

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 4

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 20, 2011

Erving Discusses School Regionalization

BY KATIE NOLAN – Erving's planning committee for school regionalization will send letters to four nearby school districts (Gill-Montague, Greenfield, Mahar, and Pioneer Valley) to open discussions about possible regionalization. That was the word from Beth Lux, committee alternate, to the Erving school committee this week.

Planning committee member Jacquelyn Boyden observed that regionalization plans may become more pressing as other towns make regionalization decisions.

"If Leverett and Shutesbury leave [Union 28], then Erving will be scrambling," she said.

Boyden asked that the school committee request the town moderator to appoint an alternate member to the planning committee, because scheduling conflicts make it difficult for the current committee members to arrange meetings. She stressed the need for the planning committee to meet monthly, because regionalization "seems to be on the fast track."

Boyden also recommended finding funding to hire expert consultants to help the volunteer committee work through potential regionalization plans, saying, "there's only so much we can do ourselves, we need

expert guidance."

Wickman said the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provides grants to regional planning committees, but said it appeared the grants were for multiple towns considering regionalizing, and she had not heard about individual towns getting DESE grants.

Boissonneault and Bastarache characterized a joint meeting with New Salem and Wendell school committee members to discuss regionalization issues as "friendly."

Boissonneault said the major question considered was "Would the state accept a truncated region if Leverett and Shutesbury leave Union 28?"

When Boyden asked, "How serious is the threat that they would withdraw?" Wickman replied, "I would not want to speculate."

Boissonneault said he understood that the DESE would not allow the withdrawing towns to join a new region unless the Union 28 towns were accounted for.

Bastarache said that Wendell school committee member Ray DiDonato had agreed to research that question and inform the Erving, New Salem

see SCHOOL pg 8

New Owner for Turner's Falls Pizza



DETMOLD PHOTO

Milica von Steenburgh (left) is turning over the keys of the Turners Falls Pizza House after 41 years on the Ave. She is leaving the store in the capable hands of David Argy (holding Lila). His wife Jenn stands beside him, holding Ella.

BY DAVID DETMOLD – After 41 years of rolling out pizza dough, cooking up sauce, and satisfying customers, Milica von Steenburgh is hanging up her apron. The Turners Falls Pizza House has a new owner, and he is someone van Steenburgh knows can handle the job. In fact she trained him when he was still in high school at Turners Falls High.

"I want to keep people happy," said new owner David Argy, a native of Turners who lives on the Hill with his wife Jenn and two young daughters. "They've been coming here for

40 years. I'm going to keep the consistency and the quality high."

Argy, who began working as a delivery man for TF Pizza before he graduated from TFHS in 1996, later went on to Springfield Technical College for a degree in telecommunications. He took a job with Bell Atlantic, and worked with the telephone company, as it changed corporate owners, for the next 12 years.

Now he is in business for himself, and putting some of his telecommunications expertise to work to improve the handling of

customer calls, by adding new lines at Turners Pizza, where credit and debit card purchases will now also be available. And Argy said he will be adding more drivers to speed up delivery to customers who want hot pizza, grinders, dinners and sides delivered to their door in Greenfield, Montague and Gill (customers from nearby towns like Erving, Wendell and Leverett can arrange to meet the delivery half way).

Von Steenburgh, who lives in Bernardston and has co-owned the business for the last 24 years

see OWNER pg 11

THE SECRET GARDEN: A Classic Comes to Life, Bountifully



RICK ROY PHOTO

Marguerite Durant, Brandon Dallmann, Emma Henderson and Cam Cote star in Arena Civic Theatre's production of Frances Burnett's classic tale.

BY NAN DE PLUME

TURNERS FALLS – Arena Civic Theatre brings a musical adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic children's book *The Secret Garden* to life on stage at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls for a final three performanc-

es this weekend.

With a dedicated cast of strong performers, a haunting score, and a tale of ghosts, secrets, mystery, memory, and triumph, ACT's *Secret Garden* is captivating.

The story revolves around a

see SECRET pg 13

Soundscapes Dominate Third Brick & Mortar Video Fest

BY SHIRA HILLEL

GREENFIELD – Last weekend, downtown Greenfield's historic buildings came alive during the Third Annual Brick & Mortar International Video Art Festival. On October 14th and 15th, the festival presented contemporary video art from around the world in Greenfield buildings, some of which are normally sealed off to the public because they're in various stages of renovation, such as the 4th floor of Wilson's Department Store, the Abercrombie building, the Pushkin and the First National Bank.

The festival provides a unique opportunity for the public to encounter art in architectural spaces for free. The organizers of the festival trust their audience enough to challenge them by bringing international avante garde video art to the main streets of Greenfield.

On Saturday afternoon, a panel discussion was held with this year's festival curator,

Christoph Cox, and several of the video artists included. The artists discussed this year's festival theme, which focused on the rela-



ANJA SCHÜTZ PHOTO

The sounds of gunshots echoed in the space where bank tellers once stood on Bank Row...

relationship between sound and image.

Many on the panel spoke of their wish to elevate sound from

its traditional subservient role to the visual image.

Artist Kara Lynch stated that her "work is mostly pushed by the audio element." Artist Daniel Warner's site specific piece on the top floor of the Arts Block building created an environment using sound and the physical space with no accompanying moving image. He pointed out that the festival's works spanned "all the way from silent visual pieces to purely sound pieces... and yet they feel organically linked... somehow interconnected." Perhaps this year's festival could be more aptly titled: Brick & Mortar Sound and Moving Image Festival.

On Friday night and Saturday, downtown Greenfield was alive with festival goers touring the installations in various buildings, stopping by restaurants and watering holes for refreshment, and talking about what they had just seen and heard. Here are snippets from one conversation,

see VIDEO pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK Former Frog



Sammy

My name is Sammy and I'm an eight-year-old male shorthair cat in need of a good home. I must have been a frog in my past life. I don't meow, I croak! Everyone here thinks its the cutest thing. I ended up here because my owners moved and left me behind. So the neighbor brought me to Dakin. Do you think your place might be my forever home? To find out more about adopting me, please call the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or email at info@dpvhs.org.

RECYCLE!
Week of October 25th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

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Bryn Kruzlic

Grade 8
Ivy Cross
Maggie Sroka

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Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 1/2 Year

Nature Notes: Moose

LIFE HISTORY, ECOLOGY AND CURRENT RESEARCH

Join us at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center on Wednesday, November 2nd, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for a fascinating evening exploring moose in Massachusetts. Dr. Stephen DeStefano, one of the foremost experts on moose in the Northeast, will share highlights from his current research focusing on their habitat use, distribution and movements. Steve will discuss how he and his graduate students tag area moose and use high tech equipment to monitor

their movements throughout central and western Massachusetts. The current population estimate is over 1,000 moose in Massachusetts! This is a great opportunity to learn more about the largest mammal of our Massachusetts forests and how it uses the landscape. This free program is co-sponsored with the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center is located on Route 63 in Northfield.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS Homeschoolers Educational Program

Ruth O'Mara demonstrated to the Homeschool Program how to make a soda bottle tornado at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, October 12th. This fall, the homeschoolers are

studying the "Powerful Earth." The program meets Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. It is for homeschoolers of all ages. For more information, call 413-863-3214.



PHOTO LINDA HICKMAN

Drug Drop Off

Free Collection Day for safe disposal, no questions asked, for unnecessary medications on Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at several locations throughout Franklin county, including Greenfield High School, Erving Police Station, Montague Safety Complex, Northfield Town Hall and Orange Armory. For more information go to northwesternnda.org or dea.gov.

Health Fair

Health Fair at Wendell Town Hall, 6 Center Street in Wendell Center on Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Multiple exhibitors, free and open to the public, including free parking. Refreshments concession by Diemand Farm. Features include information regarding vision screening, glucose screening, blood pressure, child identification kits, emergency planning and more.

FACES & PLACES



Photo Laurel Rollins

90+ students, their parents and teachers took part in Jumpstart's Read for the Record event on October 6th at the Montague Elementary School. Jumpstart is a national organization that helps children in low-income neighborhoods develop literacy skills. They joined more than 2 million voices calling for an end to America's early education achievement gap by reading the book Llama Llama Red Pajama. Linda Hickman, Montague Children's Librarian, read books about llamas to students sprawled out on blankets, some wearing their pj's, some of them red, before doing an art project together.

Historic Bridge Facts

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

Alvah Crocker Dreamed of a Span Beside the Dam.

Alvah Crocker's prophetic vision of a bridge paralleling the Turners Falls Dam, connecting that town with Gill is realized in the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Crocker's plan of the newly proposed city at Turners Falls that he and his industrial associates had formulated in 1865, gave the route for a bridge crossing the Connecticut River from near where the gatehouse is now located, to the "Great Island," and from there, turning slightly to the left and continuing to the Gill shore. This bridge, conceived some 146 years ago, closely approximates the span we cross today.

Why Crocker's plan was never followed through remains unknown. These indefinites may very well have been cost, construction obstacles, and "nay-sayers." Whatever forced the abandonment lies buried in history.

Josiah D. Canning, (1816-1892) the "peasant bard" of Gill, saw hope for a revival of Crocker's dream, and expressed his belief that a bridge would some day span the dam. He penned this verse in one of his poems:

"Here where the Indian, happy in the wild,
Thanked the Great Spirit for this paradise.
Shall stretch the broad highway from shore to shore,
And in the traffic and its roar shall drown,
The thunder of the falling floods below."

More bridge facts next week!

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – October 24th - 28th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. **Tickets are still available for the November 7th holiday trip.** We are taking appointments for private Shine consultations in November. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, October 24th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, October 25th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, October 26th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, October 27th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, October 28th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Country Fair

Country Fair at the First Congregational Church, 148 L Street in Turners Falls on Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Baked goods, jewelry, preserves, silent auction, raffle, fudge, crafts and locally grown vegetables. A free drawing with a prize will be awarded, on the hour, for those present. Lunch available from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Plenty of parking behind the Church.

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Turners Falls Varsity Football team is off to their best start since the 2000 season. With a record of 4 wins and 2 losses Turners takes on the Red Raiders in Athol on Friday night.

Families are sure to be filling Avenue A in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 22nd, for the **Second Annual Pumpkinfest**. Come early for choice parking, or join in on pumpkin carving and scarecrow stuffing at Unity Park from noon until 2:30 p.m.

Investigation station - all about pumpkins - happens at the Discovery Center from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the 22nd. Pumpkin crafts and recipes!

