



POWER ART TOWN

Report from the Confluence

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BRICK HOUSE

Feeds the Community

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 5

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 28, 2010

Leverett Forms Education Study Committee

BY DAVID DETMOLD – The town of Leverett has established an education study committee to report to the spring town meeting about options for the future public education of Leverett students. Formation of the study committee, which will include representatives of the selectboard, school committee, finance committee, parents and educators, was approved by the unanimous vote of the selectboard and school committee at a joint meeting with the finance committee and about a dozen members of the public on Tuesday night.

“If Amherst wants to go their own way, let them go.”

**-Rich Brazeau, chair
Leverett selectboard**

The move comes in response to “multiple outside forces,” according to Leverett school committee chair Farshid Hajir, chief among them the changes which may be forced on the town of Leverett by pending actions of the Amherst school committee.

The Amherst school committee is considering moving the town of Amherst’s three sixth grade classes to the middle school, which would raise ques-

tions about the equitable funding of the middle school by the region, which includes Shutesbury, Pelham, and Leverett, none of which are planning to shift their sixth grades to Amherst.

Additionally, Hajir said, some members of the Amherst school committee have called for dissolving school Union 26, the elementary school union between Amherst and Pelham, with the specific intent of involving the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in discussions about the future makeup of the region. That could call Leverett’s school governance into question, Hajir said.

Leverett’s elementary school is part of Union 28, with Irving, New Salem, Wendell, and Shutesbury; Leverett’s upper school students attend Amherst middle school and high school. In recent years, the state has pushed for unified K-12 regions.

On Tuesday, the Amherst school committee voted to form a

see **STUDY** pg 13

The Phenomenal Franklin County Pumpkin Festival

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

TURNERS FALLS – The old town was hopping Saturday night with a crowd of Biblical proportions. Police estimate 8,000 people gathered for the First Annual Pumpkin Festival, by far the largest turnout for Turners Falls in anyone’s memory, even mine. Everyone was in a party mood, strolling the Avenue and checking out the jack-o-lanterns. The one policeman on duty gave kids a chance to try out the department’s Segway. No one at the beer enclosure needed an escort off the premises. The mellow crowd stretched from traffic light to traffic light, or swayed to the music of the bands in the park.

“It was phenomenal. The event far exceeded anything I ever expected and truly showed the community support of downtown Turners Falls,” said event organizer Michael Nelson. He worked with 48 volunteers and spent a year in advance



Patti Dion, Pat Allen and Deb Bourbeau among the crowd of 1000s who enjoyed the festival

planning the event, registering vendors, lining up talent, advertising, and coming up with pumpkins, carving tools, paper towels and candles for young pumpkin sculptors and their animated parents. Their imaginative designs stood on curbs, tables, planters, benches and the stone ledge of the fountain by the traffic lights.

Turners Falls merchants who took advantage of the event enjoyed a brisk business. Turners

Falls Pizza, Dudek’s Donuts, the 2nd Street Bakery, and La Bodega were turning out food as fast as they could make it. The Montague Fire Department couldn’t keep up with the demand for French fries.

Where did all the pumpkins go? A local farmer took them away in a dump truck. They’ll go to enrich the soil for more pumpkins for next year’s festival, already in the planning stages.

Chase Elected President of Antique Truck Club of America



PARZYCH PHOTO

Fred Chase with an antique LTL Mack Truck under repair at his shop.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL – Fred Chase was recently elected president of the National Antique Truck Club of America in Boyertown, PA. Chase already serves as president of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Antique Truck Club of America.

Chase has extensive experience with Mack trucks, having worked as a master mechanic in the repair shop of Lane Construction for over 20 years before opening a truck repair shop of his own on the French King Highway in Gill.

Chase got into Mack restoration when customers couldn’t

find a body shop to repair damaged antique Macks.

His most recent influx of damaged trucks came from Eilers Brothers of Readsboro, VT.

Eilers is a very successful trucking and construction company that got its start during the construction of Interstate 91 in the late 1950s. Over the years, the business grew and prospered. The sons of the two original Eilers Brothers have taken over the business. One brother now handles the trucking end of the firm, and the other construction; both collaborate on bidding and exe-

see **CHASE** pg 14

Girard Leads Booster Day Parade

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – It was a beautiful day for a Booster Day parade. The senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman classes from Turners Falls High School were well represented Saturday with floats on this year’s theme – Landmarks.

The freshmen put together a glittering Eiffel Tower, the sophomores constructed an excellent replica of the New York skyline, and the juniors weighed in with the iconic Hollywood sign, but the seniors stole the show and won first prize for their Egyptian Pyramids and golden sphinx. Leon Sirum provided flatbed trucks and pickups to tow them, and Corban Mailloux had the marching band well rehearsed before the parade stepped out from the Unity Park lot and headed up 2nd Street and onto the Avenue to the cheers of waiting spectators.

The Ladies of the Class of ‘69, who tend the planter in front of the Cute Nails salon, whooped it up louder than anyone, after a raucous evening rehearsing their cheers at the Rendezvous the night before.

They cheered especially loudly for the parade’s grand marshal

– one of their own – Sharon Girard. (Indeed, the brightly colored hand-made sign



DETMOLD PHOTO

Sharon Girard with students from Turners Falls High School

‘Sharon for President’ is still mounted on the side of the Avenue days later, giving passersby something to think about as the election approaches.)

How did Girard get chosen to lead the Booster Day parade this year?

“I ask myself that,” said the Turners Falls High School secretary, who used to substitute teach after working for the phone company for many years.

“I love the kids,” Girard said. “I’ve been with the district for 12 years. I decided, ‘I’m going to talk to them like I talk to my daughters,’ and they respond to that.”

Girard remembers the Booster Day parade from when she was a senior, when Kathy Webber was the Queen, and Snoopy was the figure on the float, surrounded by

Kleenex flowers.

Nicole Fuller was the Queen, and Jack Hubert the King for this Booster Day. As they posed for the camera by their hot red sports car, Hubert whispered helpfully to his regal consort, “You don’t have to like the king.” You just have to stand close enough to get in the same frame.

Despite all the cheers, the floats, the candy tossed to bystanders, it was not quite enough to get the Turners High School football team past the Franklin County Tech Eagles, with their star tailback Max Williams. In the afternoon matchup, Williams carried the ball a total of 214 yards with two touchdowns, to put Tech on top 22 – 6, for their first win ever against Turners. For more photos find the Montague Reporter on facebook

PET OF THE WEEK
A Great Match



Diabla

I am Diabla, a one-year-old short hair female cat in need of a good home. I have experience with adults and young children. I also lived with another cat and we got along very well. I'm a very vocal, active, and playful girl. Won't you come on out to visit me? I bet we will be a great match! To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6
Ian Moriarty
Alyson Kilanski

Grade 7
Allyson Renaud

Grade 8
Zachary Demars

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Published weekly on Thursday.
(Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)
PHONE (413) 863-8666
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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\$20 for 1/2 Year

Community Priorities Forum November 4th

WENDELL – The open space and recreation planning committee invites local residents and landowners to help select the town's top priorities for protecting and enhancing local open space and recreational opportunities in the coming years. We have almost completed updating the town's open space and recreation plan. A final step in this process is selecting which of the many actions recommended in the plan will be listed as priority action steps.

In order to ensure broad based public input into the selection of community priorities, residents will help to choose the priority actions at a public forum on Thursday, November 4th, at 6:30 p.m. at town hall. The evening will

begin with time to review maps, followed by a brief presentation, public comment and questions, discussion and selection of priority action steps.

A list of all the objectives and action steps in the plan has been posted on the town website www.wendellmass.us and copies of this list are available for review at the town offices, the Wendell Free Library, the Wendell Country Store, and the Diemand Egg Farm. A complete draft of the 2010 open space and recreation plan will be posted on the website by Hallowe'en weekend.

For more info, please call Marianne Sundell, chair, at (978) 544-8981 or Pat Smith, FRCOG senior land use planner, at (413) 774-1194 x111.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS
Party Successful with Volunteers

TURNERS FALLS - The annual children's Halloween party at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, October 23rd, was very well attended. Families had a chance to make a wide variety of seasonal crafts and play games. The heavily laden refreshment table was also very

popular. A lot of behind the scenes planning and preparations helped make the party successful. The following volunteers were a huge help: Amy Podlenski, Joy Whitbeck, Michael Wells, Amy Lang and Gabbi Santucci. We could not have done it without them!



At the Harvest Bounty homeschooling program on Wednesday, October 20th, Naomi Johnson of Millers Falls decorated a pumpkin grown by children's librarian Linda Hickman. The series meets weekly on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. thru November 17th.
For more information, call 863-3214.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – November 1st - 5th

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 Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, November 1st
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, November 2nd
Election Day
Senior Center Closed

Wednesday, November 3rd
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, November 4th
No Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, November 5th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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 info 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 at (413) 423-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE CHOLEVA

It's that time of year again, when the Great Pumpkin (aka Charlie Choleva) on Seventh Street greets trick or treaters and gives them his bags of goodies. Parents are also able to try his delicious hot cider. For over 15 years the Great Pumpkin has waved at passersby and given trick or treaters a Halloween treat. This year he has a 735 pound pumpkin to add to the festivities.

Non-Electric Apartment Hearing Postponed

BY KATIE NOLAN
WENDELL – Jonathan and Susan von Ranson came to Wendell's October 26th board of health meeting prepared to learn more about the status of their application to build a low carbon footprint, non-electric apartment in their barn. Another body, the Wendell planning board, gave tentative approval of the couple's plans this spring, pending the approval of other relevant departments, specifically the board of health.

When the von Ransons presented their plans at the health board's July 13th meeting, the board had agreed to review the von Ransons' plans and the relevant health regulations and respond to them in a timely manner.

According to Jonathan von Ranson, the couple has "waited patiently" for a reply from the board.

However, on Tuesday, the only board member present at 7:15 p.m., the time posted for the non-electric apartment discussion, was chair Lonnie Ricketts. The other two board members, Jenny Fyler and Martha Senn,

had not arrived by 7:30 p.m., so Ricketts declared the meeting cancelled for lack of a quorum.

The non-electric apartment discussion was placed on the agenda for the November 9th meeting.

Spaghetti with Bobby C

BY KATHY RIMBY
TURNERS FALLS - The Louise Casa Memorial Spaghetti Dinner with Bobby C as entertainment is happening on Saturday, November 13th at the Montague Elks Lodge, 1 Elk Avenue, Turners Falls. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call Beverly Reid (413) 834-0872 or Kathy Rimby (413) 636-9738. All proceeds go directly to veterans at the VA Medical Center.

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Local Briefs

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – Sing and dance in the light of the campfire on Saturday, October 30th at the Northfield Mountain visitor center, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This annual event is a celebration of Halloween through songs, stories and dance. Dress warmly, and bring flashlights and blankets or chairs. In case of poor weather, the program will be held inside the cozy yurt. Call (800) 856-2960 for more info.

Come if you dare to the **Haunted Trail**, 35 Lake Pleasant Road, in Lake Pleasant on Saturday, October 30th, from 6 to 9 p.m. Walk through the woods at the Scalpers Lodge. You never know what could be out there waiting for you! Cost is just \$1.00, or bring a can of food to donate to support the Franklin Area Survival Center Food Pantry.

Montague Center Fire will hold an open house on Saturday, October 30th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tour the fire house, handle a charge line, extinguish a fire, check out a fire truck, and meet Smokey the Bear.

On Saturday, November 6th, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., find out about **"Fire by Friction"** during a hands-on workshop at Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Participants will learn how to create living embers with a handmade bow drill set. The free workshop will also include instruction on how to properly harvest, construct, and use a tinder bundle made of natural materials to start a campfire. The workshop will have an outdoor component, so dress accordingly. Open to all ages, pre-registration is required. Call (413) 863-3221.

Effective Monday, November 1st, Franklin Regional **Transit Authority buses** heading to downtown Turners Falls will approach via the Cheapside and the General Pierce bridge, and proceed down Montague City Road to downtown, rather than come across the one open lane on

the Gill/Montague Bridge. Commuters waiting at the intersection of Avenue A and 3rd should not experience any change in travel time, said FRTA general manager Donna Cote. "We made the change because our large buses only have a few inches of clearance to get by the jersey barriers on the bridge. We figured it was an accident waiting to happen, and we wanted to avoid the even narrower travel lane once snow starts to fall." Any questions, call 773-8090 ext. 201.

