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YEAR 8 – NO. 5

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Walking the Line at the Mariamante Property



DETMOLD PHOTO

Native Americans teamed up with Gill residents last week to survey the Mariamante parcel, using ground penetrating radar. Washington Kilpatrick, (second from right) a housepainter from Ayer of Cherokee descent, pushes the radar device on a hand cart as Bill Burnham of West Gill Road notes his position.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – A crew of volunteers made up of Native Americans and townspeople of Gill were back walking the line on Tuesday at the Mariamante property, at the intersection of Main Road and West Gill Road. They pushed a computerized contraption on an oversized baby buggy down 700-foot long, five and a half foot wide files, sounding the depths of the soil for underground objects with ground penetrating radar. By day's end on Tuesday they had covered about two thirds of the 10 acre parcel, and walked more than twentyfive linear miles in their patient endeavor.

The results, analyzed by computer at Doria Kutrubes's Radar Solutions, Inc. in Waltham, MA, will take months to compile, but in the end should show whether

there are underground burials located on the premises.

Using a "slice program," the software is the latest innovation in ground penetrating radar, according to Doug Harris, who heads up the Narragansett Indian Tribe's ceremonial landscape protection program. Members of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah), were also present at the survey.

The tribes are interested in finding what, if anything, remains buried beneath the town-owned property because of a short section in George Sheldon's 1895 *History of Deerfield*, which detailed the unearthing of an unusual Native American "spokes burial" in the vicinity of the Mariamante land, in which about a dozen bodies were laid see **MARIAMANTE** pg 5

Riverbank Erosion Control Underway in Gill



DETMOLD PHOTO

Michael Bathory points out an area of bank erosion by the town-owned land at the end of Pisgah Mountain Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – Work is underway by New England Environmental, working under contract for First Light Power Resources, owners of the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro facility, to remediate erosion on a 6000 foot section on the Gill bank of the Connecticut River.

Instead of the riprap Northfield Mountain's subcontractors have in past years used to armor the riverbank at differ-

ent locations in the 22-mile stretch between the Vernon dam and the Turners Falls dam, New England Environmental is using a novel approach this time. They are trying to imitate Mother Nature by using woody debris and native vegetation to stabilize the riverbank.

According to the order of conditions approved by the Gill conservation commission in a lengthy process over the past year, New England Environmental will install an "aquatic bench" along the bank "planted with native herbaceous species and the placement of coarse woody debris structures and logs on this aquatic bench, with construction activities occurring over a five year period. In order to assess the success of the proposed stabilization, each site shall have five years of monitoring."

Remediation work got underway last week at the first of six roughly 1000-foot sections, known as the Lower Split River Farm site (due south of the intersection of River Road and Pisgah Mountain Road, within sight of the arch of the French King Bridge), more or less directly across the river from the pumped storage facility's intake structure. After Lower Split River Farm, remediation work will gradually move north along the bank over the next five years, to Upper Split River 1 & 2, the Bathory/Gallagher parcel, and the Wallace/Watson parcel. Somewhere along there, the short stretch of town-owned

land at the end of Pisgah Mountain Road – a former ferry landing – will also be addressed.

The pumped storage facility, hollowed out of Northfield Mountain, operates by pumping water from the river (which the utility calls its "lower reservoir") at night, when electric demand is low, at a rate up to 90,000 gallons per second, up to a 300-acre upper reservoir, which is capable of storing 5.5 billion gallons of water. At times of high demand, the utility releases water from the upper reservoir to flow through four giant reversible turbines, generating up to 1000 megawatts of power for five hours, returning the water to the river at a rate up to 134,800 gallons per second.

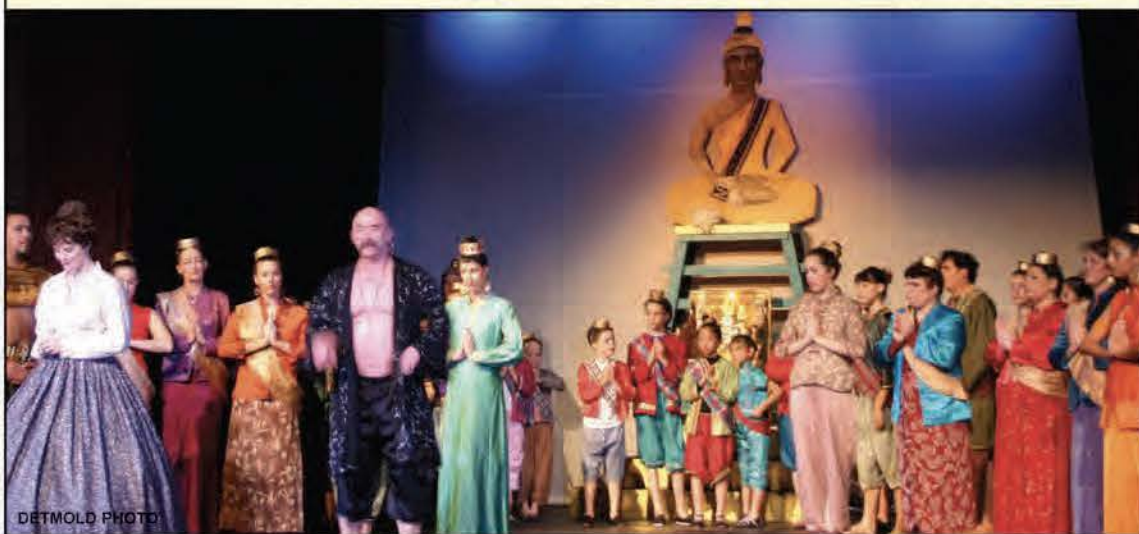
The river level along the so-called Turners Falls Pool, the stretch of river between the Turners and Vernon dams, fluctuates about four feet on average as water is pumped out or in for Northfield Mountain. But according to a website maintained by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments on the Connecticut River Watershed Restoration project, "Much higher fluctuations, on the order of nine to ten and a half feet, may occur over the course of the weekly pump and release cycle."

'Skeazy' Flagg, who farms several miles upstream from the intake structure, was among many landowners along the river who took part in a survey of the restoration sites in a boat

see **EROSION** pg 8

Theater Review

The King and I a Rousing Success



DETMOLD PHOTO

Emily Nagoski as Anna (front left) and Jerry Marcanio as the King led a stellar cast in ACT's production of *the King & I* at the Shea Theater

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – Cathy King's swan song was a triumphant tour de force, as *The King and I* played to rapt audiences for two weekends running at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. King says this will be her

last go-round as a director in the local community theater scene. After leaving the Shea in the elated crowd singing the praises of her recent production, we can only say, 'Cathy... Say it Ain't So!'

The only shortcomings in this

musical were contained in the book itself: a sunnyside-up colonialism viewed through the eyes of a proper English governess in the benighted realm of Siam, circa the early 1860s. The sun has long since set on that see **REVIEW** pg 8

PET OF THE WEEK
Chow, Chow, Chow!



Bones

"I don't want to be buried, In a pet cemetery."
This week's pet needs tender loving care to put some meat on her ribs. So if you're trick or treating in this kitty's neighborhood, bring along some Kibbles, or she just might bite!

While Bone skulks around the cemetery, many other pets await your loving care at the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society. For info on adopting your own cute little devil, call Dakin at (413) 548-9898 or check out their haunts at www.dpvhs.org

Writers Wanted

to join in a free Community Journalism Workshop with Wesley Blixt, at the Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, Sun. Nov. 10th, 4 to 6 p.m. Call 863-8666 to register. What's news; how to tell a story; necessary elements; working the strengths of a community weekly, & more!

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Three Cups: A Community-Wide Read

On Sunday, November 1st, the acclaimed children's illustrator and author Susan Roth will speak at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst. Roth is the coauthor and illustrator of the picture book *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Doctor Greg and Three Cups of Tea*.

The book recounts the journey that led Greg Mortenson from a failed 1993 attempt to climb Pakistan's K2, the world's second highest mountain, to successfully establish schools in some of the most remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. This event is geared toward adults and families with children in elementary school or older.

A book discussion will follow at the Leverett Library on

Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

On November 8th, Naz Mohamed will present 'Sharing Tea: Pakistani Tea, Food, and Culture at the Leverett Library,' at 2:00 p.m. And on November 10th, Stuart Remensnyder will present 'Three Chapatis: a Mountaineer's Perspective on *Three Cups of Tea*,' a talk and slide show at the Leverett Library at 7:00 p.m.

Also as part of this ongoing community read, the documentary film *Beyond Belief* will be shown at the Leverett Library on November 15th at 3:00 p.m. The film deals with two American women whose husbands are killed by terrorists, and who then travel to Afghanistan to meet and assist Afghan women.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Staying Healthy with the Seasons

BY ROSE HEIDEKAMP

WENDELL - On Wednesday, November 4th, 18th, and December 2nd, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Nini Melvin will offer a free introductory series of experiential workshops guided by the five elemental phases from Chinese medicine. Each season brings us gifts and challenges. When we align ourselves with the rhythms and cycles of the natural world, we can bring more balance and good health into our lives.

We will stretch, move, and perform self-shiatsu to meridians and pressure points associated with each season.

• Autumn is the time of the metal element, which will be the focus of the November workshops. Come learn to strengthen the respiratory and elimination systems through the meridians and points associated with this element.

• In December we will focus on the transition into the water element and the gifts and challenges of winter.

For more information on Nini Melvin's method, go to: www.PresenTouch.com. To sign up call: Nini Melvin at (978) 544-7960, or call the library at: (978) 544-3559.

TFHS Alumni Sought for Career Fair Presentation

BY BOB AVERY - The first Alumni Career Fair is scheduled for November 25th at Turners Falls High School. The response from the alumni has been remarkably positive. The original deadline for alumni who would like to participate has been pushed back to November 1st due to continued interest of potential presenters.

Excitement is building due to the participation of an all-alumni group who will share knowledge

of the world of work with students from grade 8 through 12. The students will be prepared to question and discuss careers with the goal of becoming better informed prior to making their own career choices.

TFHS alumni who are interested in participating in the Career Fair, please contact ravery21@hotmail.com. Hurry, alumni! An opportunity missed is an opportunity lost. We look forward to seeing you at the fair.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - Nov 2nd to 6th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site Manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call 863-9357. Feel free to call the senior center for information on any programs. "Enhance Your Memory" workshop with Wanda Landry is at 10:00 a.m. on November 5th and SHINE will be here at 1:00 p.m. on November 23rd. Call the Senior Center soon to sign up for the Veterans' Day Pot Luck Lunch.
Monday, Nov. 2nd
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, Nov. 3rd
9:00 a.m. Walking group
10:00 a.m. to Noon Brown Bag (no Yoga)
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting
1:00 p.m. Canasta
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, Nov. 4th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12 noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, Nov. 5th
10:00 a.m. Memory Workshop (no Tai Chi)
12 noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, Nov. 6th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
12 noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and



Woody nightshade presses up through the floor boards on L Street.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS
Hallowe'en Party!



TURNERS FALLS- The annual Children's Halloween Party at the Carnegie Library is the most popular Saturday program of the year. The children, their parents and some grandparents enjoyed the many craft projects, games, refreshments, costumes, and decorations. Billy Davis on the left, of Montague Center, brought her granddaughter Princess Willa Beltradi. The pirate is Nathaniel Howe of Turners Falls. Noel Cote of Turners is wearing a crown in the back.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week
Grade 6
Alexxis Young
Grade 7
Andrew LaPenta
Grade 8
Courtney Eugin
Jaimee White

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reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Monday, Nov. 2nd
9:00 a.m. Exercise
12 noon Pitch
Tuesday, Nov. 3rd
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, Nov. 4th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 noon Bingo
Thursday, Nov. 5th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, Nov. 6th
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Lunch:
WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs.

