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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 5

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 27, 2011

Complaints Aired on Unlicensed Junk Yard

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - A long simmering complaint about the property at 444 Main Road, owned by Lawrence and Helen Krejmas, came to a boil at this week's selectboard meeting, as board of health agent Glen Ayers asked for and received authority from the selectboard to enforce the town's bylaw against unregistered vehicles, including imposing fines of \$25 a day - per vehicle.

Ayers said approximately eight to ten vehicles are visible from Main Road, and another dozen or so are impounded behind a wooden and metal stockade fence at the site.

Additionally, in a written notice of code violations and an order to correct same, Ayers wrote, "The appearance of this property is that it is being operated as an auto junk yard."

The selectboard stated that Krejmas does not have a license to operate a junk yard, or any other business, at that address.

Ayers said in addition to the unregistered vehicles, his visits to the property have turned up other state health code violations, including, "large quantities of junk and debris... unusable building materials, rusted metal, broken and damaged appliances and utility equipment, used tires... car parts, engine parts, pieces of machinery stored in the open and exposed to the elements, piles with unknown contents covered by fallen leaves and branches, scattered plastic, rubber and glass materials, and accumulations of many other materials..."

Additionally, the property features a large, partially dismantled mobile home, which "emits a rotten odor of mold and mildew."

Finally, Ayers' letter states, the property also features "improper storage of flammable materials that increase the risk of fires,

see GILL pg 8

Big Wendell Fall Day



JONATHAN von RANSON PHOTO

The Harvest Dinner was packed with Wendellites enjoying the food and company.

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

In a creative act of spontaneity, several Wendell groups, independently of each other, picked October 23rd as an activity day. The recreation committee sponsored its first annual 10K road race, as a fundraiser for the new playground at the Wendell library. The road race, with about 30 contestants at a suggested donation of \$15, was timed to arrive at the finish line simultaneously with a two mile walk, which drew about 50 contestants with a suggested donation of \$5.

Newly recruited recreation commissioner Jody Slade organized the event, and Wendell Country Store owner Patty Scutari announced, "On your mark... Get set... Go!" The Deja Brew and the Country Store provided free t-shirts.

The course started and ended on the top of Wendell hill, but it was far from a flat race. Less than a mile from the end

was the hard quarter mile climb up Morse Village Road from New Salem Road, almost the steepest hill in town; after that people ran back on a nearly flat road to the finish at the Wendell Country Store. The Deja Brew pub opened early for libations.

Ben Kimball was fastest overall with a time of 45 minutes, 25 seconds. Second was Patrick Pezzati, third Andu Vandervelden. First woman to finish was Valerie Hamlet, second Kris Dorsey, third was Nancy White.

When, back behind Deja Brew, he announced the winners, Slade said the race had raised \$850. Obviously someone had cheated and contributed more than the suggested amount. No one confessed.

The award ceremony, informal as it was, melded gently into a mellow beer,

see FALL DAY pg 8

Water Line Vote Falls Short

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - Suzanne Pacheco moved to Teawaddle Hill Road five and a half years ago, after her realtor assured her there would be no problem with the water supply, because, "The town takes care of the water."

Indeed, the town has been taking care of the water at the east end of Teawaddle Hill for fifteen years or more, selectboard member Rich Brazeau told over a hundred residents gathered at a special town meeting at the elementary school on Tuesday. The town has been paying roughly \$35,000 a year for monitoring wells and testing services, charcoal filters, and in some cases bottled water for the residents at that end of the road, which is just down the hill from Leverett's capped landfill.

Last year, Leverett spent \$42,000 to put in a new well at 7 Cushman Road. That well went in on a hill above the plume of contaminated groundwater that is slowly moving towards five more homes on Teawaddle Hill. Pacheco's home is one of them.

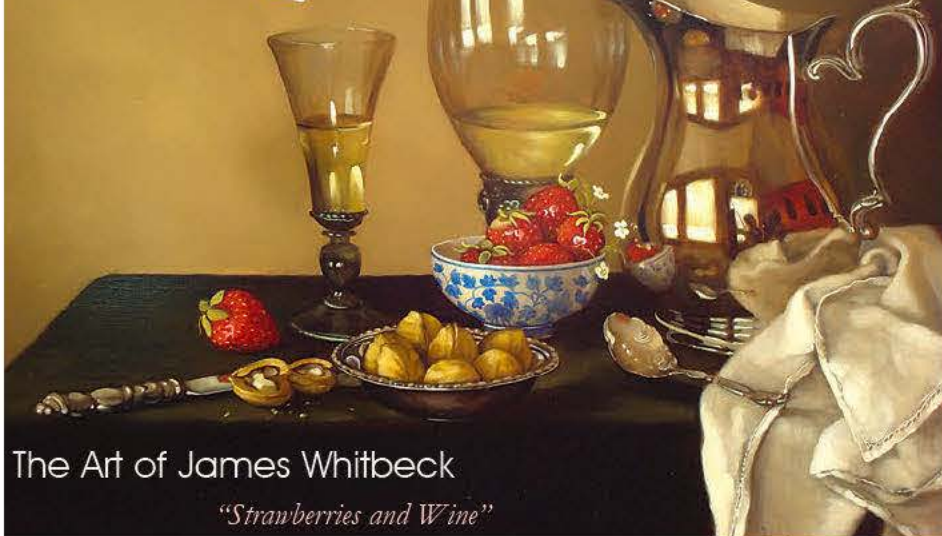
Last December, Pacheco said, her charcoal filtration system failed and she had to install a new well pump at her own expense. "It cost me a lot of money," she told town meeting. "I have to change the smaller filter every month."

But still, despite the threat of contaminants leaching from the town's old landfill into her tap water, Pacheco said, "I love the house. I love Leverett." And she doesn't want to move.

Taking the five homes on Teawaddle Hill - and perhaps others nearby on Cushman Road, by eminent domain and demolishing them at a possible cost of up to \$2 million - was one of a number of options Leverett voters considered during the lengthy discussion on the water problems in this corner of town

see LEVERETT pg 7

Mastering the Old Masters



The Art of James Whitbeck

"Strawberries and Wine"

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CITY - High above a bend in the Connecticut River, in a studio heated by a wood stove and visually warmed by the presence of jewel-toned rugs, James Whitbeck makes paintings that look like they should be hanging in museums. Inspired by Dutch masters, especially Vermeer, Whitbeck said,

"Sometimes I think I was born in the wrong century. I just love the way the old masters used light. It's an inspiration to me."

Day by day this inspiration unfolds in painstaking work. Making luminous paintings that contain such depth of light and shadow requires layers of paint, carefully applied so that the transparency yields the

details of a lace tablecloth in folds or a day lily in full bloom with sun shining through the petals. This is not spontaneous art. "After a couple of hours I need to get up and walk around, maybe run with my dog," said Whitbeck, after pulling out a few works in progress. He demonstrates how the initial sketch indi-

see MASTERS page 13

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD - Deep in the woods of North Greenfield, there are scary creatures waiting for you.

Well, maybe not so deep in the woods, and maybe not too scary, but lots of fun is to be had out at Camp Kee-Wanee in Greenfield this weekend.

Jonathan Chappell is the digital filmmaking teacher at Turners Falls High School and also the creative director of Skeleton Crew Theater. Students from his high school class join actors from the theater troupe to put on a show that is part scavenger hunt, part theater. An original story sets the stage. Along the way, they meet trolls, witches, a giant spider, and some other mysterious and spooky creatures.

Audience members can take part in the story or just stand back and watch. The show takes place in the woods at night, but the

Hallowe'en with the Skeleton Crew



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO
A scary witch baunts the woods at Camp Kee-Wanee.

trails are well marked and safe, and lights show the way. Lead by a masked, silent guide known only as the "The Seer," participants are led from set to set, collecting clues, solving challenges, and interacting with larger than life animatronic characters.

With the characters and basic story in place, the

audience participates in the adventure, and the outcome is whatever they make it.

This Hallowe'en show is suitable for children ages 7 and older.

This is the last weekend for the show, which has been running all month. Shows will be held Friday, October 28th and Saturday, October 29th. Sunday show is by reservation only.

Groups can begin entering at 6:30 p.m. with the last show at 9:30 p.m.

Audience members enter in groups and follow along together until the end. Cost is \$10 per person with group rates available. For more information or directions to Camp Kee-Wanee go to campkeewanee.org.

For information on the Skeleton Crew Theater, check their website at www.skeletoncrewtheater.com or call 413-475-0913.

PET OF THE WEEK
Still Waiting



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.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

- Grade 6**
Tanner Ames
- Grade 7**
Riley Wood
- Grade 8**
Tre Demers

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Amish Author Talk, Genealogy Workshop

Author Saloma Miller Furlong discusses her new book *Why I Left the Amish* on Tuesday, November 1st from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Themes include forces of control, chauvinism, and cruel constraint that lurk behind customs and practices outsiders label quaint and admire for their simplicity. Home-baked Amish-style treats will be served.

Basic workshop presentation called *In Search of Your Roots* by Martha Noblick on Sunday, November 6th at the library at noon. The workshop will cover a range of sources useful in genealogical research. Each participant will receive a handout of information. Presenter Martha Noblick has extensive experience in genealogy and local history research, including at the Jones Library Special Collections and at Historic Deerfield.

Leverett Library, 75 Montague Road. For more info visit www.leverettlibrary.org.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Annual Hallowe'en Party!



TURNERS FALLS - Lanie and Grayson Bowse of Montague worked intently on their witch cones at the annual Carnegie Library Halloween Party on Saturday, October 22nd. Over 100 people attended the popular party. Many thanks to the volun-

teers who assisted at the party: May Grzybowski, Amy and Ian Lang, Gabbi Santucci, Anthony Brunette, Mike Wells, and Dakotah Rogers. Aimee and Joy Podlenski decorated the library's second floor, transforming it into a fun spooky setting.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Film Tower of London

In between basing no less than seven movies on the macabre writings of author Edgar Allan Poe, the mega-versatile cinema wizard, Roger Corman, also found time to adapt a Shakespeare play into an effectively creepy and atmospheric 60's chiller. Vincent Price stars in *Tower of London* at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, October 29th at 7:30pm The screening is part of the monthly series of SciFi/Fantasy, Horror/Monster movies at the

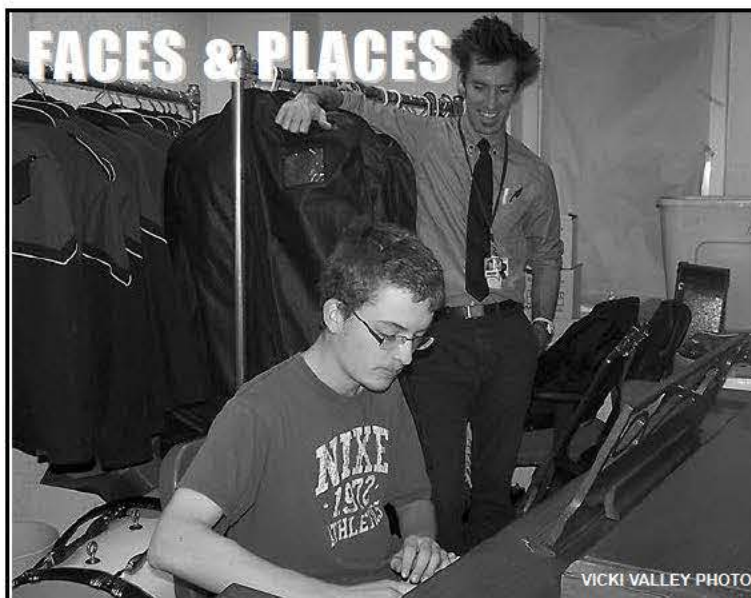
Wendell Free Library, located in the center of Wendell. Free.

Buddhist Baseball

Buddhist Baseball and *Lobster Liberation*: two independent films on life in Gampo Abbey, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Discussion and refreshments with Ilna Singh who recently returned from a year-long retreat there and Chris Queen, an author on contemporary Buddhism. Sunday, November 6th, 7 - 9 p. m. Free.