Join friends and farmers at the Hope and Olive Restaurant, 44 Hope St, Greenfield on Monday, November 1st, from 5 to 8 p.m. and enjoy free food, sample local cheeses, play board games and support the work of the **NOFA/Massachusetts Raw Milk Network**. The network educates the public about raw milk, supports farmers in their efforts to provide safe and healthy raw milk to consumers, and works with regulators to ensure that access to raw milk is expanded. For more information on the raw milk go to www.marawmilk.org

The Viking Lodge 756 of the Vasa Order of America will present a program at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Avenue in Greenfield, on Tuesday, November 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. featuring a film about the Vasa ship. The Vasa ship was a famous, if slightly topheavy, Swedish warship that set sail from Stockholm in 1628 with King Gustavus Adolphus aboard, and sank less than one nautical mile from port. The king demanded an inquiry when he got to shore. The ship was discovered in fairly good condition and raised again in 1961, and restored to become one of Sweden's major tourist attractions! Refreshments will be served. Call 774-5855 for more info.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

Stone Connects Church to Old Country



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Jasna Gora replica dedicated at Our Lady of Czestochowa

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS – On Saturday, October 23rd, Rev. Charles DiMascola led a procession to the foot of the steep sidewalk leading to Our Lady of Czestochowa, to bless a replica of a stone at the base of Jasna Gora, a Czestochowa shrine in Poland.

Jasna Gora is defined as 'Shining Mountain' by DiMascola. "It's a smaller gora, or mountain, than the one in Poland, and the stone is smaller," DiMascola said with a smile, "but the message is the same."

Though steep, the walk to the church is a shortcut from Avenue A used surprisingly often. DiMascola hopes the inscription on the stone will be an inspiration for all those who pass by.

"Ascend mortals, to this mountain [Jasna Gora], for here

through Mary all shall obtain salvation. To Jesus through Mary."

In the winter of 1655, the heroic defense of the monastery at Jasna Gora galvanized Polish resistance against the invading Swedes. In 1656, Poland's King John Casimir II declared Our Lady of Czestochowa 'Queen of Poland' and made the city of Czestochowa the spiritual capitol of the nation. The shrine in Poland became a destination for Catholic pilgrims.

During the Nazi occupation, Hitler forbade pilgrimages. Half a million people made a pilgrimage to Jasna Gora after liberation. At a rededication of the shrine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1946, a million and a half Catholics gathered.

While Poland was under Communist rule, Jasna Gora was

the center of resistance.

Carol Kostecki is president of the Holy Rosary Society, which raised the money to have the stone cut and inscribed.

The commemorative stone is just one of many items at the church linking parishioners to their Polish heritage.

Our Lady of Czestochowa in Turners Falls draws the faithful from a wide area beyond Franklin County. People from as far away as New Hampshire and the Orange-Gardner area attend mass in Turners on a regular basis.

The procession and dedication of the stone on October 23rd included a blessing and prayer by DiMascola, followed by parishioners laying flowers around the stone.

Solar Trash Can Comes to Town

TURNERS FALLS – The town of Montague is pleased to announce the unveiling of a solar-powered trash compactor and companion recycling receptacle in Peskeomskut Park. The compactor was installed on October 21st in preparation for the Franklin County Pumpkin Festival on Saturday. The receptacle holds up to five times more trash than a non-compacting receptacle of the same size, and runs on solar power. The town will monitor the compactor in this location for effectiveness, and may consider more solar trash compactors throughout town. The compactor was funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, Green Communities Division.

School Districts Examine Cooperative Services

Greenfield - Will Franklin County school districts share a business services cooperative? Contract with local producers and food processors for healthier, tastier, ecologically responsible meals? Form a central technology team and server farm? Collaborate in grant writing and program development?

School committee members, town government officials and friends of public education will meet Saturday, November 13th, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Greenfield Middle School to explore shared resources and services among the county's school districts. In 2009, the caucus of the school committees resolved to develop and implement strategies "to help reduce costs, and to preserve the

community character of schools."

Keynote speaker Chip Wood will envision how K-12 education may look in coming years. Mr. Wood is a co-founder of Northeast Foundation for Children, which developed the Responsive classroom approach.

Public schools in Western Massachusetts comprise a nearly half-billion-dollar sector, and school districts can advance the economic health and future of local communities. During the summit, the Caucus will develop a 2011 agenda for educational progress and sustainability.

For more information about the "Big Idea" summit – and bring your big ideas! Email fcsc@comcast.net or call (413) 325-1983 for more information.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

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Last Minute Blixt



"Send Me to the State House."

BY WESLEY BLIXT

GREENFIELD - With less than a week before the election, I'm finally ready to answer the question that nobody has been asking.

I am a write-in candidate for state representative from the Second Franklin District.

Who am I? Don't worry about that.

Why am I running? I'm running because the Republicans look more and more like neo-fascist creeps, and the Dems have turned into... well... weenies.

My prospects in this election, however, allow me to be blunt about my platform. I want to spell that platform out now to eliminate any mystery. I have nine simple priorities:

TAX: That's right. A lot. Dramatically. I want to tax the hell out of a lot of folks. With a progressive tax rate, that could mean lower taxes for many of my constituents in Franklin County.

The fact is, however, that Americans in general are overfed, over-privileged, and under-taxed compared with comfortable folks in other democracies; and the wealthier you are, the more deluded you are about thinking you are carrying your weight. Sorry, but the numbers don't lie. You may be feeling hard pressed, but as a community and a nation, you are quickly getting fat, stupid and ugly.

This is why your schools are rotten, your roads and bridges are falling apart, your natural resources are polluted, and your quality of life is terminal. This is why your schools are crap, your roads and bridges are crap, your natural resources are polluted, and your quality of life is terminal. You may be carrying your weight, but somebody else clearly isn't. Somebody else has a lot more money and isn't carrying

much weight at all, and that somebody is clearly deluded. I simply want to relieve them of that delusion. Taxes will do that.

There are a lot of people out there carrying water for you. You don't see them, but they are schlepping your water. And they want some. Now.

SPEND: That's right. I want to throw money at all of the above. Throwing money has a bad reputation, but it works well if you throw it at the right things. You have to throw it at schools and health care; not at corrupt military contractors and warlords in Afghanistan, who turn around and support Republican senators. You have to throw it at guaranteed nutrition and housing and a fair wage, not at blowing up kids, farmers and a stray second lieutenant just out of West Point who never heard of friendly fire.

Most of all, I would throw it at the largest public works project ever initiated - a complete reconstruction of our utility and transportation infrastructure based on the elimination of petroleum and corn ethanol fuels; one that is neutral in its environmental impact, completely sustainable, and thoroughly integrated with your jobs, your recreation, and your needs. Your children will do projects on it and solve problems about it in school. Your older children will get degrees in it. You will work on it. Plan. Design. Document. Build.

TAKE OVER: That's right. It doesn't make any sense to rebuild the infrastructure and defend those natural resources and then just give it all away and let other people exploit it all back into the toilet. Uh-uh. Taking over all our electric, gas and water systems will help finance the whole project. You own all that. You just have to exercise that ownership. I will help.

GET WELL, NOW: That's right. A big part of that resource infrastructure is health care. Actually, it's health itself. You can't just protect the environment. You are the environment. That's why you deserve not to worry. One payer. No questions. No "Explanation of Benefits." Nobody telling you "THIS IS NOT A BILL." When it is. Nobody telling you, "You will have to

see BLIXT pg 7



KAT HOYDEN, CLAUDIA WELLS COLLAGE & KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote No on Question #3

Proponents of Question 3, in an attempt to minimize the likely consequences of reducing the sales tax to 3 percent, have been claiming that the state budget is \$52 billion.

This is simply wrong. The state's operating budget is, in fact, approximately \$32 billion, and the consequences of a "yes" vote on Question 3 will be dire. That's reality, not a scare tactic.

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation recently issued a report showing how Question 3 proponents have been counting such items as gross lottery receipts, capital spending and fund transfers to arrive at their inflated figure. These items do

reflect money that flows through the state, but they do not reflect money that is available for the state's operating budget. That figure, the correct figure for actual state spending, is approximately \$32 billion.

Here's how the state's operating budget breaks down:

Two thirds of the \$32 billion budget, approximately \$21 billion, is considered non-discretionary. That means these accounts either cannot be cut at all - debt service, for example - or cannot be cut very much, like Medicaid.

The rest of the budget, approximately \$10 - 11 billion, finances the so-called discretionary accounts - education, social and

environmental programs, public health and safety, etc. - the programs that protect and enhance our quality of life. When budget cuts have to be made, this is where they are most likely to occur.

According to the Mass. Taxpayers Foundation, Question 3 will remove approximately \$2.5 billion from the state's operating budget next year, a budget that is already estimated to be \$2 billion in deficit.

There will be consequences if Question 3 passes. That's why I'm encouraging everyone to vote "No" on November 2nd.

-Senator Stan Rosenberg (D) Amherst

Vote your Beliefs

shown there is little difference between Baker, Patrick, and Cahill. So they call her a spoiler, but not so Cahill, because he is cut from the same Baker/Patrick cloth.

But it's true. Stein spoils business as usual. She will spoil the sweetheart deals that give away over a billion dollars to big utilities, weapons manufacturers, film and insurance companies, Coca Cola and other corporations. She will spoil environmental destruction of wetlands and forest clearcuts for biomass. She will spoil waste, particularly in the health care industry.

Fraser's the One

choice, worthy of my representative vote.

I've known Genevieve since I moved to the North Quabbin in 2002. We first met as producers and members at AOTV. As I grew to know Gen, I realized what a powerhouse this woman is. Over time, I learned about her efforts on behalf of 'we the people,' from her work to highlight the serious acid rain prob-

Every election day, corporate powers play the fear card and voters self-censor by choosing the lesser of evils. And nothing changes.

Can lobby money buy your vote? Don't let them scare you when you dare to vote what's good for you. When you lose your choice, you lose your voice, and that's what they want you to do. We will only get the change we want by voting for what we believe in. To do otherwise is to throw away your vote in a meaningless exercise and be silenced.

- Tom Neilson Greenfield

lem to her success in bringing public transportation to our rural towns. Genevieve knows the ins and outs of local, regional and state politics, learned on the job through her work as an aide to a state senator. You can't buy that kind of experience, at least in my mind.

I ask anyone reading this letter to please give your vote to Genevieve Fraser for the Franklin 2nd District seat. Pay close attention to what you hear her say. I'm certain you'll agree, she's the best person for the job.

- Marie MacDonald Athol

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U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 10/27/10

US FORCES Casualties in Iraq as of this date 4427
Afghanistan 1353
Wounded in Iraq 31,902
Wounded in Afghanistan 7266

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We Welcome Your Letters!

ANOTHER LETTER

On Saturday evening, October 16th, about 40 locals came to the Montague Grange to perform in the Montague Variety Show, now an annual event put on by the Friends of the Montague Grange. The house was packed. There was lots of laughter and cooing, clapping and singing, even some thoughtful silences and plenty of applause, and by the end \$850 had been raised for the Grange's building fund.

This event was one in a series being put on by the Friends of the Montague Grange in an effort to raise funds for the ten-year capital campaign to renovate the building, and also to bring people back into the hall.

Miette Muller put the event together and played MC. Thanks are due as well to all the performers who gave their time and talent: Eve Christoph; Karen Werner; Celeste, Lucy and Annie Winkler; Jackson Blain; Susan Conger; Ivy and Lucia; Jeanne Weintraub; Ruth Witty; Jonathan and Amanda Kennedy; the Montague First Congregational Church Chorus: Kathy Peura, Penny Reid, Jackie Beauchesne, Luanne Herrick, Peg Bridges, Dave Hansen, Curt Connor, Ann Cenzano; Al Miller and Court Dorsey; Moonlight Davis; Mojie Crigler with Chad Odwazny, Emily Brewster, Hanna Fuller-Boswell, Walter Ramsey and Shamon Coakley; Kayleigh Turn and her dad

They Wowed 'em in Montague

Gary; Catherine and Kimberly Hull; and Katie Sachs. A few performers appeared in multiple segments, such as Annie Winkler who showed up in three!