LIVE IN MONTAGUE?
EST. 1754
www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings
 Psychic Fair
BY DAVID JAMES
LAKE PLEASANT - The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair Saturday (October 31st) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the post office in Lake Pleasant. Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice. Reiki and spiritual healing services will also be available.
For more information, please visit the TNSA website www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin Area Survival Center at 96 4th Street in Turners Falls will discontinue their traditional Thanksgiving turkey and fixings giveaway program this year. At the January, 2009 meeting, the Center's board of directors voted to increase distribution of donated and purchased food items from six times a year to twelve times a year, instead.

With the poor state of the local economy, the board felt this increase was a better use of Survival Center resources than the Thanksgiving program.

Organizations and individuals may still donate whole frozen chickens and turkeys to the Survival Center, if they wish. As clients sign up for their monthly food between the dates of October 23rd and November 23rd, they will receive a donation of a chicken for a small family or a turkey for larger families, as they are available.

The numbers of Franklin County families in need grew considerably in 2008, and are continuing to rise in 2009.

Gill Town Forest Hikes. Come explore portions of a new 160-acre conservation area in Gill, including a coldwater stream, a kettle pond, and glacial eskers.

Two "get-to-know-the-area" hikes will be led by Gill resident Ray Purington on Sunday, November 8th and Wednesday, November 11th. Both hikes will start at 1:00 p.m., last about two hours and traverse the same route. The terrain is gently sloped, and most of the walk will be along existing trails.

The hikes are free and open to the public. Gill residents who may be interested in serving on a stewardship committee are encouraged to attend.

From West Gill Road in Gill, turn onto Hoe Shop Road and drive 0.7 miles. Please park along the sides of the road. Heavy rain will cancel.

Charlie Choleva – AKA 'The

Great Pumpkin' – of 73 7th Street, in Turners Falls, will be celebrating his 15th anniversary of greeting trick-or-treaters with bags of candy and his infamous apple cider. Charlie, as always, will be waving to all the passers-by. This year Charlie has added a 600-pound pumpkin on his front porch as a featured attraction. (Information provided by his Mom.)

Hallowe'en on MCTV! Are you ready for some scary black and white movies? Starting at 5:30 p.m. on Hallowe'en night and running through early Sunday morning, MCTV Channel 17 will broadcast old classics starting with *House on Haunted Hill* and following up with movies like *The Bat*, *Last Man on Earth*, and of course *Night of the Living Dead*. I know what channel I'll be watching on Hallowe'en. What about you?

Email the station at PSA@montaguetv.org or call in at (413) 863-3221 and share your reaction to this scary, classic programming.

And while we're on the subject of classic programming, the **Montague finance committee** meeting is now being shown live on Montague Community Television, cable Channel 17 at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday, and rerun during the week. Check MCTV's website at www.MontagueTV.org, for the listings.

Videographers Ethan Reipold and A.J. Cook alternately run the remote control video station in the selectboard room where the meetings are held. It's set up in such way that only one person is needed to record the meetings, but that person has to know how to run all the equipment and send the signal out live; a lot to learn.

Reipold and Cook learned how to operate the remote studio during their senior year at TFHS while interning at the station, and now they are covering the finance committee on their own. The two have also produced and edited other programs for the station,

including a program about the construction of the new police station, in which they interviewed Montague police chief Ray Zukowski and shot pictures of the station under construction. Reipold created many of the graphics you see on the bulletin board.

MCTV is excited to have two such talented young people working with the station. So watch the finance committee meetings live, learn how your money is being spent, and know that two concerned young men are in charge of the coverage.

Send your items for Local Briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net, or mail them to: Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show Saturday, November 14th 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than a dozen vendors will be displaying and selling minerals, gems, crystals and fossils along with locally made jewelry. Two geology talks scheduled for 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Planetarium show twice at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m..

This is the Pioneer Valley Institute's 13th annual show at the Greenfield High School on Lennox Avenue. Entry fee: \$2 adults, \$1 teens, kids under 13 with an adult, free.

Veterans for Peace

BY ERIC WASILESKI

AMHERST – The Wally Nelson Chapter of Veterans for Peace will hold their annual Veterans Day program on Saturday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Amherst Unitarian Universalist Society, 121 North Pleasant Street, in Amherst. Speakers include a current conscientious objector trying to get a discharge from the military, and recently returned veterans from operations in Southwest Asia. There will also be a brief video presentation.

The event will be moderated by chapter president and Vietnam veteran George Williams. There will be open microphone time for anyone to respectfully make comments or ask questions of the panel. For more information, contact: gawilliams@hotmail.com.

-Soul Change-

LEVERETT – Soul Centered Change using Transformational Kinesiology (TK). On Sunday November 1st & 8th, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., an Introduction to TK with Diana Bella will be held at the Doors of Light Studio, 131 Montague Road, Leverett, by donation.

Please contact diana@tkheals.com; call (413) 687-7748, or visit www.tkheals.com for more information.

Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club

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For more information call (413) 863-8003 or visit www.tmgcc.net

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Montague Needs a Town Planner

As they await word on threatened mid-year cuts in state aid, the selectboard in Montague is holding back on advertising for a new town planner.

Selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt talked last week about the tension between the expected mid-year cuts and the need to replace town planner Dan Laroche, who is leaving Montague for a new position in land use planning at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, where he will continue to apply his skills to the benefit of Montague and the other communities of Franklin County.

We hope that tension is resolved in favor of filling the town planner's position, and soon. The position is needed more than ever as Montague — like every other town and city in the Commonwealth — grapples with the aftermath of the worst recession in modern times, and tries to develop new revenues and create new opportunities for expanding the local economy.

The town planner has, essentially, three roles: overseeing land use planning, conservation, and economic development. In recessionary times, when new construction is minimized, the planner's economic development role needs to come to the fore.

One does not need to look very far back in time to count a cornucopia of grants the present and past planners have brought in for the town: everything from the competitive \$100,000 expedited permitting grant Laroche landed for predevelopment work on the Strathmore Mill, to the federal, state and county Brownfields funding former planner Robin Sherman secured to clean up the toxic mess at the former Dubios garage site — now a sculpture park for the youth of Montague.

It was Sherman who, in addition to the technical assistance grants she routinely brought in for the town, also wrote the initial grant to the Massachusetts Cultural Council to fund the RiverCulture project in 2005, which has since led to the infusion of over a hundred and sixty thousand state dollars and equal matching contributions from local businesses and organizations to improve the marketability and tourism potential of downtown Turners Falls. RiverCulture

has gone on to work with local artists and the newly revived business association to transform the image of downtown, where the business district is being augmented year by year with vital new start-ups on and off the Avenue.

Consider how downtown has changed over the last ten years. Now consider the role the town planner has played in this transformation, which is still in a fragile, though hopeful, stage.

This is not the time to let up on Montague's forward momentum, or the key role the town planner has played in quickening the pulse of commerce and returning cultural life to Turners Falls.

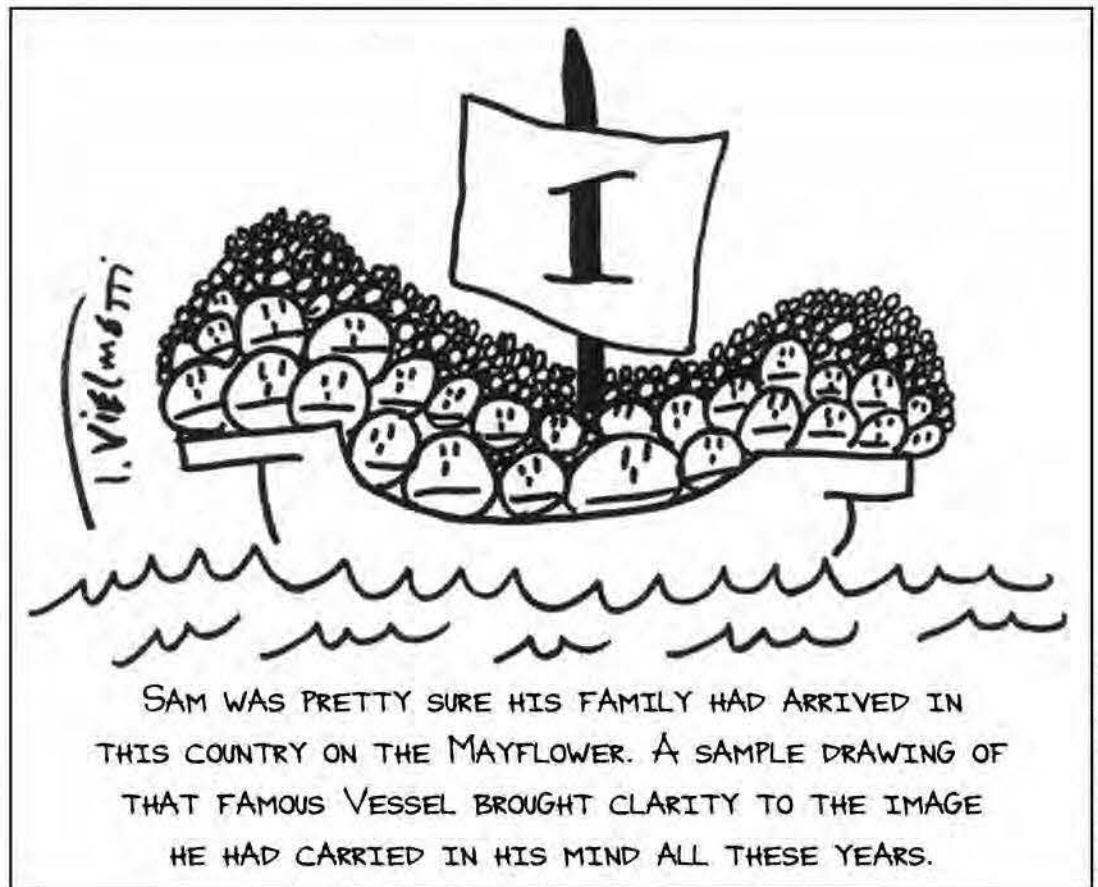
Having the responsibility for economic development shared between the selectboard and the planning office has worked very well over the years. But by itself, without the fulltime support of a town planner, the selectboard will be unable to devote sufficient time and energy to economic development initiatives, or secure and administer the many grants our recent town planners have brought in to improve economic conditions in Montague.

Relying on the services of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments would be a poor substitute for hiring an employee whose role and responsibility it is to represent Montague at the table when county, state and federal initiatives are being discussed and the dollars attached to them disbursed.

It's true a reduction in town staff may be in the offing if cuts in local aid materialize, as expected. But if the current town planner weren't leaving, would the selectboard be considering cutting that position now? Or would the axe fall elsewhere, perhaps on clerical support staff for permitting offices that are seeing more downtime in a down economy?

Those are tough choices, and we elect selectboard members to make tough choices. We hope the board will hold a healthy debate on the matter of hiring a new town planner, and review the success of that office's efforts in revitalizing our town.

Now is not the time for Montague to put less effort into economic development. We need a town planner more than ever.



TIM VIELMETTI CARTOON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Biomass to Toxic Waste

Yes, Greenfield, it *can* happen to you. Once you issue a site permit, the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) can change your biomass plant into something different and contrary to any conditions you assign. Here's what DEP did in Wendell:

Wendell issued a permit for a small "clean debris" construction and demolition landfill, limited to two years of operation, and not to exceed the height of the road.