SHINE

Coming up at Wendell Free Library, Medicare Plan



Turners Falls High School music director, Scott Halligan (rear) and sophomore Brett Sirum enjoy the Baldwin Spinet piano donated last week by Greenfield resident Richard Shortell. Shortell's mother was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and taught private piano lessons. On her passing, Shortell wanted the piano to go to a good home where it would continue to be used by those who love music. The piano was not in the building for an hour before a student sat down to play. Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School are very appreciative of the donated spinet.

Historic Bridge Facts

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

Neither Alvah Crocker nor Josiah Canning lived to see a bridge at the dam. It wasn't until 1933 that the matter was again seriously considered.

In that year, the Montague selectboard decided to build a better bridge. The two existing suspension bridges were in need of extensive repairs. They had been repaired numerous times through the years when new decking was required and now the steel suspension cables had become fatigued and the need for a new bridge was dire.

At a special meeting of the Department of Public Works in the courthouse in Greenfield, Montague's selectboard chair, Robert G. Allen asked for a new bridge to replace the tandem of aging spans, as well as the covered bridge at Montague City. He explained to the state officials that a single bridge across the dam at Turners Falls would eliminate the necessity for building two new bridges to replace the antiquated "Red" and "White" structures.

More bridge facts next week!

Counseling by a visiting SHINE counselor. Medicare's New Open Enrollment Period is October 15th through December 7th. Medicare plans change every year. Review your options. SHINE counselors can help. Shine provides counseling and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries and their families free of charge. This program is sponsored by the Wendell Senior Center. Sessions are Friday mornings: November 10th and Dec. 2nd. Call the library to schedule an appointment.

For more info, www.wendell-freelibrary.org or 978-544-3559.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – October 31st - November 4th

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. **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.

- Wednesday, November 2nd**
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, November 3rd**
No Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. to Noon Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Pitch
- Friday, November 4th**
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

- 10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
- Tuesday, November 1st**
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, November 2nd**
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic
- Thursday, November 3rd**
8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
- Friday, November 4th**
9:00 a.m. Bowling

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating 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.

Monday, October 31st
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

- LEVERETT Senior Activities**
- Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
 - Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12:00 p.m. Call 413-367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
 - For information, contact the Leverett COA at 413-548-1022(x5) or coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, 978-544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by Don Clegg - The 25-year-old celebration of "Halloween around the Campfire" through songs, stories and dance is led by internationally known and locally loved singer songwriter Roger Tincknell. Imagine a group of young witches, fairies and aliens in the glow of the fire-light spellbound by a slightly spooky story or waltzing around in small family groups. You don't need to go to Occupy Wall Street to find that! Come to the Northfield Mountain Recreation Area Visitor Center on Saturday, October 29th, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to hear Roger Tincknell's beautiful music. Dress warmly; a snack will be served. In case of poor weather, the program will be held inside the cozy yurt.

The **Farren Festival**, featuring over 20 vendors, raffles, gift baskets, bake sale and kids corner activities will be held Saturday, November 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will also be available. Proceeds benefit the resident fund. The Farren Care Center is located at 340 Montague City Road in Montague City.

The Montague Business Association is promoting a **safe Halloween evening** of fun for families on Monday, October 31st, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If your business along or near the area of Avenue A in Turners Falls would like to participate, please contact Linda Ackerman at Greenfield Savings Bank, 863-4316. The

Last Week to Shop Locally for Swift River School!

There's only one week left to check out the second annual Swift River School Shop Locally Catalog, the catalog that allows you to support local businesses while raising funds for Swift River School student activities. Catalogs and order forms can be found online at www.swiftschool.org or picked up at the New Salem Public Library, New Salem

business will be provided with a bright orange pumpkin to display in your door or window, to invite trick or treaters to enter and be rewarded with goodies.

A fun group shop, **Tallulah's Antiques**, is having a Grand Opening on Saturday, October 29th, from noon to 6:00 p.m. at 322 Deerfield Street, in Greenfield. There will be door prizes, raffles and refreshments.

"**A Garden Writer's Journey**" featuring Paula Deitz, editor of *The Hudson Review*, will kick off this year's fall chrysanthemum show with a reading from her new book, *Of Gardens: Selected Essays*. A reception with a book sale and signing will follow in the illuminated Lyman Conservatory, Carroll Room, at Smith College Campus Center on Friday, November 4th, starting at 7:30 p.m.

The **Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse** is looking for historical information about this historic building. The group is especially interested in what the original windows looked like, which were changed around 1930, but no pictures of the original windows seem to be extant. If anyone can help please contact: Nan at wendelltownsfolk@deepsoft.com

The Salvation Army is looking for help in reaching a goal of collecting thousands of children's winter jackets. "Coats for Kids" will be accepting donations of slightly worn or new winter garments through

General Store, Wendell Free Library, Wendell Country Store, and Diemand Farm.

Orders are due Friday, November 4th. Order pickup will be held on Friday, December 2nd, 3 - 7 p.m. at the school.

Contact Amy Simmons at (978) 544-5324 or Laurie DiDonato at (978) 544-8270 if you have any questions.

October 31st. Area drop-off locations include the Salvation Army stores on Hope Street in Greenfield and Avenue A in Turners Falls.

According to Northfield Mount Hermon spokesperson Rachel Hanley, NMH went into "lockdown mode" around noon on Wednesday, when an emergency siren for **Vermont Yankee** was activated by a false, remote signal from the nearby nuclear plant. After campus security was given the "all clear" from VY, the brief campus lockdown ended. Nice to know the system is working so well.

Chris Mason, the city of Northampton's Energy and Sustainability Officer and a Montague resident, received a **Leading by Example Award** from Governor Deval Patrick on Wednesday at the statehouse for his work implementing a \$6.5 million citywide performance contract with Con Edison, which will reduce energy use within municipal operations by 26 percent and reduce energy bills by \$454,000 per year. In addition, Mason was recognized for coordinating Northampton's adoption of the Stretch Energy Code and successful application to become a Green Community, and for his work implementing the far-reaching Sustainable Northampton Plan, not to mention his work as chair of the Montague Energy Committee.

The Independent Order of Scalpers Miscoluspi Lodge will be holding a **Hallowe'en Trail** for Lake Pleasant children and their accompanying spirits on Saturday, October 29th in the evening.

Meet right across from Broadway on Lake Pleasant Road.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.



The Eagle Nest has Landed

BY PAT CARLISLE, Eagle Mom

GREAT FALLS - The Eagle Nest on Eagle Island in Barton Cove has come down!

Bill Gabriel, the director of the Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, called me to report that his crew had been out to Eagle Island to assess the condition of the nest camera and solar panel in preparation to install a new camera. Lo and behold! They found the remnants of the eagle nest on the ground, a likely casualty of Hurricane Irene.

Ralph Taylor from Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife believes our resident pair of nesting eagles will build another nest on Eagle Island in mid-winter, since they raised their chicks in this not so lonely aerie since 1990.

The plan now is to install a new live video camera as soon as a new nest is ready.

More news from Eagle Island will follow when the leaves fall and my view improves! Stay tuned to this local newspaper.

GMEF Gift Cards Available

TURNERS FALLS - If you are looking for a gift for the holidays, Valentines Day, a birthday, anniversary or other occasion - a GMEF Gift Card to the 8th Annual Gala with the Edwards Twins is just the thing. Direct from Las Vegas, the Edwards Twins have been voted the #1 impersonation show in the country by many newspapers, TV shows, and magazines!

Identical twins Anthony and Eddie look and sound like many superstars, such as Barbra Streisand, Neil Diamond, Elton John, Bette Midler, Rod Stewart, Billy Joel, Sonny and Cher, and many, many more, all in one show. This will be one of the most extraordinary shows you will ever see. Advance ticket price is \$20.00. For details go to Gill-Montague Education Fund website www.thegmef.org

Proceeds from the Gala will benefit educational enhancement for students at the Gill-Montague schools.

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Dispatch from Liberty Square

BY WILLIAM A. COLLINS
NEW YORK CITY - Time to offer heartfelt thanks; To those bold youth who fight the banks. America needs a new phenomenon every once in a while. Now it has one: Occupy Wall Street.

At first glance it doesn't look like much. The mode of dress at Liberty Plaza (the patch of green and concrete the authorities still call Zuccotti Park and the occupiers want everyone to call Liberty Square) is one you pray that your own kids won't adopt. But their laser-like focus on civic morality is an intellectual mode that you pray that they will.

Even before entering that now-famous space, it's clear that something revolutionary is going on. You can tell by the armada of police. Such a vast show of force only appears when corporate and political elites fathom that dangerous ideas have somehow gotten loose and are infecting innocent passers-by.

Scariest yet, the press finally showed up. No, not the local apologists for plutocracy like *The New York Times*, which are financially dependent on the banking moguls for advertising revenue. Much worse; magazines and foreign media are wading in, sifting the intellectual sea like so many waving corals, screening for bits of rebellious policy reform.

Talk of such reform constantly swirls through the park, though not as part of any manifesto. The largely faceless organizers had the wit to avoid specific demands lest they be too easily pigeonholed. Instead they cite a mile-long list of corporate abuses and let the visitor pick his or her own favorites. The overall global theme is one that rings simple and true: The big banks are running the country (into the ground).

A few crucial elements have made this protest go viral. First is the shift in focus from war to those banks. Other than military families, veterans, and peace activists, no one cares much about wars anymore. Since the draft is gone, most Americans are no longer engaged. Plus, the Pentagon has largely succeeded in concealing most of the deaths and dismemberments from the

public.

Banks, however, resonate. Millions of us have a mortgage story. Millions more have an unemployment story. And for the kids, unpayable student loans dominate. Banks have once again, as in the 1920s, become the common enemy.

Then there are the lessons of this year's Arab Spring. It illustrated how occupying a public place and not letting go, even under orders from the authorities, could serve as a winning technique.

Unlike one-day marches that the press and government cheerfully ignore, encampments go on. Sooner or later even *The Washington Post* has to admit that the occupiers are not simply hippies, and elected officials have to explain why things are so bad. The kids have figured all this out.

But what's next? Winter is coming — can they keep it up? Can all those occupations that have sprung up in cold climates sustain this action in the snow? Will progressive congressional challengers to Wall Street-funded politicians be able to gain traction? Will timid incumbent Democrats develop some backbone? Or will they face primary challenges?

Big obstacles remain. The banks have the money for a spirited defense, and President Barack Obama apparently has no spine. So how does this outburst of public outrage get translated into serious political reform? It's not easy.

The goals aren't as clear as they were in Egypt. Elections need to be won. Money needs to be raised. Reform candidates need to be identified and supported.

Nonetheless, even if reform fails and economic repression finishes sweeping our land, we will still owe a debt to the resourceful young people who have at least lit our pathway out of the morass.

This article first appeared in OtherWords. William Collins is a former state representative, former mayor of Norwalk, CT, and a member of the national board of Veterans for Peace.

"By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes..."



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

Happy Halloweien!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Serving Notice to Vermont Yankee

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant is scheduled to close after its 40-year operating license expires on March 21st, 2012. The state of Vermont has voted to not extend corporate owner Entergy's license to operate. Currently Entergy is undertaking a \$100 million refueling of the plant. Many of us feel this act of refueling flies "in the face" of the Vermont statute to close the reactor on schedule.

The SAGE (Safe And Green Energy) Alliance is a campaign of citizens from Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire that supports the state of Vermont in its efforts to close and decommission the plant. SAGE supports the repowering of New England with safe alternatives to nuclear. The Vernon reactor is of the same make and model as the Mark-I reactors in Fukushima,

Japan that melted down in March, forcing the permanent evacuation of more than 100,000 people.

On October 30th at noon the SAGE Alliance will hold a legal rally at the reactor gates on Governor Hunt Drive in Vernon, VT. I'm asking the people of Franklin County, most of whom live in the 25-mile evacuation zone, to please consider joining the campaign and joining us at the plant for the rally.