The Great Falls **Farmers Market** closes on Wednesday, October 26th. Rain was a frequent visitor to the market this year, but that did not deter many faithful customers, music by "Talk of the Town Jazz" and a good variety of vendors.

The Totaltech **Recycling Company** will be in NELCWIT's parking lot, rear of 479 Main Street in Greenfield on Saturday morning, October 29th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon to take away your old computers, monitors, printers, and peripherals. They can also take fax and copy machines, toner and inkjet cartridges, telephones, stereos and radios, microwave ovens and toasters. They cannot accept larger appliances or air conditioners.

Donations from Recycling Day will help to support NELCWIT's programs for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. For more info, see www.nelcwit.org or call 413-772-0871.

"**Cemetery Stories**" with Pam Richardson will be held on Sunday, October 30th, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Who lies beneath the sod in Wendell's cemeteries? Did Hetty Green, the tight-fisted millionaire, actually live here? What

tragedies befell the town's first minister? Tombstones talk! The tour starts at the Wendell Free Library and then walk across the street to Center Cemetery for a narrated stroll among the departed.

Family BINGO is coming to the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 29th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Alyshia Symanski will be the first caller and GSB will provide cards, prizes and light refreshments. Seating on a first call, first reserved basis, so place your call now to Alyshia, Linda or Kerri at 413-863-4316. GSB hopes to make this a monthly event with different callers each Saturday.

Harvest Festival and **Family Fun Fair** at the Haven, 71 Upper Road, in Deerfield will be held on Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This family festival will include music, games, cider pressing, crafts, and a wide selection of vendors. Call Esther at 413-498-2606.

Readers might be interested to know that the **David H. Koch Center** for Science Math and Technology at Deerfield Academy is named for the very same benefactor of the Tea Party who appears as a daily target of Occupy Wall Street placards. Small investors in the stock market who took a bath in the unregulated derivatives market in 2008 might like to try the Koch Pool at D.A! The Koch Brothers, David and Charles, whose combined wealth is exceeded among Americans only by Warren Buffet and Bill Gates, have bankrolled a number of arch-conservative advocacy groups over the years, including Americans for Prosperity, one of the main avenues for "educating, funding and organizing Tea Party protesters," according to Jane Meyer's 2010 expose in the *New Yorker*. Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.



COURTESY OF MUTTON AND MEAD - A RENAISSANCE AND MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL IN MONTAGUE, MA'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Cassie Stewart enters the lists at the Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival this summer in Montague

BY MICHAEL MULLER - Mutton & Mead, a Medieval Renaissance Festival held in Turners Falls, will be hosting an Open House on Monday, October 24th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Montague Grange, 36 Main Street, in Montague Center.

"The open house is a chance for people to come out and meet us, find out more about Mutton and Mead, and the different ways to participate or support the event" said David Agro, the festival's artistic director.

"There are a lot of opportunities for people, businesses and organizations to get involved: performing, vending, demonstrating, advertising or simply volun-

teering during the festival. People should check us out at the open house or online, or stop by and say hello at Pumpkinfest this Saturday where we'll be handing out information about the open house and selling Mutton & Mead t-shirts, and ceramic mead cups."

The Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival debuted in Montague this past June when Nottinghamshire was brought to Montague, and patrons witnessed the story of Robin Hood unfold around them. The audience encountered the shire's townsfolk as they were treated to an exciting lineup of festivities including a variety of minstrels and bands,

jesters, puppeteers, acrobats, jugglers, a full armor joust along with other activities and games. Vendors lined the shire's streets and merriment filled the air. The festival was also a benefit for the Western Mass Food Bank and the Montague Grange.

Despite being pulled together relatively quickly and by a committee of only 12 people, it drew a huge crowd and was regarded as a big success.

Next year, the event will expand to two days and there is opportunity for many more people to be involved.

More information and photos of June's festival can be found at www.MuttonAndMead.com.

Shea Theater Welcomes Spirit Medium for Messages from the Other Side

TURNERS FALLS - Fall in New England comes with a chill in the air, the crunch of dried leaves under your feet, and ghostly images adorning houses and yards. And this year it also brings Lisa Lanno, spirit medium, to the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

Lanno will be hosting a full two-hour session of paranormal readings in "Messages from the Other Side" on October 29th from 7-9 p.m.

"If spring is the time of new beginnings, then fall is often seen as the time for endings or death.

Even the holidays reflect that theme: All Hallows' Eve, All Saints Day, Dia De Los Muertos," said Kimberley Morin, president of the Shea board of directors. "It's a great time of year to bring a spirit medium to the theater, to welcome people who would like to reach out to those who have passed."


Lanno is a Massachusetts native who has been involved in a wide variety of paranormal activities for many years. Apart from mediumship, her history includes Tarot readings, reading auras,

remote viewing, and graphology. Of her early experiences with spiritual encounters she said, "I knew I had some abilities... but was always a bit nervous about connecting with those who had passed." Over the course of time Lanno said she has grown more comfortable with her gift, and now relates, "It is both an honor and privilege to work in this field, and I am grateful each day."

For more information or to reserve your tickets, please call the Shea Theater at 413-863-2281 or visit: www.theshea.org.

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Rats

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER - The nights are getting colder, and I am reminded of rats.

We thought we had some rats last fall after the sound of scratching and gnawing woke us from sleep. In the morning we called a pest control expert, saying maybe we had mice, but he said the sounds we'd heard pointed to rats because mice are quiet, as in "quiet as a church mouse." So he headed to the basement where he found marks along the walls.

Rats do this, he said. They leave a greasy trail. He also found the pupae of maggots and beetles that eat dead carcasses, which implies that we might have had a rat problem for quite a while, and some rats had lived and died and been digested by insects in the cellar without our knowing a thing about it.

In this case, not knowing is good. The house is 180 years old, held up by iron posts that lend support to the original hand hewn beams which house the spiders and those flesh eating beetles that ate the dead mice or rats, whichever.

In the attic the expert found mouse activity along with a hornet's nest, bat guano, and evidence of a shrew. With these discoveries, the situation became more complicated, since he believed that the mice could have been driven upstairs by rats. Rats eat mice. If we killed the mice too quickly, he said, the alleged rats might invade our living space. Also, we learned that rats are smart, smarter than dogs, also cagey and shy. To catch rats, one needs to earn their trust.

The good news was his alpha rat theory. He believed that all of the rats would leave if he could get the alpha rat. The expert started coming to our house two or three times a week to place unbaited traps around the cellar. He said he was making friends.

We stopped leaving pots to soak overnight. We learned to empty our pockets after walking the dogs, because almost every

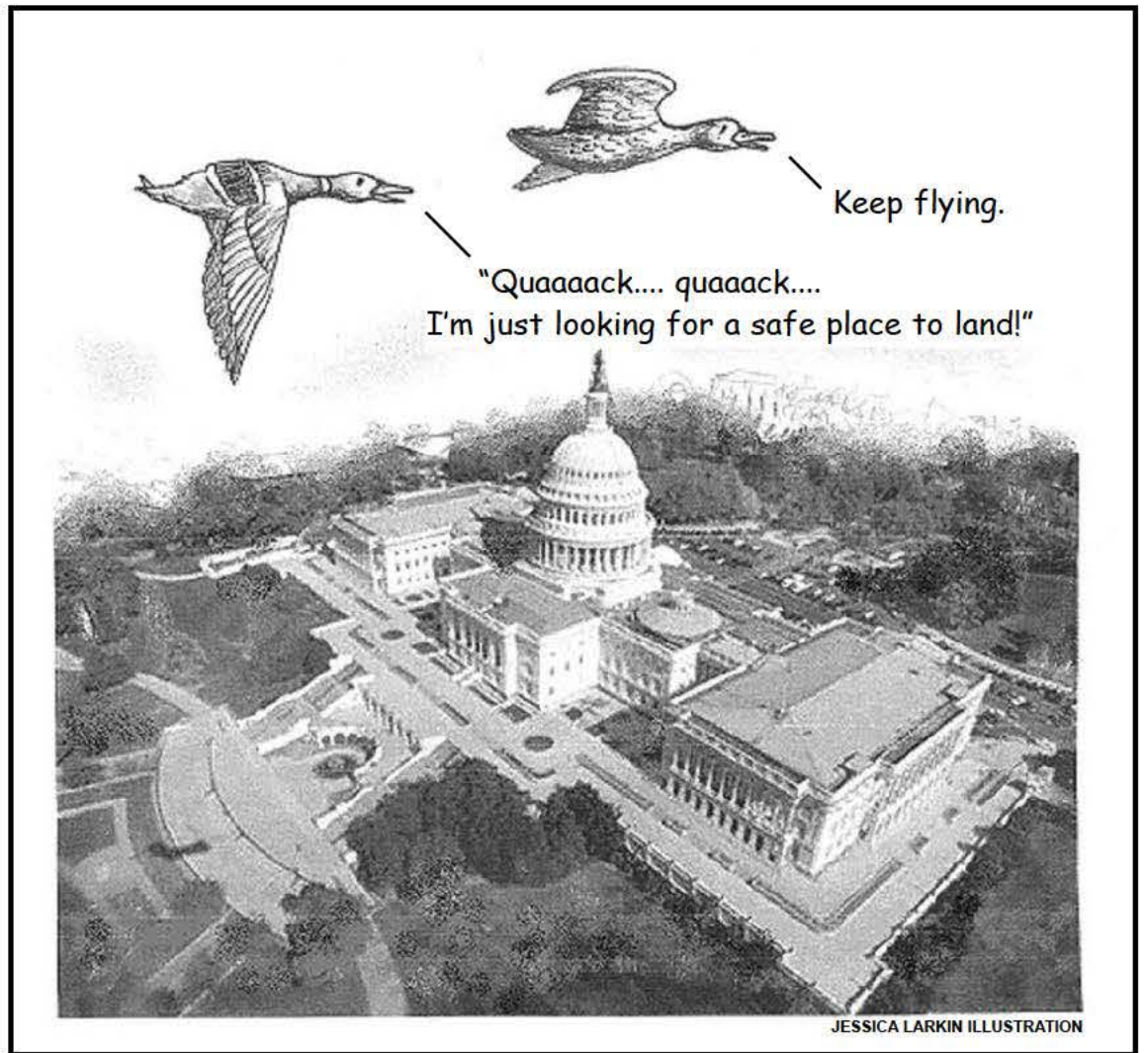
jacket had little scraps of dog treats, and a single piece of kibble could feed a rat for a week. We began washing the kitchen counters every night with a weak Clorox solution, which turns out to have a comforting quality. It smells very clean, like a swimming pool, and according to the internet, "unsettles rodents."