Thanks also to the people who baked and stage managed, including Jeanne Weintraub, Allison Page, Cindy Tarail, Jill Bromberg, Conor Power, and Mary Melonis. A DVD of the evening is now available. Look to www.MontagueGrange.org for details.

Many people say they already know which of their many talents they will display in next year's show. To others we say, "Get your act together!"

What's coming next? A new concert series starting in December: The Montague New Moon Coffee House. Being organized primarily by Kellianna, Wendell's folk goddess, this series was conceived while members of the Friends were attending Wendell's Full Moon Coffee House, now in its 35th year. The first Montague show will feature Kellianna, Chris LaFond and Jenna Green, with the theme being A Winter Solstice Celebration, focusing



CHRIS WISE PHOTO

It was a great night at the Montague Grange!

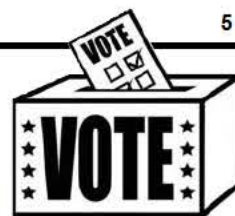
on old-world holiday traditions. The New Moon Coffee House series will run through April on the Saturday closest to the new moon.

Other events coming up in 2011 include a 'Monte-Carlo' Night, another dinner theater evening, and the annual silent auction.

The Friends will soon be starting their membership campaign, hoping to gain 500 annual dues-paying members. Membership is only \$25 per year, and 500 members will go a long way to raising the \$15,000 per year the Friends need to raise to renovate the building. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all dues and donations are fully tax deductible. If you wish to join please mail your check, with your name, address and phone number, to FMG, 181 Meadow Road, Montague, MA 01351.

- Michael Muller
Montague

Would QUESTION #3 Provide an Economic Boon or Bust for Massachusetts?



BY DAVID DETMOLD - Question #3, a voter-initiated referendum on the November 2nd statewide ballot, would cut the state sales tax from the current rate of 6.25% to 3% as of January 1st, 2011.

For the argument in favor of this ballot initiative, we contacted Carla Howell, co-founder of the Center for Small Government in Boston, the chief architect of the referendum, and for the opposing view, Montague's state representative, Steve Kulik (D-Worthington), vice chair of the budget making House Ways and Means committee.

Howell said the reason people should vote for Question #3 can be summed up in one word: "Jobs. There are 600,000 workers in Massachusetts looking for full-time work. Half of them have no jobs; their pay has been cut 100%; half are working part time; their pay has been cut 25 to 50%. Rolling back the state sales tax to 3% would create 27,000 to 33,000 private sector jobs," said Howell, citing a study by the Beacon Hill Institute, a think tank founded by former Massachusetts Republican senatorial candidate Ray Shamie. That study claims passage of Question #3 would increase private investment in Massachusetts annually by \$73 million and raise wages by \$1.03 billion.

Kulik, who is running unopposed for re-election on November 2nd, took issue with Howell's claim that cutting the state sales tax by more than half would lead to a growth in private sector spending and job creation in the state, and referred to the Beacon Hill Institute as a conservative, ideologically oriented organization.

Kulik said if Question #3 passes, "We will significantly reduce the state workforce. Many thousands will be added to the unemployment rolls. I don't see it stimulating private sector economic activity. The private sector relies on public safety, environmental quality, and an educated workforce - all the things that make Massachusetts a good place to live and work."

Kulik said these and other

state services would be severely curtailed if Question #3 passes, but Howell denies that.

Howell said, "The opponents to Question #3, bankrolled by the teachers unions and politically connected corporations such as health insurance companies, are opposing your tax rollback in order to keep the state's gravy train rolling. They have a financial interest in keeping your taxes high and state government spending high. They are protecting their own pork."

Kulik counters, "She's just plain wrong. Howell comes at this not from a financial perspective or a viewpoint that government has certain obligations to provide services to people, whether it be education, or transportation, or support for public education, or higher education. She is a radical libertarian whose philosophy is: 'Less government; period.' She throws numbers around that are simply false.

"She claims the state budget is close to \$60 billion, by lumping together the state capital budget with the operating budget, federal spending with state spending. All of that is incorrect. Our state budget is approximately \$32 billion, down about 2 billion from 2009. In the last three fiscal years, since the recession began, our state government has cut \$4.5 billion. As we know, local aid has been one of those cuts, unfortunately, and it has resulted in reduced aid to all of our cities and towns. It would have reduced spending on local education if it were not for federal stimulus spending, which is running out. We will not have it in the next fiscal year."

Kulik said since the recession began, "We have cut higher education spending more than any other state in the country. We had no choice. The last three budgets have been an exercise in trying to judiciously use our rainy day fund and replace Chapter 70 with federal spending. I don't think we can plan on any more federal stimulus spending," regardless of how the coming election changes control of Congress.

But Howell argues those cuts see VOTE pg 12

PATRICIA STEWART OUR 900TH SUBSCRIBER!

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD MONTAGUE CENTER - Congratulations to Patricia Stewart of Montague, who is the *Montague Reporter's* 900th subscriber!

Every time the newspaper gains 50 new subscribers, we give the lucky 50th one a \$50 gift certificate to a Montague Reporter advertiser of their choice. Patricia chose to receive a gift certificate at Rau's Sunoco as her prize.

A native of Montague, Patricia belongs to the Montague Grange and volunteers at the Erving senior center

and the Montague Congregational Church. Most recently, on October 16th she helped with the Erving Senior Center's Harvest Bazaar on a very blustery day at Veterans Park, staffing the table and the coffee can auction to raise money for center activities. She is presently working on the Montague Congregational Church's Fete Noel, to be held on November 13th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congratulations, Patricia, and thanks for all you do for our community!

Who will our 950th subscriber be?

Wendell Sub Drive

For Wendell residents, this is an especially good time to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*, thanks again to the generosity of some anonymous Wendell readers. As in past years, these supporters have put up funds to purchase great raffle prizes, and every new Wendell subscriber added by November 17th will be entered to win.

First prize is a \$50 gift certificate at the Diemand Egg Farm. And there will be FIVE! second prize winners, each of whom will receive \$20 gift certificates at the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub.

Use the subscription blank on the facing page to enter the raffle, and we'll start delivering the paper to your door!

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NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Winterizing Strathmore Mill

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY—“It’s getting to be winter again, and the Strathmore is still there,” said building inspector David Jensen, as an introduction to his Monday update to the Montague selectboard on the status of the old mill building complex along the Turners Falls power canal. “We’ve got one roof that’s still open, and a portion of a wall that needs repairs,” he continued.

After a 2007 arson fire destroyed and damaged buildings at the sprawling complex, the town spent \$300,000 in repairs to secure the property against fire and the elements. Now that the town of Montague owns the mill buildings outright (as of February of this year, since John Ancil, the former owner, failed to pay back taxes), the town must winterize the buildings and secure them to protect its investment.

The planning section of the *montague.net* website states that Walter Ramsey, town planner, will welcome to town the Boston chapter of the Urban Land Institute to conduct “a panel of real estate professionals, industrial analysts, architects, and planners to develop a disposition and marketing strategy for the Strathmore property.” In his update to the selectboard, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio noted

this panel will be held on November 8th.

While repairs to the roof over an elevator shaft in the Strathmore Mill may be straightforward, getting up there will require ninja-like skills. Renaissance Builders, that company that handled the reroofing for Building #1 after the fire, has been contracted to revisit the site and make needed repairs to the elevator shaft roof on that same building. A severe windstorm that blew through town in May, downing trees and knocking out power, lifted the corner of the ice and snow shield on that section of the roof. From below, it is hard to tell whether that section is still shedding water.

Also of concern: who is going to plow and sand the access road to the buildings during the winter? Jensen said there is still work to be done on determining who gets rights to lock (and unlock) the newly installed gate to the access road beyond the Southworth Mill, and that locks on some doors to the Strathmore buildings themselves need to be changed to prevent unauthorized access to the mill buildings.

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother asked that meetings be scheduled right away to clarify who is going to do what regarding snow plowing, and to settle

how all interested parties (such as the fire department, Swift River Hydro, and the town itself) can agree on getting the access road gate locked.

Additionally, time-critical decisions are required to maintain the sprinkler system in winter. Jensen will be seeking assistance in maintaining the systems, probably from the highway department, so that he is not the only one responding to emergencies.

Montague Considers Rerouting Sewer Line from Millers Falls

In other news, sewer rates will remain the same for fiscal year 2011 in spite of the existence of \$250,045 in retained sewer earnings from fiscal year 2010. Selectboard members heard from Bob Trombley, water pollution control facility superintendent, and agreed with him that rates should stay flat because of uncertainties over possible sewer expenses that might be required to share capital costs on the treatment plant renovation recently completed by the town of Erving. Montague pumps sewerage beneath the Millers River from Millers Falls to the treatment plant in Erving, and signed a contract decades ago to

see MONTAGUE pg 10

NOTES FROM LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

CPC Funds Sought for Water Storage Tank

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The Leverett selectboard will propose spending up to \$75,000 in community preservation act (CPA) funds to install an underground water storage tank and roadside hydrants in the field between the elementary school and the library, on Montague Road. A nearby artesian well would be the source of the storage tank’s supply.

After a receiving a low bid of about \$41,000 to clear aggressive weeds from the Leverett Pond, where a hybrid milfoil is blocking a channel leading to the only fire hydrant in the central historic district of town, the selectboard decided to shift course.

The board had sought \$10,000 in CPA funds to perform that work. But the higher quote, combined with the board’s fear that clearing weeds from the pond would require repeated efforts over the years to maintain, prompted reconsideration.

Fire chief John Moruzzi has notified the selectboard that the hydrant by the pond is dry, and would not be of use if a fire breaks out in the center of town.

“There are dozens of houses in the historic district,” at risk from fire now, said selectboard chair Rich Brazeau, who said the selectboard would request Community Preservation Act funds to install the water storage tank and hydrants, justifying the request on the basis of “protection and preservation” of historic structures in the central village, including the town hall, Field Museum, Congregational Church

and others.

The selectboard also plans to seek funding for painting town hall from the community preservation committee (CPC), the local board in charge of disbursing CPA funds. In accordance with state law, Leverett has instituted a voluntary 3% surcharge on local property transactions, which draws matching funds from the state for each sale of property in town.

The selectboard expressed concern that townspeople might seek to lower the excise from 3% if the CPC does not disburse those funds more readily when projects like these come up.

Board member Peter d’Errico said he could imagine a future town meeting where residents would say, “We now have half a million dollars in the fund. We propose we reduce the assessment to 2%.”

Brazeau said, “I don’t want to tack on \$100,000 to the tax levy to paint town hall if that money is sitting there.”

He added, “They [the CPC] are probably not going to approve either of these requests. If there’s a fire that burns one of our buildings down, at least we’ll have tried.”

In other news, the board will seek a consultant to develop engineering plans to extend a water line from Amherst to Teawaddle Hill Road and Cushman Road, down gradient of the former landfill, where contaminants have been found in private wells in recent years.

The town has paid for a new well and hookup and one home, supplied bottled water to some

homes, and continues to pay about \$30,000 a year in testing the private wells. Brazeau estimated it would cost the town between \$1 and 1.5 million to have the water line extended from Amherst, but he said a zero interest USDA loan may be available for the construction. “Then we’ll have \$30,000 a year we’re not paying for the testing to pay off the loan.”

The board backed this approach unanimously, in hopes to bring an engineering proposal to town meeting next spring for approval.

The town will improve the gravel surface of Old Long Plain Road north to Long Plain Road (Route 63), to make this section drivable, now that Tom Powers has purchased a lot on the unimproved section.

Congressman John Olver has written to the FAA on Leverett’s behalf regarding noise complaints from aerobatic private planes practicing above a gravel pit near the Sunderland-Leverett line.

The board signed a contract with Siemens Building Technologies to perform energy upgrades at various town buildings, including the installation of energy-saving lighting at the elementary school, to be installed by December 15th, and a new efficient heating system at the town hall, which will be put in place next spring.