DEP then took complete control and issued additional permits contrary to Wendell's permit: for ten years, greatly exceeding the height of the road and the volume Wendell permitted.

DEP did minimal site monitoring, and the landfill took in

hazardous waste from the Big Dig (asbestos). There were noxious fumes, fire, excessive truck traffic, road and noise problems for the neighborhood and neighboring towns.

None of this was foreseen when Wendell granted the landowner's request to create a small, level area on his hillside to work on his junk vehicle business.

When the landfill exceeded capacity, it began shifting downhill. DEP spent over \$1 million of taxpayer money to reconfigure the debris.

Greenfield most certainly can lose control over a biomass plant. All it takes is the issuance of local permits to relinquish control.

You could end up with a toxic

waste incinerator, burning demolition debris and municipal, industrial, and hospital waste (as happened in Maine), and no way to stop it. It's not worth a million dollars in expected tax payments to put yourselves and your neighbors' health and lives in jeopardy. Better to conserve energy by hanging your clothes outside in your currently clean air — which could save more energy than the plant can generate.

The good thing about Wendell's landfill was that it closed after exceeding capacity. Greenfield's plant would operate indefinitely.

— Gloria Kegeles
former board of
health member
Wendell

In Support of Charter Schools

I write in support of GMRSD school committee chair Mike Langknecht's comments in the October 1st issue of the *Montague Reporter* (VIII #1: Sustainability Charter School Advances), supporting the proposed "Discovery Charter School of Sustainability."

I see no conflict of interest in Mike's position on this issue. In fact, we are very fortunate to have a school committee chair who is willing to think "outside the box" on this issue. It is highly refreshing, particularly when

compared to the knee-jerk opposition one usually encounters from public officials when responding to charter schools.

I have also supported the proposed Discovery School. Like Mike, I believe that everyone interested in public education should support and learn from charter school innovations, not "shoot the messenger," the current fallback position.

I also believe the funding of

charter schools is problematic, and should be reformed. The current funding mechanism drains the traditional public system, encouraging opposition to reform. As in other areas, the state of Massachusetts should pay for the policies it promotes.

Let us welcome the Discovery School founders, and unite with them to encourage innovation and to call for adequate state funding for it!

— Jeff Singleton
Montague

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... AND ANOTHER LETTER

Class Gift Going to Waste

It saddens me that I have to go this far to get something accomplished that should have happened months ago. I am an officer of the Turners Falls Class of 2009, and it has come to my attention that the Turners Falls High School administration and school committee has suspended the use of our class gift, as far as I can tell, for no good reason.

We put much time and energy last year into purchasing a giant floor mat for the school's foyer. This mat, which bears the name of the school and its insignia, is of exceedingly good quality and cost us about \$2,500. This was a great investment on my class's part, for the greater good of the school and the community. The mat was supposed to be up on the first day of school, yet it was in place for less than twenty four

hours before our beloved administration ordered its removal.

This is absolutely unacceptable. We purchased that mat on the grounds that the school would use it in the entrance hall, after specifically asking whether our gift would be appropriate and receiving apparently disingenuous support from the administration. Basically, the situation we have here is that the school administration is not acting in the best interests of the school district, and therefore in the worst interests of the town. It raises an important issue, i.e. the treatment of gifts to our school. People of Montague, I urge you to pressure the school district to utilize this great resource which we've given them. It is a travesty seeing it go to waste.

— Sam Colton
Montague

MARIAMANTE from pg 1

out in a circle with their heads toward the center, along with associated burial objects.

Sheldon noted the discovery of the spokes burial occurred when a landowner named Stoughton was assisting with the widening of Main Road, at about the location now under survey. Stoughton owned the land which is now the Mariamante parcel, according to deed records.

The town of Gill has been interested in developing the flat 10-acre parcel kitty-corner to the Kuzmeskus bus depot for commercial use, but have so far found no buyers. A UMass archeological survey of the property determined one area of the parcel is of sufficient archeological sensitivity to be preserved from development, due to the concentration of Native American artifacts. But areas of the parcel directly adjoining Main Road were not examined in that study, since setback requirements would have prevented most of that frontage from being developed anyway.

Representatives of Native American tribes and their local allies believe the whole parcel should be considered ceremonial, because of its proximity to a recorded Native burial. They

have met with the selectboard and proposed an educational use for the property, to promote a better understanding of the past use of the land by Native peoples.

The ground-penetrating radar survey is being conducted with the cooperation of the town, and the participation of a number of town officials, including the town administrator, Tracy Rogers, and treasurer Ronnie LaChance, who helped place flags along the long, narrow files of land last Thursday, and selectboard members John Ward and Nancy Griswold, who donated money toward the purchase of a discounted lunch for the volunteers, generously provided by the Wagon Wheel on Friday.

Ward has also been walking the land with the other volunteers, recording numbers carefully in a small notebook to delineate where each file of land begins and ends in relation to the computerized radar record.

Doria Kutrubes, owner of Radar Solutions, Inc., has a masters degree in geophysical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, and has been working with ground-penetrating radar for the last 25 years. She had worked on forensic surveys for Colorado district attorneys and state police, and has

Breast Cancer Coalition Endorses Anti-Biomass Petition Drive



Sandy Kosterman holds the biomass petition as Janice Kokoski signs.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL— The Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, opponents of the proposed biomass plant in Greenfield, were at the Rays of Hope breast cancer fundraiser on Saturday, October 24th at the Greenfield Energy Park. They were gathering signatures for a statewide ballot initiative to limit the level of CO2 from energy sources considered renewable, so that biomass plants could no longer qualify for state funding as renewable energy projects.

The CCFC has serious questions about the proposed 47-megawatt biomass plant in Greenfield. Biomass burning is viewed by some as carbon neutral, since trees harvested for burning now will grow back in the course of 70 years or so, sequestering as much carbon as they release when burned. But the CCFC believes biomass plants are harmful in three ways.

First, the Greenfield facility would produce one and a half times as much CO2 per

megawatt hour as the Mt. Tom coal-fired plant in Holyoke. Second, it takes a few minutes to burn trees in these facilities, but decades to sequester that amount of carbon in new growth forests. Third, the renewable energy credits that make biomass power plants economically viable can be sold to a facility such as the Mt. Tom power plant to allow them to continue releasing CO2.

Because of the documented health problems associated with particulate air pollution, ground level ozone, and other toxic emissions released when biomass is burned, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition is sponsoring this ballot initiative. The petition drive organizers are using the slogan: "No false solutions – No biomass burning." For more information on this statewide petition drive, go to: www.greenfield-biomass.info, or to www.stop-spewingcarbon.com, or call (800) 729-1363.

volunteered for the Massachusetts state police coroner's office, the park service, and conducted ground surveys for the Jena band of the Choctaw Indian tribe.

Kutrubes has been overseeing the radar survey of the Mariamante parcel as a volunteer. "I thought this would be a good opportunity for everyone to work together to solve the problem," she said. So she has journeyed out twice from her lab in Waltham, with her high tech ground imaging device in tow, to assist the Native Americans and Gill townfolk in surveying the land.

Harris said he first became aware of the sophistication of underground imaging when working with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, in Alabama, as they tried to relocate an old burial ground. Everyone with memory of the location of the cemetery had passed away, but ground-penetrating radar was brought in to survey the area the tribe considered likely. When the results were made available, "You could see the burial shafts clearly," said Harris, who added,

"Why have we been doing this the hard way" – digging up the soil – "the whole time?"

Meanwhile, some town residents have been in touch with the selectboard recently to suggest the actual location of the spokes burial may be closer to the intersection of Main Road and Mountain Road.

Kutrubes believes a survey of Main Road itself would reveal whether or not old burials were located beneath its pavement.

Can ground-penetrating radar detail objects or old disturbances to the soil layers beneath a paved road?

Of course, said Kutrubes. "If they are there, we will see them."



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Combined Sewer Overflow Project Substantially Complete

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE – On Monday, wastewater treatment supervisor Bob Trombley presented the selectboard with a “certificate of substantial completion,” on the multi-year, \$5.7 million combined sewer overflow (CSO) remediation project. The goal of the project, 40% of which was funded by a debt exclusion override (\$2.28 million) with the rest to be paid for by increases in sewer user fees, was to reduce the occurrence of combined sewer overflow events – when untreated sewage flows into the power canal and the Connecticut River during heavy rain events – by 85%.

Trombley said it was too soon to say whether the treatment plant will meet those goals, but he felt “optimistic” the system would perform as planned. But first, 20 cubic yards of grit had to be scooped out of the sewer pipes, the result of years of buildup and lower flow rates.

“We’ve raised the weirs at all three CSO regulators,” said Trombley, and that should have produced higher flows at the headworks building. But last winter, Trombley said his department removed 16 cubic yards of built-up grit in 450 feet of line between the Greenfield Road CSO and the headworks building. In March of this year, they removed six more cubic yards of grit, from 80 feet of line. In July, at the grit screen at the headworks building, operators removed 26,000 pounds of grit.

At this point, Trombley believes, the system may have substantially flushed itself out, from Turners Falls all the way down to Montague City. That theory seemed to prove itself this summer, Trombley said, when all of a sudden the plant began experience flows up to five to six million gallons a day during heavy rains.

“We’ve never seen flows like that before,” he said.

It will take 12 months of continuous operation to test the system completely, to see if the goals for the CSO remediation project are being met, Trombley said. The plant is just approaching the completion of a 30-day trial peri-

od of the automatic controls for the CSO improvements.

Meanwhile, Trombley said, plant workers have collectively developed an improved method of dealing with organic solids in the treatment process, by using an extended four- to five-day aeration method, allowing microorganisms more time to break down the solids. The end result is 40% to 45% less sludge for the plant to haul away to landfills, and an estimated net savings to the town of \$147,000 annually.

Trombley hopes to improve on that by installing a new Fournier press, to dewater the sludge to 35% solids (as compared to less than 5% solids presently), reducing costs of sludge handling by an additional \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year.

“If we can knock a \$355,000 line item to about \$200,000, that’s a big home run,” said Trombley.

The press will be paid for from the \$300,000 left over from the original \$5.7 million appropriation, along with a \$970,000 grant from the federal government, courtesy of Congressman John Olver’s office.

The only hitch with that project, Trombley told the selectboard, has arisen because the contract is approaching the 25% limit on change orders, and therefore cannot take on the solids handling improvement project as a change order to the current contract. The solids handling improvement project will have to be bid out, causing a four or five month delay, Trombley said.

Meanwhile, the USDA, which provides financing for the CSO improvements at the plant, is examining the engineering costs incurred by Camp Dresser and McKee, the town’s consultant on the treatment plant overhaul. The federal agency puts a 23% upper limit on how much a consulting firm like CDM can charge for engineering costs as a percentage of the total construction cost of a project, and CDM has presently billed Montague 24% for engineering the \$5.7 million project. This may prove problematic for CDM to provide design work for the solids handling project, Trombley said.

“I’m glad the percentage is being looked at,” said selectboard member Pat Allen. “We’ve mentioned that over and over again as a concern.”

In other selectboard news, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz told the board he is in the middle of the design phase for the Unity Park improvement project, and needs to get a big response from the public on a Unity Park improvement survey over the next few weeks, as part of the application process for Community Development Block Grant funding. Dobosz said survey forms are available at the Unity Park fieldhouse, town hall, Food City, and the branch libraries. He hopes people will take five minutes to fill them out, and let the parks and recreation department know what programs and facilities they use at Unity Park, and what improvements they would like to see when the park is redesigned.

Dobosz also announced a parks and recreation logo contest, for ages 6 to 17. The winner of the contest will receive a \$50 savings bond from the Greenfield Savings Bank, a Montague parks and recreation t-shirt, and other prizes. The deadline for entries is noon on November 25th; for more details call 863-3216.

