. The communication was clear. He wanted to come in, which he had never done before. So in he came, quiet and subdued and needing company. He had climbed up the stairs of the deck from the now empty yard, followed us through the kitchen and into the living room, and sat quietly with Kevin, murmuring a bit, clearly lost and in mourning.

Now as everyone knows, geese do defecate when excited and we had been vaguely concerned about goose poop on the floor, but that's easy enough to clean and his loneliness was our first concern. Eventually, he gathered himself up, went back outside to bathe, and only then

did he evacuate. Slowly, he resumed the last years of his life with a new younger companion.

Over the years, we have held Open House for a variety of creatures: some seeking to get in, some coming in by accident and eager to get out. One case in point was a blue jay who came in the open parlor window while I was painting the walls. The visit was unusual in that he came in backwards, tail first, because his head was in the cat's mouth.

The young cat didn't quite know what to do with this brilliant bird who was furious and terrified, and not ready to go quietly! The confused cat got a strong dose of animal - human communication from me in the form of a string of expletives that my eighth grade boys would have been shocked to find out I even knew, and sensing correctly that the gift to her humans was not appreciated, the cat released the jay who went back out the open window, the right way this time, head first, and pell-mell to a nearby tree to berate the cat, using jaybird talk to continue the list of curses I had started. It may be that cats have nine lives, but this bird probably had lucky stars, and may well remember his trip into the house even to this day.

The long list of visitors to the house includes chipmunks, flying squirrels, grey squirrels, shrews, garter snakes, robins, even a ruby throated hummingbird! Some were not always living, like the owl in the icebox, but that's another story. The ones we raised, including generations of dogs and cats, all eventually taught us to communicate with them. And although it was never a question of spoken language, we all learned with patience to read each other's signs. And although we didn't really talk with the animals, on a different level, there was a definite transfer of information between us. And most of them have communicated more honestly and clearly than many of the humans we know. 

MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: Oct. 17th - 22nd

Eagle Cam: Not airing until further notice.

Friday, October 17

8:00 AM, TWB Urinary incontinence
9:00 AM, Sustainable Energy
9:32 AM, Clean Energy Campaign
10:00 AM, Special Town Meeting 9-11-08
12:00 PM, Dancing Princess
12:39 PM, Clean Energy Campaign
1:00 PM, Senior Self Defense
3:00 PM, Red Cross Prevent Home Fires
3:29 PM, Reconciliation Ceremony
4:00 PM, On The Ridge Turkey Hunting
4:30 PM, Northfield Mountain Geology
5:00 PM, Mont. Update - Susan Shilliday
5:30 PM, Mont. Update - 3D Collaborative
7:00 PM, GMRSD 10-14-08
11:00 PM, Eaton Do Ryu
11:31 PM, Clean Energy Campaign

Saturday, October 18

8:00 AM, Falltown String Band
10:00 AM, Amandla
11:21 AM, Brown Bag
11:30 AM, Changing Face of Turners
1:30 PM, Coffee House Joe Graveline
2:30 PM, Coffeehouse Pat n Tex Graveline
4:30 PM, Coffeehouse Fabulous Maurice
5:30 PM, Coffee House Series Ferne Bork, Dan Tinen, Bruce Kahn Trio
6:30 PM, Coffee House, Jeff Martell
8:00 PM, Cowbell Prescription
9:00 PM, Common Man Denise Grendan
10:00 PM, Common Man: Eric Goodchild
11:00 PM, Common Man Jeff Brewer

Sunday, October 19

7:30 AM, Chronicles Mass for Raymond & Louise Kervian
8:30 AM, Cities and Towns Build our Economic Future
9:00 AM, Chronicles Volume 33
10:00 AM, Stephanie Marshal
11:30 AM, Amandala
1:00 PM, Common People Celtic Harp
2:00 PM, Falltown String
3:30 PM, Community Land Trust Meeting
5:00 PM, Land Trusts in Action
6:00 PM, Discovery Center Birds of Prey.
7:30 PM, Discovery Center Emus

8:30 PM, Discovery Center Fossil Tracks
9:30 PM, Discovery Center Open Mic
10:30 PM, Poetry and Prose

Monday, October 20

7:00 AM, Discovery Center Pop Rockets
8:30 AM, Discovery Center-Root Cellar
10:00 AM, Rust Knuckle Raptor
11:30 AM, Importance of Pollinators
12:30 PM, Discovery Ctr Woodpeckers
1:30 PM, Eaton Do Ryu
2:01 PM, Eaton Do Ryu Juni
3:00 PM, Elder Law
4:00 PM, Falls Table Margaret Fitzpatrick
6:55 PM, Montague Select 10-20-08
10:00 PM, Build our Economic Future
10:30 PM, Darker Image
11:01 PM, Enjoy the Ride Share the Road
11:32 PM, Falls Table 4-14-08

Tuesday, October 21

7:30 AM, FCHC Estate Planning
9:00 AM, Center for Self Reliance
10:00 AM, Brown Bag
10:03 AM, Coffeehouse Fabulous Maurice
11:30 AM, Coffee House Series Ferne Bork, Dan Tinen, Bruce Kahn Trio
12:30 PM, Common Man: Eric Goodchild
1:30 PM, Common Man Stephanie Marshal
3:00 PM, Amandala
4:30 PM, Common People Celtic Harp
5:30 PM, Falltown String Band
7:00 PM, GMRSD 10-14-08
10:00 PM, Coffee House Series Ferne Bork, Dan Tinen, Bruce Kahn Trio
11:00 PM, Cowbell Prescription