The cost of these improvements will be paid for by utility savings guaranteed by Siemens Building Technologies over the course of a number of years, according to the terms of the contract.

Fiber Optic Cable on Agenda for Leverett Selectboard

Jason Whittet, Deputy Director of MBI (Mass. Broadband Institute) will

be coming to Leverett’s November 9th selectboard meeting to talk about the

routing of fiber optic cable in town and the overall plan by the state to get broadband to all households. The initial map has the fiber optic cable going to the areas in town that already have access to hi-speed (Leverett Center, Depot Road, etc.); the town has put pressure on MBI to consider running the cable where there is no high speed service. The evening meeting time and place will be announced.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

A Giant Step Toward Sustainable School Funding

BY DAVID DETMOLD – In a meeting that bore some similarity to the schoolyard game of Mother May I, the Gill selectboard signed off on a giant step towards fiscal sustainability for the Gill-Montague school district at its meeting on Monday, took a regular sized step towards regularizing capital planning, by appointing the town's first capital improvements committee, and took a short, money saving, baby step towards revising the contract by which Cintas provides uniforms for highway employees.

But the town took a half step backwards on money it expects to receive from a housing rehab loan fund maintained by the Housing Authority for Gill. The Housing Authority has been unable to find enough takers for their zero-interest home rehab loans to help correct code violations for low and moderate income residents, because homeowners in these uncertain times are unwilling to take on any extra debt that could affect their home equity. To counteract this trend, the Housing Authority has proposed, and the selectboard agreed, to allow 50% of the rehab loans to be forgiven after 15 years. With only 50% of the loans left

to be repaid when the rehabbed homes are finally sold, the amount of money that will flow into the revolving loan fund for Gill will drop proportionally over time.

But the selectboard agreed it would be better to take half than to leave the rehab money unused or underutilized – doing no one any good.

Gill-Montague school superintendent Carl Ladd and finance committee chair Tupper Brown visited the selectboard to gain approval of the detailed plan for school district fiscal stability, that projects a 0% increase in next year's school budget, followed by three years of school budget increases pegged at 2½%. Parallel commitments to meet fiscal goals by the state (with Chapter 70 increases of 2% in FY'12, and 3% for three years following) and the towns are included, with the towns committing to meet anticipated assessment increases equal to roughly half of new revenues through FY'15.

"This is the plan each of the funding sources needs to get to in order to arrive at the best balance," said Brown, who worked with Ladd and Montague finance committee member Mike Naughton and school committee member Jeff Singleton to devise

the compact.

The state legislators and representatives of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are also being asked to sign off on the plan.

If the proposed plan meets approval by all sides, it will form the basis for an expected budget compromise to settle the long-delayed FY'11 G-M operating budget at the upcoming district meeting on November 18th, 6:30 p.m., at the Turners Falls High School, to which all Gill and Montague voters are invited. The compromise will involve both Montague and the school district contributing \$200,000 more from their reserves to fully fund the FY'10 school budget.

If this comes to pass, Gill will expect to save about \$35,000 over what the town already voted to fund the FY'10 assessment – money that Brown recommends be put into a stabilization fund to meet next year's school assessment.

"The plan can only work to the extent all parties are actively willing to meet the goals assigned to them," said Brown, with Ladd looking on. "This is a plan, not an immutable binding contract. We want people to sign on with the

see GILL pg 12

BLIXT from pg 4 take that up with your insurance company." Nobody else then telling you to take it up with your provider. No forms. Just one payer. One. Just one. Love it or go dig a hole and crawl in. You will find that your health care is better, your wallet fatter and your mailbox leaner. And your peace of mind? Priceless.

OPEN IT UP, Pt 1: Our jails and prisons, you simply don't need them. You have the highest incarceration rate in the world, and your crime rate in most categories is higher than countries with the lowest incarceration rate in world. You are paying more to imprison people with no training, no prospects and no future – more than it would cost to buy those same people a doctorate and tenure track job in a major university. Much more. Just releasing the same people who have done the same drugs you have done would create a resounding echo in halls of justice.

CLOSE IT DOWN, Pt. I: The military. All branches. All weapons systems. Everything. Now. Support our troops, but give them a different job and outlook. **S o m e t h i n g** along the lines of all those liberated inmates. This will impose a sense of peace with justice that will be devastating to anyone

fostering delusions of aggression. Land. Food. Justice. Devastating. Oh, and in return, everybody does a year of public service. No deferments. Priceless.

OPEN IT UP, Pt II: The borders. You can't keep them out. You can't keep anything out. If it were possible to do that, most us would not be here. You can get tough. You can get tougher. You will still lose. People will come to work. People will come to sell and to learn. Every step you take to restrain them will be expensive and mean and will wind up restraining you. And, still, they will come.

CLOSE IT DOWN, Pt II: There is one body of natural wealth, and it isn't yours. Sorry. It isn't anybody's, and anybody who attempts to possess it is delusional and should be treated as such. It doesn't matter who your god is or how many of them you have. It ain't yours, and if you think it is, you are out of your mind. You either use it in ways that leaves more than you took, or you don't use it.

CLOSE IT DOWN & OPEN IT UP: Biz. Real biz. Have fun with capital-

ism. That's what it's there for. Buy and sell to your heart's content, but not at the expense of anyone else's heart's content. Buying or selling undervalued labor that can't afford to buy the things it produces is simply wrong. Remember those cells that we emptied up above? They are still there.

LEGALIZE IT: All of it. Everything. Drug laws succeed only in boosting the power of the police, the profits of the drug bosses, and rampant violence of their underlings. Look at Mexico for just a moment. That is American drug policy in action.

So that's my platform. Same old, same old, I guess. There is nothing I am suggesting that does not echo the Roosevelt administration's New Deal . . . that's right, the one that got us out of The Great Depression, and led to that golden age we think we remember of security and prosperity, and earning enough to live on and balance the budget; have dinner with the family and two weeks at camp and a week at the Cape. It's everything we could have now if the Republicans weren't such neo-Fascist creeps and the Dems weren't such . . . well . . . weenies. **MB**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Leash Laws Enforced

Wednesday, 10/20
11:40 a.m. Report of a loose dog on Gunn Street. Dog returned to owner, and owner advised of leash laws.
Thursday, 10/21
12:15 p.m. Report of a loose dog on Ridge Road. Gone upon arrival.
Friday, 10/22
9:55 a.m. Loose dog on

Pratt Street. Picked up dog and brought to kennel.
1:45 p.m. Report of tractor trailer unit pulling down phone lines on Central Street. Stopped same. Verizon advised of lines down.
7:02 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a

motor vehicle after license suspension.
7:33 p.m. Assisted Montague police with domestic disturbance on Woodlawn Drive.
11:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with large bonfire and underage drinking party on Millers Falls Road.
Saturday, 10/23
2:10 p.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 in Farley area. Report taken. State police will investigate.

7:11 p.m. Assisted Montague police with panic alarm at the watershed off of Green Pond Road. No signs of forced entry.
Sunday, 10/24
2:00 p.m. Assisted Orange police with felony arrest on Route 2 near exit 14.
Monday, 10/25
10:38 a.m. Report of possible identity theft from West High Street resident. Advised of options.

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Inside Art and Upside Town



The Ambiguities play L'Invitation au Voyage by Baudelaire: (l-r) Tamara Grogan, Hilary Weiner, John Crand, Daniel Hales, Chas. Leach (Christopher Wilkey on drums)

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS – The complaint heard more frequently in our easy to find, hard to leave village these days is no longer about lack of night life. It's about the oppression of being unable to choose between the wealth of exciting live entertainment and cultural offerings available on almost any night of the week. Pinch me. We're talking about Turners Falls.

On Friday, October 22nd, RiverCulture arts czarina Lisa Davol teamed up with Greenfield impresario Daniel Hales to make it easier for local night-clubbers by bringing artists

from a wide array of media together in one place, taking off their blindfolds, and turning them loose to mix it up with each other's muses in the Confluence Convocation at the Gallery at Hallmark. The event, dubbed *Ekphrasis: Art about Art*, drew a crowd of more than 80 who left the gallery sated and elated – and perhaps with their art horizons elongated – by evening's end.

Hales, a rakish Quentin Tarantino personality with Pulp Culture sensibilities, kick started the event with an unrehearsed reading of David Ives' *Degas C'est Moi*, dragooning willing victims from the audience to read

the various parts, mashing up the line between art and audience from the start. He followed this with a more enigmatic script, also by Ives, read by four brave women, called *Philip Glass Buys Half a Loaf of Bread*, an experimental piece containing the immortal line, "She was lying there in a white cotton dress, and I mistook her for a rowboat."

The play, or spoken score, seemed to be a meditation on the time signature of yeasted love, punched up with concatenations of onomatopoeia and small explosions of contrapuntal speech – a music of sorts.

Heather Maloney took the stage, except there was no stage. Let's say she took the audience, captivating them with her acoustic spell and singing songs with an intensity and honesty that came as something of a shock to those of us weaned on irony and Depeche Mode. Maloney deals an unusually pure form of the muse, singing songs on the naked edge of yearning, playing guitars named Baby, Joni, and Mitchell. She is the Dolores O'Riordan of Turners Falls. (You can see her Friday night at Burrito Rojo, if you can tear yourself away from Lake Street Dive at the Voo, or the

Outerspace Band at the Roadhouse. See what I mean?) Janel Nockleby led off for The Poets, offering more than haiku with her enigmatic signposts to Amerikan beauty. Lynette Varnon offered a sweet sestina on Chagall and coffee. Chris Daryl Janke finally got to Rembrandt, in two poems, a short version and a longer one that exploded the corpuscles of the first and showed you masterfully around the source of dark and light, one beat behind the extrinsic, unintelligible old starling coming home to roost.

Hales played poems by Wallace Stevens, Charles Baudelaire, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and others with his band the Ambiguities, in various permutations, making a hollow and spacious sound of shimmering chords, spiced with venom.

Poet James Grinwis, whose eyes had not shut since he got the invitation to perform weeks earlier, led the audience on a cut-rate tour of the bargain basement of his mind, a scary place to visit, much less live.

And the evening reached new heights of idolatry as Grant Wicks slung his guitar around his svelte shoulder, shook the dirty blond bangs out of his soft, wounded eyes and took Ray Davies down a notch with a tender love ballad to a girl and her gun. He played on, and the audience swooned like sheaves

before a well-slung scythe. It was all too beautiful.

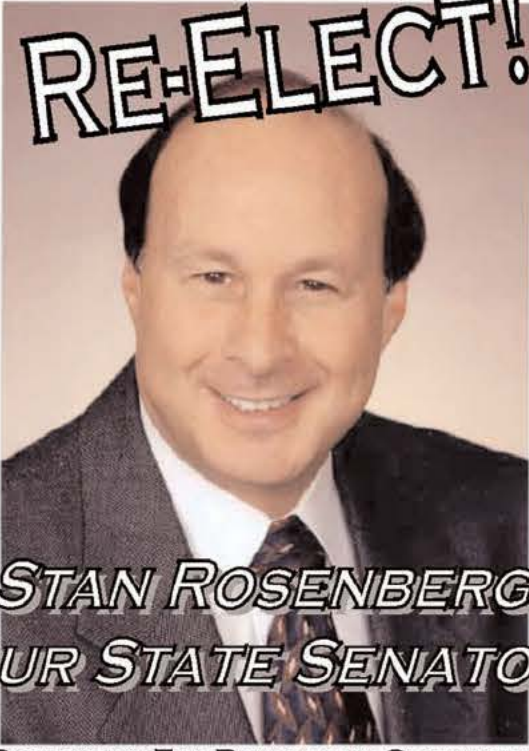
The same could be said of the duets between poet Mary Clare Powell and Violet Walker on musical saw that rounded out an amazing evening of shape shifting, border bending art about art, or as the Greeks would say, Ekphrasis. In Turners we just call it another night on the town.

The Confluence events surrounding the Biennial Exhibit at the Gallery at Hallmark, 85 Avenue A, conclude on Friday, October 29th (rain date October 30th) from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. with an artist networking event and closing ceremony: Water Dances.