When I thought we had searched everywhere, I noticed a seldom-used cabinet in the upstairs hallway and found a nest of hairless rodent babies in a box of family photos. It was tempting for just a few moments to wonder why we couldn't all co-exist through the long winter ahead. So tiny, with transparent ears, motherless; they were dying as I observed them. If they did not carry disease, and fleas, if their urine did not smell bad, if they didn't reproduce at an alarming rate... well those thoughts don't go anywhere.

It turned out that the nest contained baby mice, not rats, and I was relieved. In the end we got two mice and the nest of babies, a hornet's nest, two shrews, a bat and a red squirrel, but we never found a rat. The expert seemed disappointed.

This fall, as the nights grow colder and I set my own traps, having overcome my aversion to the basement in favor of saving money, I keep thinking about all the life surrounding these homes that shelter us. Our dwellings turn out to be rather permeable membranes, sometimes creating a false sense of security. We sleep while rats and mice, carpenter ants and spiders set up house in the walls. We slept while greedy rats on Wall Street left a slimy trail of lies and deceit. We sleep as billionaire architects of the Tea Party defend corporate greed and back candidates who would eliminate Social Security, Medicare, environmental regulations, and essential social programs.

And I think of the expert. I like his alpha rat theory. It would be comforting to imagine that the real force of rats and maybe peo-



Keep flying.

 "Quaaaack.... quaaaack....
I'm just looking for a safe place to land!"

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

As of last week, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives had voted 168 times this year to undercut clean air and water laws while blocking efforts to limit global warming, protect public lands and guard against future oil spills.

 - "Republicans vs. the Environment" *NYTimes* 10/14/11

Stopping by in October

Splash! Heavy spray leaped up from the west bank of the north pond. No self-respecting duck would crash down like this.

Very shortly, he reappeared, big, brown, empty-billed, and empty clawed. Heading for the tall weeping willow, the bald eagle with his bright white head and tail giving him a grandeur that even big hawks cannot match, had found the Breakfast Club inhospitable.

He sat on the limb for a bit, then sailed off south. I wondered if he was close cousin to the eagle that stopped by last January and found no better fortune here.

After he left, a loud chorus of song birds cheered his departure and I realized it had been silent during his stay. To the birds migrating in spring and fall, the ponds here must have looked like

people who act like rats is concentrated in a few alpha specimens, so you don't need to tackle them all to get rid of a problem. But, unfortunately, I don't think it is true.

Each one thinks he (or she) is the alpha rat, but if you catch one, like Bernie Madoff, there's



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American Merganser or Goosander

mud puddles from on high, but a few stop to try their luck.

A big female merganser, probably the kind now called Common Merganser, but years ago were named American Merganser or Goosander stopped in today, apparently alone. Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide of 1947 uses these names, and he was the expert on the Connecticut

always another to take his place. Like the rats in the New York subway system, there are more than we can imagine.

Still, there's reason to hope. People are finally getting angry. We are waking up. The Wall Street Occupation is spreading to cities and towns across the nation, hopefully disturbing the sleep and peace of mind among those who feel safe in their enclaves of power.

shore birds.

She is very similar to the female Red-Breasted Merganser, and through the years both have been well-recorded here at Cold Brook Farm and at Migratory Way in Turners Falls. Mergansers are slim, diving ducks; the girls have rusty heads, slightly tufted, and gray and white bodies. The males are easy to distinguish; their black and white patterns make them unique.

Perhaps part of the charm of these wild birds is that they look purposeful and busy as they go about their search for sustenance, even in out of the way locales like our farm ponds.

 - Fran Hemond
Montague Center

TO THE EDITOR

Appreciation for the Reporter

We read the paper cover to cover, every single issue. The current issue sits on our dining table each week, year-round. It's the best paper there is, and we're so grateful to you for keeping up this hard work. Thanks so much!

 - Kathy Litchfield
Bascom Hollow, Gill

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U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 10/18/11



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ANOTHER LETTER

Garvin, MCTV, Thanked for Derby Shoot

I would like to publicly thank Dean Garvin for his immense help with the video aspect of this year's Soap Box Derby. In the sudden absence of MCTV's station manager, Dean handily stepped up and organized a crack team of 12 volunteers, foremost of whom were Kathy Lynch and Charles Kelly. This team ran over 2,000 feet of cable connecting four cameras and the audio from the P.A. system through our video switcher all the way down First Street and out to all of Montague.

Yes, MCTV aired the Soapbox Derby live on Channel 17 from Unity Park, complete with announcer commentary and graphic overlays, just like the professionals do.

Let me tell you, it is no mean feat to shoot a live event literally out in the field and nearly a half-mile from the main cable grid. Some folks thought it couldn't be done. We knew better, and we had fun doing it.

As many readers of this paper may know, MCTV is currently changing its staffing and hiring a new Technical Coordinator, as

well as a Communications and Outreach Coordinator (see our ad in this week's paper). We are also looking for new board members. In the past, our board was made up mostly of camera volunteers, those people who loved to shoot video for public access and wanted to give back to the station by donating their time. MCTV welcomes all assistance, but recognizes that to take the next step up the board needs professional and executive-level members with financial, fundraising, legal, policy, organizational and business experience.

If you are interested in joining the MCTV board of directors, please contact the station either by phone, email or letter: (413) 863-9200; info@MontagueTV.org; MCTV, 34 Second Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. MCTV's monthly board meetings are open to the public and are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendar, and come to the next meeting.

- Michael Muller, MCTV Montague

Stein to Announce Third Party Candidacy for President

BOSTON - Dr. Jill Stein, recent Green-Rainbow Party candidate for governor of Massachusetts, will announce her candidacy for president of the United States on Monday, October 24th at the State House in Boston.

A key focus on Stein's campaign will be a Green New Deal to end unemployment in America and jump start a real recovery from the Bush-Obama recession. The Green New Deal will provide public jobs to the 16% of Americans who need one, including Green jobs that will transition America to a secure, Green economy for the 21st Century.

Dr. Stein seeks to reverse the growing concentration of power and wealth in the hands of the top 1%, an increasingly urgent problem given the rising problems of unemployment and poverty afflicting Americans.

Stein charges that President Obama has betrayed the voting blocs that came together to elect him in 2008, raising hope for

change, but simply continuing the policies of George Bush once elected: escalating the wars in the Middle East; extending the Bush tax cuts while largely ignoring the unemployment crisis; and failing to take action on climate change.

As a medical doctor who ran against Mitt Romney in the 2002 governor's race, Stein has been a critic of "Romneycare" that was the model for "Obamacare". She wants to make health care a universal right and supports the adoption of a single payer, improved Medicare for All program as the only affordable path to quality health care for all.

Dr. Stein will seek the presidential nomination of the Green Party. She expects to qualify for the ballot in at least 40 states. She also expects to qualify for presidential primary matching funds.

Dr. Jill Stein is a mother, housewife, physician, and pioneering environmental-health advocate. For more info, go to: www.jillstein.org.

Requiescat in Pace, Flore

PHOENIX - Flore (Francoise Marie-Rose Dufour) passed on to the Elysium fields of her dreams on the evening of October 10th, at 6:05 p.m. just as the full moon was shining from the heavens. She spent the afternoon basking in the open air of the Ryan Hospice House in Phoenix, AZ surrounded by her children and friends. Her passing was quiet and gentle like her spirit.

Flore, a former resident of Montague Center and erstwhile author of the Off the Beaten Track column, will be greatly missed by many whom she touched by word, thought, feeling, and spirit. Good-bye sweet mother, dedicated teacher, joyful dancer, insatiable artist and god-



GUERMANTES LAILARI PHOTO

Flore

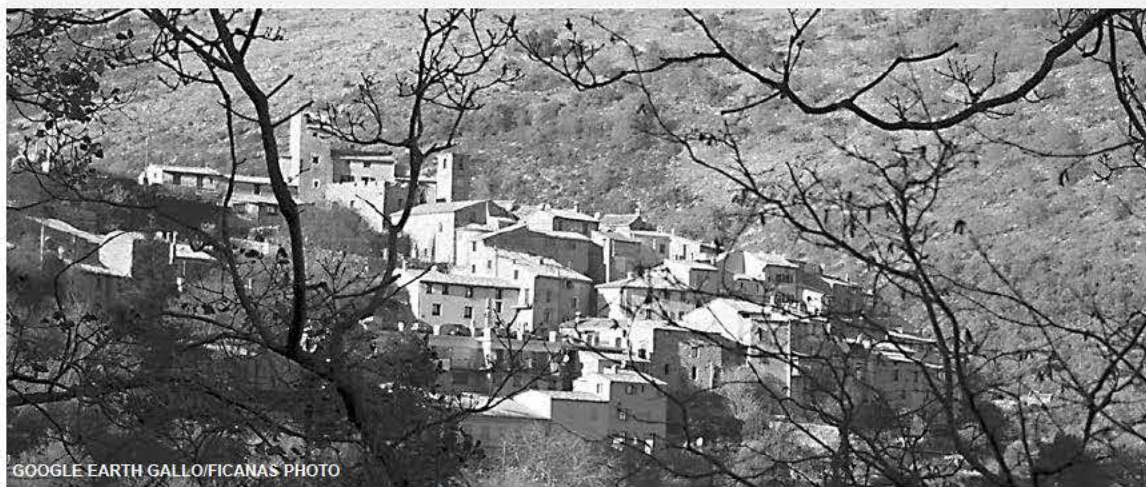
and three daughters-in-law (Celia Lowenstein, David and Kerry Lowenstein, Garance Lowenstein, Guermantes and Stefani Lailari, and Timothy and Marie Ryan), nine grandchildren (Ben and Rachel Lowenstein; Aliza, Natan and Ze'ev Lailari; Estia, Sem, Tadeus, and Basile Ryan) and Lady Grizette, her faithful feline companion.