We will serve notice to the Entergy Corporation of Louisiana that Vermont Yankee will be closed on schedule on March 21st, 2012, and then decommissioned. At the same time, conservation and safe energy technologies will replace the energy lost by closing the 40-year-old reactor for good.

- Alan Surprenant
Ashfield, MA

Holyoke Approves Advisory Group to Prepare for Retirement of Mt. Tom Coal Plant

On Tuesday, November 18th, the Holyoke City Council unanimously passed a resolution to form a community advisory group to study potential future uses of the Mount Tom coal plant site. The resolution, offered by council members Rebecca Lisi, Kevin Jourdain, Tim Purrington

and Aaron Vega, was supported by two dozen members of "Action/Accion for a Healthy Holyoke!"

The city council chamber was packed with supporters holding signs, and several members of the grassroots advocacy group spoke in favor of the resolution. Action for a Healthy Holyoke! is a coalition working to hasten the retirement of this 50-year old polluting power plant and ensure that

Missing Turners

I want to thank all the people in town who signed the petition that Don Clegg circulated requesting my reinstatement as the MCTV station manager. You can't imagine how good it made me feel to know that so many people supported me. And thank you so much to Don and others who helped get the petition going.

I also want to thank members of the cable advisory committee, members of the selectboard and the many town employees who have been so wonderful to work with. I'm very sad to leave MCTV. I'm going to miss working with folks in town very much. I hope MCTV is able to continue the coverage of high school sports that I had just begun.

The good news is that my brother has moved to Turners so I'm still going to be around town. I loved working in Turners for the past six years. I'm going to miss you guys a lot.

- Robin Chaia Mide
Guilford, VT

Holyoke has a plan in place for a clean, sustainable alternative.

"We're glad the City Council recognizes the need to proactively find a good way to reuse the Mount Tom site when the plant inevitably retires," said Neighbor to Neighbor member Virgenmina Perez. "Now we can start to find ways to reuse the site to create good jobs and clean power for Holyoke."

Coal-fired power plants have been retiring across the nation; here in Massachusetts, two coal plants, Somerset Station and Salem Harbor Station, have retired or announced retirement in the last year. The recent decision by GDF-Suez to lay off half of Mount Tom's work force suggests the plant is on a similar path.

"Today the council heard our see COAL page 5

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COAL from pg 4
call to plan for the future,” commented Holyoke resident Leonilda Figueroa. “If the coal plant closes its doors, we want to make sure the company cleans up the site. We need a plan to attract new, green jobs to the city.”

“This plant has affected the health of residents of Holyoke for far too long,” said Drew Grande, field organizer for the Sierra Club, a member of Action/Accion for a Healthy Holyoke! “We know that pollution from coal-fired power plants causes asthma attacks and that coal pollution contributes to four of the five leading causes of death in the U.S. It’s time to retire this plant and to come up with a responsible plan to create good jobs when it does so.”

Holyoke resident Carmen Concepcion said, “Holyoke has the second highest asthma rates in the state, and each time someone is hospitalized for asthma, this has a high cost for the city. This is the city’s opportunity to move from coal to clean, healthy industry.”

The Mt. Tom coal plant is owned by GDF-Suez, the world’s largest utility. GDF-Suez is head-

quartered in Paris, France; Mt. Tom has been in operation since 1960.

Holyoke City Councilman Aaron Vega agreed. “Our efforts and discussion here are not to force a closure but to have community input on how to move forward. Clean air is important to all the people of the Valley, and the jobs and tax revenue issues are important to all of us in Holyoke. As Holyoke becomes a green community, I hope to work with business —local, national and international — as well as citizens to have Holyoke be a leader in green energy and green jobs.”

Hispanics in Mass Burdened by Asthma

WALTHAM — The American Lung Association released a new report today, *Luchando por el Aire: The Burden of Asthma on Hispanics*, which provides an overview of the complex biological, environmental, political and cultural factors that increase asthma’s burden on the Hispanic population in Massachusetts and across the country. This report is part of the Lung Association’s Disparities in Lung Health

Series.

The Spanish title of this new report is the best translation of “Fighting for Air,” an experience that is all too common among Hispanics with asthma. There are 627,654 Hispanics in Massachusetts, many of whom may be needlessly suffering from asthma. According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Hispanic adults in Massachusetts have higher lifetime asthma prevalence rates than White adults (18.1 percent vs. 11.7 percent). However, the starkest disparities are found in asthma outcomes. Hispanics are two to three times more likely to visit the emergency department, be hospitalized, and die due to their asthma compared to Whites.

The American Lung Association in Massachusetts and fellow members of the statewide Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership are working to reduce asthma-related disparities and improve outcomes and quality of life for those with asthma through

a variety of initiatives:

- The Lung Association and MDPH have co-produced informational brochures to raise awareness about work-related asthma. Hispanics are more likely to work in low-paying construction and service jobs that often expose workers to serious respiratory hazards.

- MDPH, Boston Medical Center, and Baystate Medical are researching innovative community health worker interventions to improve asthma outcomes for Black and Hispanic children.

- The Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition (PVAC) brings together public health, social justice, municipal, academic and health care groups, to address environmental and health disparities. Addressing asthma disparities in Springfield’s Latino communities and schools has been a priority since PVAC was founded a decade ago. PVAC is now expanding its reform initiative to other Latino communities in the greater Springfield area.

- The Lung Association’s

Lung HelpLine, 1-800-LUNG-USA (548-8252), offers free one-on-one support from Spanish-speaking registered nurses and respiratory therapists for anyone seeking help on asthma control.

When it comes to managing asthma, Hispanics also face other burdens due to the environment, poverty and stress. For example, Hispanics are 165% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of particulate matter pollution, and 51% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone compared to non-Hispanic whites.

“Despite the universal need for healthy air, there have been repeated attempts in Washington to weaken the Clean Air Act,” said Donna Hawk, of the American Lung Association in Massachusetts. “This 40-year old federal law is the best way to protect Massachusetts from harmful air pollution blown in from states to our south and west.”

For more info, go to: www.fightingforair.org.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Break In, Assault Arrest, Service Dog Missing

Wednesday, 10/19

10:31 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on default and straight warrants.

Thursday, 10/20

10:45 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Winthrop Street. Services rendered.

11:29 a.m. Domestic disturbance on G St. Services rendered.

2:07 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation on Second Street. Referred to an officer.

4:14 p.m. Threatening, harassment on G Street. Advised of options.

4:26 p.m. Unwanted person at the Shea

Theater on Avenue A.

8:35 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on two default warrants and a fugitive from justice on court warrant.

8:44 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, intimidating a witness, resisting arrest, vandalism, damage, or defacement of property, and disorderly conduct.

Friday, 10/21

9:38 a.m. Vandalism at Railroad Salvage. Area search negative.

11:08 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering

on Third Street. Investigated.

6:38 p.m. Suspicious person at Czestochova Church on K Street. Unable to locate.

7:40 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Carlisle Avenue. Verbal warning.

Saturday, 10/22

1:21 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for assault with a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest, violating a probate court order to vacate home, failure to stop for police, marked lanes violations, failure to stop at a stop sign, failure to signal, and no inspection sticker.

10:36 a.m. Suspicious person at Carnegie Library on Avenue A. No such person found.

12:30 p.m. Service dog missing in Erving. Referred to an officer.

7:38 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on two straight warrants.

Sunday, 10/23

8:25 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Maple Street. Report taken.

8:14 p.m. Suspicious situation at the Old Rod Shop on Rod Shop Road. Services rendered.

10:26 p.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]

[redacted], on two default warrants.

Monday, 10/24

2:23 a.m. Assault and Battery on Third Street. Report taken.

8:20 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on G St. Report taken.

1:19 p.m. Assault and battery at Franklin Tech. Report taken.

4:49 p.m. Illegal Dumping on Bridge Street. Services rendered.

8:18 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Keith Street. Services rendered.

9:52 p.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street. Services rendered.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Senior Center will be Complete by November 4th

BY KATIE NOLAN - John Catlin, architect for the new senior center, told the selectboard that work on the building will be completed by November 4th, and that furniture can be moved in starting on that date.

Catlin told the selectboard that the problems with the geothermal well that had held up completion of the \$2.2 million project have now been resolved, since the drilling subcontractor drilled the well deeper and reinstalled the pump. Catlin said, "It appears everything is working fine." However, Catlin said he still wanted "confirmation from the HVAC folks," on that. He assured the selectboard that general contractor MCM USA "picked up the tab" for the additional work on the geothermal well.

According to Catlin, a disagreement between the general contractor and the flooring subcontractor about whether the slab had too much moisture for applying the flooring adhesive had been resolved when MCM USA agreed to back the warranty for the flooring. Catlin said the flooring would be installed by October 28th.

Catlin reported that post-construction cleanup would start October 27th in the attic of the new building and would be complete by Friday, November 4th.

Jacqueline Boyden of the senior center building

committee said it would take several weeks for the senior center to move into the building. An open house would be scheduled at the next building committee meeting.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin told school committee members Jarod Boissonneault and Scott Bastarache that the selectboard was requesting an approved final budget for the school by January 9th.

"It's good to have goals," Boissonneault replied.

Both school committee members agreed that the majority of school budget items will be set by that date, but that revenues from charter school tuition and state aid may still be uncertain in early January.

Goodwin observed that having budgets available in January "gives time for robust conversations" before presenting the annual budget to town meeting.

Boissonneault updated the selectboard on the new salad bar at the school, which appears to be popular, MCAS scores (Erving Elementary did not make "adequate yearly progress" in English language arts), and the after-school program, which has seen increased participation.

The selectboard began the process of developing an employee performance management program with a draft scorecard for town

administrator Tom Sharp. Scorecards, which will be developed for other department heads reporting to the selectboard, will list objective measurable goals for each employee, reflecting tasks required of that employee. Each goal will be weighted and each department head will be evaluated monthly, with a resulting numerical score. Cost-of-living and step raises will be eliminated, and merit raises, based on the employee's annual numerical score, will be implemented. The board asked to have a revised scorecard draft for its next meeting.

Emergency management director Luke Hartnett was commended for his preparation of a reimbursement application to FEMA for \$10,089 for expenses related to tropical storm Irene.

The Usher plant re-use committee sent the selectboard a draft letter regarding donation of a parcel adjacent to the former Usher plant for comments.

Selectboard member James Hackett felt that seeking additional land was "out of scope" for the committee and member Eugene Klepadlo said the committee "should focus on what they were created to do." The selectboard decided to ask the committee to hold off on pursuing the land donation until the selectboard and committee had met jointly.

see ERVING page 13

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Tax Rate Set

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY Barbara Miller, director of assessing for the town of Montague, presented proposed fiscal year 2012 tax rates, and members of the selectboard approved them unanimously. While residential property values about town decreased, the tax rate for residential and open space properties increased. Property owners can expect to pay about the same amount in property taxes as they did in fiscal year 2011.

Fiscal year 2011 tax rates were \$15.28 for residential properties, while the FY'12 will be \$15.98, a 4.6% increase. An assessor's report for the tax classification hearing noted that total taxable valuation in the town dropped \$8,119,619, a 1.1% decrease.

For commercial, industrial and personal property tax rates, the rate was \$23.05 in FY2011, and it will be \$23.91 in FY2012, a 3.7% increase.

For 2012, the percentage of the tax levy for residential class properties will be 66.4593%, and the commercial, industrial and personal property classes (CIP) will have a 33.5407% share. This reflects a 1.33% shift to the CIP classes. The assessor's report noted that "the reduction in the percent of the levy born by the residential class is indicative of the interim year adjustments causing an overall decrease in residential value. Residential new growth is also down from \$2.6 million to less than \$1.4 million."

Translation - the housing market is still unwell.

Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob Trombley presented a request to the selectboard to hire one additional full time employee, raising the total number of employees from six to seven.

However, selectboard member Pat Allen requested more information on all of the current levels and steps of the facilities employees in order to better evaluate the request. Trombley promised to provide the information within a week.