Co-sponsored by the Fostering Art and Culture Project and RiverCulture, the *Water Dances* performance by Phyllis Labanowski, Ariana Shelton and Laura Marie of Hooping Harmony, serves as a gesture of appreciation to fresh waters. Thirteen hoop dancers and twelve water carriers will lead participants from the sidewalk outside of the Gallery at Hallmark (85 Avenue A) to a grassy knoll at the Discovery Center, one block away, where *Water Dances* will be performed.

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BRICK HOUSE BOARD AND STAFF WORK TO BUILD COMMUNITY

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON
TURNERS FALLS – Erin Myers has been hired as the program director of the Brick House Community Resource Center, following the departure of executive director Prakash Laufer this summer. Myers' hiring, and the elimination of the position of executive director, reflect organizational changes at the Brick House that represent a more programmatically involved board, and new plans on how the organization will make its income.

The Brick House has become board-driven, which effectively means members of the board decide what programs will be offered, to what target audience, and who gets hired to run them. "It's a lot more work," said

board member Neil Young. "It means decisions are made by the board rather than by one person, but we feel the board more directly reflects the community than one person does."

Already, the Brick House is homing in on a less grant-reliant, more entrepreneurial way of doing business via 'social enterprises' – programs that use a combination of people-energy and staff know-how to bring in revenue while serving community needs. An example is Power Town Music, an ongoing music booking and production program working to develop teens' promotional skills at the



Erin Myers is the new program director for the Brick House Community Resource Center

Brick House. Another is its Green Jobs programs.

Myers is an energetic 33-year-old theater and visual artist who was hired in September. She recently got her masters in inter-

see **BRICK HOUSE** pg 9

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BRICK HOUSE HARVEST DINNER

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Despite the cold, rainy weather, hungry people were lined up from the Brick House almost to the corner of 3rd and Canal for the third annual Harvest Supper on October 1st. It turned out to be perfect timing for new program director Erin Myers to meet community members and Brick House participants.

The free dinner featured a festival-like atmosphere with tents, cider presses, and giant meat smokers crowding the street and sidewalks. It's possible the mouth-watering aroma of smoking turkey and fresh pressed hot cider were responsible for doubling attendance over previous years. More likely the size of the

crowd reflected the pivotal place the Brick House holds as an important community resource for downtown Turners.

The original community meal in 2008 was a celebration of the harvest of the Brick House mini-garden – pioneered by Anna Hendricks and Toby Briggs of Undergrowth Farm in Gill – who built raised beds and trellises on the side of the building and added a container garden to the roof over the Brick House studio.

The first two meals were funded in part by Communities that Care grants, but this year the meal transitioned to a giant potluck with contributions from local farms, restaurants, organizations and community members. The organizing committee

of Katie Sachs, Ellen Spring, Dawn Montague, Anna Hendricks, Erin McKelvey and Aaron St. Jean did a fabulous job of inviting community organizations and businesses to participate, along with individuals.

Turkey from the Diemand Farm in Wendell was smoked by Lou and Leslie Ekus of Holy Smokes in their enormous portable smoker, while bouquets of fresh flowers from Laughing Dog Farm adorned the tables. Uppingil Farm's Sorrel Hatch supervised the pressing of fresh cider, as children and adults alike enjoyed turning the mammoth wheel to watch fresh cider pour out the spigot. The mountain of fresh apples provided by Apex and Pine Hill orchards in Colrain slowly dwindled, as pot after pot of hot cider warmed chilly spectators.

People waited impatiently for their turn to fill their plates with the seemingly endless supply of food. All told there were more than 45 contributors, including Round Here Café, Second Street Baking Company, Burrito Rojo and the Rendezvous, supplemented by Nourse Farms, the Montague Zen House, Franklin County Tech, Community Action, STEP and Americorps.

There was minimal waste, as meals were served off china plates and a steady stream of volunteers washed them under the tent on the front step.



The Brick House Harvest Supper

Composting buckets were set up and all recyclables were pulled from the waste stream.

This year's Harvest Supper demonstrated that the Brick House is a place where people can come to find resources or get connected to resources, but even more importantly, that it is an intersection in the community that attracts resourceful people.

BRICK HOUSE from pg 8

national education from UMass and has worked domestically and internationally in arts-based community education. Clearly a professional educator, she is nevertheless reserved about her vision for Brick House programs, saying flatly, "I'm coming from the outside. People in the community may view me as a professional. I shouldn't create programs; I need the community to tell me."

And that's basically the idea – for community needs and interests to flow to the resource center from people and neighborhoods, through the newly empowered board, to the talented staff that will run the programs.

"The board members all have their own connections in the community," Myers said. "That's why we had 150 people at the Harvest Supper," referring to the free annual dinner featuring local foods the Brick House hosted on October 1st.

Myers places faith in the "old-timers, ones who stuck it out" in the face of tidal changes in economic and industrial patterns over recent decades, and she wants the 20-year-old community resource center to learn from these individuals. "Hopefully the Brick House exists for that base," she said, adding, "well, for newer groups with their own intentions, too."

About the old timers, she said, "I don't know them yet, but I already know they're great storytellers. You ask where a coffee

shop is and you learn a lot."

Myers added, "I hope we can get a storytelling group going here." (Reminder: it'll need board approval.) She'd like some middle-aged and older people to join the board.

Myers spent the four years after college graduation working for activist and community-building non-profits in South Bronx, Iowa City and Nicaragua. In the Bronx, she worked to save 119 community gardens on city-owned property from auction. (They did get auctioned, but, thanks to her and fellow activists' efforts, were bought by a wealthy person who protected them with a land trust, keeping the community gardens alive.) In Nicaragua, she participated in arts-based popular education, teaching youth how to teach theater to others, to raise consciousness about local issues.

Myers' family comes from Illinois and Pennsylvania, but she has a definite international bent that derives from her facility for foreign languages and shows up in her current stable of friends. Her husband, Pape Bathie Pouye, is from Senegal. He's managing producer of Ancient Meets Urban Music and a founding member of Gokh-Bi System, a Senegalese hip hop band. She and Pape currently live in Hatfield, though Myers said they hope to move to Turners.

As chance would have it, Myers stumbled into her new place of employment and met some of her fellow staff when she

was given the Brick House address for a meeting that was actually being held at the Rendezvous, a block southeast on 3rd Street. Coincidentally, she'd read the notice for the job and had been intending to apply for it. She returned for her interviews.

Myers sees her new organization as "not only a resource center, but also an intersection that attracts resourceful people, gives them a nesting place." She illustrated with the example of PowerTown Music: "Musicians came together, built a recording studio. Now they're a booking agency, they're consultants to people making albums. Then," she said, "youth got involved," adding another dimension of impact and community service.

She's noticed that "People come here and say, 'I want to do this,'" mentioning the teen 'zine, *Copy Right Infringement*, that arose when kids wanted something to publish their writing and artwork in. The next step might be for the Center to help a talented artist like Kat Tingle, whose work appears in the 'zine, mount a show. In this sort of process, "There's not an executive director going out and finding a problem and writing a grant for it," — which "risks commodifying struggle" while creating jobs around it, "something you don't want to do."

Myers is hired for 30 hours a week at the Brick House. She's considering using it as the base for a side job — Focal Acoustics,

a startup organization that teaches people "how to frame issues in the lens of a camera, helping unheard voices to resonate globally." She'd run the project in her spare time.

Social Enterprise Model

Mike Bosworth, of West Brattleboro, is a former executive director and business manager of the Brick House. "The focus over the last ten to 12 years," he said, "has been teens, young adults," who "found the Brick House a safe place to be, to progress, to find things to do that were meaningful to them." That area of service should continue, Bosworth said, as in the Green Jobs program – "certainly good for the Brick House and its clientele."

"Besides filling that need," Bosworth said, "the Brick House has also partnered well with other organizations," such as the nearby Montague Catholic Social Ministries and the Gill-Montague School District.

About the organization becoming board-driven, Bosworth said, "A community resource organization should listen, obviously. If it's not the wealthiest community in the world, it has needs others don't."

Bosworth agrees with the need to find non-grant income sources of funding for the Brick House, saying the board "has long recognized that (the center) was too dependent on grants for the majority of its budget. This is why the Powertown Music effort, leveraging a very experi-


enced Peter Hamelin, is important. If it can grow and produce a steady revenue stream," he said, "it can be very helpful to the organization."

Likewise, he feels the Green Jobs program "could morph into a social enterprise, as it has in Holyoke for Nuestras Raices and its Energia start-up. If successful, that additional revenue can let the Brick House be even less dependent on grants."

Anna Hendricks is a current board member. On the board, she said, there are those who focus on social enterprise endeavors and others, like her, who try to further the Brick House's community center function.

Hendricks came to the Brick House three and a half years ago as a new resident of Gill. She and her husband Toby soon catalyzed a snack garden outside the teen center, created a worm compost bin, and organized the first harvest supper. They also helped initiate a movie night for films about movements for self-determination in other countries.

Half a year ago, after talking to friends, staff, and teens, Hendricks joined the board "to make the Brick House even more awesome." She sees its rooms attracting and hosting even more purposeful work, pleasure and play, that, in the right mix, help grow a community.

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MONTAGUE from pg 6

share capital costs with Erving to maintain that plant.

This year, Montague has already seen unanticipated expenses as lawyers and engineers have been hired to determine what the effect of the recently rediscovered 1973 agreement between Montague and Erving might be. Erving spent \$5.2 million upgrading the treatment plant, but failed to consult Montague about that renovation in advance, so Montague was unable to apply for grant funding to assist with their cost of repairs. Now, Montague may consider building its own pump station in Millers Falls to send the sewerage from that village up the hill to flow to Montague's treatment plant, avoiding the need to use Erving's sewer services, said Trombley.

Another option for use of the retained earnings could be reducing debt incurred on Montague sewer plant improvements, most notably the combined sewer overflow (CSO) project. According to Trombley, the source of the \$250,045 in retained earnings for fiscal year 2010 is from increased efficiencies at the water treatment plant, and additional retained earnings are anticipated in fiscal year 2011, perhaps up to \$213,545. A new Fournier rotary dewatering press may be up and running by March or April, reported Trombley, which should result in an additional \$100,000 in retained earnings per year alone.

A representative from Southworth Paper attended the

selectboard meeting and agreed with Trombley's recommendation to keep rates flat. Southworth Paper is the largest customer of the Montague sewer system, paying more than \$300,000 in sewer bills annually.

The current sewer rates per 1000 gallons are: \$5.56 for Gill and Southworth; \$6.00 for Turners Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, Lake Pleasant, and Millers Falls; \$334 annual flat rate for users with private wells.

Additionally:

Please welcome to town the Solar Belly, a solar powered trash compactor, installed in Peskeomskut Park on October 21st.

The winter home of the Montague Parks and Recreation department will be in the basement of Montague's town hall.

Erin Myers has been approved by the selectboard for a three-year term on the Montague cultural council.

The election warrant has been re-approved for November 2nd by the selectboard, this time including non-binding ballot questions four and five. These ballot questions would instruct state legislators to support single payer health care for all citizens, similar to Medicare, and to support regulation and taxation of marijuana, similar to alcohol.

A representative is needed for the Wells Trust from the town of Montague to help select high school and college students from the area to receive scholarships. For more info, please call the selectboard office: 863-3200 x 201.

Legal Notice

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF WENDELL PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 11, the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on November 16, 2010 at the Town Offices, 9 Morse Village Road.

The subject matter of the proposed amendments is/are as indicated below. The complete text and maps relative to the proposed amendments are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Wendell Town Office ordinarily Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., by phone at (978) 544-3395, and at the Wendell Library. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

- Nan Riebschlaeger, Chair
Wendell Planning Board

• Article III Definitions - Add three definitions, "Project Area" referring to the area within a Conservation Development proposed Site Plan, "Net Project Area" referring to the area without prior restrictions, and "Applicant" referring to a person or persons requesting approval for a Site Plan or Special Permit, including a Conservation Development proposal.