Contributions preferred to an artist charity, a park, or anything that you think appropriate in her memory. A web blog about how Flore touched us will be set up at

www.legacy.com in the near future. A ceremony celebrating Flore's life will occur at a later date.

dess. She is survived by her three sisters (Muriel, Noelle, and Annie Dufour), her five children

THINKING OF FLORE, IN PROVENCE



GOOGLE EARTH GALLO/FICANAS PHOTO

Bézaudun-les-Alpes, France

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - Like all in Montague who knew her, we will miss Flore. We will miss her all encompassing smile, her confident optimism, her passion for art, culture and odd wayside attractions. Flore was a member of the Downhilde softball team, on which she excelled at swinging when the ball was already behind her. She was a great cook and entertainer who without apparent muss or forethought was able to make a small back porch table feel like a four-star Michelin brasserie. She was an enthusiastic proponent of the environment, the rights of the downtrodden, and the inherent worth of country artisans, bakers,

cider pressers, puppeteers, Hallowe'en decorators, and the costumes of school children who used to parade through the streets of her adopted village at this time of year.

When not living in Montague, Flore was often to be found with family in Arizona, or, in summertime, in one of the most off the beaten track locales in the world, her beloved Bezaudun-les-Alpes, in her native France.

We first heard from Flore on a closely spaced sheaf of tissue thin stationery smelling of faded violets, posted from some mountain aerie in Provence. Her spidery handwriting was difficult, in some cases impossible to decipher, forcing us to leave blanks

for obscure place names in distant, unmappable regions of the Alps. This missive arrived at our dilapidated offices on the shoals of the Connecticut in Turners like a ray of sunlight, pulled by some genie from a bottle bobbed across the Atlantic to form the first of Flore's many famous columns in our small town rag. For years, she regaled our readers with unlikely tales of outlandish places in a fractured syntax of her own design, cobbled together with the most unlikely metaphors to be found in any known or imagined language. "Do you have tea on the loose?" she once asked a storekeeper, and none knew the proper answer to such questions.

see FLORE page 12

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Wants Information on Senior Center Project Delay

BY KATIE NOLAN – A clogged well in the geothermal system will delay the opening date for the new senior center. Town administrator Tom Sharp told the selectboard on Monday the October 19th “substantial completion” date for the new \$2.4 million senior center on Route 63, north of the elementary school.

In September, Sharp informed the selectboard the geothermal well drilled for the senior center heating and cooling system had produced bubbles or air pockets, and the system was not working properly. At that time, testing was being conducted to determine the cause of the problem. On Monday, Sharp also reported a delay in installing the carpeting at the new senior center because of building humidity.

The selectboard asked Sharp to schedule contractor MCM USA’s project manager and owner’s project manager Bruce Hunter to report to the board at its October 24th meeting about the glitches in the completion of construction for the new senior center.

Two bids were received for the Erving sewer rehabilitation project: one from Green Mountain

Pipeline Services of Bethel, VT with a bid of \$238,238 and one from Insituform, a global pipeline company with offices in Massachusetts, with a bid of \$247,200.

Peter Valinski and Micheal McManus of the town’s environmental consultant Tighe & Bond took the bid packages for review. The project includes repair or rehabilitation of approximately 4,900 feet of sewer line. The portions of sewer line in need of repair were identified by a video investigation conducted by Green Mountain Pipeline.

Valinski said Tighe & Bond would also identify the most critical sections of sewer line for repair and recommend that less critical sections be scheduled last.

Don Jacobs of Don Jacobs Consulting, Inc. of Holden presented his report classifying all town positions into grades using a point rating system.

The classification system compares town positions based on skills required for the position and responsibilities (such as supervision of other employees). Jacobs said the rating process began with interviews of employees and supervisors to establish “what

employees actually do.”

A range of salaries was established for each position after determining the median salary currently being paid for each grade, and calculating a minimum of 75% of the median and a maximum of 125% of the median.

Jacobs recommended further discussions with town employees to help establish an evaluation system and a performance management system so employees are compensated on what is required for the position, and on the employee’s individual performance in the position.

The selectboard decided to conduct an internal review of Jacobs’ report and discuss it further.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said, “I’m not sure we’re ready to contract,” the additional work on evaluation and compensation systems. He asked the selectboard to come up with a draft performance appraisal plan on its own.

The selectboard declined to sign a letter supporting House Bill 1972, which would move the Massachusetts presidential primary date from the first Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in June to coincide with state pri-

see ERVING page 10

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Countywide Dog Kenneling Plan Approved

BY DAVID DETMOLD – The Montague dog kennel on Sandy Lane is about to get a major overhaul, and stray dogs kept there from Montague may soon be joined by strays from around the county, if a plan being unleashed by the Franklin County Sheriff’s office and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments takes off.

David Lanoie of the Sheriff’s office told the Montague selectboard on Monday, “It would be a great use to improve the building and use it for kenneling wayward dogs from around the county, once we kick off our countywide kenneling program.”

Ken Harry, of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, said 10 or 12 county towns have already expressed interest in a cooperative kenneling program for their strays. Lanoie, who said grant money, donations, and inmate labor would be tapped to renovate and provide heat and ventilation to the dilapidated kennel, located off Turnpike Road near the Montague transfer station, added that a sheriff’s office employee with a vehicle might be available at specific hours to assist county towns with transporting their strays to Montague.

The selectboard signed a memorandum of understanding in support of the

plan. Board member Pat Allen, (just back from a trip to Turkey, where former board member Patricia Pruitt is once again in residence), said, “It sounds like a good idea to me.”

The regional dog control plan will have a one year lease on the kennel space, from November 1st of this year until October 31st of 2012. If all goes well, a three year renewal will be agreed to by all parties.

In other news, Marje Levenson, town meeting member from Precinct 2, came to the meeting to ask for the board’s support of a petition and effort by Lake Pleasant residents to try to persuade the United States Postal Service to keep the Lake Pleasant post office open. Levenson said 105 residents of the village have signed the petition, and state legislators Stan Rosenberg and Steve Kulik have added letters of support. Senator John Olver also sent a letter to Kimberly Peters, USPS district manager, requesting a status update for the Lake Pleasant post office, which was placed on the USPS list of post offices being considered for possible closure in July of this year.

“We have a building that currently operates as a post office and a vital community center,”

Levenson told the board. “It is staffed by a part time employee who gets paid \$10.50 per hour, with no benefits. The rent is low. We find it hard to believe the cost of our post office is impacting the financial mess the [US postal service] is in.”

The board unanimously approved a motion to write a letter in support.

Wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley told the board test results were in for the new Fournier press, which reduces the water content of the sludge shipped out at the treatment plant. “We did very well,” said Trombley. The sludge used to ship out with just 3% – 6% solids. With the Fournier press in action, the plant is now shipping out sludge with 30% solids, allowing Trombley’s department to reduce that line item in the annual budget from \$365,000 to \$175,000.

Trombley said with the Fournier press in action, the treatment plant has been able to shut down, at least temporarily, the 37,000-gallon open air gravity thickener collector, thereby reducing one source of odor to the neighborhood.

Trombley offered to set up an open house for the public to come view the improvements at the treatment plant. see MONTAGUE pg 10



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Is Sears Road a Town Road – or Not?

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

Patricia Paxton owns a parcel of land, one of the properties auctioned off at the most recent auction of properties acquired by the town for unpaid taxes. Although smaller than the standard three acre Wendell building lot, the property on Sears Road is grandfathered as one and is assessed as a building lot. But building inspector Phil Delorey would not give Paxton a building permit because Sears Road is not a town road and is not maintained by the town.

Paxton and three friends met the Wendell selectboard at its October 12th meeting hoping to get the problem resolved. The lot is ideal for a vacation retreat, being close to the Millers River, Osgood Brook and Whetstone Brook, as well as state land and Route 2. Any maintenance on Sears Road is done by DCR for access to state land beyond Paxton's parcel, and bringing the road up to a standard that allows emergency vehicles and plows would be very expensive.

Paxton asked to see an official map of town roads.

When the town meeting discontinued other roads, Wendell did not

discontinue Sears Road because at the time the status of Sears Road was not clear.

Selectboard member Dan Keller told Paxton there is no official map of town roads; the town paid legal counsel a good deal of money for research on whether Sears Road was an official town road and town counsel found no definitive answer. Rather than continue spending money, the town dropped the matter.

Keller went on to say the selectboard would not overrule the building inspector.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said an official map of town roads would have to be approved at town meeting. She said the zoning board of appeals felt unqualified to decide whether Paxton could build on her lot.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said there is nothing that shows that Sears Road is a town road.

Paxton said, "Or a public way?"

Heard said that at the auction the town was careful to state that properties came with no guarantee they could be built on, and she said that Paxton could appeal her assessment as a building lot with the town assessors.

Paxton expressed surprise the town had no offi-

cial road map, and she said she would not have bought the property if she thought she could not build on it. There were two buildings on the lot and a trailer that had been occupied for years.

Aldrich said the pre-existing buildings on that lot were there before the town had any zoning. Sears Road is not alone in having uncertain legal status among various roads in town.

Paxton said, "I don't know how a town can not have a town map."

Heard said she understood that the selectboard was giving bad news, and apologized, but she repeated that the selectboard cannot overrule the building inspector.

Keller said it might be possible for Paxton and the friends that accompanied her to pursue the status of the road at the Registry of Deeds. He offered her a copy of the research done by town counsel, but she already had one.

As a separate item, Delorey asked for permission to get town counsel advice on a property on Rockwell Hill Road, whether that part of Rockwell Hill Road is legally a town road.

Kathleen Swaim of the playground committee, see WENDELL pg 10

USPS Announces Plan to Close Lake Pleasant P.O.

In a packet delivered Wednesday to the little post office at the heart of a village struggle to maintain a vital community center, and a Green method of mail delivery, the U.S. Postal Service shrugged off the pleas of practically the entire village and announced a plan to close the Lake Pleasant post office. Mail would be delivered to the roughly 275 residents of the village through Montague Center, according to the plan, but exactly how that mail would reach the villagers in Lake Pleasant - perhaps through stand alone stacks of

locked mail boxes on either side of the village - remains the subject of speculation.

The postal service apparently made the decision to close Lake Pleasant P.O. despite the strong show of support at a community meeting with USPS operations manager Carissa Surprise on September 30th, and before the postal authorities could have had time to read through a thick packet of supporting documents and petitions calling for the Lake Pleasant P.O. to remain open that was sent out - priority mail - last Friday.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Pumpkin Theft, Break In, Assist Other Police

Monday, 10/10
2:15 p.m. Report of three men stealing pumpkins from River Road area. Owner on site, will decide about pressing charges
Tuesday, 10/11
12:30 a.m. House Break-in reported on West Gill Road, electronics taken.
7:10 p.m. Building

check completed at residence on West Gill Road, north of break-in.
10:30 a.m. Assisted Orange police with information on Gill Resident involved with a handgun in their community.
Wednesday, 10/12
10:20 a.m. Report of a kayaker creating a

problem on the river
2:45 p.m. Spoke with resident at Mobil station regarding complaint of their driving at excessive speeds.
8:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with the arrest of Level three sex offender.
Sunday, 10/16
5:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with motor vehicle stop for suspicious activity.