Wednesday, October 22

8:00 AM, Importance of Pollinators
9:00 AM, Discovery Center Woodpeckers
10:00 AM, Elder Law
11:00 AM, Enjoy the Ride
12:00 PM, Fabulous Maurice 5-19-08.
1:30 PM, Falls Table Margaret Fitzpatrick
2:00 PM, FCHC Estate Planning
3:30 PM, Center for Self Reliance
4:30 PM, Community Action
6:00 PM, Domestic Violence
7:30 PM, Sheriffs Office

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Breakfast of Mystery the Photographs of Paul Caponigro

at hallmark gallery 52 & 56

BY ANN FEITELSON

TURNERS FALLS - The most beautiful apple you have ever seen is at the Hallmark Museum, in Galleries 52 and 56, on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The photograph of a simple plump apple is like a panoramic view of a newly discovered planet. The apple is dark and surrounded by darkness, emphasizing its delicate white speckles (lentils to pomologists) which resemble stars.

Other celestial allusions in the picture are a penumbra around the apple, evoking an eclipse, and some bursts of light that could be passing clouds, or distant galaxies. Vastly detailed with a seemingly infinite range of tonalities, the photograph has a profound richness and points at a revelation: the world that made the apple is within the apple.

Almost miraculously, Caponigro sees and captures the life force itself. In one image, a leaf gives birth to another leaf, with the stem as its umbilicus; and that leaf gives birth to another leaf. You wouldn't have thought of leaves as so mammalian.

The exhibit also includes photographs of Japan, Ireland, Great Britain, France and Canada; and a recent batch of still-lives of assembled, arranged natural objects -- col-

lections of rocks; of things-having-to-do-with birds (feathers, nests, eggs, wings); of seashells; of rows and columns of leaves.

The objects layer pattern on pattern, suggesting larger ripples and affinities in the forces of life.

Sunflowers are explored from every part of the life cycle, every angle and every light situation; from buoyant, brilliant, translucent youth to starkly silhouetted, sharp, drying and dying husks.

On the wall, Caponigro's own words explain his series of sunflower photos:

"A sunflower came as a gift from a friend and quietly took its place on my windowsill. It seemed content, as nature's marvels usually are, with whatever notice it might receive. But as I passed it several times a day and glanced each time toward its radiance, the flower began to grow less shy. It seemed to ask, if not demand, that I draw nearer and record its moods on film. Finally I gave in and took the first step toward another world. As I dwelt upon the beauty of the sunflower, on its golden crown and everchanging form, it began to whisper of a realm beyond the sensual mind, a realm magnificent and strange. "Sunflower resounded in

me. I lived and worked with the sunflower by day, and at night it followed me into my sleep. Passionately I traveled a path that was laid out for me from moment to moment. My camera focused on the earthly rays of the sunflower, while my mind focused on its other-worldly emanations. No longer seeing the familiar vegetable, I saw a petalled messenger, whose words, ringing like musical overtones, I could more and more nearly understand. Inwardly, silently, I was asking to see that aspect of the sunflower which the physical eye could not."

In his evening talk at the Hallmark Institute of Photography last Saturday, Caponigro mentioned synaesthetic responses to nature several times. He spoke of "delicious detail" and "tasty trees" and "hearing through the eyes." He described a sunflower as having a "friendly face." He said, "the Earth breathes."

Caponigro is attuned to the personalities and invitations of the beings (to us they might just be shapes) of the natural world, of fractured ice, splintered wood, rocks, rivulets, reflec-



Sunflower, by Paul Caponigro

tions. "If you sit still long enough," he said, "something palpitates within you. But you don't want to define it." He counseled the audience of photography students, photographers, and others out for a culturally stimulating evening to transcend preconceptions, and not to take things literally.

"It's really very simple," he quipped; "I eat mystery for breakfast."

Caponigro's multilayered response to nature is not just a matter of crossing senses or seeing fairies, though he says, "They are there." He pays such close attention to nature as to be a diviner. He uses sight and insight, the chemical and the alchemical: "I don't see through eyes; it's the heart that sees."

Perhaps the camera, in providing him with what could be considered a second brain and a third eye, has helped him become a seer. And he is working with two additional skins: film, and paper. So a photographer may have a somewhat superhuman arsenal in translating his perceptions. Caponigro deploys it eloquently and elegantly.

So, go see what a seer saw; it might change your way of seeing. Go see the work of one of the most eminent giants in the history of photography; see fifty years of his work, on view through December 14th, at the Hallmark Museum in Turners Falls.

MILL from pg 7

more temperamental or violent boys. In the spring of 2006, Maple Valley proposed a program to include some agricultural experience as part of the school, with a barn, fields, and livestock, and land was cleared for a barn on Depot Road. Neighbors brought concerns and objections about the expansion to the selectboard, and met with school officials at a regular selectboard meeting. The project was dropped.