So brush off your resumes folks. Trombley noted that in 1993, the facility had nine full time personnel, but by 2000, that number was down to six.

New technologies and projects, such as the combined sewer overflow and rotary press projects have kept Trombley's crew very busy. Trombley said that by state standards his office is understaffed by 1.68 people. While Trombley has made judicious use of interns and seasonal employees, he believes it is time to hire a new full time staff member. He will confirm the budget numbers with town accountant Carolyn Olsen, but he believes he could hire a new person within his current budget.

Speaking of projects, Trombley presented a change order request to the selectboard for repairs to doors and hinges in his facility, for \$26,941.05, and the selectboard approved it.

He noted the shop was built around 1960, and upgrades occurred in the 80s, but that exposure to air, water, and the gasses associated with sewage have led to deterioration of the facilities' doors. Five outside doors will be replaced by the end of 2012.

The town administrator's report was presented by Wendy Bogusz, which consisted of getting selectboard signatures for the Montague Massachusetts Cultural Council grant of \$3870 to be dispersed within the community for arts related projects.

Soon, Franklin County Pumpkinfest organizer Michael Nelson will be before the selectboard requesting a date for the 2012 Pumpkinfest (rumor has it that it will be October 20th, 2012).

The selectboard is now aware of one issue associated with the highly successful festival, as Dwane St. Marie came before the board on Monday to make sure they knew that cooking fumes from the grills and fryolators on Avenue A caused him to have a migraine headache for nine hours and for his carbon monoxide alarm detector to go off in his third story Avenue A apartment.

He noted that a simple solution would be to move the cooking areas away from residential buildings.

But in general, praise for the event has been loud and long, and it is great to see thousands of people enjoying themselves on Avenue A!

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from **LEVERETT** pg 1 on Tuesday.

Brazeau told the meeting a recently formed well committee tried to find a site somewhere in the vicinity of the residences on Teawaddle where the town could install new wells – or one larger well, to feed all five homes – but the hydrogeology and the fact that much of the nearby land is owned by conservation trusts frustrated that search.

But state requirements for minimum levels of volatile organic compounds that have turned up in the homes's well water – particularly 1-4 dioxane – have gotten stricter by orders of magnitude in recent years, and Brazeau believes it is only a matter of time before the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will force the town to take action to permanently correct the problem.

Anticipating that day, Brazeau said the selectboard has entered into conversation with the town of Amherst to extend the Amherst water supply line more than a mile down Cushman Road to the fewer than half dozen affected homes in Leverett, at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million.

Tuesday, voters considered a request to spend \$28,900 to pay for an engineering study to run a four inch water main from Amherst to Teawaddle Hill. But in the end the article failed to gain the needed two-thirds majority, by 59 in favor, 40 opposed.

Andrew Barto suggested drilling deeper wells to supply

the homes, as a way of getting beneath the plume of contaminated groundwater. Another resident spoke in favor of finding a spot on the Teawaddle Hill Farm (where town meeting later agreed to borrow \$343,250 in anticipation of grants and private fundraising to purchase a conservation easement) to drill a well to supply the affected homes.

The Teawaddle Hill (or Mitchell) Farm is up a hill and on the other side of Roaring Brook from the homes near the old landfill, at the eastern end of the road. Don Robinson pointed out that, "The town of Amherst does not have the best water either," and the quality of the Amherst water supply would be compromised at a dead end water line like the one proposed for Teawaddle Hill.

But George Drake said, "The responsible course of action is to find out the various costs of the options. If we can run water from Amherst and get out of the business of treating people's water, and yearly testing, we'll be better off in the long run."

A majority of voters agreed with him. Just not a big enough majority.

In other action, utilizing a decades old state law, town meeting voted 100 – 1 by paper ballot to allow the town to set up a municipal lighting plant, to facilitate high speed internet access in town by running of high speed fiber optic cable "to the curb" of all homes along public roads in Leverett, once the Massachusetts

Broadband Institute (MBI) completes the installation of "middle mile" cable to Leverett.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico said the town would hire a consultant, with a \$40,000 grant from MBI, before the end of the year to help design the fiber optic cable system.

George Lockwood, of the town energy committee, wondered whether the same enabling legislation could be used if the town wished to produce its own electricity, and d'Errico said that was also possible.

In a subsequent vote, town meeting approved spending \$1,000 as an initial membership fee to join the Wired West municipal cooperative, which is also working to bring "last mile" fiber optic cable to underserved communities throughout Western and Central Massachusetts.

D'Errico said the town of Leverett is working "at this point, in complete coherence and collaboration with Wired West," though the selectboard has discussed the possibility of Leverett striking off on its own, if the consultant the town will soon hire can determine a more cost effective or quicker way to hook up all town residents who wish to have access to high speed internet.

The town approved forming a regional school district planning committee, in the hopes of affiliating with similar bodies in Pelham, Shutesbury and perhaps Amherst to form a regional school district planning board.

Leverett school committee

chair Farshid Hajir noted that the town has been studying the possibility of forming a K-12 region with Amherst or surrounding towns about every ten years since Leverett joined a 7-12 region with Amherst in 1965. He said new financial incentives from the state for districts that choose to regionalize could lead to better educational programs at the Leverett Elementary School, while initiatives like Innovation School designation could allow Leverett to retain autonomy over its own elementary school.

A Shutesbury Road resident said she had watched Amherst shut down the Marks Meadow School in recent years, "a fine school that will never come back," and she wondered, "If we regionalize with Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury, is there a possibility Leverett Elementary will be closed? If so, we need to think long and hard about this."

Hajir, comparing a regionalization agreement to a marriage contract, assured the meeting that clauses could be worked into such a document prohibiting elementary school closure in the smaller towns without a two thirds vote of their town meeting.

Town meeting also approved spending \$32,000 for recent emergency repairs and dredging of the fire pond at the Cave Hill Road bridge; \$18,750 to match a hoped for \$56,250 state grant to install an underground water tank and fire hydrant by the elementary school playing field, \$2,157 to match grant funds to purchase self contained breathing apparatus and new hose for the fire department, and \$29,000 to augment the elementary school's health insurance account to pay for coverage for new hires.

By a vote of 85 – 6, town meeting approved borrowing to purchase the conservation easement for 147 acres on the Mitchell Farm on Teawaddle Hill, a site that has long been identified in the town's open

space plan as a prime viewscape. Conservation chair David Powicki said this was the first time the town would be preserving a working farm as such, allowing the family to live and farm on five acres of excluded land, and to farm and harvest wood on the remainder of the property. The public will be allowed passive recreation on trails on the conserved acreage, which abuts other parcels of permanently conserved land.

The purchase will only go through if the state approves a land grant of \$237,000, and if the town's Community Preservation Committee (CPC), and a subsequent town meeting, approve spending \$170,000 in community preservation act funds. The Kestrel Trust, which is assisting with the transaction, and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, will undertake to raise an additional \$25,000 toward the purchase of the conservation restriction (CR).

Ken Kahn recommended including a right to farm or mow the protected acreage in perpetuity in the CR, along with clauses giving the town the right of first refusal if the property is ever sold, and a right to put a well on the property (see above).

Carol Heim, first chair of the Leverett CPC committee, said, "This is a very rare opportunity to preserve a very large, special site." Most voters agreed.

Gary Gruber strolled into the meeting eight minutes late. It appeared as if he would have whistled, if that would not have ruffled the calm of his replacement, recently elected moderator Larry Farber.

Farber, who opened his first town meeting at the podium by declaring, "I am not Gary Gruber," conducted affairs with admirable dispatch, to the point where more than once he declared votes to have passed without first checking to see how many voters cared to voice their opposition.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Animal Complaints: Horse, Goats, Dog

Monday, 10/17 6:50 a.m. Vandalism to town property at corner of Main and Boyle Road. 8:45 a.m. Illegal dumping of trash located on Hoe Shop Road. 1:25 p.m. Animal complaint of horse	near the travel lane of Main Road. 6:15 p.m. Harassing phone calls reported from resident of West Gill Road. Tuesday, 10/18 6:10 a.m. Building check for suspicious activity completed on West Gill Road.	8:45 a.m. Trespassing situation on West Gill Road. Wednesday, 10/19 5:15 p.m. Animal complaint on Main Road. Goats from neighbor's house in their yard. 7:30 p.m. Larceny of property from Main	Road residence Thursday, 10/20 6:40 p.m. Suspicious person/activity on Mountain Road. Subject moved to residence. Friday, 10/21 10:20 a.m. Found dog on West Gill Road. Returned to owner. 12:40 p.m. Assisted	Bernardston police with a section 12 party on Bald Mountain Road. 3:45 p.m. Located illegal dumping of trash near the French King Bridge. 10:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with civil process issue on Northfield Road.
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A view of 444 Main Road

GILL from page 1

explosions, the development of toxic fumes and gasses, and conditions that may lead to possible harm to emergency responders and the general public.”

Reached by phone after the meeting, Lawrence Krejmas said, “I’ve been on that property since 1965, and I’ve never had trouble with any of the neighbors,” until Kevin Chickering bought the land behind his lot, at 446 Main Road. Now, Krejmas said, “It appears my troublemaker is back on the line.”

Krejmas, who has lived on Country Club Road in Greenfield since his house at 444 Main Road burned down in 1980 in a fire of “undetermined origin,” said he had never sold car parts from his Main Road property. Instead, he said he had helped people out who came to him for car repairs, farm machinery repairs, painting jobs and welding for farmers. “It’s hard to live on \$700 a month (Social Security) without bringing in a little extra income,” he

added.

“I’ve never once had any problems with any neighbor before he [Chickering] moved in. Now, in my old age, to have to deal with this is a low blow.”

Krejmas said he had erected a ten foot tall galvanized steel fence to shield his lot from Chickering’s sight.

He said he had been slow to dismantle the trailer on his property because his son had died there 20 years ago. “Still today it’s hard for me,” he added, but his son-in-law, Louis Grader, of Poplar Street in Greenfield, has been working on demolishing the trailer in recent weeks.

Krejmas said by making progress on dismantling and removing the trailer he thought he had been showing a good faith effort to meet the board of health’s main complaint. He said he had had no notification of the hearing at the selectboard on Monday, and expressed surprise that his property had been on the board’s agenda.

Abutter Kevin Chickering, who lives at 446 Main Road, said his proximity to the Krejmas’s property has caused him to be unable to rent or sell his house. He said real estate agents who have come to meet him by appointment take one look at the Krejmas property and turn around in the driveway.

“As most of you know, I have been dealing with this for 12 years,” said Chickering, standing grimly to address the board on Monday. “The garbage fires, the filth, the smell, the strong gas odors... the rot and the stench and mold smell from the trailer half taken apart...” He continued the litany of complaint, “... the empty gas cans and empty propane tanks. I can’t fathom why you are allowing this to continue. You are responsible to uphold the town bylaws.”

“We’re going through the process,” said selectboard member Ann Banash. Board of health member Randy Crochier recused himself from the discussion.

“I’ve suffered financially and I’ve suffered a lot of stress. What are we going to do about this?” Chickering concluded, “I’d like the town to finally cooperate with me. I’m paying top taxes in this town to live next to a junk yard that burns oily rags.”

Chickering offered to show the board photos, but the board

said they had been by the property and were familiar with the problems he described.

Banash suggested Ayers seek additional back-up from the Department of Environmental Protection, to get the land and ground water tested for contaminants, if necessary.

Also, Gill joined in a regional grant application being readied by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to seek state funding for the proposed Franklin County Cooperative Health Department.

Among many other goals, the grant would allow a regional health department to “enhance the capacity of local boards of health,” with licensed public health professionals, something that Crochier said would be a huge benefit to local volunteer boards. “The wing and a prayer approach just can’t always work,” he said.

The board agreed to issue a request for proposals for a dual boiler, forced hot water heating retrofit in the public safety complex on Main Road, at a probable cost of \$50,000. The town has already set aside \$20,000 toward the project; Entergy Vermont Yankee, which uses the safety complex as a training center for evacuation drills, may be a source for some percentage of the remaining funds.