Changes to Article VI and X are both part of this new proposed Conservation Development:

• Article VI changes describe how rapidly building permits are allowed for lots subdivided from a larger lot under two by right options: (1) traditional roadside lots meeting minimum Zoning requirements (3 acres and 200 feet of frontage, with exceptions as allowed by the Wendell Bylaws and Massachusetts General Laws) and (2) Conservation Development which allows lots without minimum frontage or acreage requirements within a site plan review with at least 75% of the Conservation Development project under a Conservation Restriction and 25% available for the development. Both development options would be considered "by right" in the revised Zoning Bylaws. Conservation

Development lots are excepted from the Article VI pace on issuance of building permits.

• Article VI. Special Permits, Use Regulations and Site Plan Review

Amend Section F to add new "Site PB" permit category, add additional language to the Residential Uses table heading, and add a new "Conservation Development" entry at the end of the residential section of the table, as shown.

{Add to list of kind of permits and reviews available}

Site PB = By right with site plan review from the Planning Board

Insert the following in the Residential Uses Table as follows:

I. Residential Uses
{insert following entry in table heading}

1. Except for Conservation Developments under Article X, new primary dwellings are allowed, subject to all other provisions of these Wendell Zoning Bylaws, at the rate of no greater than one new primary dwelling in any 7 year period on either: 1) a lot in existence on [insert date of first Town Meeting Warrant notice or adoption]; or 2) a new lot divided from a lot in existence on [insert date of first Town Meeting Warrant notice or adoption].

Conservation Development (in accordance with Article X) Site PB

Conservation Development (Proposals deviating from Article X)

Special Permit PB

• Article X Conservation Development. Delete entire current text and replace with entire Article X text to provide for a by right Site Plan review for Conservation Development as cited in Article VI changes. Conservation Development is described in detail below.

• Article X changes describe a Conservation Development review in detail. A Conservation Development project area is divided into two areas: 75% of

the land, would be set aside with a permanent Conservation Restriction., 25% of the land, may be developed with greater flexibility, streamlined reviews, without dimensional requirements, and allow creative building layout design consistent with the rural character of Wendell. A Conservation Analysis prepared by the applicant identifies the land for residential development and the land for protection from development. The Planning Board reviews the Conservation Analysis and prepares a Conservation Finding.

The Conservation Development's project area includes the protected and developed land which can be located on one lot, multiple lots or a portion of one or more lots. The Conservation Development Applicant may be one or more property owners. Also, if the Applicant has land with an existing restriction that acreage is not included in the net project area, but the Applicant may designate some of that land to reach the 85% threshold and request a waiver of the full Conservation Analysis.

The Conservation Restriction may allow activities consistent with a working landscape, like agriculture, tree cutting, gardening, hunting, fishing, gathering, and trails, or it could limit one or more of those activities, at the option of the Applicant. If necessary, the protected land could contain a septic system or play area, subject to Planning Board approval. The Applicant defines this area, consistent with the Conservation Finding.

The Conservation Development uses a formula for determining a maximum number of dwelling units, since frontage and acreage requirements don't apply. Credit - to allow more dwelling units - is given for affordable housing as defined by MGL chapter 40B or for work the developer does to enhance public access to the protected land. Bonus density is also allowed in the developed area if 85% of the original project area is preserved.

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY

Unbelievably, as of this writing, we have not yet experienced a frost here by the river.

The chilly mornings have been buffered by fog on the Connecticut. Still, the warm weather plants are spent.

The tired foliage of the tomatoes hangs here and there with pallid, green fruit. Most, however, I have picked on nights with frost advisories. While I can harvest these last green survivors, they will not be very flavorful, even if they do turn red in the warmth of the kitchen.

peppers has been stored in the freezer. All that remains in the garden are a few underdeveloped green peppers, barely worth the picking.

It's time to pull the tomato, pepper, squash and cucumber plants and clean up the garden in preparation for next year's season. Do not compost these plant remainders into your developing compost piles or containers, as you will only add molds and mildew to the enriched soil you want to use to feed next year's plants. Give these plants back to the earth in another place, along

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Ending One Garden Season and Planning for the Next

If you have remaining tomatoes that have achieved their full size, you can wrap them in newspaper. Check frequently, as they will ripen and while they will not taste like vine ripened fruit, these tomatoes will still be an improvement over winter tomatoes from the super market.

The harvest of large, brightly colored sweet

with brush or weeds you are piling.

I have left a crop of Kentucky Wonder pods to dry for beans for soups this winter. The vines and the beans themselves are still quite green so I may have left this plan until too late. We should have a killing frost soon, and then the beans will wither before they mature and dry.

I have read recently about pulling whole tomato plants, fruit and all, and hanging them in a shed or garage to let the fruit ripen. Perhaps I'll try this method with my beans and see how it goes.

The only other thriving vegetable plant left in the garden is the kale, which seems to love the cool weather. It is delicious chopped and steamed briefly or dropped into soups and stews. This rugged plant can survive light frosts and can in some places be mulched with hay and harvested well into the winter.

The late season roses are especially sweet. It will be such a long time before these bushes are in full bloom again. I treasure each

and every last blossom, leaving one for the yard and cutting one for the house.

Now is the perfect time to plant for one of the earliest of spring flowers, the daffodil or narcissus. There are so many varieties now developed for naturalizing. You can plant them freely in the yard or in the woods edging your yard.

It's helpful to have a bulb planter if you are dropping them randomly around your property. That will save labor. But these hardy bulbs will not need anything else besides a place four to six inches down in the soil.

The bulb will be the plant's source of food in the coming season. If you have a bit of bone meal handy, you can drop a pinch into each hole you dig, and then you can sit back and prepare to enjoy.

These beauties will not provoke the interest of moles or voles and will reward you with growing clumps of flowers without any further assistance from the gardener. There are many shapes and a range of colors

available, as well as some fragrant types to plant. Plant some now for early spring pleasure.

You can also plant salad greens now, as well as garlic for next summer. The seeds of lettuce and spinach will crack now in the cold and the green will start to show. Don't be concerned when they look limp after frost or light snow. They will show up in the very early spring and yield a fine crop you can enjoy in April.

Garlic cloves planted now will settle their roots and then show green tips early through the last March snows.

Once the vegetation has been cleaned from your garden spaces, spread some manure and compost if you have it to work in as you plant next spring. Starting a few crops now will bring your thoughts away from the bitter-sweet end of the gardening season and move you to happy visions of the spring to come. After all, it won't be long before the seed catalogues arrive and you can visualize next year's garden.

Happy gardening!

Popular Electrician Dies Young



STEPHEN BROLL PHOTO

Jerry Facey

JONATHAN VON RANSON ERVING - Jerald Andrew Facey, a well-liked young man and well-respected electrical contractor, died October 9th at his home in Erving at the age of 33.

He grew up on his family's farm in Wendell, the son of Bill Facey and Linda Boutwell, and worked at several Franklin

County firms before going into business for himself. He piloted his own small plane and raced a dirt bike. His wide circle of friends, colleagues and his family mourn his early passing.

A 1995 graduate of Franklin County Technical School, Jerry Facey apprenticed locally and became a master electrician. He began his own business, Facey Electric, about eight years ago and became known for fine electrical work. He was enthusiastic about dirt-bike racing, but his one overriding passion was a love of flying.

Besides flying his own plane, he traveled frequently on commercial airlines.

Facey worked on many construction jobs with Stephen Broll of Wendell, a builder who got to know him well and considered him "one of the smartest people I ever met, by his knowledge of the mechanical world."

Substantiating his impression, Broll added, "When they hire at Hillside Plastics they give aptitude tests. He told me he got the highest score they ever recorded."

Once, when Facey was working as an apprentice, Broll said he encouraged him to go on his own professionally. "He did, and he became my electrician. I appreciated his creativity and attention to detail. I never needed to worry about his work or how clean he'd leave the site. And he'd always make friends with my customers."

Dan Keller, member of the Wendell selectboard, writes, "Jerry was born in Wendell, and grew up as our neighbor. Our two children were about the same age as Jerry and his brother Jim, and many were the days that the 'Facey boys' would come over to play in the fields, woods, or treehouse. So we knew Jerry since he was a toddler, then all the way through Swift River School. During all those years Jerry displayed the most cheerful, good-

natured, and humble spirit one could imagine. He was always fun to have around, unassuming but engaging, quiet but creative, helpful and always ready to join in a new project or embark on some new adventure in the woods.

"When he went to Franklin Tech," Keller continued, "he studied hard and became an excellent electrician. His ability to maintain a high level of concentration and focus made him an expert and efficient worker. He also managed to maintain his buoyant attitude when working, and seemed to take on each project as a challenge and new adventure, with his characteristic, beaming smile."

"He flew a plane with a kind of delicacy and sensitivity that could be seen from below. I often stopped work outside to watch him drift in gentle circles around the hill where he grew up. When winter came, he would put skis on the plane and land in the family hay field."

"Our hearts go out to the

Faceys - Bill, Laurel, and Jerry's three brothers," said Keller. "They are a strong family coming together to face this challenge, and they have the loving support of many neighbors and friends."

Facey leaves his paternal grandmother Mrs. Warren Facey of Leyden, his maternal grandmother, Shirley Boutwell of Colorado, his father Bill and his wife Laurel of Wendell, his mother Linda of Colorado, and his three older brothers and their families, Dan and his wife Kerry of Hinsdale, NH, David and his wife Lynn and their two children Tyler and Cole of Greenfield, MA, and Jim and his fiancée Tammy of Erving, MA. Jerry also leaves his long-time girlfriend Lisa Caranfa of Athol, and his nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, step-sisters and a step-brother.

Calling hours for Jerry are this Thursday at Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home, from 6 to 8 p.m. A service will be held on Friday at 1 p.m., also at Smith-Kelleher.

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GILL from page 7

idea that the future is uncertain and everyone has to do their best."

If the goals are met by all parties, a surplus of about \$55,000 may be realized by the end of the five year plan, Brown said.

Ladd said he expects the DESE to recommend ways of reducing per-pupil expenditures at the G-M schools in the pending

district review. "That's why I was comfortable saying we could come close to a zero percent increase in FY'12 [and for the second year in a row]."

The board unanimously approved the compact.

"It's a great document," said Ann Banash.

The board appointed Randy Crochier, Leland Stevens, Jane Oakes, Jason Edson, Nancy

Griswold and Timmie Smith to the capital improvements committee. Town administrative assistant Ray Purington agreed to coordinate the first meeting, and seek input from all town departments about upcoming capital purchases greater than \$10,000. A representative from the planning board is still being sought for the CIC.

By revising the contract with

Cintas to reflect the fact that the three highway employees are laundering their own uniforms, rather than having the company wash them, the town expects to save \$800 a year.

The Gill firemen's association will hold a Hallowe'en party for children from Gill and from the Gill school on Sunday at the fire station from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

The Gill Elementary School

has coordinated a fundraiser using a catalogue of local goods. A percentage of each sale returns to the school PTO to support student activities. Contact the school at 863-3255 for more details.

The town received \$3,870 from the Mass Cultural Council to fund local cultural grants through the Gill cultural council.



VOTE from pg 5

have not yet resulted in a reduction in spending, and she claims the state budget is still fleeced with patronage and waste.

"Government spending has gone up during this recession," claimed the tax cut advocate. "Total state spending on K-12 education has gone up," said Howell, without referring to the \$13.8 billion in federal stimulus that flowed to Massachusetts during the last two years. "During the same time, families have had to cut 20 to 30% of their family budgets, while the state government has continued to spend more." She calls a tax rollback, "Long overdue.

"Waste is marbled throughout state government," said Howell, when asked how legislators should deal with the impact of cutting an additional \$2.5 billion out of the state budget if Question #3 carries on Tuesday, November 2nd. "Spending at every one of the 540 state government agencies should be scrutinized, to see if they are worth their money, how high priority their work is, and to remove the patronage, the overspending, the redundancy, the sweetheart deals. We need to bring government employee retirement ages in line with their

private sector counterparts. They are retiring 13 years earlier, in their mid-50s or even 40s, unlike citizens, in their mid-60s. There is a dramatic inequity between government and the private sector in retirement ages and in the amount they get from their pensions. Government workers receive 80% of their highest pay, while the everyday taxpayer relies on social security, which in many cases falls beneath the poverty level. The health care benefits for state employees are very generous, and completely out of sync with what private workers get.