In the spring of this year the school became Maple Valley School again, independent from Lake Grove School, under the Windwood Meadows board of directors. Now the student pop-

ulation includes students with legal issues along with others who are just not succeeding in their home school.

Resident Kelly Diemand asked if she should feel safe allowing her 10-year-old daughter to ride her bike unescorted by the school on her way to the library. Ezzo answered that when the students are outside, they are under supervision.

Resident Chris Diemand said that once when he was driving past the school some students used foul language and made rude gestures, as he passed and on his return trip the same thing occurred. Ezzo seemed taken aback, and said residents should tell the school shift supervisor whenever something like that

happens. He asked when the incident occurred. Diemand answered, "Two or three years ago." Ezzo said the student population was different then.

Neighbor Sue Richardson said she often had to put up with loud music and swearing across the street from her house. Ezzo gave her the telephone number to call and said, "We'll deal with that right away."

Rosie Heidkamp, the town librarian, said that CTP (Community Transition Program - the students who are in the separate houses) students who helped at the library were a pleasure to work with. She asked what kind of behavior a Wendell resident should expect from a Maple Valley student at

the door, and the answer from Campbell was he is likely to try to manipulate you to give him a ride, but he is unlikely to hurt anyone. He may be frightened, or angry with someone at the school.

Charles T. Smith of the conservation commission complained that once when the commission made an appointment for an inspection at the school, no one on premises seemed aware of the arrangement when the commissioners arrived.

Mary Gilman complained that the trailers the school uses for storage, parked across from her house, are ugly. Ezzo said the school would deal with them. He invited townspeople to come visit the campus.

Streetscape Planter Celebration

TURNERS FALLS - Streetscape Committee chair Linda Hickman led a walking tour on Tuesday, October 14th, of the 36 planters along Avenue A that have been adopted and cared for by local residents, businesses and organizations.

Tour participants said the planters looked much better than they did four years ago, before the project started, and also noticed ripple effects. Other plantings and cleanups have recently occurred near the planters and along Avenue A.

For more information about the Streetscape Committee and the Adopt-a-Planter project, contact Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

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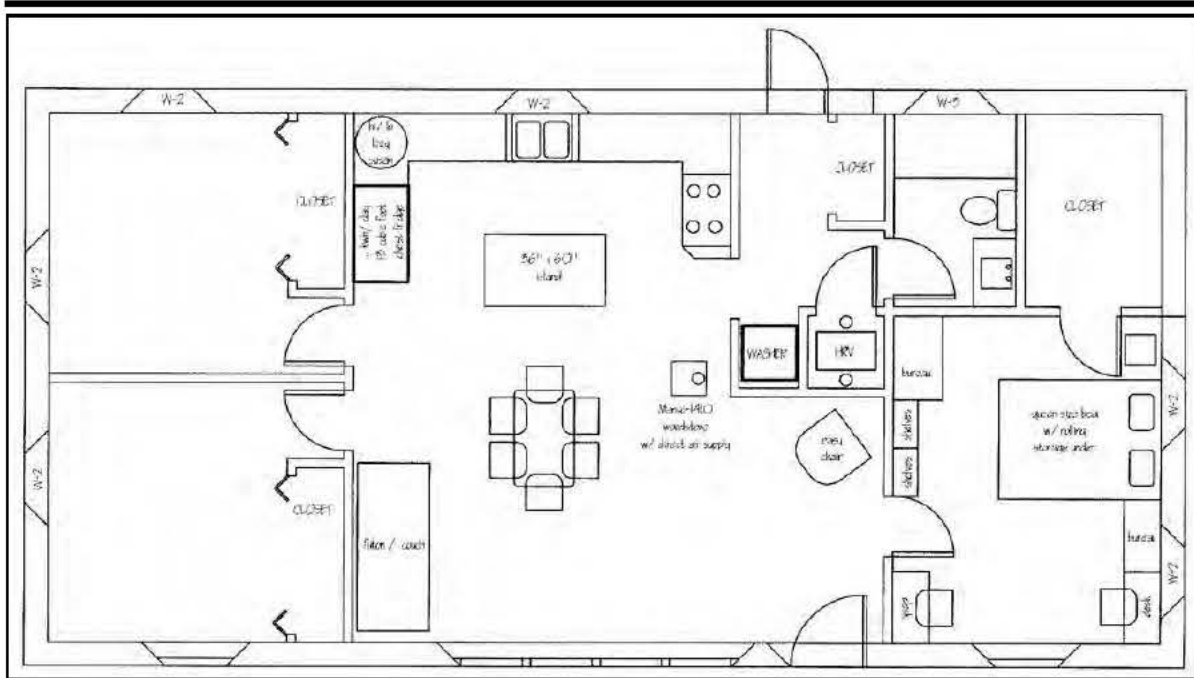
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Schematic design of the Zero Energy House on Marsten Alley in Montague City

ZERO from page 1

Bob Pura, and John Walsh, senior project administrator for Western Mass Electric Company's residential conservation program, gave a brief but forceful speech about the significance of the 1152 square foot house, which will cost approximately \$135,000 to construct, about \$15,000 more than a conventional building of the same size.