Contacted party to secure same.
2:45 p.m. Spoke with resident at Mobil station regarding complaint of their driving at excessive speeds.
8:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with the arrest of Level three sex offender.
Sunday, 10/16
5:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with motor vehicle stop for suspicious activity.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Donations Theft, Poultry Poached, Break In Thwarted

Thursday, 10/6
2:25 p.m. Report of loose horses on Cave Hill Road. Owner notified.
Tuesday, 10/11
4:30 p.m. Reported larceny of cash from a collection box at the lower Peace Pagoda on Cave Hill. Box was dismantled and an undetermined amount of cash taken from the donation box. Occurred over the weekend of 10/08/11 to 10/10/11.
8:20 p.m. Officer sent to assist Sunderland police with a four-car acci-

dent on Route 116. Assistance rendered.
Wednesday, 10/12
8:45 a.m. One-car accident on Long Plain Road. The driver swerved to miss an oncoming car and left the road. Vehicle turned onto its side in a ditch. No injuries, vehicle totaled.
5:25 p.m. Local contractor reported minor vandalism to his equipment off Route 63. Report taken.
Thursday, 10/13
11 a.m. One-car accident on Depot Road. Car skidded

on wet pavement and went off the road striking a utility pole guy wire. Vehicle hung up on wire, minor damage.
Friday, 10/14
5:25 p.m. Caller reported a beagle-type dog killing chickens at a North Leverett Road residence. Numerous chickens and ducks killed. Officer caught dog and notified dog owner. Owner to make restitution.
Monday, 10/17
10:00 a.m. Officer requested in the fields off Hubbard Hill Road for a

breaking and entering into a motor vehicle in progress. Suspect fled down Route 63 toward Amherst. Amherst police notified, nothing taken.
11:15 a.m. Report of another donation box at the upper Peace Pagoda taken sometime within the past week. Unknown amount of money. Under investigation
4:13 p.m. One-car accident on Depot Road. Driver lost control of her vehicle and struck a utility pole. No injuries. Vehicle sustained substantial front end damage.

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SCHOOL from page 1
and Wendell committees. Galenski, who had attended the joint meeting, said she had been impressed that Erving, New Salem, and Wendell all shared "a passion for keeping the smallness of our schools."

MCAS Scores
Erving Elementary School principal Charlene Galenski reported to the school committee that the school achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act in mathematics, but did not make AYP in English language arts. She said that 71 students in grades 3 through 6 took the MCAS exam.

For mathematics and English language arts, Galenski said the school is "doing well in most grades compared with the state." However, she cited fourth grade results as low compared to the other 940 schools in the state. Galenski told the committee that Erving students performed very well on the open response sections of the MCAS, which was important in achieving AYP in

mathematics. She said this is an area the school focused on improving over the last year.

Galenski added that Louise Law, a curriculum coordinator from Deerfield, had met with teachers for the grades taking the MCAS exams to examine strengths and weaknesses in the results for their students and that curriculum would be revised as needed.

Union 28 superintendent Joan Wickman reported that the No Child Left Behind Act requires all students to be proficient in mathematics and English language arts by 2014, but the recent re-authorization of the act allows states to get waivers if they meet other conditions showing educational achievement. She said that DESE will likely apply for a waiver and will institute a system of "recognition, accountability, and support" for schools, which will include labeling schools as Reward Schools (highest performing), Priority Schools (lower performing), and Focus Schools (lowest performing).

under this system.

Charter Schools

Wickman asked that school committee members and Erving residents contact state legislators to support House Bill 3597 that "would correct the current inequity that exists in the charter school tuition formula."

She said, "Erving has a significant number of students at [charter schools] Four Rivers and PVPA," and that charter school tuitions cost the town \$268,639 this year.

Currently, when a student attends a charter school, the local per pupil cost becomes the tuition rate for that student, even though that rate is not an actual cost for the charter school program. In a letter to the chair for the House committee on education, Wickman said, "The town does not actually realize any local savings by having one less student attending its local school... It also seems rather discriminatory that students pay different rates to attend the same charter school simply because they come from different communities when in fact they all get the same education."

School committee member and Union 28 representative Scott Bastarache reported that the Union 28 committee voted to adhere to legal standards and pay employees shared by several towns in accordance with state statute 32B of Massachusetts General Laws. This is the "lead town" method, where a shared

employee receives benefits as administered by the town using the greatest percentage of the shared employee's time.

Wickman said that draft legislation revising this method had been submitted to the state senate and was being circulated to town officials for comment.

Galenski told the school committee that the recently opened salad bar at the school cafeteria was a "huge addition" to the school lunch program. Asked by Boyden if the school was able to buy local produce, Galenski replied that buying local was a goal, but was not always possible. She reported that the lunch program was "strictly in the black."

Committee chair Jarod Boissonneault praised the regular lunch and salad bar, saying, "The kids really enjoy it."

School committee member

MacKensy Bailey reported that the Franklin County School Committee Caucus will present an informational program on November 19th at Greenfield Middle School on DESE's new teacher evaluation methods. School committee members, parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators are invited.

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Wickman said she feels that Erving Elementary would be categorized as a Reward School



Nature educator Dawn Marvin Ward held her audience spellbound at the Levereett Harvest Festival on Saturday.

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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Late Fall and Retirement



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - The length of the days and of the light has shortened, but the day is filled with especially clear, strong light.

It is not a time of year when folks think of sunscreen; nonetheless the sun is intense now because of its angle and because many of the natural screens have gone.

October light brings into sharp focus our views and our thoughts. Less flattering than the softer lights of summer, it is truth telling not to be ignored.

This is the time of endings and beginnings: the end of the lovely tomato harvest, the time to seed out things for the early bloom of spring. In the mind, it is a cleansing time which prompts everything from washing windows to sorting out the things stashed in the attic, measuring what still fits or is needed, and moving other things along to those in need.

Like the rushing squirrels, we want to save for winter both produce and wood and also rid the yard, house and garden of the unnecessary, as nature does with the killing frost.

We recently went to my partner's 50th high school reunion. This is a daunting task, not to be undertaken without support. So much change, so much time passed. I agreed to attend and bolster but also exacted a price, a day at the ocean side.

This event was masterminded by just a few class members who have an admirable supply of zest and zeal. They secured a place which would provide food, drink and music, developed an activity plan and corresponded with all former classmates available to be

found.

To begin with, there was a tour of the old high school facilities, followed by a look at the current building additions and a chorus of regret that today's students have no idea how fortunate they are. While listening to this diatribe I admired a 1945 photo of the hockey team practicing on a local pond, with the hockey coach on the ice clad in a dress and high heels!

None the less, this tramp down memory lane broke the ice as folks reminisced about this and that teacher, what went on in the class, who was feared and who was friendly.

The next night's dinner competed with two weddings for the use of a local hotel's facilities. Some members of the class recognized each other readily and began catching up on the latest in everyone's lives. For the rest of the crowd, whose best friends had not attended, the early evening was a strain without name tags to assist with memory loss.

Fortunately, food, drink and dancing music eased us along until new acquaintances were formed and the discomfort eased.

For myself, I have not attended one reunion since graduation, either from high school or college, and confess to the same horror a fond classmate confided online. I don't want, she said, to spend the money for a cross country plane ticket so that everyone who remembers me can see how fat and old I've become.

Just the same, wouldn't it be worth it to connect again with a treasured friend with whom you can be so openly honest all over again?

All this is not unlike the garden. It's time to let go of past things which have nothing left to give and to regenerate old growth and create new for the spring to come. As you put last year's garden to bed, clear out the weeds and dead plants but also add manure and compost to

nourish the soil for the next season.

This is the perfect season to plant the bulbs for next year's garlic. Choose a locally grown head for your planting cloves. You want a garlic that has been proven to survive our climate and the healthiest you can find, as your plant will yield in proportion to the size of the seed cloves. Make a trench about three inches deep, line it with bone meal if you have it, and set out the individual cloves, pointed side up, about six to eight inches apart. Cover, and tamp down the soil.

Garlic planted now will develop roots (you may even see some sprouts of green) before it goes dormant. Once the ground begins to freeze in early November, mulch the bed with leaves or such. When the green tops show in the early spring, pull the mulch back but leave in the space between the rows to keep down the coming weeds.

This pungent crop is easy to grow and provides you with fresh, organic garlic of your own to enjoy.

This is of course also the time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Daffodils and the smaller crocus, lilies and hyacinth can be set in now in a bed or about the yard

for naturalizing. A simple rule of thumb is to plant at a depth about as deep as the size of the bulb. These spring beauties will also appreciate a pinch of bone meal at the bottom of the hole, but will otherwise require little attention.

The early spring reward of fragrant blooms right out of the snow is more than sufficient bonus for a little bit of the gardener's time.

So also, we are leaving in retirement bits of work and of ourselves behind in order to find the rewards of new endeavors, projects and relationships. Personally, having worked in schools for years, I know that while it may seem that the young people now held captive there cannot appreciate what they have, these same young people

will return in a year or two or many more to tell all who will listen how much the experience meant to them.

For myself, I may also attend a 45th or a 50th reunion in part to say thank you. I hope among my classmates to find ones like my old honest friend who was worried about how much her appearance has changed. Her appearance is not what I valued about her then, nor will I care about it now.

The friendships I want to renew are the ones that involved sharing in depth of other things: good talk, ideas, feelings and love for a place and a time of your life long left behind.

Happy closing of doors and opening of many others both in the garden and in your hearts.

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UP TO THE MINUTE TECHNOLOGY
OLD-FASHIONED PERSONAL SERVICE

WENDELL from pg 7

reported that the committee contacted three contractors for the work to renovate the playground behind the library, and the lowest bid came in from Tom Chaisson, of Tri County Construction.