Dobosz wanted the public to be aware that the parks and recreation office will be moving to the basement of town hall for the winter months, in the former police station, keeping the same hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Winter programs are going forward, with swimming lessons beginning this Saturday, Bluefish next Monday, and registration underway for youth basketball as well.

Michael Nelson announced plans to hold the first annual Pumpkinfest on Avenue A in Turners Falls on the Saturday before Hallowe’en, 2010. The board was enthusiastic about the concept, and awaited more details. Nelson predicted hundreds of carved jack-o-lanterns lining the main street of town, with bands, food vendors, and service organizations peddling their wares and services to the public.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Recreation Commission Hands In a Budget

BY DAVID DETMOLD

– After the state legislators left, the recreation committee came in to present their FY ‘10 budget, which was “terrific,” according to town administrator Tracy Rogers. She credited the commission’s new treasurer, Deb Loomer, for excellent work on preparation of the budget. The selectboard gave the commission the go-ahead to spend \$3,000 on soccer, basketball, and baseball programs in the current fiscal year.

The commission is trying to figure out how to advance \$2,000 to buy Red Sox tickets, always a popular item in Gill, which residents then purchase from the

recreation commission for a bus trip to Fenway during the regular season. Unfortunately, that is no longer a consideration for the 2009 post-season.

The selectboard appointed Jennifer Simms and Harry van Baaren to the Gill cultural council.

The selectboard also signed a lease for the Four Winds School to occupy most of the first floor of the Riverside Municipal Building, through June of 2011, at \$850 a month. A crew from the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department is presently scraping and priming and hoping to get the Riverside building painted before the snow flies.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Distribution In School Zone Charges

Tuesday, 10/20

11:32 p.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at an Avenue A address.

Arrested [redacted]

Charged with disorderly conduct and assault and battery.

Wednesday, 10/21

4:58 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Newton Street address. Peace restored.

8:10 p.m. Officer initiated warrant arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] on a default warrant.

Thursday, 10/22

12:02 p.m. Report of assault and battery at a Winthrop Street address. Restraining order served in hand.

Friday, 10/23

11:00 p.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with possession of a class B drug, possession with intent to distribute within 1000 feet of a school zone, possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute,

and conspiracy to violate drug law. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with illegal possession of a Class B substance, subsequent offense, possession with intent to distribute within 1000 feet of a school zone, possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute, and conspiracy to violate drug law.

Saturday, 10/24

12:42 a.m. Report of a general disturbance at Between the Uprights sports bar on Avenue A at Second Street.

Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Sunday, 10/25

12:27 a.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] on a straight warrant.

Tuesday, 10/27/09

11:27 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Investigated.

2:16 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at Basically Bicycles on Third Street.

COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday, November 7th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
First Congregational Church, 148 L Street, Turners Falls

Shop for the Holidays

Coffee and Donuts will await you. The Fair will include baked foods, homemade fudge, jewelry, crafts, locally grown vegetables, collections of lighthouses, roosters and nativity, silent auction and a raffle to win a range of prizes plus a free drawing on the hour for those present. Plan to stay for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November Flu Clinic Postponed

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE – The flu clinic originally planned for November 13th at the Turners Falls High School has been postponed due to a lack of H1N1 vaccine.

Gill-Montague Regional School District superintendent Carl Ladd, speaking to the school committee at the meeting Tuesday night, said there is presently no indication of unusual influenza activity in the school district. He said nurse leader Paula Kelsey will be watching the situation and will report any significant increase in absences that would require the administration's attention.

Ladd said the flu clinic to provide free vaccinations for the H1N1 virus that had been scheduled for next month has been postponed due to a delay in delivery of vaccine, but will be rescheduled as soon as the district receives a sufficient supply. Ladd said a letter will go out to parents of students in the district with information and consent forms in anticipation of the flu clinic.

Superintendent Ladd, along with administrators Lynn Bassett and Marty Espinola and several school committee members, will be joining the finance committee members of Gill and Montague in a meeting on Wednesday, October 28th at Montague town hall to discuss the FY '11 budget process, and to discuss ways to deal with possible cuts in state aid in the present fiscal year.

Michael Langknecht, school committee chair, read aloud a statement of his intention to maintain a safe, respectful environment for the free exchange of ideas in the school committee meetings, and listed his meeting conduct guidelines to attain that goal. He referenced "pockets of turbulence" as his reason for advancing the guidelines.

Langknecht called on members to present agenda items in advance of the meetings to either the superintendent or the chair, to make a motion prior to beginning a discussion, and to try to be specific regarding the topic.

Joyce Phillips of Montague said school committee members have the right to raise issues at meetings that are not on the agenda.

Chip Wood, director of elementary education and Nadine Ekstrom, director of special education and student services, presented their plans for the development of Readiness Advantage schools. They received grants for planning purposes this year, and have been engaged in extensive research and meetings with teachers and other school administrators toward that end. On Tuesday, they asked the school committee for a commitment to support the Readiness School model before pursuing those plans further.

Wood has been working on creating a Readiness School to encompass the Sheffield and Hillcrest schools. He said a major component of this model is autonomy from the district administration, including the school committee. The school committee would still have a fiduciary role, but the handling of administrative duties such as hiring, firing, and budget decisions would be in the hands of the educators.

Ekstrom's concept involves setting up a Readiness School to serve students with autism in a collaborative process with school districts throughout Franklin County. Hers would also be a Readiness Advantage school requiring autonomy from the district administration.

Both Wood and Ekstrom said they wanted to be assured that if they continued what would be a lengthy, time consuming project to develop these schools, they would not meet resistance on the issue of autonomy once the process was completed.

Superintendent Ladd said these schools would still belong to the district, unlike charter schools. He said the autonomy Wood and Ekstrom were discussing is similar to what he's been suggesting in asking that teachers be involved in the budget development process, a bottom up approach. Readiness Schools would operate on a contract with the school committee, and a five-year plan. The running of these schools would need to be cost neutral, so they would not be dependent on additional funding sources.

Jen Waldron of Gill said she

wouldn't want to see a Readiness School set up in Montague without having the model available to Gill as well. Wood said he would be willing to meet with Gill Elementary to discuss the Readiness School process.

After some discussion, the school committee voted to support the concept of autonomy for these schools.

The school committee immediately returned to the subject of Hillcrest and Sheffield, with Waldron saying she supported the concept of one school for pre-K through grade 5. Langknecht said this matter was still unresolved, and supported the creation of a subcommittee to look into it. Phillips presented a detailed list of decisions made in the past with regard to the closing of Montague Center School that included a plan for a K-5 elementary school at Sheffield, and talked about how the district arrived at the situation as it is today, with pre-school and kindergarten in Hillcrest and Sheffield as a separate elementary school for grades 1 to 5.

Sorrel Hatch of Gill said she felt the committee could deal with this issue with a vote to support what has been done, because it was working well. The high cost of renovating Sheffield to make room for the younger grades had caused the school committee to balk at moving forward with the one school concept. Hatch said that the school committee in the past believed it was important to have all the students in one building to eliminate transitions and produce a quality educational experience. She added she didn't believe having two schools was a problem, and both schools were functioning very well.

Wood expressed concern that a lengthy reexamination of the matter might undermine his development of a Readiness School at Sheffield, leaving the future of the building status uncertain. Langknecht assured him it would be possible to do a review quickly, and asked the subcommittee to complete their task in three meetings. Jen Waldron, Jeff Singleton and Kristin Boyle were picked to form the subcommittee.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Affordable Housing Back on Selectboard's Agenda

BY DAVID DETMOLD LEVERETT – Fenna Lee Bonsignore and Barbara Carulli of the Leverett affordable housing committee conferred with the selectboard on Tuesday about possible next steps in the committee's decades long attempt to create affordable housing in town. Presently, as the state measures these things, the town of Leverett has zero affordable housing units.

The affordable housing committee has developed a proposal to site 10 or 11 houses, clustered on about nine acres of land on the south side of Montague Road, west of the Cave Hill Road intersection. The land is currently owned by Cows Lumber, who under the proposed terms would agree to donate the land for the purpose of creating affordable housing, in exchange for the town installing infrastructure – an access road and utilities – reserving two building lots along the road for Cows to sell separately.

The other 10 or 11 units of housing would be sold by lottery at 80% to 90% of market rates (beginning at about \$180,000), said Bonsignore, with preference given to town residents and Leverett senior citizens. The majority of acreage would be preserved for open space and recreational use.

The affordable housing committee proposes to use up to three-quarters of a million dollars from the town's Community Preservation Act funds (borrowing against future CPA allocations as necessary). The community preservation funds are generated by a local option surcharge of 3% on real estate transactions in town. Leverett presently has about \$500,000 in unencumbered CPA funds, and \$77,570 set aside in an affordable housing trust fund.

But the selectboard had questions about how the financing of the project would work, and whether Community Preservation Act funding could be used to provide any infrastructure (including an access road) for the two lots Cows would presumably choose to sell at market rates.

As a next step, selectboard

member Julie Shively will arrange a joint meeting between the town's Community Preservation Committee, a state CPA representative, the selectboard and the affordable housing committee, to go over the conceptual plan before committing any more funds to the Montague Road project.

The board also discussed an alternative site that might be suitable for locating four units (two duplexes) of affordable housing on land for sale for \$168,000 along Route 63, abutting Old Long Plain Road. Drawbacks to this alternative include the need for the town to purchase the land, rather than receive a donated parcel, and the fact that this parcel is in an aquifer protection zone for the town of Sunderland. Only four units of housing would be created.

An advantage is the fact the land would be much easier to develop, since it is flat, and the soil apparently drains easily.

Selectboard chair Richard Brazeau suggested there are DEP-approved pretreatment systems for dealing with household septage, to reduce the concentration of nitrogen prior to effluent entering the septic system, which could mitigate impacts to the aquifer protection zone from siting houses there.

Another alternative for creating affordable housing in Leverett was advocated by selectboard member Peter d'Errico, who said the town could simply create an affordable housing revolving fund by offering a sum of CPA money (\$40,000 was used as an example) to Leverett employees or residents seeking to buy particular houses in town, to bring the sale price into reach of residents with low or moderate income. Deed restrictions on the properties would either require the houses so purchased to remain permanently below market rate for future resale, or would condition future resale of the properties on repayment of the town's investment to the revolving fund.

The discussion was marked by see LEVERETT pg 11

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from **EROSION** pg 1
flotilla on September 22nd. On that occasion, Flagg said, "The only thing ruining the land is the river yo-yoing."

Flagg said the power company had remediated the northern section of the riverbank adjoining his farm, but not the southern section. "The southern section was never addressed," said Flagg. "It's more difficult."

That boat flotilla was organized under the auspices of the Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee, and included representatives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), along with Chuck Momnie of First Light Power, Karro Frost of New England Environmental, and a number of local officials.

FERC is responsible for ensuring that First Light Power lives up to the terms of its license to operate Northfield Mountain, including a commitment to remediate areas of the riverbank in the Turners Falls Pool that are actively eroding. First Light's Northfield Mountain Project is up for relicensing in 2018. At which point, Momnie told the Connecticut



Stockpiled woody debris waits to be installed to stabilize the bank of the Connecticut River at the Lower Split River Farm site in Gill.

River Streambank Erosion Committee at a meeting after the flotilla returned to landing in Barton Cove on September 22nd, "Everything is on the table again. We'll start over."

Every five years, First Light conducts a full river reconnaissance survey of the Turners Falls Pool, to identify areas of active erosion, and prioritize remediation sites. Momnie stressed his company's commitment to abide by its license requirements and to continue remediation work at

the sites affected.