NASA climate scientist James Hansen has predicted global mean temperature will increase by 6 degrees Celsius (10.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the nineteenth century, due to the increasing amount of carbon dioxide humans have released into the environment since then, Clarke said. "That means all coral reefs will die; fish stocks will collapse; forests will no longer be able to absorb CO₂ as they do now."

Hansen has concluded the Earth passed the tipping point of 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere 20 years ago, and has now reached the level of 385 parts per million of the greenhouse gas, and rising, a situation which will lead directly to cascading environmental consequences.

Clarke, campaign director at Clean Water Action in Amherst, said the world's food supplies will be unable to withstand a change in global temperature of the magnitude Hansen predicts.

On a more basic level, "People over 65 are going to be in crisis this winter because of high heating costs," due to the world's continued reliance on carbon based fossil fuels, she said.

"Building this house, we will be adding virtually no impact to global warming, and we will eventually be producing more Green BTUs for others to use," said Clarke.

Asked why more people did not tell their architects and builders to spend an extra \$15,000 or so to free them from most utility bills for the remainder of their ownership of a home, Clarke responded, "The building industry takes a long time to change. You don't want to risk your money. A lot of people don't believe this works."

But Clarke knows firsthand that it does. She's lived for the last four years in a co-housing community in Amherst where four adults share a 3,000-square-foot building. Their annual utility bill? Seventy seven dollars a year.

"With cheap oil, we got used to crazy designs," Clarke said. "We totally ignore nature."

The house Corsa is building for Clarke and Stephens has plenty of windows facing south, that will allow the sun to warm the concrete slab on the interior during the winter when the sun is low in the sky. But the

overhanging eaves will shade most of the same windows from direct sun during the summer, allowing the slab to provide natural cooling on summer days. There are fewer windows facing north, just as in a traditional New England salt box design.

American window manufacturers do not produce a product efficient enough to meet the standards a project like this seeks to attain, so Stephens and Clarke turned to a Canadian firm, Thermotech, with triple glazing and argon gas between. The windows allow for maximum solar gain coupled with minimum heat loss in the winter.

The builder believes the house could be heated with eleven 200 watt light bulbs when the temperature outside falls to -5 degrees Fahrenheit.

The building will eventually feature a 4.5 kilowatt photovoltaic system on the roof. Mark Sternick, an architect from Dietz and Company in Springfield, said, "If they're good, that should be enough for them." Sternick said his company is hoping to only do Green building projects in the next couple of years. "It's what everybody should be doing."

GCC's Bob Pura told the crowd, "How you all have come together to create this community is incredibly sustainable and incredibly alternative to the existing model. We will look back and see how the economy has encouraged us to work together collaboratively."

Senator Stan Rosenberg (D-

Amherst), standing by the solar heat exchanger by the front door, said, "This sort of thing is not new in Franklin County. But it's representative of what's new in the Commonwealth." He said he had visited a number of other projects in Franklin and Hampshire County in the past few days, "all engaged in alternative energy to improve the bottom line of their business and to create Green energy that can be sold back to the grid, and lower our carbon footprint."

Rosenburg called the last seven months, "the most significant period of legislative activity on the environment in the recent history of the Commonwealth." He ticked off seven pieces of legislation now in place that will give Massachusetts, "the capacity to jumpstart and leapfrog any place in America in terms of development and use of Green technology: the Green Neighborhoods Act, the BioFuels bill, the Ocean Management Act, the Green Jobs bill, the Environmental Bond bill, the Global Warming Solutions act, and also the Dairy Bill, which will allow farmers to sell energy back to the grid from any form of alternative energy, so that our farms will become "energy producing facilities in addition to being food producing facilities."

Rosenburg predicted Massachusetts is now poised "to reduce our carbon footprint and compete worldwide in alternative energy production."

From Clarke and Stephens' viewpoint, that's an energy revolution that will begin at home.



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. I know lead poisoning is a danger to children, but what effect does it have on adults?

It's true that children are more vulnerable to lead poisoning than adults, because lead is more easily absorbed by growing bodies. The tissue of children also is more sensitive to lead's damaging effects. However, adults can suffer from lead exposure.

Lead can affect many parts of your body, but the primary victim is the nervous system, which can be weakened by exposure to this metal.

Lead exposure can cause anemia, make you irritable, affect your memory and ability to concentrate, and it can increase blood pressure, particularly in

older people. Lead can also lead to digestive problems and cataracts. Exposure to high lead levels can be fatal.

Symptoms of lead poisoning in adults may include: numbness in extremities, weak muscles, headache, abdominal pain, loss of memory, mood disorders and abnormal sperm.

Lead is a natural component of the Earth's crust. However, people have spread lead throughout our environment by burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing. Two common sources of lead in our environment were paint and gasoline; lead has been banned from both of them.

The following are sources of lead exposure:

Water: Plumbing can contain lead, which you cannot see, smell or taste. You can have the water tested.

Paint: The federal government banned lead-based paint from housing in 1978. Many homes

built before 1978 have lead-based paint both inside and outside. This kind of paint can also be found on old toys and furniture. Small children can be exposed by eating lead-based paint chips or chewing on objects painted with lead-based paint.

Soil: Lead from exterior paint, old leaded gas or other sources can be absorbed by soil you can track into your home.

Dust: Household dust can contain lead from old paint or soil brought inside.