For phase one of the project, to be completed before November 30th, Chaisson will remove the east fence along Wendell Depot Road, and supervise a subcontractor in the building of a new fence closer to the road. He will remove the south fence and replace it with a fence of black locust posts and shiplap boards, remove the rocker car and the diggers, install sonotubes for the tree house and the play house and work with the highway crew if necessary to move the slide and the merry go round.

New recreation commissioner Jody Slade met the selectboard to clarify what he needs to do for the 10 K road race that will be part of Wendell's harvest festival on October 23rd. For runners, the race will start 11:00 a.m. at the Deja Brew pub, go north on Lockes Village and Wendell Depot Road to Plain Road, east on Plain Road, north on New Salem Road, west up the hill to

the center of town on Morse Village Road and then back to Deja Brew on Lockes Village Road. The suggested entry fee is \$15, and proceeds will go toward the playground. A shorter walk to Plain Road and back will start at 10:15 a.m.

Slade said he would notify homeowners along the route, and Keller suggested that he also contact police chief Ed Chase, and the highway department about spray painting race directions on the road. Heard said water would be available at her house. The first 48 race entrants will get t-shirts provided by the Wendell

MONTAGUE from page 6

ment plant, next spring. But in the meantime, he put the board on notice that his department, which has seen staffing reduced since the 1990s from nine to six or seven, will soon need to hire another laborer.

The selectboard appointed Anne Stuart, a Republican, to replace Dorothy Freeman, also a member of the Grand Old Party, as a registrar. Then the board ended the public portion of the meeting to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining with the town hall employee's union.



Country Store and the Deja Brew pub.

The town has a purchase and sale agreement for the former Marion Herrick house and property on Wickett Pond Road and is preparing to close on October 19th.

Aldrich read from a letter from the Franklin County Sheriff's office describing a regional dog control program for towns in the county. The program is meant to supplement, not provide a substitute for town dog control, and would provide a kennel staffed in part by jail inmates.

Keller attended the tree hearing earlier in the evening, and his report was that neither National Grid, nor the tree preservationists in town were completely satisfied with the

from ERVING page 6

maries.

The letter, drafted by the Woburn city clerk and supported by Erving town clerk Dick Newton, states that having both primaries on the same day will save the Commonwealth \$8 million.

Goodwin commented, "I can't put my name to something moving the primary out of the window of legitimacy. That weakens our voice [in Massachusetts] further."

Goodwin observed that the presidential nominations are usually determined by "super-Tuesday" in March. Goodwin asked Sharp to draft a letter to be sent to other Massachusetts cities and towns to support registering the state electoral vote

outcome. Twenty-five of the trees originally marked to be cut were saved, with the treatment reduced to trimming or leaving the tree alone. Tree warden Peter Zera went out three times inspecting trees, once with Pru Smith, once by himself and once with National Grid representatives. As tree warden, he held final say over the action taken by National Grid on town-owned trees.

Pru Smith was especially disappointed that Zera allowed the cutting of a 19-inch beech she said showed no sign of the bark disease that plagues many beeches in the Northeast.

The selectboard received an invitation to attend the Mahar Veterans' Day program, to be held Tuesday, November 8th, but none of the current board

by congressional district rather than "winner take all" electoral voting. He said counting a state's electoral vote by Congressional district would be more representative.

At the request of Erving Paper Mills general manager Tom Newton, the selectboard scheduled a hearing for October 31st at 6:45 p.m. to consider a change in the mill's flammable liquids storage license. The change would allow storage of a biofuel made from animal and food processing waste rather than the #6 fuel oil the plant currently stores and uses.

Newton explained the biofuel would be renewable, is less of a fire hazard than #6 fuel oil, and will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from

members are able to attend. Former selectboard member Ted Lewis often attended those programs, and Keller suggested forwarding the invitation to him.

Keller reported that the town vault had been emptied and documents had been taken to be cleaned. While that happens and before the documents are returned, the town can take steps to make the vault resistant to further mold buildup.

In the process of moving documents he and town Clerk Gretchen Smith found the document written in 1781 by the state legislature creating the town of Wendell, signed by Massachusetts Governor John Hancock, and Speaker of the House, Caleb Smith.



the plant.

The selectboard voted to sign a contract for Martin's Farm to pick up food waste from the new senior center senior center to be used for making compost. The school committee has already signed a contract with Martin's Farm. At an earlier meeting, the selectboard had questioned the \$75 per month cost, but agreed to the contract on being informed that this was a reasonable price for waste transport.

Luke Hartnett was appointed as a part-time custodian for the new senior center.

The winning bid for buying the surplus 2003 Ford Expedition police vehicle was \$3,800 from The Edge Basketball Club.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hit and Run, Break In, Drunk Driving Arrest

Tuesday, 10/11

2:54 a.m. Suspicious person at Unity Park. Investigated.

Wednesday, 10/12

1:10 a.m. Hit and run accident on Main Road in Gill. Investigated.

11:21 a.m. Suspicious person at Sawmill River and Dewolf Road. Referred to an officer.

4:21 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 10/13

10:51 a.m. Breaking and entering on Fifth Street. Referred to an officer.

8:57 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fifth Street. Services rendered.

Friday, 10/14

1:30 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant during a domestic disturbance on L Street.

11:47 a.m. Hit and run accident at the Second Street Baking Company. Services rendered.

Saturday, 10/15

3:05 p.m. Domestic disturbance on West Main Street. Verbal warning.

8:26 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Second Street. Referred to an officer.

11:11 a.m. Domestic disturbance on N Street. Services rendered.

1:58 p.m. Domestic disturbance on N Street. Report taken.

4:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted], for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and reckless endangerment to children.

7:15 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fourth Street. Investigated.

Sunday, 10/16

6:59 a.m. Neighbor Disturbance on

Federal Street. Advised of options.

Monday, 10/17

12:13 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. No police service necessary.

2:37 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. No police service necessary.

3:21 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Third Street. Investigated.

3:22 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Turners Falls High School. Referred to an officer.

3:23 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Grout Circle. Advised of options.

5:29 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated.

6:38 p.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street. Investigated.

7:36 p.m. Fight at Millers Pub on East Main Street. Verbal warning.

Tuesday, 10/18

2:50 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant.

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Liebling Exhibition at Hampshire

AMHERST - Hampshire College invites the public to a tribute exhibition of Jerome Liebling photographs. Twenty-seven monumental images — many are over three feet wide — are on display in the Jerome Liebling Center for Film, Photography, and Video on campus through October 30th.

The photographs are from the

last exhibition Liebling curated of his own work, a summer 2010 show, "Capturing the Human Spirit," at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, N.H.

Renowned photographer Liebling teamed up with master printer Jonathan Singer of Boston, using digital printing techniques to create these exceptional images from black-and-



Young Boys--Iron Range, Minnesota 1951 by Jerome Liebling (gelatin silver print on paper)

white and color-film negatives dating from 1947 to 1996. Details and definition are revealed in the monumental photographs that were hidden in prints one quarter their size.

On Sunday, October 30th, the life and work of Jerome Liebling will be cele-

brated at a public memorial service at 1 p.m. in Hampshire's Robert Crown Center. A reception will follow in the Liebling Center.

Liebling, who passed away July 27th at age 87, was among the founding professors of Hampshire College. He joined the faculty in 1969, before the college opened in the fall of 1970, and taught at Hampshire until his retirement in 1990.

VIDEO from page 1 held between Greenfield residents Daniel Hales and Shira Hillel, as they chewed over work by two of the festival artists: US artist, Jenny Perlin, and German artist Mirko Martin. There are links to these video shorts on the artists' websites, which can be accessed from the festival's website at: www.greenfieldvideofest.org (click the "program" link).

On Mirko Martin's "Noir:"

SH: This video features people discussing a shooting incident on an LA street. There is no image, only a transcript of their conversation in white letters on a black screen. It is difficult to hear parts of what's said over the street sounds so the viewer needs the transcript. There are parts even the artist couldn't understand and didn't transcribe. The speakers themselves are shocked and trying to piece together what happened. The man the artist is talking to speaks in a colloquial way that is fun to listen to.

DH: The humor was much appreciated; some works in the fest were very heady and theory-driven. But it also captured fear, confusion—all the emotions that the experience stirred up for these

neighbors, trying to make sense of what happened. It reminded us of how we compared facts, apocrypha and anecdotes with our neighbors right after Hurricane Irene—some of whom we rarely talk to. It was refreshing that this piece got at something visceral, raw and immediate rather than deliberate and academic.

SH: Yes, after something scary happens, you seek out other people's company, even though you don't really have anything specific to say. On another note, it's cool to read text as people speak it, the onomatopoeic transcription of the speaker mimicking the gun shots: "baw ba ba la la!"

DH: Yeah, it was the only visual element in the piece...white text on a black screen. It emphasized how little these neighbors really know about what's going on—even as one speaker insists he knows exactly what's going on—they're truly in the dark. The two initial speakers have a similar account of what they heard, so they begin on common ground. As other pass by, they try to convey what they heard and saw, and the events become more rehearsed on repeat telling, more removed from the original experience.

When I first walked into the room (where the clip was playing in a loop), I arrived after the shots; the neighbors were comparing notes on the shots. I was like one of the dudes that shows up later and asks what happened. As I continued to watch, other people filtered into the room. Each late arrival had to try to piece together what had already occurred. All while we're standing in this very gritty cinderblock room in the First National Bank that felt like it could've been an alley in a big city.

SH: Because the only visual is text, it really does break with traditional notions of video art. You hear the German artist speaking with an accent with the American guy from the neighborhood. The American guy takes on a protective tone with the artist and warns him to go home. The dynamic of taking care of the foreigner also makes himself feel a bit more in control in an out-of-control situation.

DH: One of the cool things about a piece like this is you're forced to mine the audio for more data about the characters, the setting, the relationship, because it's all you have to go on. It really does a great job of working with the theme of the whole show:

making the watcher/listener pay closer attention to sound, to not treat sound as secondary to sight.

On Jenny Perlin's: "Transcript" & "Inaudible"

SH: These companion pieces depict a dinner conversation of friends of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, alleged spies for the Soviet Union. The transcription is taken from FBI tapes made during the McCarthy era. There is muffled dialogue and snippets of conversation heard over 50s music. The paranoid atmosphere of the era comes through. The sound is purposely muffled to reflect the unclear times, and the fact that the original spy tapes were unclear recordings. The topic is relevant to our times; with the Patriot Act anyone could be spied on.