"If we root out all the waste in state government, we will find likely more than ten times the amount Question #3 will roll back," Howell claimed.

Kulik countered that even without rolling back the sales tax, "We're anticipating up to a \$2 billion gap as we begin working on the FY '12 budget. That reflects the one-time revenues we've been using from the rainy day fund and federal stimulus spending. Even without Question #3, we know we're going to have to make additional cuts in state spending. If Question #3 did pass, the effect would be, on an annualized basis, \$4.5 billion cut from a \$32 billion budget. That's huge."

Kulik added, "Out of \$32 billion, two-thirds or three-quarters is really fixed debt service or pension obligations." He said Howell, "so easily dismisses pensions as something that can be cut. The state cannot cut pensions in place. We have reformed pensions going forward, and we should do more, but the obligations are very real."

Kulik acknowledged pension reform is on the agenda nationally, not just in Massachusetts, and said new hires would soon be treated differently in terms of

health care benefits and pensions. But he said attempts to take back benefits from current employees "usually end up in court, and courts have consistently ruled that states cannot change obligations for employees and retirees. It's a fixed cost we have to fulfill."

Regardless, Howell said, "It's simply ludicrous to claim there isn't more government waste than what the state tax rollback will reduce. Government is typically wasteful by its nature. It has no competition. It tends to be bloated by its function," and can only be curtailed by the will of the governed, not the will of the government.

Howell admitted, "Certain functions of government are obviously essential service, such as law enforcement, particularly at the local level, police and fire protection, and road maintenance."

But she argued, "We will actually strengthen a lot of these by removing a lot of the waste in state government and focusing

more on the essential services. It will remove the profiteers from their departments and leave workers who actually want to serve the public. There are many such good people in state and local government, especially at the local level. But far too many are interested in perks and benefits and high pay, and that's not what government service is supposed to be about."

Kulik noted that Question #3, if it passes, will "take effect on January 1st, 2011, halfway through the current fiscal year. We would have to cut immediately at least one and a quarter billion dollars out of our current FY '11 spending. When it's that large an amount, you have to put everything on the table: local aid and local education. Your choices are limited."

But Howell stressed the economic benefits of passing Question #3. "It will stimulate retail sales - not only along the New Hampshire border, where it's very obvious that retail has

gone downhill in contrast to the new shopping centers springing up in southern New Hampshire, but in the southern and western parts of the state. We're going to attract shoppers from New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island." By rolling back state sales taxes, "Question #3 is going to bring in shoppers to our state, just like the tax holiday did in the summer."

Kulik urged voters, "as they make up their minds on Question #3, to think about the services that they or their families and friends receive - everything from police and fire protection to home care for seniors, and higher education for their sons and daughters, or themselves. All of those things will be reduced if Question #3 passes, given the cuts that have already been made to many of those programs. We simply cannot afford this radical, across-the-board reduction in state revenue that's really driven more by ideological politics than by fiscal reality."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Threatening and Harrassment

Tuesday, 10/19

9:05 p.m. Domestic disturbance on the bike path at Eleventh Street. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 10/20

2:19 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Second Street. Investigated.

Thursday, 10/21

2:08 p.m. Suspicious other at the North end of the old Strathmore building. Investigated.

3:27 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Third Street. Services rendered.

5:40 p.m. Assault and battery at Turners Falls High School. Advised of options.

6:12 p.m. Missing person at Dial/Self on Eleventh Street. Services rendered.

6:53 p.m. Threatening harassment at Family Dollar on Avenue A. Services rendered.

Friday, 10/22

4:06 p.m. Missing person on Turner Street. Returned to home or family.

6:16 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Woodland Drive. Services rendered.

6:52 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Investigated.

8:14 p.m. Warrant arrest of [REDACTED]

10:08 p.m. Warrant arrest attempted on Third Street. No such person found.

11:02 p.m. Domestic disturbance on G Street. Peace restored.

Saturday, 10/23

10:21 a.m. Illegal dumping at Highland Avenue before the railroad tracks. Referred to other agency.

10:47 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Turnpike Road. Services rendered.

2:20 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation on G Street. Removed to hospital.

3:03 p.m. Harrassment at Turners Falls High School. Referred to an officer.

5:45 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation on Avenue A. Services rendered.

6:42 p.m. Missing person on Avenue A. Returned to home or family.

7:44 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Rite Aid on Avenue A. Services rendered.

8:11 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Powertown

Apartments on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

Sunday, 10/24

7:32 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation on Greenfield Road in Montague. Advised of options.

7:43 p.m. Fight on Avenue A. Peace restored.

8:08 p.m. Vehicle fire behind Shea Theater. Services rendered.


Monday, 10/25

10:50 a.m. Illegal dumping on Highland Avenue before the railroad tracks on the left. Referred to other agency.

11:22 a.m. General disturbance on Whitney's Way in Montague. Served in hand.

Tuesday, 10/26

3:46 p.m. Hit and run accident at Rubin's Auto Repair on Millers Falls Road. Report taken.



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – *Q. I'm going to the doctor and I don't want to forget to ask him important questions. Any suggestions on how to prepare for this visit?*

Whether you're talking to a family physician, a specialist or pharmacist, you need to know the right questions. My research turned up hundreds of possible questions. I narrowed the list down to the ones I considered to be the most significant. You can pick out the ones that apply to you. Here goes:

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:
Important Questions for Doctors and Pharmacists

FAMILY PHYSICIAN

- What is the outlook for my condition?
- Could relatives get this?
- What changes will I need to make?
- What are my treatment options?
- What are the benefits and risks associated with my treatment options?
- What are the expected results?
- Are there any side effects and what can be done about them?
- What organizations and resources do you recommend for support and information?
- Which hospital has the best care for my condition?

Specialist

- What are the benefits and risks of having this test?
- How is the test done?
- Is this test the only way to find out that information?
- What do I need to do to prepare for the test?

- When will I get the results?
- What's the next step after the test?
- Do I need surgery?
- What are the benefits and risks of having this surgery?
- Is there some other way to treat my condition?
- What will happen if I don't have this surgery?
- Have you done this surgery before?
- How successful is this surgery?
- Which hospital is best for this surgery?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- How long is the recovery?
- Where can I get a second opinion?

Pharmacist

- What are the side effects of this medicine?
- When should I report a side effect to my doctor?
- Can I take a generic version?

- What is the primary use for this medicine?
- When should I take my medicine?
- How long do I need to take the medicine?
- When will the medicine start working?
- Can I stop taking my medicine if I feel better?
- Do I need to avoid any food, drinks, or activities?
- Does this medicine conflict with other drugs I'm taking?
- Which over-the-counter supplements can I take with this prescription?
- Are there any tests I need to take while I'm on this medicine?

* * *

In addition to being armed with questions, you should be ready with answers for a visit to any healthcare professional. Here's a checklist of items you should take with you to your visit.

- A description of any symp-

- toms you are experiencing.
- A list of all the medications and supplements you take. These include both prescription and over-the-counter medicines. Some doctors ask you to bring all your medicines with you to your first visit.
- Medical records**
 - Insurance cards, names, and phone numbers of your other doctors, and the phone number of the pharmacy you use.
 - A list of assistive devices you use such as canes, walkers, scooters, glasses, hearing aids, reachers, grab bars, and stair lifts.
 - Lifestyle habits. Your diet. How do you sleep? Do you smoke or drink alcohol. Activities such as dancing and sports.
 - Events in your life that may be affecting your health. These include moving, changing jobs, a divorce, a death in the family.

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

STUDY from pg 1

task force to study dissolving Union 26, and forming a K-6 regional school district with Pelham. Amherst appears to chafe at sharing equal representation on the Union 26 school committee with the much smaller town of Pelham, whose high performing elementary school is drawing a number of school choice students from Amherst, Hajir said.

At Tuesday's meeting, finance committee member Tom Powers said, "Any change in governance in any of the three entities, Union 26, the [Amherst] region, or Union 28, would have a financial impact on each member town. All will be destabilized and in flux if one goes."

Selectboard chair Richard Brazeau made no bones about what he saw as the source of current tensions, and what the town of Leverett ought to do about it.

"I dislike being intimidated by a bunch of bullies," said Brazeau, referring to the Amherst school committee members, who hold a majority on the regional school committee, with five members to Leverett's one. (Shutesbury has one member, and Pelham, two.)

"If Amherst wants to go their own way, let them go," Brazeau

continued. "I go to these meetings and my mouth drops. I hear what they say; I see their body language. It's unbelievable."

He added, "People in this town have been supporting that school system for a long time. We were proud of it. We voted extra money to support the classes. I think we ought to get a committee together that's going to be proactive, to do what's right for us."

Hajir said, "The approach Amherst is taking is very adversarial. The approach Shutesbury and Pelham and Leverett are taking is very collegial."

Peter d'Errico asked for the education study committee to be prepared to issue a report on Leverett's future educational options by town meeting. Julie Shively asked that the committee conduct a survey of parents of school age children, focusing on reasons why some send their children to charter schools, or choose to home school their children. "For us to understand what we need to do to improve our system, we need to understand why parents aren't sending kids to our school," she said.

School Choice

A large part of the evening's

discussion revolved around the issue of school choice, and whether the positive economic effects of including school choice students in the Leverett Elementary School population outweighed the negative impacts on neighboring school districts. Of the 160 students enrolled at LES, 25 this year come from other districts. Each brings with them about \$5,000 in state aid, that drains from the operating budgets of the sending districts.

A number of parents spoke up in favor of the current arrangement, which caps the total number of students at LES at 15 in grades K-3, and caps grades 4-6 at 18 students. If not enough Leverett students enroll to fill those class sizes, school choice students are allowed to enroll up to those limits. At present, there is a growing number of students from Leverett entering the lower grades, and the preponderance of school choice students will soon be graduating from LES. There was no room for new school choice students at LES this year.

"I really like our school choice policy," said Tamara Matosic. "But I hear what you're saying about not wanting to take away from our neighbors." Still, "If parents are not happy with the

school their children would be going to, they will find another place for their children to go to. It feels like we're an open community, not a community with a fence around us."

Stacey Wenczel said, "To me Leverett needs to have a philosophy about school choice. Not just, 'Is it hurting our neighbors?' Parents will do what they need to do to get their children educated."

George Drake added, "As far as I can remember, some of these towns have refused to vote the school budget in multiple years, so I don't have the sympathy for them that I otherwise would have."

Hajir pointed out that about \$1 million in state aid is draining annually from the Gill-Montague school district due to school choice and charter school losses.

School committee member Kip Fonsch said, "School choice is very bad public policy. The assumption that parents will do whatever they need to do is based on a particular world view. We miss the boat if we assume equal resources and equal mobility are available for all parents. The entire concept is based on the concept that schools are a free market system meant to compete with each other... We need to

take a close look at our neighbors. If we are privileged, it does not mean that our neighbors are."

All the parents in the room spoke strongly against letting the Leverett sixth graders go to the Amherst Middle School, and Sheila Hunter added, "I don't see any reason why parents would want to extend middle school beyond two years."

"We have such a great little school here," said Matosic, speaking for everyone in the room. As the meeting, which took place in the auditorium of the elementary school, wound down, parents shushed their children as they trundled by in the hall from after school activities, and the gleeful sounds of the school chorus rehearsal died away.



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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 30: The Staff Challenge

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

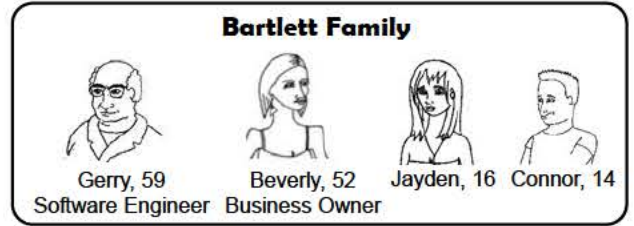
MONTAGUE CENTER – WGBJ’s cameras panned past a visibly cold Sam Lively, outfitted in a down coat and Sorel boots, to reveal a large shed with a “Take it or Leave It” sign hanging above the doorway. The cameras zoomed in to show a bin filled with clothes, another with tools, and several others.