Containers: Food or liquids stored in lead crystal or lead-glazed pottery can become contaminated because lead can leach in from these containers.

Hobbies: Refinishing furniture, pottery and making stained glass artifacts are hobbies that use lead.

Folk Remedies: There are

potions that contain lead such as greta (lead oxide) and azarcon (lead tetroxide) that have been used to treat intestinal problems.

Canned Foods: In 1995, the United States banned the use of lead solder for sealing food cans, but some foods still are imported from other countries where lead solder may be used.

Cosmetics: Kohl, a mixture used in eye makeup, frequently has high levels of lead.

Here are some steps you can take to prevent exposure to lead:

- Clean up paint chips immediately.
- Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly.
- Wash hands often.
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Repair damaged painted surfaces
- Plant grass to cover soil with

high lead levels.
 • To remove lead hazards permanently, you must hire a certified lead-abatement contractor. Contact the National Lead Information Center (NLIC) to locate certified contractors in your area. Call NLIC at 1(800) 424-LEAD [5323]. You can email NLIC on this website: www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nlic.htm

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PSYCHIC FAIR

LAKE PLEASANT - The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair Saturday, October 25th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Thompson Temple, across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice. Reiki and spiritual healing services also available.

TNSA is a deistic, reincarnationist, Spiritualist organization. Principles include belief in an infinite and eternal creating and sustaining force, the interconnectedness of everything, the siblinghood of humanity, personal responsibility for thoughts, words, and deeds, and non-judgmentalism.

LADY from page 1

parish always celebrates that devotion near the September 29th Feast of St. Michael, the day on which the parish was established 100 years ago.

"The honor of being made a pilgrim church has really excited the people," DiMascola said, noting that the designation has given parishioners "a positive and optimistic boost for the Church, for the diocese and for the parish."

The centennial year will include an opening banquet in November and a series of breakfasts called "Eggs and Ecclesia" throughout the year, with noted guest speakers who will talk about matters of faith and scriptures.

Father DiMascola also hopes the centennial celebration will include a concert series, a series of talks on the letters of St. Paul and a series of special services that focus on St. Paul.

He also would like to host a program on the Polish legacy of the parish. The centennial celebration will conclude with Forty Hours in September, 2009 and a banquet the week before with Bishop O'Donnell.

The parish is in the process of publishing a centennial book on Polish martyrs of World War II and a calendar and description of Polish parish customs and traditions.

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JEP'S PLACE: Part XCIV

Rebuilding



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - Pa bought some fallen pine trees blown over by the hurricane the previous year in the woods next to our farm. I spelled him on the crosscut saw opposite Ma as we sawed the fallen pines into logs two or three foot thick. We cut logs after Ma came home

from work, and on weekends. Once, after taking a turn at the saw, I sat resting in the huge hole where the stump had pulled out. I leaned back against the uprooted tree stump. It was cool and comfortable. Pa stopped sawing when there was just a little bit left to cut. He called out to me. I answered from my resting place, and he almost had another heart attack. It would have been my final resting place if he hadn't stopped to check on me. When the tree trunk was cut through, the stump slammed back into the hole with a resounding "whump" that would have crushed me flat. There would have been no way to raise

the stump. Though Pa scolded me for nearly giving him another heart attack, I was glad he cared enough to be concerned about me. Pa bought an old Buick car and had it made into a homemade tractor in place of the Reo that burned in the fire. He was through with horses. With the Buick tractor and a trailer, he hauled one or two logs at a time to a sawmill about five or six miles away, where they sawed them into boards. There was no fire insurance on the barn. Neither would the adjuster allow any money for a new roof on the house. He said the roof was old and needed replacing anyway. It leaked more than ever after the fire. Mr. Lambert's daughter, May,

had gone out to collect money to help us. She had collected \$18 when she ran into a crabby old tightwad who ranted and raved at her. She began crying and quit collecting. She apologized, but we were grateful and thanked her for her efforts. This was not a gift to the poor, this was a customary collection taken up for people who had been victims of fire. Pa bought some used timbers for the barn framework. During the day, Pa marked timbers and roof rafters for the barn. We kids sawed them, so they would be ready to put into place. When Ma got home from work, we all pitched in to raise the framework a bit at a time. We sheathed the roof with pine boards sawed from the logs we cut and hauled to the sawmill.

Though the neighbors marveled that Pa was able to put up a barn using kids to build it, not a single neighbor offered to help. One of them said, "I have to laugh; you folks must work during the night, because when I get up each morning I see more of the barn up." Some distant cousins read about the fire in the newspaper, and drove up from Connecticut to help finish building the barn and two hen houses. One of the cousins was like Mr. Taradana. When Pa yelled at me, he would say, "Let him come work with me; I'll handle him." By the second fall after the fire, the animals had a snug place to winter over, and we stored hay inside.