DH: I liked the way this piece turns the viewer into an eavesdropper, a spy. We're actually placed in the position of the spy straining to hear, trying to make meaning, occasionally guessing when we're not quite sure what's being said. It makes the audience complicit in the intrusion.

SH: The only image in the first video is the hallway and doorframe in a New York apartment building. Again, image is

secondary to audio track where we hear actors speaking the conversation from the FBI transcription.

DH: We're on the outside of this social gathering, lurking in the hallway, staring at the floorboards or the frame of the door. Like "Noir," we're stuck outside of the bigger event taking place, trying to manufacture meaning.

SH: The second companion video shows the transcription text of the tape of the dinner party. So much was unclear that the transcription is mostly the word "inaudible" repeated over and over again. It shows how ridiculous and futile the spying was. They seem like two scared couples having dinner. And yet, the FBI had an agenda.

DH: It really is something of a companion piece to "Noir" in this respect. The omissions and pieces of dialogue that are incoherent in the dialogue were rendered in "Noir" as (...) here are (inaudible). They both emphasize how much is lost in translation, how little we understand what is really happening as we try to navigate the world. The aura of loneliness to Perlin and Martin's pieces made them resonate.



from OWNER page 1

with her husband Abe, started Turners Falls Pizza 41 years ago, across the street from its present location. She remembers, "It was a much busier downtown," back then. "We had a jewelry store, a

shoe store, a five and dime, a men's clothing store, and quite a few bars..." She kept the pizza house open late, to meet the rush of customers as the bars closed down at 1:00 a.m. — a practice Argy plans to revive soon by

keeping the Pizza House open until 2:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturdays.

When she learned the ropes, "I had to work hard at it," von Steenburgh recalled. Both her parents were chefs, and she said, "I never had to cook in my life," before opening up the restaurant.

Von Steenburgh, a Jersey girl from Patterson who relocated to Turners in 1970, moved the Pizza House across the Ave to its current location when she bought the building at 119 Avenue A. She started the business "back in the hippie days," when the Renaissance Commune owned a large percentage of the real estate

in downtown Turners. Pizza was popular with the Renaissance crowd, and after they saw von Steenburgh making a go of it the communards opened their own alternative — Zap Mia Pizza.

Von Steenburgh outlasted them.

With one week off each year for vacation, she has been running the Turners Falls Pizza House seven days a week for more than four decades. Except in 1999, when a fire that began in a third floor apartment when a tenant left a candle burning near a window curtain, setting the whole top floor ablaze. That April fire resulted in a four

month shut down of the business. The top floor is gone now, but the Pizza House has been running on the renovated first floor ever since.

Nowadays, von Steenburgh can still be found most mornings rolling out the dough on the stainless steel table in the back kitchen, giving Argy some last pointers in the fine points of the job, as deliveries come in the back door, and customers keep the phone lines ringing. Through long years, von Steenburgh has built up a local institution customers can rely on, and she is leaving it in good hands.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Day/Time	Event	Details
Tuesday, 10/11 9:25 a.m.	Report of two car motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at Box Car Restaurant.	11:00 p.m. Alarm at Laurel Lake Road residence. Checked same. Secure.
Tuesday, 10/11 2:15 p.m.	Identity Fraud of Pratt Street resident. Under investigation.	1:30 a.m. Dispatched to the Turners Falls Gill Bridge for tractor trailer unit that hit the barriers. Checked same. No damage.
Wednesday, 10/12		2:22 a.m. Removed dead tree from Dorsey Road.
Wednesday, 10/12		3:15 a.m. Mutual aid to Montague police for domestic dispute on West Main Street.

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FLORE from page 5

As her editor, I can definitely assure you, whatever language she was writing her columns in was most certainly not English. But it was colorful, it was rich, and it evoked such vivid scenes that it was more than worth the vain effort of deciphering, and offering to you.

Here, for the readers who missed it the first time, was our best attempt at translating her first column, called "Thinking of You in Provence."

Now, sadly, we will all miss Flore's voice, and her presence, in our lives. We trust she has gone to take up residence in some cheerful, airy no man's land, where delightful concourse with like souls awaits, and perhaps a bowl of cherries, and some goat cheese.

**August 19th, 2004
Bezaudun-les-Alpes –**

Montague resident Flore (like Madonna, a woman with no last name) spends summers in the hilltop village of Bezaudun-les-Alpes. Her letters paint a vivid picture of the ochre walled houses, red roofs and cobbled streets, where the mayor tends his flock on the "starpath to Compostello..."

Imagine a small Provençal village of 150 souls (in summer months). A real eagle's nest at the altitude of 800 meters, it overlooks to the north the Massif du _____, to the south, the Vallee des Merveilles, and further the unobstructed view of the Italian Piedmontese Alps.

The village has a long history, from a Ligurian stronghold way back before the Roman Empire to now becoming "the starpath to

Compostello." Pilgrims, coming from Italy, still use this way, going to Spain on foot.

The village is known as the hideout of Albert Spaggiari, the master of the strategy of drilling a tunnel under the Societe Generale in Nice to the bank's main safe, which he relieved of \$10 million. He lived here, and was adopted as a true son of the village. A converted bergerie (sheep pen?) was his remote home on the hills, visible from our house; people still visit it.

Three American couples have fallen for this splendid village, including a bed and breakfast run by one of them, we recommend... Wouldn't it be a splendid idea to create a jumelage (twin city) with Montague? Here are some exotic notes for the Montaguers staying at home.

The first day after arrival is quite eventful, in a rural sense of ways. First, our close neighbor Jacqueline, accustomed to follow my early get-abouts, called to check how things were going. I did not hear her; I was deep in slumber land.

The whole village, 150 souls, knew by then I had an intoxication alimentaire (intestinale would be too familiar) due to the food prepared at high altitude on the airplane. The doctor's car, a red flaming Peugeot, noticeable miles away, was the alert. Whom was he visiting? Especially on a Sunday, when Provençaux consume their lunch till practically suppertime?

Least suspected was I, who had just returned au pays. Imagine, the solid house had been unoccupied for seven months. In such a small community, everyone feels responsible and assigned morally to be watching the goings on of orphan homes.

This morning was foire (local market) on the main plaza. I watched from the elevated terrace a mare and her colt brought by the raiser to be sold.

Expected were more than just the fromagere (the cheese lady) and the van of the fruits and legumes (fruit and vegetable truck). Yvon, the other neighbor, has an entrepreneur's mind; he organized the venture, hoping it would be bringing people to this wonderland. At least, in the summer months. "Next month," says he, optimistically, "watch – there will be more outsiders climbing up here!"

In reality, for those of you who have not set foot in what is called la France profonde (the heartlands), here exist two dynamic clans, just like in politics. Rather than working together for better understanding of issues, they each work against the other, on principal, of course. Here, you have two main centers, one located on the Italian side, because it faces the Piedmontese Alps. As a rule, people stay put as if it were a journey to a foreign land to be crossing the cobbled narrow paths to get to the other side of the village. Though it is better sheltered in winter, it belongs to the tricotentenses (the knitting and sewing girls' clan). It makes one wonder how women, instead of throwing away their 'duty aprons,' manage to be all the time connected to work.

So you know, we live on the Italian side, where under a magnificent rugged linden tree gather the old timers. It gets bitten by the tongues of the mistral, when that wind blows ferociously. It would push you to the ground at times, flat on the ground.

To learn the latest news, I go intentionally each morning to the no man's land. Checking on the new bed and breakfast, a fantastic place, climb, before passing the school bus stop, towards le chemin de la chapelle. A beautiful edifice stands there, among the fields. The malignant peste (plague) never reached the fortification's stone walls. Being fervent Catholics, the elders decided to build a chapel on the highest spot, in honor of the virgin, calling it "Our Lady of the People."

Sometimes, if one is lucky enough, you will meet the shepherd and his flock, taking a rest among wild lavender, as if time had stopped. Up here, it does.

On your way back, to this eagle's nest, you will be passing les poules du maire. It has two meanings. In slang poule means girlfriend, and then, of course, there is the feathered kind. The mayor (maire), a great guy and friend of ours, is happily married, tends to his poulailler (chicken coop) early in the morning. In the evening, he rounds up eggs. Should you meet him, you will be bestowed one of his glorious finds. What a treat and a taste!

The clock also punctuates the village's life. You will hear its bell ringing every hour and half hour. It used to toll all day and night, until villagers got a petition together to have it stopped now at 8 p.m. At 8 a.m. you will want to rise to venture for breakfast, gulping the 360 degree view, bringing your lungs to expand as parachutes!

If our kitchen window has been left wide open, upon returning to dispose of the overloaded tray, you will notice a bowl of cherries anonymously left on one of the chairs, not to mention goat's cheese left on the table. This is Provence's generosity for us. How one could resist its seductive beauty?

There is no answer to such questions, unless Flore knows, and now, she will never tell. We will have to go and find the answer for ourselves.

Adieu!



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10:15 am - 1 mile, 2.8 mile, 4 mile (walkers)

11:00 am 10 K road race (runners)
Start at Wendell Country Store
#15 donation requested for Library Playground

12:30 - 4:00 pm Wine, Beer and Cheese Tasting at Deja Brew Pub
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4:00 pm Lynn Davis, Music of Healing and Transition
free at the Wendell Senior Center

5:30 pm HARVEST DINNER!
Potluck Dinner, Diamond Turkey, Stone Soup
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm 66, and I'm thinking of taking up a musical instrument. I hear this will be good for my health. Is this true?

Playing an instrument seems to improve your health in a variety of ways. I play the saxophone almost every day, and can confirm that playing music definitely relieves stress. Stress can be bad for your mental and physical health.

There's a lot of evidence that playing music is good for you.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Making Music is Good for Your Health

According to a study published by the American Psychological Association, playing an instrument as a child keeps the mind sharper as we age.

The study, done at the University of Kansas Medical Center, recruited 70 healthy adults aged 60 to 83 who were divided into groups based on their levels of musical experience. The musicians performed better on several cognitive tests than the individuals who had never studied an instrument or learned how to read music. The brain functions measured by the tests tend to decline with age.

"Musical activity throughout life may serve as a challenging cognitive exercise, making your brain fitter and more capable of accommodating the challenges of aging," said lead researcher Brenda Hanna-Pladdy, PhD. "Since studying an instrument requires years of practice and learning, it may create alternate

connections in the brain that could compensate for cognitive declines as we get older."

There are benefits to starting an instrument in your later years, too.