Inmates from the Franklin County jail are working on repointing and painting the exterior of the safety complex.

The Gill Cultural Council has received \$3,870 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to disburse in the form of mini grants to local artists and cultural

organizations. That is the same amount the town received last year.

Rose Levasseur of the recreation commission gave an update to the board about the progress of the three youth soccer teams, and the upcoming basketball program. The board intends to have a discussion with the Gill-Montague Regional School District about the cost to the town’s recreation commission for renting the high school gymnasium.

After the selectboard meeting, Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, explained the plan for reapplying for housing rehab funds through the Community Development Block Grant program. Gill, along with the towns of Erving, Colrain and Deerfield would jointly reapply for \$800,000 in CDBG funds to support zero interest loans for low and moderate income residents in those communities. The towns were turned down on a similar grant request last year.

Gill currently has a waiting list of 12 applicants for the zero interest housing rehab loans.

A second component of the grant would seek \$180,000 to make up a gap in funding for the expanding list of shut-ins and seniors recovering from hospital stays who require the services of the Franklin County Home Care Corporation’s Meals on Wheels program.

Claire Chang, a resident of Riverside, asked FCHCC’s Donna Lieble whether it would be possible to get more local foods on the menu for Meals on Wheels.

FALL DAY from page 1

wine and cheese tasting afternoon at the pub. Jenny Coy brought homemade goat cheese and crackers, which were delicious. Another person brought elderberry brandy (meant strictly for medicinal use for

sore muscles) and raspberry wine.

At the senior center from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., Lynne Davis talked about her work playing therapeutic harp, about how vibrations have a physical effect on the human body and

how the tones of the harp affect the cells of a human body, the pulse, blood pressure and respiration. I stepped in as she was explaining that, breathless from riding my bicycle up the hill to Wendell center. I sat while she played, and sure enough, after I

listened a few minutes my pulse and breathing slowed.

Shelly Hines said to Davis, “You are an Earth Angel.”

Meanwhile Kathleen Leonard, with help from peelers and choppers from the library’s Teens and Tweens program, prepared a generous stone soup with leftovers from the Good Neighbors food distribution. It was in a big pot, and came to a boil only by 5:30 as people began to sit down for the second annual harvest dinner.

One table the length of the town hall held the food,

and three more tables held diners. Benches on both sides of the town hall were filled with more people who ate from plates held on their laps. Others sat at a table hastily set up on the stage as the hall filled up. Over 100 citizens were there, and the food was so good and plentiful that people left smiling. Diemand Farm provided the turkey. At the front and easy to miss was a donation jar for Good Neighbors.

Near the end of the meal, librarian Rosie Heidkamp announced that the race had netted over \$900 for the playground. Someone cheated and donated more after the race.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN MEETING

Dealing with Empty Town Buildings

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town of Montague is using the hallways of the former Montague Center School as a training ground for the police department's dope sniffing K-9 officer.

That tidbit of information came from highway superintendent Tom Bergeron in the middle of discussion about allocating another \$15,000 to heat, insure, and maintain the empty building for another winter at last Thursday's special town meeting.

Asked by Precinct 1's John Reynolds what benefit the town was receiving in return for allowing the police department to use the former school building as a training ground for the K-9 crew, Bergeron replied, "Well trained dogs."

Bergeron detailed recent expenses the town has incurred at the empty school building since the Gill-Montague Regional School District turned over the keys of the Montague Center School to the town in 2009, promising up to \$228,000 in savings from consolidating the town's elementary schools at the Turners Falls campus of Hillcrest and Sheffield. Bergeron said the total cost of security (a new alarm system - which, Bergeron said, "has come in quite handy," due to repeated break-ins), electricity, and over \$50,000 to heat the building to 45 degrees each winter, preserving the plaster walls, has come to a total of \$80,530.43. With the unanimous approval of town meeting, an additional \$15,000 has now been added to that kitty.

Bergeron did not mention the \$20,000 the town spent from program income to hire a consultant to examine the best possible re-use of the building (high up on the list - use it for a school). Nor did he mention the \$98,500 the town spent to put a new roof on the building the same year Montague Center School closed.

Add all those outlays and a total of \$214,030 is arrived at, a number that begins to approach the figure former superintendent Ken Rocke once promised the school district would realize in

savings from closing the school.

But town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town has heard of parties interested in purchasing the building, and the town intends to offer a third request for proposals for the Montague Center School soon.

"We have to heat it and keep it maintained so we can sell it," the town administrator said.

In other action regarding empty buildings now owned by the town, meeting members turned over the right to dispose of three buildings, and the land they sit on, on East Main Street in Millers Falls to the selectboard, after hearing protests from various people who claimed to have current or past interest in the properties.

"I'm actually a deeded owner of the property," said Lisa Jackson, of Avenue A, in Turners Falls. But the town meeting voted not to allow her to speak, after moderator Ray Godin advised that she was not a registered voter in the town of Montague.

Later, Jackson said she had put money in an escrow account to purchase the Powers Block, a three story brick commercial block at the corner of Bridge and Main, in the hopes of putting a restaurant in on the ground floor.

Richard Conley, who claimed to be a former owner of the Powers Block, did address the meeting. He said he planned to go to land court within a year to demand that the court void its judgment turning the property over to the town of Montague for \$65,500 in unpaid back taxes. He urged the town to hold off on a plan to offer the Powers Block, and the two empty, boarded up wood frame dwellings adjoining it, in a commercial homesteading program, as Abbondanzio proposed to do. The town used a similar program to find new, productive use and private investment for the tax title properties that came to house a workshop facility for the Northeast Foundation for Children and the Ristorante Dipaolo in Turners Falls.

Another former owner of the properties, Jeanne Golrick, handed out a document describ-

ing her claim to the property, but Abbondanzio countered with a statement that the case of the town of Montague versus Jeanne Golrick had been settled in land court on August 18th of this year, "with all rights of redemption" of the property by Golrick, "forever banned."

Over in Turners Falls, town meeting approved spending \$130,000 as the town's share of a grant funded \$320,000 clean-up of a pile of asbestos tainted arson fire debris at the town-owned Strathmore Mill. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments' Brownfields grant program will cover the additional \$200,000 cost, and will loan the town the \$130,000 at 2.5% interest.

Finance committee chair John Hanold had offered an amendment to have the town's share paid from free cash, to avoid the cost of borrowing, but town planner Walter Ramsey informed the meeting that the grant money was contingent on the town borrowing the remaining money from FRCOG. The question remained - could the town pay the loan off early using free cash?

Voters also approved spending \$20,000 to remove a chimney to roof level, repair the leaking roof, and install a power vent in the furnace at the Montague Center town hall, built in 1858.

Precinct 4's Rich Kuklewicz supported the repair, but questioned whether the town should continue to own the building, which houses the Montague Center branch of the public library, and a warm weather gymnasium on the second floor.

However, library director Sue SanSoucie, also of Precinct 4, said, "It is certainly one of the most historic buildings in town. It stands proudly on the common in Montague Center."

The town agreed to spend \$7,895 from the airport enterprise fund to match an anticipated \$157,895 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to pay for archeological investigation at the airport, in advance of completing Phase II of the runway renova-



DETOLD PHOTO

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - A tall, gaunt figure took his place behind a Shure 520 mic at the Rendezvous on Friday nite and slung his hollow body Schechter Jazz Elite around his shoulder, pitched his fedora a notch lower on his brow, and proceeded to take his audience way back to the Golden Age of Radio - the 1940s - when bandleaders like Woody Herman, Tommy Dorsey, and Bing Crosby ruled the roost.

The barflies stirred slowly in his direction, drawn in by the soft glow of the portable slide show of 40s' hitmakers propped on a stand in front of him. But it was the spell cast by the man himself - Drew Paton - that held their attention, as he crooned unlikely numbers like, "When You Wish Upon a Star," "Pyramids Across the Nile," and "The Very Thought of You."

This stuff was way beyond retro. It was so old school it was

almost, like, new. They lapped it up like a to-the-rim shot of hooch.

Paton comes from Orange, and he's been tearing a track through old folks homes and senior center suppers across the county with his Hit Parade of untarnished Golden Oldies. Now, the lucky few can catch him in Power Town at his repeat rendezvous at the Voo on November 12th, the day AFTER Veterans Day, when nostalgia for the war years will wax fuller than a Fuller Brush Man.

"I'm just back from a USO tour," deadpanned Paton, as he closed out his set with "As Time Goes By." "We were touring with Artie Shaw. I threw a rod on the Plymouth on my way to the Paradise Ballroom in support of the 475th Bomber Squadron, just back from the Solomons. Man, we played all night."

You gotta check this guy out. He plays music so strong it will never die.

tion, including the taxiway. The protocol for the new archeological dig, which has been worked out with interested federally recognized Native American tribes, will allow for test pits every twelve and a half feet along the line of a planned perimeter fence. The fence posts will then be sunk into those pits, at twelve and a half feet intervals, so the ground will only be disturbed once.

All parties acknowledge that the airport grounds contain archeological relics of Native inhabitants of the area from more than 10,000 years ago, one of few such sites of that antiquity in what is now New England.

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Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net. If you would like to become a sponsor of the Poetry Page call: 413-863-8666.

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The crowd upon their rambling exercise
And their feet were straight feet
and the sole of their feet was like
the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled
like the copper of burnished brass.
And they had the hands of a man under
their wings on their
four sides, and they four had their faces
and their wings. Their wings were joined
to another corrective;
they turned not when they went, then went
every one straight forward.

—Chuck Stebelton
Milwaukee



A Phosphor

for Peter O'Leary

I am the infinitesimal
world's dissimilar twin.

Sidereal

the winter wren.

Describe the beaks
with light on them.

Green, black, indigo

violet oscillation.

—Chuck Stebelton
Milwaukee

Forgiveness

You planted the seed
of doubt
from which I grew,
and ripped me from my roots.
Year after year
I looked at you and smiled,
fallow and forlorn,
ravaged by your drought.
Now you are old and withered;
your petty, petulant life
as sere and shallow
as your love for me.

If
I can't forgive you,
then I can never
let you go.
So my heart embraces
your infertile being,
and cries forgiveness
until I am cleansed
in the soft rain
of beatific indifference.

—Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

Contributors' Notes:

Derek Fenner and Chuck Stebelton will read from their work this Monday, October 31st, at 7 p.m. at All Small Caps at the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell.

Derek Fenner is an artist, writer, publisher, and juvenile justice educator. He is the author of *My Favorite Color is Red* (Bootstrap Press 2005), *I No Longer Believe in the Sun: Love Letters to Katie Couric* (Bootstrap Press 2009), and *Wild Schemes* (Lew Gallery 2010). He lives in Lowell, MA.

Kevin Smith is 52 years old, a Turners Falls resident, tubist and therapist as well as poet.


Leslie P. Brown writes a column, the *Gardener's Companion*, for *The Montague Reporter* and lives in Montague City.

Eloise Michael lives in Turners Falls and teaches creative writing at Four Winds middle school in Gill.

Chuck Stebelton is author of *Circulation Flowers* (Tougher Disguises, 2005) and several chapbooks. Chuck works as Literary Program Director at Woodland Pattern Book Center in Milwaukee.

Brian Stafford is a 52 year old native of Montague and a process engineer at Judd Wire Inc. He's been writing for a few years and has published a few poems.

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Sestina

See how the lobed and hollow fruit endures
 Holding its hills and valleys as an old glove
 Keeps its shape: this leathery pomegranate
 Is the browned typography of memory.
 It is strong and feminine this form and I
 Hope too for grace and dignity when ancient.

Wooer of Persephone this fruit is said by ancient
 Greeks to cause the dark and cold of winter which endures
 Until released by death to Spring at last. I
 Seek the light and move outdoors and with my glove
 Reach into warming soil to plant the seeds of memory.
 Bearers of life, woman and pomegranate.

To draw this husk of pomegranate
 Needs many tries to catch the ancient
 Form of brown and tan and black. Held in memory
 Of hills and valleys, form and function still endure,
 The surface pitted, stretched and torn, a leather glove
 Fitting itself to the wearer, the skin being I.