- Continued Next Week

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Day-tripping on the Continent

BY FLORE MONTAGUE CENTER - This summer, I traveled the southern part of Corsica, the best place to discover the surreal, magical beauty of this island. I landed at the small airport of Figari, in mid-June, planning to get in a bit

of sight-seeing in between playing the role of Grand Maman for three overactive bouncy grandchildren! Everything on the isle is easily at one's reach, such as sailing, scuba diving, water skiing, and finally, to tire the

whole crew out, rock climbing on what is locally call "La Tyrolienne." Do you recall the feeling, when you hang in mid air, just held by a narrow cable cinched around your waist? Thrilling! The final luxurious adventure, for all, was *un tour d'helicoptere* above Corsica's high mountain ridges, an impressive sight! Take a close look at the map. It looks as if, once, the island was part of Provence, before floating away into the blue Mediterranean. Corsica's amazing archeological sites date back to 10,000 BC, more or less

the same age as Stonehenge in England. Those Celts certainly moved around... some say as far as Northern Africa! From there on, my trek took me back to the eagle's nest in the Provençal village of Bezaudun. The ideal place to recuperate and catch one's breath! Then, unplanned things happened; aren't they usually the best? Friends insisted on my joining them, coming to Lyon. This town originally was the capital of Gaul in Roman times. Two rivers lay at its feet, *La Saone et Le Rhone*. It is a magnificent sight when the glow of the sun hits their waters! It is

now, referred to as *La Capitale Europeenne des Nations Unies*. This is also where the silk makers of world renown flourished over many centuries, *Les Camuts*. North of Lyon, I visited another town, a favorite of mine nestled right in the middle of Burgundy: Dijon. This is a prosperous place, known for not only its mustard, but also for her nearby geometric grape fields. *Naturellement*, they turn that precious grape juice into the most delicate wine. One hour and a half from there on *TGV*, (speedy trains), Paris appears on the horizon. I hadn't been there for the past six years; what a sight! If you want to see the rooftops, I have a suggestion: go on the top floor of *Le Muse du Monde Arabe*, beside the grand exhibits shown there, you can sip *the a la menthe* and peruse from on high the Parisian landscape spread below your feet. Would you like to know where I am headed next? To the southern town of Oaxaca in Mexico for their All Saint's Day festival, November 1st. After all, the Garbiel Farm has already put out in the fields their watchful scarecrows... So, rejoice, autumn feasting is upon us!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Erving Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch 131, will hold a public meeting at the Erving Town Hall on Monday October 20th, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. The Request for a Determination of Applicability filed by Jeff Dubay for work on a retaining wall at 1 Laurel Lake Road will be discussed.

- Chairman David P. Brule

INVITATION TO BID

Town of Gill

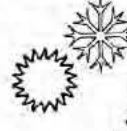
The Town of Gill will accept sealed bids for the sale of a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser until October 27th, 2008 at 4 p.m. in the Selectmen's office, Gill Town Hall #325 Main Road, Gill, MA. The vehicle's mileage is approximately 85,000. Vehicle may be seen at the Gill Highway Department by calling (413) 863-2324 to schedule an appointment.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16th

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: 75th Anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp Celebration.

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

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th

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

At The Great Falls Discovery Center. Sensational Seasons! Rachel Roberts workshop for families with young children.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Flashlight, disco-funk-rare groove djs, \$3 cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Hawkins Rise, they sound like wallflowers, Wilco Jayhawks, Train Stereophonics, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th & 18th

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Back to the Future. Great Scott! The ingeniously clever and inventive story of a young man who inadvertently travels back in time from the 1980's to 1955.

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In Good Spirits performed by Arena Civic Theatre members: bottom row l to r Chris Dunay, Catherine King, Alana Martineau. Back row-Dawn Ross, Steve Woodard, Sarah Kaczmarek, Dom Baird.

At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theatre presents a hauntingly funny musical In Good Spirits, by local author/composer Howard Odentz.

Shantigar and Pilgrim Theatre presents Jean Claude van Itallie's, The Tibetan Book of the Dead or: How not to do it Again! Directed by Kim Mancuso, at the Northampton Center for the Arts., Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 7 p.m. Info/Directions: (413) 339-4332

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th

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

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

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell : Annie Hassett & friends. Annie will dish up an evening of jukebox favorites delivered with an uncommon dollop of soul.

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Climate Change Jurassic Style. Geologists Steve Winters and Professor Dick Little talk on the astronomical cycles behind climate change, then walk through Turners Falls viewing evidence of climate change in the early Jurassic period 200 million years ago.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Blues based roots music with Karaoke Night, TNT Productions will keep us all singing and dancing all night! 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Watcher CD release at 8 p.m. then ROCKIT QUEER one year Anniversary Costume Ball. Fabulous prizes! \$3 cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Turn it Loose, rock and roll covers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH & 19TH

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th

Deja Brew, Wendell: Blues based roots music with Adam Bergeron, Classical Piano Improv, 7 to 9 p.m.

Scandinavian Dance at the Montague Grange, Montague Center, 3 to 6 p.m. Scandinavian dances are Third Sundays (September through June). Music for traditional couples dancing, taught dances: the pols dance of Røros, Norway. All levels of experience are welcome!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21st

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

Free film: Movements for Self-Determination. Undergrowth Farm presents, Argentina: Hope in Hard Times a documentary film. At The Brick House, Turners Falls. 7 p.m. Free. Refreshments. What would you do if you lost your job, they closed the banks so you couldn't get at your savings, and the government seemed unable to help?