Northfield Mountain has been in operation since 1972. Back in the early years, various "hard engineering approaches" were used to remediate the riverbank where erosion was identified, including riprap and even, in one area near the Route 10 bridge to Northfield, cinderblocks and tires.

Apparently, the cinderblock and tires have held up pretty well over the decades, and the bank is stable there. But as Russ

Cohen of the division of ecological restoration of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game – who drives out from Arlington to chair the meetings of the Streambank Erosion Committee with Momnie and others – explained, hard engineering approaches to controlling riverbank erosion have now fallen out of favor.

"The closer you get to a condition that might occur naturally, the better for the river," said Cohen. "If you're using wood," to stabilize the banks, "creatures like dragonflies, that go from larval to adult stage on the riverbanks, they have evolved knowing how to deal with wood." They don't like to climb up riprap, and armoring banks with stone can also adversely affect fish and other species that depend on a natural riverbank environment to survive. Several rare species of dragonflies breed in the Turners Falls pool, including the Cobra Clubtail dragonfly.

So, New England Environmental will employ large woody debris, in the form of whole trees ripped up by the roots from the soil and delivered to the lower Split River Farm

site by Cows Lumber, to stabilize the bank, along with piled logs anchored in place on top of a gravel and sand mix, above textured fabric. All this is meant to hold the log piles in place long enough to let native vegetation take hold along the bank amid the "yo-yoing" daily extremes in river levels.

"What we don't know is how it will hold up over time," said Cohen. He said using woody debris is the bank erosion control method of choice in Vermont now, but, "I am not aware of a large river system like the Connecticut where this has been tried."

Gill conservation commission chair Ken Sprankle told the Gill selectboard on October 13th, "We're hoping it's going to work. It's going to be very intensively watched for five years."

And after five years? "The power company will monitor it by their good graces," Sprankle assured the board.

With their federal license hanging in the balance, and the Streambank Erosion Committee looking over their shoulders, no doubt they will.

MD

REVIEW from page 1

version of history, yet it is perpetuated here in a singsong vision of a dying satrapy and the cheerful embrace by its younger generations of all things Western.

You get a Rogers and Hammerstein rendering of life in a Buddhist kingdom, sort of like a Gilbert and Sullivan rendering of the life of a pirate coast, but as King says in her programme's prologue, "Reality has no business on stage."

With historical accuracy and ethnic sensitivity dispatched, the audience was well advised to sit back and enjoy the show. And they were not disappointed.

The cast was excellent in their individual parts and collective whole, and had obviously been rehearsed by a pro. Often, community theater productions feature prominent stars with lesser lights orbiting in their sway. But there was a democracy of outstanding talent on review in this Arena Civic Theater production.

Jerry Marcanio was regal as King Mongkut, shaven but not

craven in his homage to the part made famous by Yul Brynner. He was proud as a peacock, peremptory and touchy, but touchingly human in private, or in the accelerated senescence brought on by his contact with Europe in the charming figure of Anna Leonowens, his imported governess.

Anna, glowingly portrayed by Emily Nagoski, was a poster girl for the vital West: able to cook, clean, and sew, tutor 67 Oriental brats, and sweep a despot off his feet without flattening a curl, or denting the starched crinoline of her hoop skirt.

Alas, the original text's view of the aspirations of women varied little from its view of the White Man's Burden in Asia, and Anna could not reach higher than her professional goal of nannying a prince's brood, to take the almost proffered prize of prince's bride. All she wanted was a home of her own, but she settled for a room in the servants' quarters.

Dawn Mayo successfully dissolved the boundary between

East and West in her portrayal of the submissive yet domineering number one wife of the king, Lady Thiang. Her vocals soared on "Something Wonderful," with the live orchestra for accompaniment.

Not content with one such beauty in the royal bedroom, this king had half a dozen more on stage, (and, good gracious, these were just the wives in his good graces!) surrounded by no less than twenty-two children. Though none of these were given rein to develop their individual characters, nonetheless they acquitted themselves admirably as a whole, and lent an exotic, exuberant air to every scene they entered.

May I say a word about the excellence of the costumes? They were stunning. Thank Barbara Kasper and her associates for that. And let me heap praise upon the pit band, who played at a very high level throughout: Ray Dandurand, Ron Smith, Bruce Krasin, and Lucianna Arreas, under the direction of Rebecca Phelps.

Bravo!

All the cast were fine singers, but Martha King-Devine as Tuptim, the king's lovelorn concubine, and her Burmese idol, Lun Tha, (Abraham Oyola) were extraordinary. Their duet in the first act, "We Kiss in Shadow," was certainly one of the most beautiful and effective love songs I've ever seen on the Shea stage, and rivals work seen above the footlights anywhere.

And whom to credit for the great play within a play, Tuptim's symbolic phantasmagory of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* ('the Small House of Uncle Thomas')? Were choreographers Kathy Dunn and Melanie Reneris responsible for this stylized Kabuki pantomime? Whoever, it was an extremely effective, exhilarating use of theatrical space, combining music, mime and stage wizardry to mesmerize the audience, who responded when the lights went down on that particular scene with the most sustained and deserved applause of the night.

This little vignette was an odd

house of mirrors on a cultural level: with characters playing Siamese courtiers interpreting the customs and cruelties of antebellum slavery in America, though in their roles as a despot's ancillary wives and children they were, in their pampered ways, equally chained and bound.

And here in the Shea, watching these curious customs reinterpreted on stage a century and a half after the events that inspired them took place, the theatergoers gazed into their personal networking devices as the lights came up for intermission, the after-dinner crowd from the Shady Glen made their murmuring way to the lobby for cider and doughnuts, and the ladies of the Red Hat Society took their seats once again behind the orchestra, waiting expectantly for more *outré* cultural mores to be revealed.

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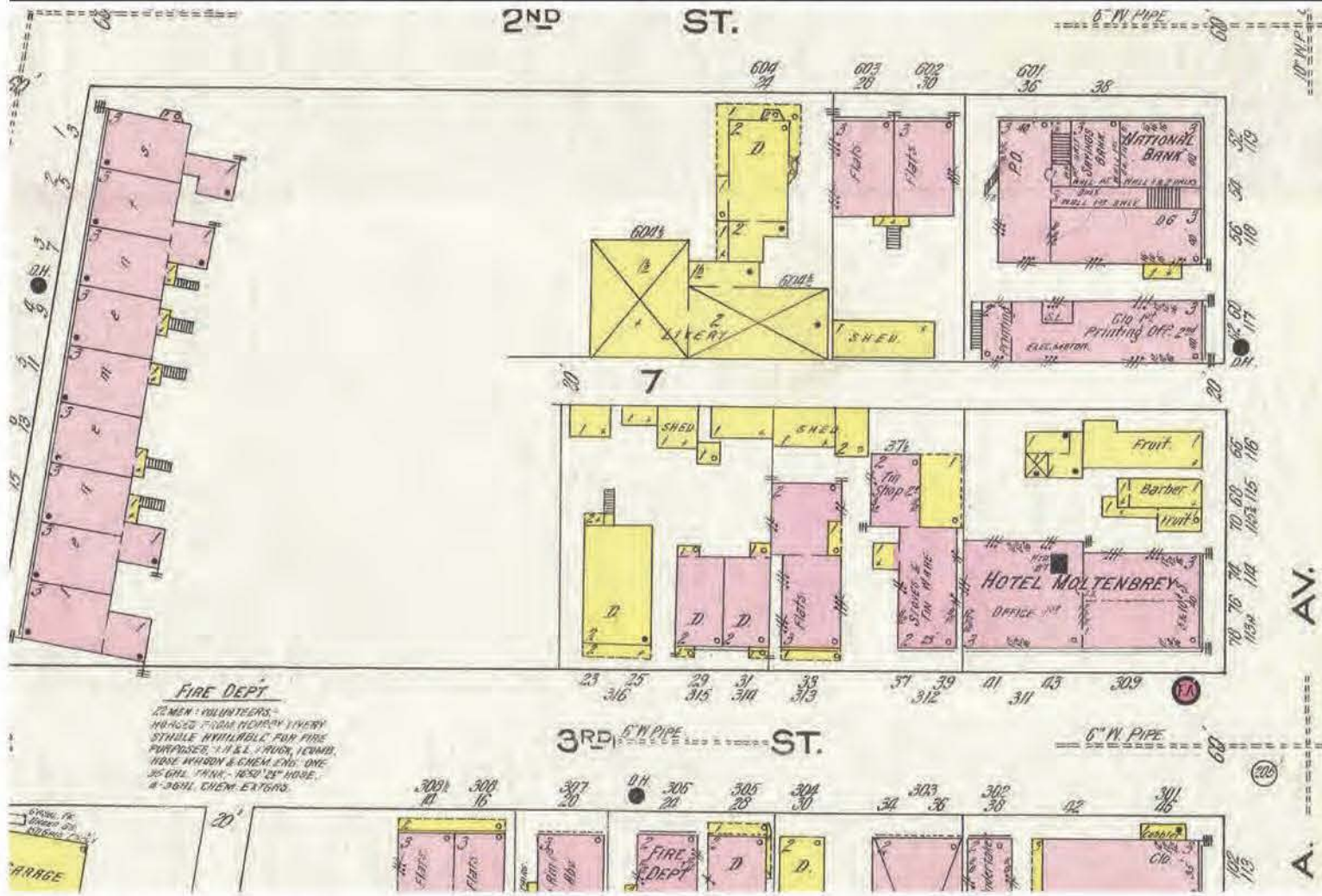
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Historic Town Maps at Carnegie Library



One section of a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing businesses in downtown Turners Falls, available for patrons to peruse at the Carnegie Library

BY SARA CAMPBELL
TURNERS FALLS – Carnegie Library in Turners Falls has purchased a set of historic color maps which will be available for patrons to peruse. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, dating between 1884 and 1914, are very detailed maps of buildings and features relating to businesses in the town of Montague. They show factories, tenements, and seemingly

insignificant structures, right down to the level of a chicken coop. Did you know Turners Falls had both a skating rink and roller skating facility in 1884? The maps were originally developed for insurance companies to determine the fire risk at any location, so they distinguish between brick and wood framed structures, and include notations about night watchmen

or strength of the nearby fire company. Business locations include other fire hazards such as “pile of wood 15 feet high.” From a historical perspective, the maps illustrate the growth of the town, beginning downtown in Turners Falls in 1884, when the set of maps includes four sheets, and expanding in scope and detail in 1889 (6 sheets), 1895 (5 sheets), 1902 (9 sheets), 1909

(11 sheets) and 1914 (10 sheets). Later years include a portion of Riverside in Gill, the brickyards in Montague City, and the village of Millers Falls. They show the water lines which had been constructed as early as 1884. They feature a wealth of detail for structures such as the John Russell Cutlery, numerous schools and churches. The names of many businesses are included, along

with the uses of buildings, such as dry goods, wallpaper, druggist, and mortician. It is easy to trace the use of a particular building. For example, the Elks Lodge on L Street was formerly the Polish Catholic Church, and before that, the Universalist Church.

This set of maps was reproduced by David Allen of Roberge Associates Surveyors in Greenfield. He located the maps at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and scanned them himself in their archive. Once the maps are in digital format, they can be reproduced at any size or scale for use as art or for historical research, or cut and pasted into a family history project.

Allen prints the two-foot by three-foot sheets in his Greenfield office, where he also reproduces a variety of historical material, including reproductions of 1871 Beers maps of Montague, which include names of householders, artistic Birds Eye View maps, and early maps covering all of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and parts of New York State. His book, Map History of Montague was produced for the 250th celebration in 2004. Copies are still available in print or on CD.