“We are looking at the ‘Take it or Leave It’ shed at the Town of Leverett’s transfer station,” the GGF host explained. “Leverett holds the distinction of having the highest rate of recycling in Massachusetts — residents here reuse, recycle, and redeem used containers at the rate of 56% of their waste.”

“As you may have guessed, our next Go Green Family Challenge is about ‘stuff’ — the things we acquire and throw away. We’ll be forming a picture of our families’ consumption habits by viewing each household as a system. We will make a donation of \$2,000 to a nonprofit organization chosen by the winner of this challenge, and we’ll base our decision on three measures: To survey what comes in, we’re asking each of our families to save all receipts from purchases. To learn what goes out, they’ll keep a list of all belongings that have left their homes, whether they’ve been sold, donated, or regifted. And finally, at the end of December, members of Montague Clean and Green will conduct a garbage audit for each family.”

Soon afterwards, clipboard in hand, Connor Bartlett followed his sister Jayden and his father Gerry through their cavernous basement to survey their stuff. He noted several pairs of skates, skis and boots, plus dozens of Barbie dolls and Lego sets that they’d long since grown out of.

“I guess when you have a lot of storage space, it’s just easy to let this stuff pile up” Jayden observed. To her left were discarded lamps and Formica tables, and to the right, boxes of books, all collecting dust. In a corner all to itself, Jayden saw sets of dinnerware patterned in pink tulips, poinsettia patterned napkins and Santa Claus tablecloths — all gifts from her grandmother that her mom said were garish and tasteless.



“We can bring a lot of this stuff to the transfer station,” Connor assured his dad. “but the furniture will have to wait for the Large Item Weekend.”

“Yeah, and what about those?” Gerry said, pointing to a collection of used and no longer functional computer monitors, hard drives, printers and televisions.

“That’s e-waste, Dad. Those old computers have lots of heavy metals in them. I read in *National Geographic* that most e-waste gets shipped out to places like India where kids take them apart and get sick from handling the stuff.”

“Ok, Connor — find out when Leverett is holding the next Hazardous Waste Collection. In

the meantime, let’s plan to take some loads over on Saturday,” Gerry concluded.

“Dad, can I bring along a friend?” asked Jayden.

“Who do you have in mind?” “My friend Alex. He would totally love the Leverett Transfer Station. He’s into this band called the Dumpster Divers, remember? They all drive around the dorms and go through the dumpsters at the end of the semester to collect the stuff students leave behind,” said Jayden.

“Better not tell Mom,” Connor advised. “She thinks Alex is a ‘low-life loser.’”

Continued next issue ...

CHASE from pg 1
cutting construction jobs.

an extensive collection of restored antique Macks they bought a warehouse to store them

First Pour on the G-M Bridge



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

The new steel stringers are bolted in, shear pins welded, steel form pans in place, and steel grid secured for the historic first pour of the new concrete bridge deck on the Gill-Montague bridge on Tuesday. Monadnock Concrete Pumping Service of NH, supplied with concrete by Construction Service of Wilbraham, stretches the pump’s 100-foot boom to pour the first section of the new concrete deck.

safe from the weather. Several feet of snow accumulated on the warehouse roof, and then it rained, collapsing the roof and crushing the antique trucks in storage. The trucks received major damage, including a rare Mack pickup of which Mack produced only 2500.

So, what do you do after your antique Macks get crushed by a collapsed garage roof? Most body shops don’t want to deal with truck restoration or repair, largely because body parts are scarce, to say the least, especially for a truck great grandpa drove. Most body shops do scarcely any straightening now.

Chase has created a following of antique truck buffs from far and wide, as the recent election results demonstrated. He has obtained specifications for antique Mack cabs from the Mack factory, and has built templates used to restore cabs to orig-

inal specs. In his shop, Chase has blacksmith anvils that are a couple of hundred years old. He sometimes uses them to fashion cab parts that cannot be straightened or jacked back into place. Complicating reconstruction are Mack cabs made prior to 1941, with wood frames.

“Mack has been extremely cooperative,” Chase said. “When I call for specs, they are happy to oblige.”

In Chase’s repair shop yard, dozens of Macks of various types sit awaiting Chase’s magic touch to return them to their former glory. Amidst the great variety are fire trucks, dump trucks, log trucks, and even milk delivery vans, of which Mack built only a limited number.

An Eilers Brothers model LTL Mack in the shop with a crushed cab is a tandem tractor sporting a super charged Cummins 275 horse power engine, with a cool-

ing capacity of 12 gallons. An automobile engine has a capacity of about two gallons.

At the time of manufacture, Mack’s biggest engine had 190 horsepower. The Cummins engine was necessary to provide the torque demands of logging trucks pulling heavy loads up mountains in the West. Truck engines like the Cummins develop maximum horsepower at about 2,200 rpm. The Cummins engine has a long stroke for greater lugging power.

“We do all the body work but the glass,” Chase said. “We don’t paint anymore. We send them up to Northfield Auto Body, usually bare metal, so he can touch up any place he thinks needs attention.”

The trip to the paint shop may take a while. Chase expects the LTL restoration to take about six months to complete.



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French King Bowling Center, Erving: *Metal Night*. Come in costume. *Graceland* 7:30 p.m. *Sorrows of Autumn* 8:30 p.m. *The Grave* 9:45 p.m.

Bookmill, Montague: *Steve Nelson and Austin & Elliott* 8 p.m. \$5

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31st
Montague Grange: *Halloween Haunted House*. \$1 for the main floor, aimed for the younger audience. \$3 for the DUNGEON – a horror no one should ever witness – designed specifically for the older crowd. Can you handle it? 6 to 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
Public Forum on *Greenfield Town Farm*; 2 p.m. Greenfield High School, Silver Street. Speakers, panelists, small group discussions. Local food advocates welcome!

Art and Poetry exhibit, Millers Falls. Abstract painter *Paul Palmgren* and poet *Randy Welner*, 2 to 5 p.m. Renovators Supply Factory, 1 River Street.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rik Rolski*, Acoustic Guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

SATURDAYS
Montague Farm Cafe each week, 12 to 3 p.m., Ripley Road, Montague. Great food, family atmosphere. Health and wellness offerings and fresh veggie care packages. Free; transportation available. 367-5275.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY OCTOBER 29th to 31st
Skeleton Crew Theater. Greenfield, MA: runs Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Shows run continuously, starting at 6:00 p.m. The last show begins at 9:30 p.m. Inclement weather cancels. Hosted by Camp Kee-Wanee, in Greenfield. Info: (413) 336-8649.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. *Halloween Treats*. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, '50s and '60s oldies, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5th to 6th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The Country Players present *Love, Sex and the IRS*. Fri and Sat. 8 p.m. Continuing Nov. 12th & 13th at 8 p.m. & Nov. 14th at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Shokazoba Afrobeat Ensemble*, Funk, West Africa. 9 p.m.

Bookmill, Montague: *Ray Mason and Dennis Crommett*, 8 p.m. \$5

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, Renegade Blues, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kristen Ford & friends*, rock/folk, 9:30 p.m. \$5.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Larry Berger and the Electric Fence*, folk. 8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. *Fire by Friction*, outdoor skills workshop. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

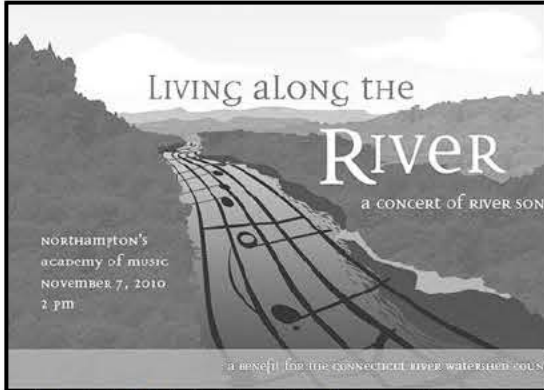
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lake Street Dive*, 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Heather Maloney and Naia Kete*, 8 p.m.

Bookmill, Montague: \$6 *Carrie Ferguson & Chris Scanlon*. 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Outerspace Band Halloween Show*. Don't miss this great night in space! (413) 659-3384. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. 8 to 10 p.m. Acoustic Guitar. Singing all your favorite oldies from the '60s & '70s, just the way you remember them.



A flood of talent will play at the Academy of Music at 2 p.m. in Northampton on November 7th for Living Along the River, a benefit concert for the Connecticut River Watershed Council. \$8-\$11 in advance & \$10-\$13 at the door. www.criver.org. Original songs by: John Currie, Claire Dacey, Charlie Conant, Sparkie Allison, Russ Thomas, Drew Hickum, John-Michael Field, Katie Clarke, Sheila Moschen, and Roland Lapierre.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. *Amazing Bats*. 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Halloween Tea Party Dance Party*, Costume Contest, big prizes. Come as your favorite tea-partier, be it Samuel, Sarah Palin, Alice, Mad Hatter... 9:30 p.m.

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

The Montague Inn, Montague: *TNT Halloween Scaryoke*. 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Halloween Costume Party* with music by *Dedicated to Delilah*. 9 to 11 p.m. 80s Pop Rock and Ballads.

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12:00 12:00 2:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
4. SECRETARIAT PG
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5. LIFE AS WE KNOW IT PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:40 9:10
6. SOCIAL NETWORK PG13 in DTS sound
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PHIL OCHS SONG NIGHT A JOYOUS REUNION FOR A GENERATION OF STRUGGLE

BY TAMI STILES

GREENFIELD - Faces from a generation that came of age during the 60s, the time of one of America's greatest social upheavals, gathered at the U.U. Church in Greenfield last Friday. They had come together to remember the music of Phil Ochs, a man who deeply felt the oppression of minority peoples and the draft for an undeclared war in Southeast Asia, and wrote songs that struck sparks for social transformation.

For 27 years Phil's sister Sonny Ochs has been traveling the United States organizing Phil Ochs Song Nights. Her earliest musical memory of her brother was of him "playing the clarinet upstairs in his room and me wanting to strangle him," she recalled with a laugh. "He was a perfectionist as he played the same measures over and over," she said with a glimmer in her eyes. Phil Ochs, born in El Paso, would later go to college at Ohio

State to become a journalist, where he was introduced to the guitar and become a topical singer, inspired by the resurgence of traditional folk music.

With the musical talents and voices of Reggie Harris, David Roth, Greg Greenway, John Flint, Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner filling the church, people in the twenty filled pews swayed, clapped and sang along to the music of Phil Ochs. "Standing on the Side of Love" was lead by Reggie Harris, and his deep baritone swept through the room with the harmonies of this musical family blended around him. It was a southern gospel moment, with people from the audience singing to their neighbors and all the voices of the room rising to the rafters.

"Love Me, I'm a Liberal" performed by Magpie, updated lyrics relevant to the Tea Party, Tiger Woods, Oprah, Facebook and Twitter, which created a long stir of laughter from the audience. Without doubt, if Phil Ochs were alive today, he would have gotten a chuckle from the new verses by this duo.

"Crucifixion," performed by Greg Greenway, was a breath stealing moment. It was as if the room was frozen and the only life present were the words Ochs wrote so long ago. As the last note was sung and the last chord

plucked, the room came alive again with a standing ovation and tears.

The final song, "I Ain't Marching Anymore" again had people on their feet, with all the voices from the room lifting skyward. It was like a scene replayed from the 60s, with people arm in arm, braced and ready for change, still committed to the idea of unity even in this modern,

niche marketed world.

Phil Ochs's music is a place of common ground for many people who believe that everyday men and women can inspire change in the world. Sonny Ochs has created a musical family connection to remember her brother's life, cut short by suicide when he was only 35, and to reconnect to the struggle and the victories of a divided nation. His

music remains relevant today as we fight two wars, largely out of sight and out of mind, and as we still fight for a voice in Washington, and remain divided on issues of race and gender. Although we have made progress, the lyrics written by Phil Ochs in the 1960s serve as reminders of what our country has gone through, in order to get to today.



Phil Ochs



(l-r) Sonny Ochs, Greg Greenway, Reggie Harris, John Flint, Greg Artzner, David Roth, Terry Leonino at the Phil Ochs song night in Greenfield



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