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

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

Women's Health event, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. General information on breast

health and the resources available. Learn what you can do and the importance of yearly exams. Free, lunch included. (413) 773-5555 x257 to sign-up. Held at Franklin County Home Care, Turners Falls.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23rd

At the Shea Theatre, Turners Falls: Performances for Young People Series. Crabgrass Puppet Theater: Anansi, Spider of Africa, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. A side-splitting selection of famous folktales from Africa starring Anansi the Spider.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Blues based roots music with Larry Kopp, country & city blues guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24th

Pumpkin Carving Pot Luck, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at 34 Court Sq. Montague Center. Bring your own pumpkin or carve one we grew. All welcome.

Open Mic at The Brick House, Turners Falls. Come share your musical/poetic/dance, or any other genius you feel like sharing. 7 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Zydeco Connection, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Love Bomb, rock and roll covers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th

Pioneer Valley Institute and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center present Ice Age Climate Changes in the Valley. Join Geologists Steve Winters & Professor Dick Little for an overview followed with a field trip. Glacial Landforms Here and in Our Backyard to Montague Plains. Bring a picnic lunch; we'll stop to eat atop Mount Sugarloaf. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free to members of either PVI or the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Nuclear-Free Jubilee, Brattleboro, VT. Beginning at 11 a.m. with a procession led by Bread & Puppet Theater, starting at Elm Street, between Flat and Canal, to the Brattleboro Town Common. Rally on the Common, speakers, music, info tables, and food! Musicians: MacArthur Family, Charlie King & Court Dorsey. Speakers Harvey Wasserman, Peter Shumlin, Gaye Symington, and Anthony Pollina. Info. at the Safe & Green Campaign, (413) 624-8858 rkehrler@crockery.com.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Eric Love, Eric's smooth voice and mellow style will bring you back when he sings all your favorite covers from the 60' & 70's, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Reprobates, rock and blues. 9:30 p.m.

Hats Off to America Revue: Carol Pedigree performs songs from the 20's to 50's in vintage gowns, hats and boas. At Unity in the Pioneer Valley, Greenfield. 7 p.m. Info: 774-5552.

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th

Benefit the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding. Amanda Chorus and the Goodwin Memorial AME Zion Church Choir perform Songs of Peace at the Johnson Chapel on the Amherst College Campus, 3 p.m. Tickets \$10/adults; \$8/children, students & seniors; \$30 for a family ticket (2 adults & 3 children)

ONGOING

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Photography on display in the Great Hall: Wildlife photographers Don Cooper and Linda Henderson exhibit this month.

Select Photographs: 1956 thru 2005 by photographer Paul Capinigo on display September 25th to December 14th at the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photograpy, Turners Falls.

Arena Civic Theater presents In Good Spirits a hauntingly funny new musical at the Shea Theater Oct. 17, 18, and 19, 24, 25, and 26 for ticket info 413-863-2281 ext 3

Dora Hed Cafe & Pub Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food Open Wed-Sun at 5 p.m. No Cover Any Night Friday, 10/17, 8 - 10 p.m. Johnny Cash favorites: Josh Levangie Saturday, 10/18, 9 - 11 p.m. TNT Productions: Karaoke Night Sunday, 10/19, 7 - 9 p.m. Classical Piano Improv: Adam Bergeron Thursday, 10/23, 8 - 10 p.m. Country Blues Guitar: Larry Kopp 978-544-BREW 57A Lockes Village Road Next to the Wendell Country Store

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881 www.gardencinemas.net Showtimes for Fri, October 17th - Thurs, October 23rd 1. BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG13 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00 2. MIDNIGHT MEAT TRAIN DAILY 6:30 9:00 R DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00 3. BURN AFTER READING R DAILY 6:30 9 FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3 4. EAGLE EYE PG13 DAILY 6:45 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15 4. THE EXPRESS PG DAILY 9:15 5. NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST DAILY 6:45 9:15 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15 PG13 6. BODY OF LIES R DAILY 7:00 9:30 DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30 7. MAX PAYNE PG13 DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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Touring the Treatment Plant

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CITY - About a dozen sixth graders from the Greenfield Center School, studying ecology and seeking to learn more about the water cycle, took a trip across the General Pierce Bridge on Friday for a guided tour of the Montague Wastewater Pollution Control Facility. Superintendent Bob Trombley conducted the tour personally, and walked the students through each aspect of the plant's operations. Many of the students held their noses for the tour, and some congratulated themselves for having a cold.

Trombley told the youngsters that about 5000 pounds of waste flows through the plant each day,

ary treatment in 1982) "at a cost of \$6 million," Trombley said. "Today, we're spending \$5.7 million to fix the combined sewer overflow problem. It costs \$2 million annually to run the plant. So, whenever you hear your parents talk about taxes and sewer rates that's where some of the money goes."

After Trombley showed them a conceptual chart of the plant's operations, one of the students raised her hand and asked, "Is the Connecticut River now chlorinated?"

Trombley answered, "There is a concern about chlorine's effect on the river, because [beneficial] bacteria would die if too much chlorine gets into the river." But

that's cleaner than what's in the river."

Trombley said the general public has contributed to the cleanliness of the Connecticut River by limiting the kinds of materials they dump in the sewers.

"Twenty or thirty years ago, we used to have people pouring crank case oil down the sewer drains," said Trombley. "Now, pharmaceuticals are a big issue," because the active agents in prescription drugs can be long lived and can build up in the environment. Trombley said people should wrap unused medications in paper towels and dispose of them in the regular trash.