Like Persephone snatched from Hades could I
 Suck the juice and seeds of pomegranate,
 Limber my soul like oiling of a leather glove,
 Capture from this form so very ancient
 Spring in mind and body that endures
 In more than human memory.

As Greeks preserved their tales in parchment memory
 My skin records life moments. Where I
 Laughed or cried or struggled line endures.
 Just as in curves and lines the pomegranate
 Speaks of other moments, many ancient,
 Its skin fits its memories like a glove.

May my skin suit my life as a glove
 Suits the wearer, proud of my lines of memory,
 Recalling that venerable is also ancient.
 Looking towards time of aging may I
 Be bearer of a different Spring, a pomegranate
 Which though leathered still endures.

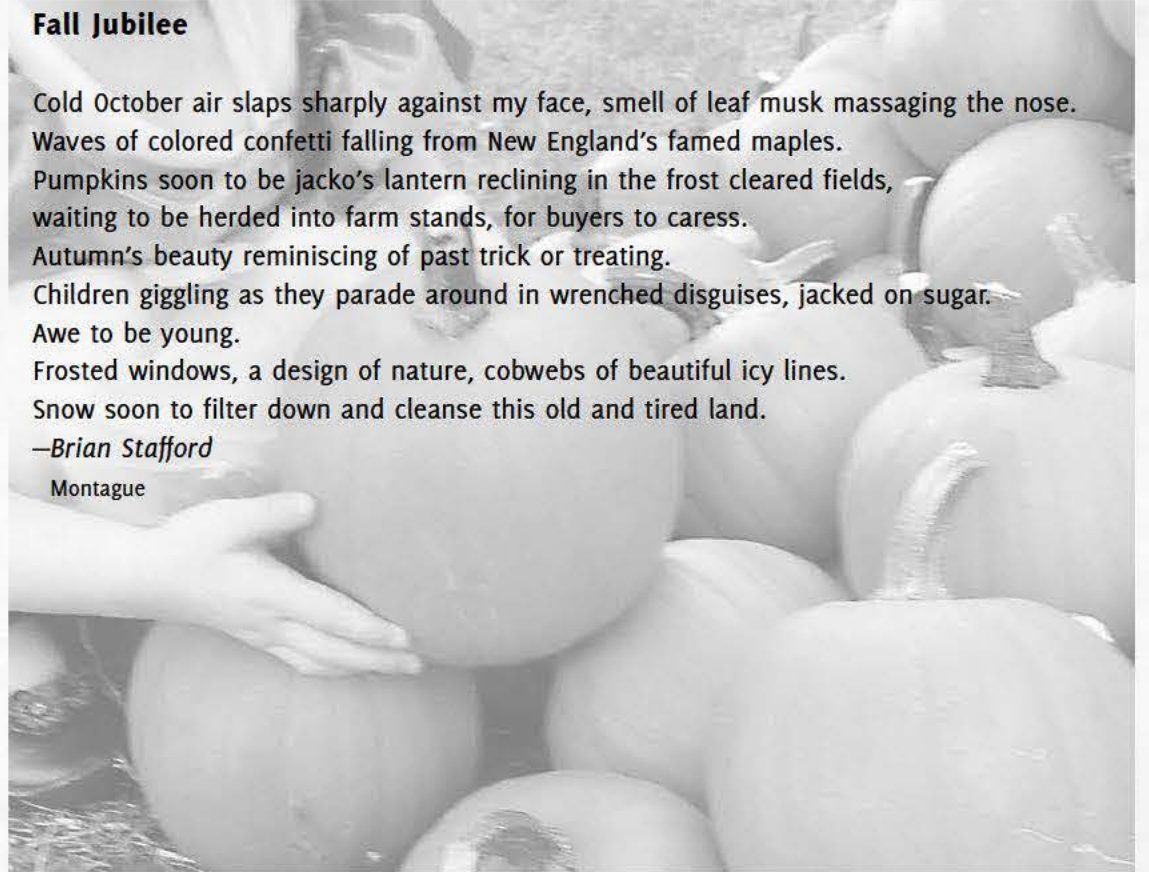
Glove leather well treated glows as I,
 An ancient woman hope my face endures
 Pomegranate like, guardian of my memory.

—Leslie P. Brown
 Montague City

Fall Jubilee

Cold October air slaps sharply against my face, smell of leaf musk massaging the nose.
 Waves of colored confetti falling from New England's famed maples.
 Pumpkins soon to be jack-o's lantern reclining in the frost cleared fields,
 waiting to be herded into farm stands, for buyers to caress.
 Autumn's beauty reminiscing of past trick or treating.
 Children giggling as they parade around in wrenched disguises, jacked on sugar.
 Awe to be young.
 Frosted windows, a design of nature, cobwebs of beautiful icy lines.
 Snow soon to filter down and cleanse this old and tired land.

—Brian Stafford
 Montague



My Dear Sarah Palin,

I don't believe in the northern lights. I've been feeling this pressure coming on, and I dream a dream of trees colored by fall in Owensboro, Kentucky—robust patches on a palette that only a cloudy sky can provide. It's hard to believe in sunny days when there are so many of them. I'm looking out, steering clear of all non-sequiturs, pushing toward a sublime that typifies the beauty of your red blazer, Sarah Palin, who I just may love enough to put the stars back in their place in the sky. This is only one part of the I LOVE SARAH MARATHON, where you come in sparkling; a literal gunshot of a woman—all camouflaged out, tight bare arms, and red lipstick. I'm having a hard time these days distinguishing the difference between the road, life, and you, Sarah Palin, who blend all three into one tight, well-armed package that my life revolves around. I am decadent and depraved by the sight of you. I'm searching for the faith in myself to be who I want to be no matter who I was born to be. There's a secret location where my heart is tonight—on a road sign, on a windy road, east of where I sit right now, and I want to tell you how the stars align for us and that for utopia to exist, I must be taken seriously. But I've come to understand the signs and wonders and the likeness of myself that came to be through them. I came through many humiliations before I received the apprehension of a vision. Our generation is fleeting since it does not yet believe in the holy and pure. The world is a place of unfaithful waiting participants. I digress. In the boldness of you, I find not a cloud in the sky. At this point, I realize you are more than just a novelty, my Sarah Palin, I'm smitten, I no longer believe in the Northern Lights.

Kisses,
 Derek

--Derek Fenner
 Lowell, MA

Glow

The loose ground,
 soft as skin, shines
 brighter than the morning.

Leaves, fallen yet
 fresh still, drink
 cloudy daylight,

warm it, color
 buildings, fences, and wet air
 with their reflection.

Stripped of their green purpose—collecting
 what we don't see
 but know to be true,

catching light
 at the end of its journey
 through cold darkness and

then gentle air
 to store in buried roots—
 the maple's five-fingered

hands reach no more
 for the source
 that sustains them.

Having fallen,
 they give back,
 some of the gathered light

as color, radiating
 the sugary excess of summer.
 The easy joy of so much light

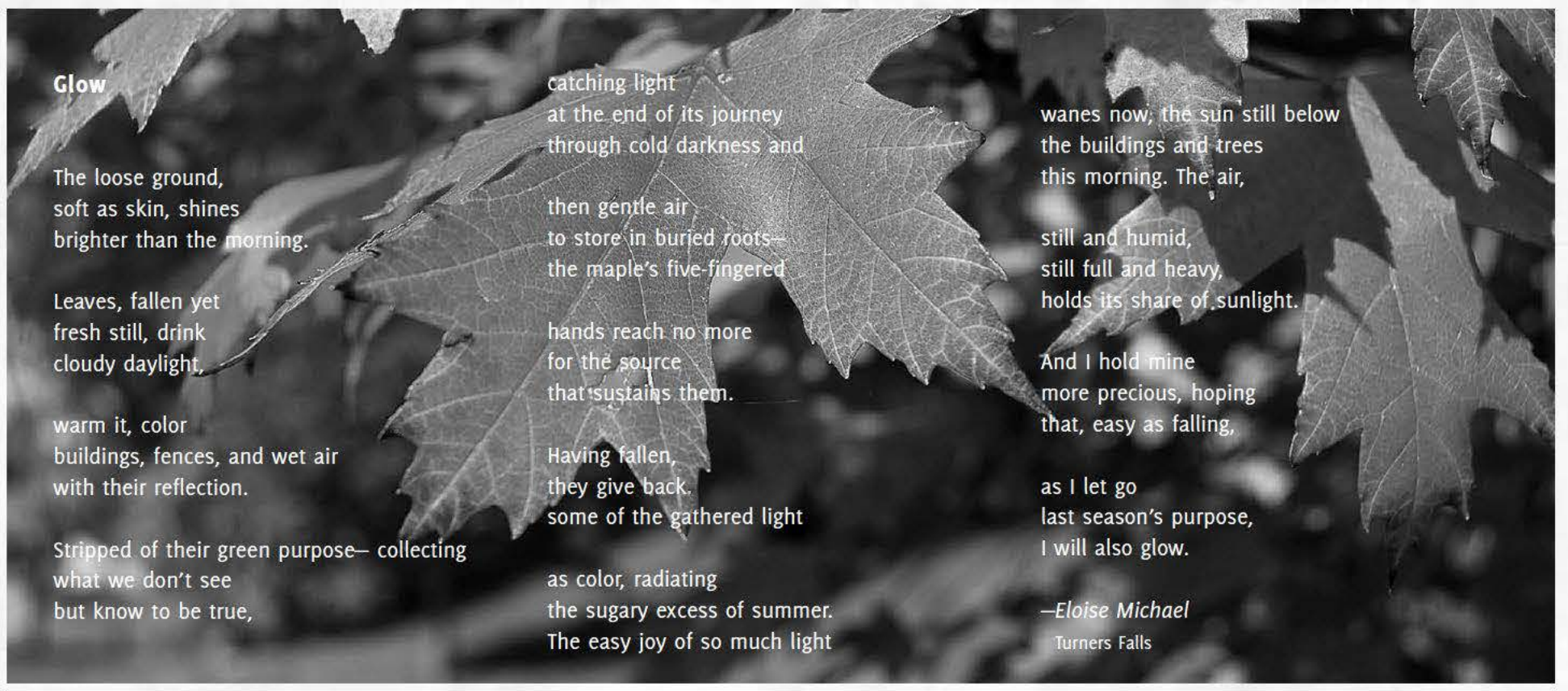
wanes now, the sun still below
 the buildings and trees
 this morning. The air,

still and humid,
 still full and heavy,
 holds its share of sunlight.

And I hold mine
 more precious, hoping
 that, easy as falling,

as I let go
 last season's purpose,
 I will also glow.

—Eloise Michael
 Turners Falls



Historical Society Keeps the Villages' Past Alive



In this photograph of men at work on the canal, the John Russell Cutlery Company can be seen in the background. (Courtesy Turners Falls Library.)

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

MONTAGUE - The Montague Historical Society is alive and well, fostering the preservation of all five village histories in town. The society's annual meeting was held on Monday, October 17th, at the community room of the public safety complex on Turnpike Road and featured a talk by local historian Peter Miller that focused on the canals of Montague City and Turners Falls.

But of course the talk digressed from time to time - covering everything from a train running into the Millers Falls train station back in the day to the fact that not enough of our village daughters were successfully locked up during the log drives from the late 1800s to 1915 when herds of men drove the logs down the Connecticut River from the North Woods to the Oxbow in Northampton, "resting" in Turners Falls along the way. There may have been a marriage or two to the river men of the North Woods as a result.

The stories of the river men came alive when the Historical Society's president Lillian Fiske read from a genealogy of her family, featuring the stories of seven generations of Fairmen. Before steamboats, one distant relative of Fiske pushed the barges along the old barge canal with white ash poles, and (not

coincidentally) he was an amazingly strong wrestler. From 1798 to 1856, the barge canal ran from Montague City, beginning near the current water treatment facility off of Greenfield Road, and ending at the Turners Falls dam. According to Miller, at first the canal was only four feet deep in places, but it was dredged deeper over time to eventually accommodate flat boat barges as big as 23 by 60 feet.