"Music-making is linked to a number of health benefits for older adults," said Dr. Suzanne Hanser, chair of the music therapy department at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. "Research shows that making music can lower blood pressure, decrease heart rate, reduce stress, and lessen anxiety and depression. There is also increasing evidence that making music enhances the immunological response, which enables us to fight viruses."

Hanser said that anyone, regardless of age or ability, can make music and benefit from it.

"People are not only living longer these days, they want to remain healthy and active for as long as possible," said Antoinette

Follett, editor-in-chief of "Making Music" magazine. "Plus, there is an increasing focus in the medical community on the need to keep the brain as healthy as the body. This focus is as much about making the empty nest and retirement years fun and worthwhile as it is about preventing debilitating dementias such as Alzheimer's disease. Music making has the potential to do both."

In one study, participants between the ages of 45 and 65 underwent tests to measure their auditory memory and ability to recognize speech among noise. Eighteen people in the group were active musicians. The remaining people in the group were non-musicians. For the musicians, it was easier to pick out a specific sound from competing noise.

Therapists have been using music to promote memory and a sense of self in the treatment of

older adults with dementia.

"Music therapy has many faces," says Kimmo Lehtonen, PhD, a clinical music therapist in Finland. "Music has a close relationship with unconscious emotions, which are activated by musical movement. To me, music represents a microcosm which has a close relationship to our inner feelings. These feelings are so strong, they're meaningful even if patients cannot remember who they are."

John Carpente, founder and executive director of the Rebecca Center for Music Therapy in New York, believes music empowers people to emerge from the isolation imposed by Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

"Undoubtedly, it's one of the most engaging and emotionally powerful stimuli," says Carpente. "Listening to music can have strong effects on people's moods, thinking, and even their physiology."

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

SECRET from page 1

young girl, Mary Lennox (Emma Henderson), and how her life is turned upside down when unfortunate circumstances send her thousands of miles from her home in India to England, where she is to live on a vast estate on the whithering moors with an unknown uncle, Archibald Craven (Alan Dallmann).

Mary meets her new maid, Martha (Marguerite Durant) who introduces her to a new way of speaking English as well as to her nature-loving brother, Dickon (Cam Cote).

Mary is fascinated with a garden that is walled off from the rest of the property. She seeks a mysterious inhabitant (Brandon Dallmann) of the house who cries in the night, waking Mary from her slumbers.

Uncle Archibald is grieving the loss of his beloved wife Lily

(Pam Plumer) who haunts the house, the gardens, and Archie's soul. It is finally Mary who brings life to bloom again for the family with her stubbornness, intelligence, mercy, and mischief.

Other notable performances are Archie's devilish brother Dr. Neville Craven (John Healy), gardener Ben Weatherstaff (Dave Peck), and Mary's parents Rose and Albert (Megan Fish and Kevin Tracy).

The multi-level set is cleverly designed, also by Kevin Tracy, and utilizes the space well. The action takes place in India, England, the garden, and various rooms in the mansion. So while rather monolithic and dull to gaze at before the play begins, the set functions well to hold the action efficiently.

While it was difficult to understand every actor's dia-

logue due to the depth and height of the set, the ten-piece orchestra was never to blame for drowning out the actors. A beautiful compilation of keyboards, woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion, this complicated score was executed eloquently. Musical director Michelle Chaikin deserves praise for conducting to support the show — never to overshadow or outshine the singers or the action. The songs often contain multi-tiered harmonies, and the singers, both as individuals and in the large chorus, resonate beautifully. Another solid nod to Chaikin.

Director Kim Overtree and choreographer Lindsey Anderson did a fine job moving a large cast of people in, out, up, down, and around the set with purpose and grace, never wasting time and always using the space to its best advantage.

Period costumes by Karen Hinds were beautiful and well researched and executed. Rachel Roy's lighting design highlighted the action, helping the audience see each separate room, scene, and setting in its own right.

Memorable songs include Lily's Eyes, Come Spirit Come Charm, Hold On, Letter Song, and, How Could I Ever Know? There are top-notch singers in this cast who should be commended for lending their lofty talents to community theater.

The musical theater adaptation of the Secret Garden is quite different in many ways from the original book (no spoilers here), but it does do it justice in special ways. For instance, while Mary is quickly shuttled out of India in Act I, her memories and the lasting life effects of her time there are reintroduced in lovely smat-

terings throughout the production in Indian music, spells, and dance with Ayah and Fakir (Sophie Lederman and Ted Trobaugh).

If you like a good story, beautiful music, talented actors, singers, and dancers, and appreciate well-produced, local musical theatre, then "The Secret Garden" is on your calendar this weekend.

The Secret Garden runs this Friday and Saturday evenings, October 21st and 22nd, at 7:30 p.m. at the Shea Theatre, 71 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. There is a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on the 23rd. Tickets are available at the Jones Library in Amherst, the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, or by reservation by calling the Shea box office at (413) 863-2281, extension 3, and at the door.



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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XI

Turners Falls, MA 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL

While Diana gets ready for bed, I quietly dress and then eat some breakfast. I log into work at 9:03. It seems like much more than a weekend since I logged out. At first it's hard to concentrate on work with so much happening in my life, but once I get into a project, it distracts me.

Then I start dreaming. By lunchtime I have discovered that there are some things I can still do pretty well during the dream cycles, like programming, and some things I am not so great at, like talking on the phone. I am feeling confident, though, that I will get into a groove and man-

age this just fine.

My day is almost normal. At 7:30, I wake Diana up, as I promised I would. I have had dinner already. Diana will want breakfast food. She can eat with the other body. My real body, I remind myself. Diana will wake the Body at Rest after I have fallen asleep, as she did before. Next time, I'm on my own.

"Call my cell any time you want," Diana says after breakfast, giving me a kiss on the cheek. "Good luck."

"Thanks," I say. I am a little panicked at the idea of being alone all night. I know Diana has to get home tonight, though.

I thank her a few more times before she goes.

"Maybe you should think about moving back to Philadelphia," she says.

"Um, OK, sure," I say. "I'll think about it."

"I guess I should go."

"OK. Thanks again."

Diana gives me another hug, and then she's off.

Time passes quickly, as I have a lot to catch up with at home. Then I have about three hours left to fill before switching bodies — by myself this time.

I think about running, something I always mean to do but can't find the time. It's cold, though, and there are icy patches on the roads. I decide to organize the downstairs closet, another thing I can never find time for. Then I read a book.

The three hours fly by. I find myself wishing I had a little more time, just to read another chapter or two, and then realize that I will have a lot of it after work— about 14 hours of time.

I get ready for bed and sit next to the Body at Rest for a few minutes, yawning and watching her sleep. I am hoping that some of her peacefulness will rub off on me.

My heart is going pretty fast, and I don't think I'll fall asleep. I take a deep breath and then nudge her awake at the same time as I am getting into bed. She stirs, opens her eyes, and we look at each other.

With a lot of concentration I

am able to tell which one of me is supposed to go to sleep, and I get that body to close her eyes.

It's easier with the doppelganger's eyes closed. Now I can see where I am going. I hope that the body in bed falls asleep soon. I need to get ready for work, and it's pretty hard when I feel like I am swimming in sounds and my brain is in twice as many places at once.

But she does fall asleep, quickly. It's like Diana said. The body that's up does the thinking and worrying, so the one at rest can just fall asleep.

It's a relief for both bodies.

Continued next issue

Open House
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MCTV SEEKS OUTREACH AND TECH COORDINATORS

Montague Community Cable, Inc., the 501(c)(3) non-profit that owns and staffs MCTV channel 17 in Montague, MA, is seeking two professional positions.

Outreach and Communications Coordinator:
 \$15/hr @ 10hrs - 20hrs per week. Major duties include contacting local agencies and residents and creating organizational and production partnerships; creating underwriting and sponsorship solicitations; writing the newsletter and all public communications; writing the quarterly and annual report narratives. Applicant should have a flair for writing, a passion and understanding of the place public access has in Montague, and a gregarious nature, at ease in front of an audience. Video skills would be a definite plus but are not required.

Technical Coordinator:
 \$20/hr @ 10hrs - 15hrs per week. Major duties include maintaining the broadcast rack; researching and implementing emerging technologies; providing community training in editing, cameras, field production, etc.; maintaining and inventory all equipment. Applicant must have solid video technical skills and work well with the public, with good communication skills and a positive attitude in an office environment.

MCTV is also seeking interns to assist in video editing, titling and field production. Applicants should mail resumes to MCTV, 34 Second Street, Turners Falls, MA, 01376.
MCCI is an equal opportunity employer.

The People Serve Notice to Entergy Nuclear

VERNON, VT - Citizens of Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire will serve Entergy notice that March 21st, 2012 is the final day of operation for the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor.

At noon, on Sunday, October 30th, 2011, the newly formed SAGE (Safe and Green Energy) Alliance invites all concerned citizens of the tri-state region to a rally at the gates of Vermont Yankee, 546 Governor Hunt Road, in Vernon, VT


By its decision to refuel the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor, Entergy Corporation is making a bold and arrogant statement that the corporation does not intend to abide by Vermont state law and the will of the people, which require Entergy to shut down at the end of its 40-year operating license on March 21st, 2012.

The state of Vermont has served notice, and on Sunday, October 30th, the people of the region will serve notice too. Entergy's days of operation are numbered: on October 30th there will be 141 days left in the countdown to the reactor's closure.

We are repowering the people and repowering our tri-state community with sustainable energy.

Join us for a peaceful and spirited rally at the gates of Vermont Yankee.

More info at www.SAGEalliance.net



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Repowering the People

We are Closing Vermont Yankee on Schedule

MARCH 21st, 2012

March 21st is VY's Scheduled Closing Date and the Beginning of a Nuclear Free, Renewable Energy Future For our Tri-State Region: Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire!

Here's What YOU Can Do between Now and March 21st:

- Get involved in the SAGE Alliance (formed Sept. '11), an association of anti-nuclear/safe energy groups and individuals from around New England (www.SAGEalliance.net).
- Form or join a local Affinity Group and participate in a Nonviolence Training in preparation for nonviolent direct action to shut down Vermont Yankee in case the Entergy Corporation defies the State of Vermont and the wishes of the people and refuses to close Vermont Yankee by March 21st.
- Come to the "REPOWERING THE PEOPLE" RALLY



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August 22nd, 2007 - Vermont Yankee

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at the gates of Vermont Yankee
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www.SAGEalliance.net

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