Many of the historic maps can be viewed or downloaded in a low resolution format at www.old-maps.com. Allen has also worked with the town to preserve some old records in a digital format, and has performed surveys of the cemeteries owned by the towns of Montague and Gill.

Strega Nona Visits Gill

BY DAVID DETMOLD – “This play has nothing to do with witches,” said Gill Elementary School principal Rita Detweiler, as a half-dozen women from the PTO stirred up vast quantities of marinara sauce and meatballs in the kitchen, and an expectant crowd of parents and children filled every table in the auditorium of the Gill Elementary School on Friday. Sixth graders in costume paced about expectantly, and welcomed arriving guests at the front door.

The occasion was a free PTO spaghetti dinner, with two sittings, combined with a student play, “to thank this community for being so supportive of their school,” Detweiler said.

The play the students picked was a staged reading of Tomie DePaola’s children’s classic *Strega Nona*, about a wise woman with a magic black cauldron that cooks pasta on demand, and keeps on cooking pasta until

the secret spell is reversed.

But isn’t she a witch? “She’s a Wiccan,” replied Krystal Cloutier, a Gill 6th grader, who played the title character in the first show of the evening.

As the narrator introduced the play, he revealed that the name Strega Nona means ‘Grandmother Witch,’ in Italian. But witch or Wiccan, with Hallowe’en just a whisker away, the magic of theater cast its spell over the auditorium, and commanded the families of the sixth graders to rapt attention as the students performed their tale.

Strega Nona is elderly and needs an assistant to help her with her chores, so a lad named Big Anthony applies. Big Anthony “goofs up and makes a big mistake,” as Simon van Vaaren, who played Big Anthony in both shows, explained, when his employer takes a trip to visit another, er, wise woman, named Strega Amelia. Anthony has

overheard how she commands the pasta pot, and even though Strega Nona enjoins him more than once not to touch it while she’s away, somehow you know he’s going to disobey.

Strega Nona is kind of the village outcast, and though Big Anthony may be a comic figure, he is her only companion.

“The villagers talk behind Strega Nona’s back,” explained Cloutier. “But they go to see her if they have warts, or if they have a headache, or if they need a love potion to get a husband, or anything like that.”

Hmmm.... “By the pricking of my thumbs....”

“They take advantage of her,” said Maggie Sroka, a 6th grader from Turners Falls who goes to the Gill school, who played Strega Nona in the second reading. “They only trust her if they need something done.”

With Strega Nona away, Big Anthony invites the town over



Krystal Cloutier, (left) conjures up a magic pot of pasta as Strega Nona in the first of two stage readings at Gill Elementary on Friday, as some of her classmates prepare to boil over onto the stage.

for a free pasta supper, much like the one being enjoyed in the auditorium that very evening. The magic pasta pot goes to work at his command, but Big Anthony has neglected to learn the proper spell to make it stop, and soon the village is filled with spaghetti, and the weather in the sheltered valley turns Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Only Strega Nona’s return saves

the day. After calling her magic kettle to halt, she orders Anthony to eat all the extra spaghetti, a punishment that truly fits the crime, and leaves him, no doubt, bigger than ever. Witch reminds me, no one in the audience had trouble finishing their supper on Friday, thanks to the ladies from the PTO. And everyone loved the play!

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Conversation with Legislators

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – State senate president pro tem Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) and representative Chris Donelan (D-Orange) told the Gill selectboard on Monday that state was facing a \$600 to \$800 million hole in the current fiscal year budget, but they did not say how the legislature would



Rep. Chris Donelan, left, and Sen. Stan Rosenberg...

commit nearly all these funds to the present budget crisis, creating a huge "structural gap" for FY '11.

For the present budget year, which began July 1st, Rosenberg said Governor Deval Patrick is seeking 2,000 state employee layoffs, unless employees are willing to accept furloughs to preserve jobs, in which case the number of job cuts will be lower.

Despite these contrary indicators, neither legislator was willing to lay blame on the Obama administration for inadequate stimulus funding for the states. But Rosenberg did say, "The federal government hasn't given any indication they'll do another stimulus package," to support state payrolls, so "that puts everything on the table."

Selectboard member Nancy Griswold asked how that would affect local aid, this year or next.

Rosenberg replied, "Anything about unfunded mandates, we'll have to relax. You don't have the money; we don't have the money." He said the state and towns would still be on the hook for aid to the public schools, and special education programs, "but the other little pieces may have to be temporarily set aside."

Pressed for an example of a little piece of an unfunded mandate that could be temporarily set aside, Rosenberg noted the Department of Education was not presently enforcing a foreign language requirement under the education reform legislation.

Will the legislature grant the governor expanded budget-cutting authority, so that he may make additional cuts to local aid in the current budget year? Rosenberg and Donelan would not speculate.

They offered only two possibilities for enhancing state revenues: expanded gaming or an increased income tax. Rosenberg noted the voters of Massachusetts had three times in the last 40 years turned down initiatives to amend the state constitution to allow for a graduated income tax, to tax the wealthy at a higher rate. He said a similar proposal would be up for consideration again



...met with John Ward and Nancy Griswold of the Gill selectboard on Monday

soon, but only 11 senators had supported any income tax increase last session.

Parents and educators who have worried about the effects of forced regionalization of schools can relax, Rosenberg said. While the proposal to force mergers of school districts had not been entirely taken off the stove, so to speak, it was on the back burner, for two reasons. One, the state has no money to incentivize school regionalization, which can otherwise carry up-front costs for localities. And two, a number of studies looking at the costs and benefits of regionalization have been conducted, and, "All reports are coming back saying the same things: minimal savings and lots of angst." As a result, Rosenberg said, "People at the state level are looking at the matter differently, largely because of the discussion in this county. They want voluntary mergers," now rather than forced regionalization of school districts.

Why does the state continue to support regionalization at all, if the cost savings aren't there?

Donelan said since local districts had eliminated so many administrative support positions, the benefits of regionalization were no longer evident, but the quality of education had declined as a result. Regionalization might not save money, but it would allow scarce funds to be better targeted to classroom teaching, the legislators maintained.

The selectboard had asked the legislators to come to town to help them initiate a change in the way the tax collector and treasurer positions are filled, and they were happy to assist. The town, following the recommendation of a Department of Revenue audit, will ask Donelan and Rosenberg to file enabling legislation to

see LEGISLATOR pg 14

Gold Cane Awards an Educational Experience in Leverett

BY DAVID DETMOLD – "I thank you very much for this totally unexpected honor," said Ernst von Glasersfeld, as selectboard member Peter d'Errico handed him the ceremonial gold cane at a senior center luncheon on Friday, honoring Leverett's oldest residents. "This is a total surprise. And I can honestly say, I did not make any effort for it."

Von Glasersfeld, born in 1917, was jointly honored with Elaine Barkin, who celebrated her 93rd birthday by attending a cooking class in Tuscany. Barkin is now 96.

At the ceremony on Friday, Barkin spoke only briefly, thanking the selectboard for the honor, and wrestling with the clasp of

the ceremonial gold cane pin Julie Shively helped affix to the collar of her blouse.

She could have said more. She could have told the audience the interesting story of the life that brought her to Leverett.

As town clerk Lisa Stratford related in her biography of Barkin, which will appear in the next town newsletter in longer form, Barkin was, "born Elaine Rappaport in New York City, the daughter of a furrier and a school teacher. Elaine was accepted to Smith College, overcoming a Jewish quota in place at the time. An outstanding student, she graduated in 1933 and was immediately accepted into the Smith

see GOLD pg 12



Leverett's gold cane recipients: Elaine Barkin and Ernst von Glasersfeld

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Residential Phone Lines Cut

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Wednesday, 10/21
2:39 a.m. Report of assault and battery on Mount Campus.
9:45 a.m. Report of unlicensed subject operating in Riverside area. Checked area.
4:03 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with possible breaking and entering on Bald Mountain Road.
9:05 p.m. Past domestic assault and battery on Walnut Street, under investigation.
11:05 p.m. Assisted with rollover motor vehicle accident on Rt. 10.</p> | <p>Thursday, 10/22
9:01 a.m. Restraining order served on Main Road.
4:35 p.m. Assisted Montague police with reported large disturbance in alley near 3rd Street.
4:36 p.m. Report of telephone lines being cut to residence on Ben Hale Road.
Friday, 10/23
6:45 p.m. Threatening telephone call complaint on Oak Street.
6:50 p.m. Report of larceny from French King Highway business.
10:20 p.m. Restraining</p> | <p>order served on Walnut Street.
Saturday, 10/24
9:49 p.m. Criminal complaint sought against [redacted] Charged with operating without insurance, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.
Monday, 10/26
11:37 a.m. Animal complaint (loose dog) on Walnut Street.
Tuesday, 10/27
12:40 p.m. Officer to Meadow Street for past driving complaint, spoke with resident.</p> |
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LEVERETT from pg 7

a constructive tone, as both boards were clearly in pursuit of a solution to the town's lack of affordable housing that could some day pass muster with the Community Preservation Committee and town meeting.

In other news, the selectboard discussed repairs needed to one of the town's pumper trucks with fire chief John Moruzzi, who appeared at the meeting in dress blues. Cost to repair the pumper, which has a broken packing gland causing large amounts of water to leak when the pump is called into service, would be about \$4500. The selectboard debated whether to repair the truck, or try to sell it and purchase a new used vehicle, perhaps a more recent model than the 20-year old truck in question.

Moruzzi said the headlights don't work properly on the pumper either, and his department had to train the floodlights on the road to drive to a fire in Montague on one occasion.

Interim town administrator Wendy Foxmyn said on Wednesday she had been researching the availability and cost of used fire trucks.

Lorelei Bond came before the board to talk about an educational trail that passes near her land. The trail runs from the library

behind the school and up Brushy Mountain. Bond had not given permission for the trail to go through her property, but a party of volunteers mistakenly veered onto her land while clearing brush on October 10th.

Selectboard chair Richard Brazeau apologized for that mistake.

The board discussed possible appointments to a committee to look into the possibility of setting up a public water supply, or individual wells, to bring untainted water to houses on the north end of Teawaddle Hill Road, near the town's former landfill. Leachate from the unlined landfill has apparently affected groundwater in that area, and the town is presently monitoring private wells, paying for water testing, and delivering bottled water to two of the affected households. If a pure source of water cannot be located to serve the households, the committee may also examine the possibility of purchasing the homes, or taking them by eminent domain, as discussed at the recent town meeting on October 20th.

The board received one bid – for \$276 – for a surplus police cruiser, a 1999 Chevy Tahoe with 100,000 miles on it. They accepted the bid.



Family Museum Preserves Leverett's Past

BY JOE KWIECINSKI – Step into the Leverett Family Museum, located in the white clapboard center of this rural community, and you'll feel as if you've stepped back in time.

Gaze at pictures of people long departed. Read about events that took place long ago. And be sure to stop and chat with the personable Edie Field, chair of the Leverett Family Museum committee, a group that has done much to preserve the history and culture of a town founded one year before the Declaration of Independence – 1774.

The Leverett Family Museum is quartered at One Shutesbury Road. Its main floor is dedicated to an assorted collection of locally donated artifacts: antique clothing, books, dishes, school bells, genealogies. The museum officially opened in 2007.

The town is named after Sir John Leverett, a colonial governor of Massachusetts, and an ardent proponent of religious freedom. "It's probable," notes Field, "that many people in our town don't know its roots. Some people drive by during the week and intend to stop in here 'someday.' When they finally do, they're very impressed with what



The dedication of the Bradford M. Field Library, now the home of the Family Museum in the center of Leverett, on September 30th, 1916.