Miller described the transformation of Montague's villages from the barge canal era of flat boats and steam boats traveling through nine locks (when Cheapside in Greenfield was a major port and there was also a dam and locks system in Millers Falls to allow boat traffic over the rapids there) to the era of the railroads superseding the river to meet the freight and transportation needs of New England.

The railroad came to Greenfield by 1846. Our Turners Falls Rite Aid used to be the location of one Railroad station, according to Miller. And, a train track went through the Thomas Memorial Golf Course - before or after it became a golf course, I'm not sure.

If anyone would know, Ed Gregory would. He's written a detailed account of the canals of Turners Falls in a book, as well as many adventures at the Thomas Memorial Golf Course

(see golfserv.tripod.com/preservation.html). Gregory was on hand to help answer questions about the canal.

After the advent of the railroad, Turners Falls' own industrial era began just after the Civil War, when Fitchburg industrialist Alvah Crocker had a vision that Turners Falls had all of the white coal (water power) a planned industrial community could need. The abandoned barge canal was transformed in 1869 into a power canal where the rush of the Connecticut River was channeled to wash over turbines. Taking the place of old hydro-powered belt driven machinery, the new hydro turbines provided energy to the mills along the canal, which churned out finished goods like paper, cutlery, and cotton.

According to Miller, the canal during this phase went as far south as the Griswold cotton mill (later known as the Rockdale department store, and now referred to as the Railroad Salvage store) reconnecting the canal waters with the main stem of the Connecticut River at the north end of the Patch.

The third phase of the canal started with the lengthening and widening of the canal in the 1910s - all for facilitating the transformation to hydroelectric power, with the construction of Cabot Station in Montague City.

You can see there were a lot of digressions in this talk, part of what makes local history so interesting. The history of Montague, a town of now just over 8,000 people, is huge. For example, Lake Pleasant didn't come into being until the Fitchburg Railroad bought land there and built it up as a summer playground for city folk from Boston and New York. Geology? We've got rocks named after Turners Falls. Brick Town got its bricks from the clay of the Connecticut and Sawmill Rivers right here. Paleontology? We practically uncovered dinosaur footprints. Spiritual renaissance? Lake Pleasant cornered the market on séances and psychic mediums. A history of immigrant ethnic diversity? Yes - Irish Americans, French Canadians, English and Yankees, Germans, and Polish - check, check, check - each with their own fraternal societies in Turners Falls. Diligent farming community? Yup, we got that too in Montague Center. A rich Native American history? Of course. Huge granite blocks uncovered during the building of a geothermal heating system at the Masonic Lodge in Montague City? Yes - and somewhere between Rod Shop Road and Montague City Road, there used to be a wharf (with tavern, of course), or byway, where barges could pass each other along the canal.

The Montague Historical Society keeps track of all this common heritage; they could use your help from time to time. While the Society is housed in the Montague Grange Hall on the common in Montague Center, some of their collection remains in a former small district schoolhouse near Route 63 and Center Street. That schoolhouse needs a new roof. Stay tuned to the Montague Reporter (of course) for a detailed account of the schoolhouse - its past and present condition.

According to montaguema.net, the Montague Historical Society's goal is "to archive local history, including family histories and photos, schools, historic buildings, photos and much more... Fundraising to maintain the archives is ongoing, as we have no other source of income other

than membership dues (\$20) and gifts."

The official business portion of the Historical Society's meeting on Monday revealed that they have \$3816.48 in their bank account at this time. In the last year, treasurer Les Bridges noted, the society received \$296 in donations and revenues from book, map, and postcard sales. Their expenses for the last year were \$338.

Society members put 35 new quilts on display at the Montague Old Home Days in August. Archivist Mary Melonis is working to move some records from the old schoolhouse to the Montague Grange, transferring records to acid free paper or enclosed cellophane when possible. Her main project is working with members of the Historical Society towards indexing all of the papers and photographs. For example, the society holds three boxes containing information on the Turners Falls Athletic Club alone.

"There have been a lot of discoveries," in the last year, Melonis said. "We're getting a lot done. And, many of the items in storage are now findable." Melonis is continuing to work on getting items referenced, coded, and numbered - with the eventual hope of getting it all indexed on a searchable computer file.

A new Historical Society member, Susan Hallett, has been working on cataloging all of the cemeteries in the five villages and the graves therein.

Meanwhile, Martha Daniels is quietly continuing to donate proceeds from her children's book, *Inky and the Red Hat*, to the Montague Historical Society. Illustrated by Christy Patrick and published by A Sunset Hill Publication in Northampton, the book is set in Montague Center in 1960. From the publisher, "This is the true story of Inky, a crow, who entertained and befriended the children of that village in 1960. While they walked to and from school, Inky flew alongside them. He watched while they went ice skating and visited their back yards on weekends. And he had a thing about a certain red hat."

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I gave my 81-year-old brother a birthday present recently. As he opened it, a brief smile crossed his face. When he was a kid, he would tear open presents and jump out of his skin. Does enthusiasm wane as we age?*

I wouldn't describe your brother as someone who has lost

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:
Mellowing with Age

his enthusiasm. I would say he is just less excitable, mellow. There is scientific evidence that we do chill out as we get older.

I think that's probably a good thing. Being at ease has become more important to me than being wildly entertained. I like sitting in a rocking chair more than I used to.

Dr. Karen Faith Berman and other scientists at the National Institute of Mental Health conducted a study about this subject. The study appeared in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The researchers found evidence that older brains don't respond to rewards as strongly as younger brains do. The main dif-

ference was the way older brains respond to dopamine, a neurotransmitter or messenger.

As a chemical messenger, dopamine is similar to adrenaline. Dopamine affects brain processes that control movement, emotional response, and the ability to experience pleasure and pain. Regulation of dopamine plays a crucial role in our mental and physical health.

Neurons — or nerve cells — containing dopamine are clustered in the midbrain area. In Parkinson's disease, the dopamine-transmitting neurons in this area die. As a result, the brains of people with Parkinson's disease contain almost no dopamine.

Dr. Berman said the results of her study "may explain anecdotal evidence that older people are mellow, that they may not get the same highs from certain experiences, but they may not get the same lows, either."

The researchers performed brain scans on two groups — one in their 60s, the other in their 20s — as they played a virtual slot machine on a computer.

The researchers found differences between the groups when they won at the slot machine and when they just anticipated winning. The researchers said that the differences were seen in how much dopamine was produced, which parts of the brain responded to it and how much they responded.

When a reward was anticipated, the researchers said, three parts of a reward center in the

brain lighted up in the younger group, but only one in the older group.

Does this mean older people are not as happy as younger ones? There's evidence that the opposite is true. In a recent column, I reported on the phenomenon.

A Gallup telephone poll of 340,000 people across the nation showed that happiness comes with age. The survey included people between 18 and 85.

The survey showed that people start out at age 18 feeling pretty good. However, they feel progressively worse until they hit 50. At that point, people begin getting happier as they age. By the time they are 85, they are even more satisfied with themselves than they were at 18.

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

ERVING from pg 6

Boyden noted that land donated to the town would be removed from the tax rolls. She said she had observed a trend over the past five years of properties moving from taxable to exempt status.

The selectboard reviewed draft spreadsheets with estimated capital spending for town administration, police, fire department, and library over the next five years and suggested format changes that would allow better ranking of potential expenditures.

Chris Stacy, new tree warden, presented his list of trees that need to be removed before win-

ter and said he had hired Spanky's Tree Service of Orange to do the work. Goodwin said it appeared Stacy had a good plan.

Finance committee chair Stanley Gradowski told the selectboard that a meeting with Union 28 finance and operations director Michael Kociela was "very productive."

The selectboard ended the public session and went into executive session to consider the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health or the discipline, dismissal of, or other complaints and charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual.

MASTERS from pg 1

cates areas of shade and light and how he gradually builds color.

He is self-taught and began painting with a how-to book, which he found very frustrating. Before giving up he had the good fortune to observe a five-year-old painting with joy and abandon. He said, "It came to me then that this is the way to paint. I threw away the book and began visiting museums."

In the exhibit catalogs, artists and curators write about process and Whitbeck used this information. Then he began copying works by the old masters to uncover their technique. It was not long before he had mastered

the masters and began making his own art.

His landscapes have been informed by local geography and memory, particularly summers at the old family farm in Conway. In these paintings animals bask in golden light and serenity. The still lifes are a little more complicated. Filled with symbols and clues, many seem to hint at a story. Who crumpled the letter and left a nearly empty cup of tea on the table? It looks dreary outside; there's a sense of impending tragedy.

Finding a market for their work challenges all artists and Whitbeck is no exception. With gallery owners sometimes taking

as much as fifty percent from a sale, he and his wife Gale began travelling during the summer to juried outdoor art shows across the country. Though it can be arduous to be on the road for weeks at a time and expensive when entry fees, food, gas and hotels are figured in, in the end Whitbeck makes enough to allow him a winter's painting without taking other jobs. He sells 20-30 paintings a year, and they range from \$600 to \$6,000.

Whitbeck hosts occasional open houses at his studio on 74 Greenfield Road; the next will take place on Sunday, December 4th from noon to 5 p.m.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XII

Turners Falls, MA 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL

At the end of my fourth successful work day I am beginning to like having a doppelganger. I like it a lot. I am more focused at work than I have ever been, knowing that I will have plenty of time at night to do other things. And I am never tired.

In less than a week I have read several books, done lots of projects around the house, and taken up three new hobbies. The days are getting longer, and I am starting to imagine warm nights outside, watching the sunset and the sunrise. With the weekend com-

ing, I wish I had someone who would share all this time with me.

After dinner I switch bodies and then settle in with a book. Two hours is about as long as I can sit still, so I pop in an exercise video, figuring I will organize the kitchen drawers after that.

I like to balance my nights between fun stuff and projects to improve the house. After Pilates and a shower, I'm deciding whether I should bother organizing the drawers, since I might be moving, and then someone knocks on the door.

I panic. First I feel like I am

going to be caught doing something wrong. How will I explain being awake? I realize it's only midnight, and anyway, it's not a crime to stay up late.

Then I wonder who would be knocking on my door in the middle of the night.

I kind of tiptoe over to the computer, avoiding the window. I log into StreetLevel. I have my own camera bookmarked and find it in the favorites list.

Now I am looking at the sidewalk in front of my house. Some people get really upset if a StreetLevel camera can see their house, so I have it aimed just so. It mostly sees my own property, and not the front door. I don't necessarily want my comings and goings on the internet.

The person knocking is appar-

ently smart enough to avoid the camera.

I go to the door and listen. When I don't hear anything, I move very slowly toward the window.

It's dark inside, so I think people won't see me if I move slowly.

There are no cars parked on the street, and only my own in the driveway.

The person knocks again, and being right next to the door, I am startled out of my wits.

I kind of scream but catch myself and turn it into a high-pitched, "Who is it?"

"Theresa," he says in a loud whisper, "come on, let me in."

The voice sounds familiar. It's someone who knows my name. I don't say anything, just try to

think what to do.

"Rese, please," he says in the same half-whisper, "it's me."

I'm opening the door before I consciously realize who it is. He slips through and shuts it behind him, grinning kind of sheepishly. I just look at him, thinking maybe this is a dream my doppelganger is having.

"Hey," he says quietly, "Rese, how are you?"

After collecting my thoughts for a moment, I answer him. "I haven't seen you in three years. Then you show up at my door at," here I look at my watch, "at 12:20 in the night, and you say, 'Hey how are you?'"

He laughs but says nothing. "I'm fine Jason, I guess. How are you?"

Continued next issue

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 are a definite plus but not required.

Technical Coordinator:
\$20/hr @ 10hrs - 15hrs per week. Major duties include maintaining the digital 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.