The villages of Montague are

Montague City Road from Turners Falls. About 10% of the sewers in Turners and Montague City were built to allow for combined sewer overflow in heavy rainstorms, so that raw sewage would combine with storm water and flow into the Connecticut at three different points. Now, 85% of the combined sewer overflow (CSO) problem is being eliminated, with the \$5.7 million project nearing completion in the next few months.

Next spring, the treatment plant will undergo its first real test of the new system, when heavy rainstorms will push up to four million gallons a day through the treatment plant. "We'll see how it responds," said Trombley. "We've been able to handle 3.5 million gallons a day before."

As part of the CSO improvements, Trombley has overseen the construction of a new 20-foot deep chlorine contact tank, which will be brought into play next spring to handle the added flow, along with a wide variety of improvements to the headworks building, still in process. When completed, the headworks building will have various rooms sealed off from each other to make sure the equipment is protected in the event of a fire or explosion.

The basic outline of sewage treatment at the Montague City plant involves sewage flowing into primary settling tanks in the headworks building, after passing through grates that remove grit, rags, wood, sneakers, and other items that might clog up the system. Sand, silt, debris and things like eggshells are removed from the grit chamber and diverted to a landfill.

In the primary settling tanks, oil and grease is skimmed off the surface, and anything heavier than water is removed from the bottom of the tank.

"Thirty percent [of the waste] is removed by the primary treatment process," Trombley explained. He noted that until 1982, Montague, like many other communities, went no further than primary treatment before discharging sewage to the

river.

Given the physical layout of the treatment plant, the next stage of treatment nowadays involves pumping the sewage from the primary treatment up to the secondary treatment tanks, via two 48 foot long, nine-foot diameter pumps. Based on the ancient principle of the Archimedes Screw, these pumps rotate on an incline like giant blue and white barber poles, lifting thousands of gallons of sewage an hour up the hill and depositing it in one of the 230,000 gallon aeration tanks near the operations building. Here, a mix of aerobic bacteria and oxygen is pumped into the tanks to assist in breaking down the sewage, using an accelerated biological process.

After the bacteria have had a chance to do their work, the sewage begins a downhill flow again, stopping in secondary clarifier tanks, where a wide paddle turns slowly, settling out heavier solids left over from the bacterial digestion, and allowing the water itself to flow over the edges of the tanks like a slowly bubbling fountain. The bacterial solids are vacuumed up and returned to the secondary treatment tanks.

After a detour to a chlorine tank, where three S-shaped passes allow the chlorine to slowly disinfect the water, it is finally released to the river. The downhill flow at this point once turned a hydroelectric turbine that contributed to the plant's power supply. There is some talk about reinstalling this feature, as the financial and environmental cost of electricity continues to climb.

A fresh breeze blew from the hill across the treatment plant on Friday, wafting the worst of the odors out toward the river. Still, at least one young lady on the tour had to repair to the bathroom with a weak stomach, possibly adding to the treatment plant's process for the remainder of the afternoon.



DETMOLD PHOTO

At the wastewater treatment plant on Greenfield Road, paddles in the secondary clarifier tanks turn slowly. From there, water detours through chlorine contact tanks before being released into the Connecticut River.

and after an eight to ten hour run past an obstacle course of clarifiers, aerators, and chlorine tanks, 98% of the sewage is removed and only 100 or 200 pounds of waste is released with the treated water into the nearby Connecticut River. "The river can absorb an amount like that," Trombley said.

"Rivers and streams and lakes have a certain capacity to self clean," Trombley said.

He added that the rivers of America are now the cleanest they've been in a long time, but progress on water quality has not come cheaply.

"We built this plant," (as a primary treatment facility in 1961 - 62; upgraded to include second-

he said the Environmental Protection Agency allowed a maximum of one part per million of chlorine, and the Montague WPCF limits chlorine to the Connecticut at an average of one half of one part per million, or less. "We still get the results we want," with that limit, Trombley said.

But he also acknowledged, "There is a byproduct, called chloramines," (which gives chlorinated pools and spas their distinctive smell), "which may have an effect on the river." But he said the amount of chloramines discharged to the Connecticut is "still very small."

Basically, Trombley said, "We're sending water to the river

interlaced with a hidden network of sewers, all of which, except for the sewer system in Millers (where sewage is pumped beneath the Millers River and treated at the Ervingside wastewater treatment plant) flow into the treatment plant on Greenfield Road. Trombley told the students that Montague, like most communities, locates their water treatment facilities at the lowest point in town, to take advantage of gravity and reduce the need for pumping stations.

The Montague City treatment plant handles about a million gallons a day of sewage, some of which flows down the sewers along Greenfield Road from Montague Center, the rest of which comes across the sewers that run roughly parallel to



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

Master Gardener Dawn Ward (right) admires Meg Bowman's planter on 2nd Street and Avenue A in Turners during the Planter Celebration on Tuesday

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Annie Hassett
at the Full Moon
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Saturday, Oct. 18th, in a
joint benefit for the
Montague Reporter and
the
Wendell Community
Garden.
Open mic at 7:30 p.m.
Concert at 8:00