Left to right: Local businessman Charles H. Beaman; his daughter Ethel who sang a solo that day; Elizabeth Field, Bradford M. Field's only daughter; Evelyn Field, longtime Leverett elementary teacher; and Rev. Arthur Truesdell, pastor of the Congregational Church in the center of Leverett and the Moores Corner Church from 1909-1927.

we've done."

The Leverett Family Museum operates under the umbrella of the Leverett Historical Society. "All of us," said Field, "want local people (the town has less than 2,000 year-round residents) to realize what a small but wonderful community we have."

The museum's history dates

back to September 30th, 1916, when the Bradford M. Field Memorial Library opened in the same building. On that day, Elizabeth Field presented the library to the town in memory of her father, Bradford Field, who had served as postmaster of Leverett from 1863 to 1913.

see **MUSEUM** page 14

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Excess Copper Levels Detected in Erving Paper Effluent

BY BILL FRANKLIN

ERVING – Representatives of the Erving Paper Company presented evidence to the selectboard on Monday evening that its wastewater treatment plant has been discharging effluent into the Millers River containing copper levels exceeding those permitted by the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA].

Peter Coleman, general manager of ERSECO, Inc. the paper mill's treatment plant subdivision, presented an administrative order by the EPA requiring Erving Paper to initiate a monitoring program to determine the source of the increased copper levels. Although there have been monthly violations for the past four years – some as high as 77.8 parts per billion – the annual average discharge has been below the EPA's required limits, Coleman said.

According to Coleman, the high daily levels of copper are still very small, and not likely to create any environmental problems. The question is: where is the copper coming from?

The EPA order requires ERSECO, within ninety days of the order dated September 21st, to initiate a sampling program to monitor the influent, effluent, side streams and any other poten-

tial sources of the copper. Within one and a half years, the town must submit a "detailed engineering report, including a schedule for implementing controls to achieve full compliance," with EPA standards. During the interim, a new limit of 55 parts per billion of copper will be in effect.

Coleman stated ERSECO will be in compliance with the deadlines set forth in the order. By next week, an engineering firm will be selected to conduct the monitoring program.

According to the EPA, copper can be toxic to aquatic organisms at the bottom of the food chain, such as algae and water fleas, and build up in the food chain, affecting larger organisms.

Safe levels for human drinking water, however, are set at a magnitude one hundred times higher than those detected in Erving, at 1.3 parts per million.

Said George Harding of the EPA, "We drink it, but they (aquatic organisms) live in it."

Excessive levels of copper in drinking water can cause gastrointestinal disturbance, kidney and liver damage.

Among other matters discussed, the selectboard voted to adopt the recommendation of police chief Chris Blair and hire Steve Bushay as the new fulltime

police officer. The board indicated the two candidates for the position were both qualified, and the decision was very close. Selectboard chair Andy Tessier said the decision was based on professional experience, skills, character, and conflict resolution abilities.

Erving resident, Kelly Loynd, wife of the other candidate, Jim Loynd, spoke to the board expressing her concern over the selection of Bushay, who is not a resident of Erving. She stated that hiring an Erving resident would have long term benefit for the town, noting an officer who lives in town would be close by to answer calls, and suggesting he or she may care more about the town. "What if one of my kids is hurt?" said Loynd. "It's nice to know someone is local."

As a general policy, said Tessier, "It is a good idea to have local officers." Presently, however, the only residency requirement for police officers is that they live within fifteen miles of the town.

Bushay will be sent to the police academy for training, at a cost to the town of \$20,000. He is required, by contract, to work for the town for three years, at which time he will be free to seek other employment.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Northeast Utilities on the Job

Sunday, 10/18

6:33 p.m. Report of a car vs. deer accident on Route 63. No accident found, DPW notified to pick up the deer.

Tuesday, 10/20

5:10 p.m. 911 call at a Dudleyville Road address. Misdialed.

6:00 p.m. Report of a suspicious person on Route 63 near Juggler Meadow Road. Officer gave female hitch hiker a courtesy ride to North Amherst.

Saturday, 10/24

6:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on

North Leverett Road. car vs. utility pole with no personal injury. Northeast Utilities replaced the pole. 11:30 p.m. Report of a tree down on wires east of the Village Co-op on North Leverett Road. Northeast Utilities cleared tree and restored power.

Monday, 10/26

5:15 p.m. Medical emergency at a Rattlesnake Gutter Road address. Subject transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center by Amherst fire department ambulance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Disputes and Citations

Tuesday, 10/20

4:35 p.m. Montague report a possible attempted kidnapping in the area of Franklin Street. Male party asked female juvenile to get into his vehicle to go for a ride. Last seen driving toward the Erving area. Patrolled area.

Wednesday, 10/21

2:41 p.m. Neighbor dispute at a Central Street and a Prospect Street address. Found to be a property line incident. Advised to be a civil matter and suggested a surveyor.

3:50 p.m. Report of a disturbance at an Old State Road residence. Family argument, verbal only. Remained until peace restored.

Thursday, 10/22

3:45 p.m. Assisted Montague police with service of a restraining order at a

Winthrop Street address, Millers Falls.

Saturday, 10/24

4:20 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent offense and failure to use care in passing.

Sunday, 10/25

12:40 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at a Route 2 rest area. Male party approaching other vehicles. Moved same along.

2:35 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license, operating without insurance and license not in possession.

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A Crowd Turns Out for Climate Change

BY DAVID DETMOLD

WENDELL – A rainy Saturday greeted local organizers for the Global Day of Climate Action, seeking to draw worldwide attention to the need to return to a stable level of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere (see www.350.org). But in Wendell, the rain gave way in time for 49 residents to gather in front of the newly renovated barn at Jonathan and Susan von Ranson's house for a group photo with a banner proclaiming Barn Social 350.org!

For those who wonder, 350 parts per million is the level of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere many scientists believe would lead to a stable climate, whereas now, due to the accelerated burning of fossil fuels, the Earth's atmosphere already contains 390 parts per million of CO₂.

Core samples from ice shelves in Antarctica and elsewhere show levels of CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere have varied around a constant mean, never below 180 parts per million, never above 280 parts per million. But since 1960 the chart of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere has been nearly vertical, shooting up from 310 ppm to the current 390, and continuing on that trajectory. Climatologists believe droughts, ice melts, and warming temperatures in recent decades are directly tied to the increase in gasses like CO₂ in the atmosphere.

After the photo was taken, participants moved inside for an excellent potluck as more people

arrived, and soon there were 95 people warm inside the barn.

Musicians sat down to play, including Bob Rosser on guitar, Kevin Skorupa on guitar and flute, his son Graham on guitar, Myron Becker on harp, Marcia Harris, guitar and song, Joe Laur, playing guitar and joining his wife Sara Schley on songs of their own composition, with son Sam on homemade guitar. Barbara Caruso also played guitar and sang, with Shirley White on fiddle and her partner June Drucker on guitar, and Asa DeRoode on squeeze box. Kids clambered all over the barn. The rain added percussion on the steel roof.

The barn is the site of a proposed non-electric apartment the von Ransons hope to build, if they are able to get local permits to do so, which may take a change or reinterpretation of the state building code. The von Ransons believe citizens have a natural right to live simply, in a home without electric wiring in the walls, or septic system in the yard, using lanterns for light, a wood stove for heat, and a composting toilet for waste, in order to reduce their carbon footprint. There was a lot of conversation about this and other community initiatives at the barn social.

In the stormy weather, parts of Wendell experienced power outages on Saturday. Jonathan von Ranson said, "I thought it was really remarkable that our project for a non-electric project was heralded with a blackout in Wendell three times on Saturday."

Montague Calls for Climate Action



Montague Center residents add their photo to a worldwide effort raising awareness of the need to restrain carbon dioxide emissions to prevent climate change.

BY SUSAN CONGER – By the early morning hours of Saturday, October 24th, photos were already coming in from distant points on the globe: Ethiopia, New Zealand, Inner Mongolia, Antarctica, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan. The International Day of Climate Action, organized by 350.org, was up and running.

By day's end, citizens of 181 countries – nearly every country on earth – would hold events calling for concerted action on climate change. Here in Montague, the morning was rainy but spirits were undampened, as residents gathered on the Montague Center Common to join the global call.

A short speech written by Bill McKibben, the Vermont environmentalist who founded 350.org,

was read aloud, explaining, "We rally around the number 350 because it is the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, and so 350 defines what is necessary for the Earth to continue as we have known it. We have relied upon the patterns of rainfall and ice and sea level that have marked this world for the ten thousand years of human civilization. If these patterns shift dramatically, the first victims will be the people living closest to the edge – people who have already begun to suffer from drought, from flood, from the spread of disease. We will not stand by and let that happen."

Twenty-two children and adults posed for a photo holding up a green banner inscribed with

a huge 350, the words "Montague, MA, USA," and a small image of planet Earth made of fabric.

This photo was sent off to 350.org, joining thousands of other photos from around the world. And on Tuesday, the 27th, the Montague photo showed up on the front page of the 350.org website, as part of a colorful photo montage of 18 western Mass events. It was exciting to see western Mass represented among the photos from China, Nepal, the Philippines, Yemen, Peru, Nigeria, Malaysia, Abu Dhabi, and Tanzania! Speaking many languages, representing many cultures, we all have one treasured Earth in common.

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GOLD from page 10

School for Social Work where she earned her Master's Degree in 1935.

"She worked at the Jewish Board of Guardians in New York City for many years. She met her future husband, Solomon Barkin, who was the director of research at the Textile Workers Union of America, while in New York. They would have three children and three grandsons..."

"Over the years Elaine has enjoyed living and traveling around the world. They spent five years in Paris where Sol was

assigned by the state department, six months at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand on a Fulbright Fellowship, and a year at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands where Sol taught economics and industrial relations. Two years ago, Elaine spent a week in London going to the theater daily on a planned Smith alumni trip. A consummate story teller, she is able to give elaborate details of the sites and cities from her varied travels.

"Elaine and Sol moved to Leverett in the late 60s, and

Elaine continued a private social work practice here for many years. For three years she taught the psychiatric sequence at the School for Nursing at UMass. She served on boards that looked at the needs of elders throughout the state. She was on the first board of the Franklin County Home Care for 25 years, and represented Leverett well during this time."

Ernst Von Glasersfeld, a practiced orator, rose to the occasion, and delivered an extemporaneous speech to the delight of his listen-

see **GOLD** page 13

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – *Q: I'm having some trouble sleeping and don't want to take pills. Do you have any suggestions?*

Here are some pointers to help you get better sleep:

- Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day. This will keep you in sync with your body's internal rhythm, which is affected by sunlight.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Sleep, Balance & Exercise

- Try to get some natural light in the afternoon each day.
- Don't nap too much.
- Exercise daily, but finish your workout at least three hours before bedtime.
- Don't drink beverages with caffeine late in the day.
- Don't drink alcohol or smoke cigarettes to help you sleep.
- Create a safe and comfortable place to sleep.
- Use your bedroom only for sleeping.
- Develop a bedtime routine to tell your body that it's time to wind down.
- Try not to worry about your sleep. Some people find that playing mental games is helpful. For

example, tell yourself it's five minutes before you have to get up and you're just trying to get a few extra winks.

Q: Can I attribute my balance problems to advancing age?

About one in ten people over 65 experience difficulty with balance. Getting older is only part of the problem.

Not all balance problems have the same cause. Here are several major ones:

- Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), which is one of the most common causes of balance problems. With BPPV, you get vertigo when you change the position of your head.