TOWN OF ERVING INFORMATIONAL MEETING: FY 2012 CDBG Application

The Town of Erving will hold an informational meeting on October 31st, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and solicit public response to the Towns of Erving's FY 2012 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant, a regional application with the towns of Erving (lead), Deerfield, Colrain and Gill, to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Local citizens are requested to come propose activities that the town should apply for.

The Town of Erving (lead) will contract with the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the Community Development Block Grant Program. The HRA will be available to discuss the application process. The Town of Erving is an equal opportunity provider.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Suspicious Vehicles, Suspicious Persons

Tuesday, 10/18
3:00 p.m. Past disturbance and harassment on Old State Road. Report taken. Under investigation.

Wednesday, 10/19
5:20 p.m. Report of loose dog in area of Route 2. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 10/20
2:10 a.m. Suspicious vehicle reported at Pocket Saver Market, Erving Center.

Vehicle gone upon arrival.
3:10 a.m. Vehicle located at Freight House parking lot. Subject was sleeping.

6 a.m. Report of Tree down on Flagg Hill Road. Advised tree warden.

7:55 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at International Paper Mill. Unable to locate.

Friday, 10/21
8:15 a.m. Mutual aid to Northfield police for vacant home with open door.
3:35 p.m. Assisted Erving Fire with smoke in a residence on Lillian's Way.

Saturday, 10/22
7:45 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2, at Old State Road. Vehicle was not a hazard.

10 a.m. Suspicious person taking pictures on Central Street. Located same. Works for a consulting company.

3:00 p.m. Vandalism at storage units at Renovators Supply. Report taken.

Sunday, 10/23
5:32 p.m. Breaking and entering into a motor vehicle on Cross Street. Report taken.

Monday, 10/24
4:25 p.m. Call of illegal dumping. Found to be in Millers Falls.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Erving Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on request by Erving Paper Mills, Inc. To amend the wording on the existing fuel storage license to allow for storage of Class III fuel grades in the existing tanks at 97 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.

The public hearing will be held at 6:35PM in the Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main St. on Monday October 31st, 2011.

Erving Board of Selectmen
Andrew N. Goodwin, Chairman

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

EVERY TUESDAY
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Crafty Peeps Prefer the Voo, Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Second Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*, 2 - 6 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 7 - 9 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic, every Thursday night, Dan, Kip and Shultzzy from Curly Fingers DuPree* host. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 30th
Wendell Free Library, Herrick Room: *Old Massachusetts Gravestones*, an exhibition of twenty black and white prints by Arthur P. Mange.

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 29th
Great Falls Discovery Center: *Northeast Fall Photography by Eric Valentine*. Interested in what draws people to New England in the fall? Come check out Eric Valentine's photography exhibit.

NOVEMBER 1 - 30th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit*, Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NOVEMBER 1st - DECEMBER 30th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artwork by *Leonore Alaniz*. Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Artist reception November 5th 1 - 3 p.m.

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 18th
The Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Ellen Denuto's photographs in The Artist as Art*. Fridays through Sundays from 1 - 5 p.m. through December 18th.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27th
Leverett Library: *Nature Printing: A Workshop for adults and children with Leonore Alaniz*, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ray Mason*, free, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp*, country & city blues guitar & vocals, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Young Children's Story Hour*, 10:30 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Berger & The Electric Fence*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Planemo / Well Suited*, rock-experimental, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *The Miles Band*, 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Steve Nelson*, 8 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: *Echo Lake Coffeehouse, Wool and Grant with Arjuna Greist* opening, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th
Montague Center Fire Department: *Open House*, Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center, lots of hands on displays, exhibits, drawing for 1928 Chevy National Sedan, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Greenfield on the Green: *Occupy Greenfield* at Federal and Main Streets, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Halloween Costume Party with Dedicated to Delilah*, 60's - 80's cover tunes, 9 - 11 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Gender role free contra*, caller *Rebecca Lay*, 7 - 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Diamond Stones and Mountain Interval*, Halloween Costume Party, fabulous prizes, including a \$50 gift card, free, 9:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *The Benefit of Love - A Wedding, a Dinner, a Masquerade Ball Dance Party & Art Auction* to benefit *The Northwestern District's Children's Advocacy Project & Leverett Crafts & Arts*. *Ochoasia Studios & Fountain of Resource*. Wedding ceremony (free) 5:30-6 p.m. Three-course dinner (\$30-\$50/\$10 under 18) 6 - 8 p.m. Masquerade Ball & Auction (\$10 donation requested) 8 p.m. until 12 a.m. Call 374-7809 for dinner reservations.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Messages from the Other Side*, paranormal readings by spirit medium *Lisa Lanno*, 7 - 9 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *It's the Great Punk Show, Charlie Brown, featuring OFC666, Cactus Arms, Scalp, Machine Gun Wolf, ATL ATL, & more*. Halloween costume contest., 7 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heroes in Trouble Halloween Party*, 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Mostly Words, A Little Music, with Alina Simone, Jedidiah Berry, and Michael Metivier*, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30th
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Reactor, Vernon, VT: *Rally, the people serve notice to VT Yankee*, 12 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Family Dance, The Damons, Steve and Joanna*, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.



Brooklyn Comedian Eugene Mirman will perform with Jon Benjamin & Kurt Braunohler at 8 p.m. at St. Kazimier's Hall on November 4th to benefit The Thrive Project. Tickets: www.shopwesternmass.com/thrive Photo credit: Brian Tamborello.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, featuring *Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & Tommy Boynton*, 8 - 10 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *The Loom, Matthew Carefully, Cat Cat Tiger Cat*, 8 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Wendell COA Movie: Abbott and Costello meet Frankenstein*. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31st
Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Rag Shag Parade*, 5:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A Night of Spoken Word*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dada Dino*, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st
Leverett Library: Author *Saloma Miller Furlong* will discuss her book, *Why I Left the Amish: A Memoir*. Free refreshments with author's home-made, Amish-style baked goods. 6:30-8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd
Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Nuclear Power in Japan: Fukushima & Its Aftermath, A Talk and Film by Japanese Filmmaker Hitomi Kamanaka*. Discussion of the issue of nuclear power in Japan and events there in the aftermath of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear disaster. Also: selections from her films. Also: an informational exhibit *The News that Is Not in the News*, covering the first six months since the nuclear accident at Fukushima, prepared by *Keiko Kokubun*. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics, Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen*, 8 - 10 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series, featuring Mark Leidner and Timothy Liu*, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th & 11th
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th & 12th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Play on!* 8 p.m. Matinee also on Sunday, November 13th, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th:
Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Benefit concert for Irene flood victims*. Proceeds to: *West County Relief Fund*. Live music featuring: *Chris Pierce, Shane Alexander & Sean Ashby*, 7 p.m.

Orange Town Hall: *Celebrate Literacy! Variety Show with special guest Travis LeDoyt*. Benefit for *The Literacy Project's North Quabbin site*.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites, Reggae Fantastico*, 9 - 11 p.m.

St. Kazimier's Hall, Turners Falls: *2nd Annual ThriveFest Comedy Benefit with: Eugene Mirman (Bob's Burgers, Flight of the Conchords, Delocated), Jon Benjamin (Dr. Katz, Jon Benjamin has a Van, Archer), Kurt Braunohler (Delocated, Jon Benjamin has a Van), and maybe more!* 8 p.m. Buy tickets online at <http://www.shopwesternmass.com/thrive/>. Proceeds benefit thriveproject.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th
Leverett Library: *In Search of Your Roots, with Martha Noblick*, a workshop on genealogical research, 12 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Pamela Means*, 8 - 10 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Open House and Music Show, a benefit for The Thrive Project*, 37 Third Street,

thriveproject.org, 2 - 5 p.m.

New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro: *Hitomi Kamanaka's* documentary film, *Ashes to Honey* (2010), chronicles the lives of people in Iwajima where the majority of the population has been protesting, for the past thirty years, the government's plan to build nuclear reactors across the bay. 7 p.m.

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Crowds Light Up the Pumpkintest



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

Avenue A in Turners was a sea of people admiring the efforts of the jack o' lantern artists whose work lined both sides of the street on Saturday, along with vendors of every variety, for the hugely successful 2nd Annual Franklin County Pumpkintest.

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS - Downtown Turners Falls was jam packed with vendors, area residents, dogs, and out-of-town visitors last Saturday for the second annual Franklin County Pumpkin Fest. Estimates of the crowd ranged as high as 12,000 people, but a visual inspection of the Avenue could only affirm that the place was packed, from 2nd to 7th Street.

The streets were cordoned off and the bands were cooking at Peskeomskut Park, Spinner Park and of course "Between the Uprights on 2nd Street." With nearly 100 vendors and more than a thousand jack o' lanterns there was plenty to peruse - from non-profits and school booster groups to food vendors and crafters - the festival certainly held something for everyone!

The Franklin County Big Brother/Big Sister (FC-BBBS) had one of the best organized displays of pumpkins for spectators passing by. They won three awards for their efforts (in addition to the delicious kettle corn provided by their festival partners - Marie and Greg Gralnick of M & G Kettlecom).

Executive director Kay Johnson said the fair was modestly successful as a fundraiser but a great event for FC-BBBS nonetheless. Her organization works hard to sponsor events that interest their matches and the pre-Pumpkin Fest jack o' lantern carving night drew nine pairs of "bigs and littles" to create the display.

Johnson felt the Pumpkin Fest was a tremendous opportunity for community exposure and claimed it was one of the easiest events to find volunteers for staffing the booth. With so many volunteers, there was time for everyone to enjoy all the activities.

The most difficult part of Pumpkin Fest was attempting to see all the entertainment - there were huge crowds rocking to the ever changing entertainment at Peskeomskut Park (aided by the brews served up by the Element and Berkshire Brewing companies), and lots of excitement at Spinner Park where one highlight was the fire spinning antics of the Infernal Theater.



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

Alana Martineau rocked the crowd at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday

Wendell to Shift to 2nd Franklin

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Alone among the four towns from the First Franklin District represented by Steve Kulik (D-Worthington) slated to move to the Second Franklin District, represented by Denise Andrews (D-Orange), the town of Wendell has been putting up a stiff resistance to the change. The legislature will act on the recommended changes Tuesday.

Kulik said he had received many emails and letters, including one signed by 31 Wendell town officials, asking for Wendell to remain under his representation with the Franklin County towns to their west, rather than shift to 2nd Franklin, and become part of what will now be a North Quabbin-based region. Andrews' 2nd Franklin District will now include Wendell, New Salem, along with Royalston, Petersham, Templeton, and Phillipston, if the recommended changes are accepted next week, Kulik said.

Andrews will lose Greenfield, which will move to the expanded 2nd Berkshire district, in the coming redistricting change.

Kulik said the changes are the result of demographic shifts, as the Berkshires lose people, and the eastern part of the state gains population. "That tends to move these districts east," said Kulik, who will see the towns of Shelburne, Buckland, Ashfield, Plainfield, Cummington, Middlefield, and Chester added to his district.

"I've been touched by the outpouring of support

in Wendell, and the substantive points they raise about remaining in the First Franklin. I'm touched they like my representation. But it just doesn't work from a numerical or geographical perspective."

Wendell selectboard member Dan Keller seemed resigned to the change on Thursday, but noted, "Regardless of who the representative is, we just feel more aligned, culturally and in every way, with the real Franklin County, and the towns to our west."

Kulik said Wendell will move to the Second Franklin along with New Salem, a pairing that makes sense since those towns share an administrative coordinator, Nancy Aldrich, an elementary school, Swift River, and both towns send students to Mahar for upper school. He said he would continue to work with the town of Wendell after redistricting, in collaboration with Andrews and other legislators.

Kulik said Wednesday's announcement of Congressman John Olver's plans to retire at the end of his current term will toss a wild card into the redistricting plans for the state's congressional districts, as Massachusetts reduces from 10 to 9 representatives in Congress. He said the gap created by the departure of one incumbent from the field will likely result in the carving up of Olver's First Congressional District between Jim McGovern's 3rd and Richard Neal's 2nd Congressional Districts, which Kulik predicted would shift west and become the dominant districts in this part of the state.

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