- Labyrinthitis, an infection or inflammation of the inner ear. The labyrinth is the organ in your inner ear that enables you to maintain balance.

- Ménière's disease, which also can give you intermittent hearing loss, a ringing or roaring in the ears, and a feeling of fullness in the ear.

- Blood-pressure medications and some antibiotics.

Q: I know I should exercise, but I'm afraid I might hurt myself. What should I do?

Here are 10 tips to make any exercise program safe:

- Don't hold your breath during strength exercises. This could affect your blood pressure.
- When lifting weights, use smooth, steady movements. Breathe out as you lift or push a weight, and breathe in as you

relax.

- Avoid jerking or thrusting movements.

- Avoid locking the joints of your arms and legs into a strained position.

- Some soreness and slight fatigue are normal after muscle-building exercises. Exhaustion, sore joints, and painful muscle pulls are not normal.

- Always warm up before stretching exercises.

- Stretching should never cause pain, especially joint pain.

- Never bounce into a stretch; make slow steady movements instead.

- To prevent injuries, use safety equipment such as helmets for biking.

- You should be able to talk during endurance exercises.

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

The Roots of War

BY JOSHUA WATSON

GREENFIELD - Norman Solomon, nationally syndicated columnist, media critic and author of the 2005 book *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death*, addressed a crowd of about 50 on Tuesday in the Sloan Auditorium at Greenfield Community College. The talk was the first in a series of three presentations called 'Roots of

War,' organized by the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, the GCC Peace and Justice Studies Program, and the Western Massachusetts Chapter of Progressive Democrats of America.

Solomon's recent experiences in Afghanistan, witnessing the effects of U.S. forces ongoing battle with the Taliban, and the deficiencies in its efforts to win over the "hearts and minds" of

the Afghan people, formed the basis of his presentation. United States war efforts continue to be driven by the military-industrial complex, and by a misguided faith in American infallibility, Solomon argues, even under a new commander-in-chief. "A happy sticker has been placed on the face of war, and that happy sticker has the name of Barack Obama," Solomon said.

Solomon offered advice to those who would oppose U.S. wars and work toward peaceful strategies, by paraphrasing Sun

Tzu: "When you struggle with an adversary, don't do what you most want to do, do what your adversary least wants you to do."

After Solomon's address, Tyler Boudreau, a former captain in the Marine Corps and author of *Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine*, described his own transformation from an enthusiastic young recruit to a disillusioned officer who had come to see the continuing U.S. operations in Iraq as fruitless and counterproductive. He described a strategy put into effect by his own commanding officer in 2004 to

win over the Iraqi people by waving to them with one hand from U.S. military vehicles as they patrolled, even as the Marines held a loaded weapon in the other hand.

Parts two and three of "Roots of War" are in the planning stages for the winter and spring of 2010.

Norman Solomon's most recent book is *Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State* released by PoliPointPress in October, 2007.

For more info on the series, go to: www.traprock.info.

GOLD from pg 12

ers. A professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Georgia, and an adjunct professor of psychology at UMass Amherst, known for delivering entire lectures without the aide of notes, von Glasersfeld said, "I came to Leverett in a roundabout way.

"My parents were from Austria. I went to school in Italy, and attended boarding school in Switzerland. I escaped the war by being a farmer in Ireland, where I farmed with horses and milked cows by hand, a way of life totally unknown today."

After the war, von Glasersfeld returned to Italy, where he worked in the emerging field of cybernetics (a term coined by MIT's Norbert Weiner, whose brother, Freddy, was a larger than life fixture in Franklin

County, until his death in 1991), worked as a linguist for the Air Force, and immigrated to Athens, GA, where he taught cognitive psychology for 20 years at the University of Georgia.

Among von Glasersfeld's many claims to fame are his advocacy of the theory of radical constructivism - a term he coined for an epistemological system whose basic tenet holds that any kind of knowledge is constructed rather than perceived through senses - and developing the first lexigrams, symbols used to communicate with chimpanzees and other primates.

He retired at the age of 70, and went on to pursue a later phase of his career at the Institute of Cognitive Studies at UMass Amherst.

Of his move to Leverett, von Glasersfeld said he was fortunate

to have found a home that backed up against a wooded slope, where he could carve cross-country ski trails, and rediscover a passion of his youth.

He thanked the audience once again for "the surprise of this unexpected award. On the long, long road of my life, I've had great luck at many times. And this I regard as another stroke of luck: to come to Leverett, a community which is very generous and friendly. Thank you very much."

For a three-minute introduction to radical constructivism, check out von Glasersfeld on YouTube. "The insights of mystics are far more important than any kind of rational insight," says von Glasersfeld. "But what I object to are mystics or metaphysicians who try to convince me rationally they are right. That is total nonsense."

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Local Band Makes Good Music



MARLA CLAUSEE PHOTO

The Lin Preston Band performs at Winterland this Saturday

BY AMY LAPRADE GREENFIELD – The Lin Preston Band’s debut CD, *Musical Time Machine*, explodes with a wall of heavy guitar riffs, chugging drums, and shimmer-

ing keyboards that carries the listener from beginning to end in one sweeping tidal wave of sound.

Musical Time Machine is reminiscent of progressive rock from

the seventies. Listening to their rehearsals in the front room of the former bakery on 4th and L, Turners residents have come to associate the Lin Preston Band’s synthesized keyboards and power guitar chords with the good old days when Rush and Blue Oyster Cult ruled the airwaves. But add rambling run-away solos, a touch of ‘70s disco funk, and Travis Ledoyt’s Ian Anderson-like vocals, and you just might have a sound track suitable for a rock musical. Hey, we warned you: it’s a musical time machine.

Still, the lyrics on some songs echo with frustration at the times we live in now. “What You Say,” a straight ahead rock number, echoes with sentiments such as “Boys, you better watch what you say... They’re out to get you today... Take your freedom away.” Others ring of hope for a better world, such as, “Someday,” with the refrain, “Someday, I’m going to fly around the world and learn, learn a language the world can hear.”

On other songs, one senses the protagonist is longing for something beyond the daily doldrums. “Time can move so slow, and somehow get away,” Ledoyt sings on “This Life.”

Track six, “Dear John,” feels like a tribute to John Lennon, with remnants of each Beatle’s solo career bleeding through the band’s power-rock-cum-pop sensibility, yet exploding with LPB’s own original flair. This particular song has potential to hook an audience if it gets airplay, as does “Oh, Man,” a longer track that pulses with keyboard solos, dreamy distorted guitars and a rolling classical piano style.

“Halloween Killer” kicks off with lullaby melodies, before devolving into a piano solo conjuring images of Jamie Lee Curtis writhing in a horrified scream as she tries to escape a masked killer. The song then crashes into a high power number, injected with heavy guitars.

What better night to hear this tune, along with all the rest of them, than Saturday, October 31st, when the Lin Preston Band will hold a CD release costume party at Club Winterland in Greenfield? Be there, if you dare. (No cover, but a donation of canned goods is suggested. Hey, the band’s got to eat!)

LEGISLATORS from pg 10 merge the two town hall positions, and have the collector/treasurer appointed by the selectboard rather than elected by the voters.

Speaking of elections, Rosenberg said the legislature was still grappling with one unfunded mandate: the upcoming special election to fill Ted Kennedy’s vacant Senate seat. He said there was a good possibility the legislature would vote

MUSEUM from pg 11

The impetus for a town library began three years before its opening, although many small libraries were scattered around town and in the town hall. In May of 1916, plans for the building were officially approved.

As Edie Field tells it, the library is the source of many delightful anecdotes. For example, Ethel Woodard Beaman was a legendary librarian. “Every once in a while,” said Field, “on a special day, she would allow local kids to go up the stairs to the second floor to see the historical articles and records stored there.”

“Many of these children, now adults, treasure the memory of how excited they were to see these artifacts. Just the idea of being allowed to go upstairs and look around was a big deal in those days.”

One of the highlights of the museum is a display of Leverett’s most famous son, Erastus Salisbury Field, a well-known folk artist of the 19th century. Born in Leverett in 1805, his portraits, painted from about 1832 to 1847, included farmers, missionaries, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and family members.

When Samuel Morse, a friend and colleague of Erastus Field, invented the daguerreotype – a photograph produced on a silver, or a silver-covered copper plate – Field began painting his subjects from photos.

Field’s paintings hang proudly today in museums, colleges, and collections across the country.

Perhaps Field’s masterpiece is “The Historical Monument of the American Republic.” Begun near the end of the Civil War and completed in 1888, this highly-detailed, extraordinarily sweeping work can be viewed in the Springfield Museum of Art. The painting measures 13 feet in

to reimburse cities and towns for the cost of the upcoming primary and general election.

But like everything to do with state aid for localities, the message could be summed up in four words. Don’t count on it.

“The next two to four years are going to be really hard. Something’s got to give,” said Rosenberg. “The state doesn’t have the money, and property taxpayers are also very strapped.”

Tell us about it.



length by 9 feet in height.

Field’s vision of what he hoped would become a national monument celebrates a nation renewed following the terrible years of the war that pitted brother against brother.

“It was Erastus Field’s strong moral conviction,” said Edie Field, “that the institution of slavery was wrong, and that its existence was the supreme threat to the foundation of the Republic.”

Born in 1805, Erastus Field lived to be the oldest man in Franklin County, dying in 1900.

In 1950, Edward and Ruth Field initiated an effort to create a display in the lower level of the library, complementing the artifacts on the first floor and the historical records on the upper floor. In the lower section, agricultural and industrial tools and machines are housed, showcasing another aspect of Leverett’s past. Now with the library collection well housed and expanded in the town’s new library on Montague Road, the entire building has been turned over to artifacts, with the upper floor dedicated to historical materials, providing chronicled information on Leverett, Franklin County, Western Massachusetts, and Massachusetts. This treasure trove of Leverett’s former days is open, by appointment, to anyone performing historical research.

The new Leverett Library opened in 2003. The late Annette Gibavic was instrumental in getting the selectboard to appoint a committee to find a use for the former library. In 2007, \$10,000 of Community Preservation Act funds was granted by town meeting for the museum.

The Leverett Family Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon each Saturday. For special tours by appointment, or further info call Edie Field at 413-548-9452.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th

Zydeco Connection, Eileen Almeida, Mike Rose and Cynthia Rose, perform from 9 to 11 p.m. at Deja Brew in Wendell. Come on out, shake it loose and party down to some hot zydeco. We are a dance band serving up a spicy gumbo of Louisiana zydeco, blues and boogie woogie guaranteed to get your toes tapping!

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Thaddeus Hands**, instrumental progressive rock, 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Kellianna**, acoustic rock, 8 to 10 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: **The Honey Dewdrops**, 8 p.m. \$10 at the door. Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish play original and American traditional songs focusing on vocal harmonies and tight instrumentation.

Live jazz every Thursday at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls. 6:30 to 9:30 pm. 863-4441.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **DJ Lance** all night long, \$3, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Zydeco Connection**, 9 to 11 p.m. We are a dance band serving up a spicy gumbo of Louisiana zydeco, blues and boogie woogie guaranteed to get your toes tapping!

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: **Cabinet of Natural Curiosities**, experimental folk. 8 p.m. \$5. www.cabinetofnaturalcuriosities.com.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th & 31st

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The Gypsy Wranglers perform at the Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell on Saturday, November 7th at 7:30 p.m. Partial proceeds benefit Temenos Retreat Center, \$6/\$12. (978) 544-5557 or www.wendellfullmoon.org.

All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church, Greenfield presents **Enchanted Kingdom: An Alternative to Scary Haunted Houses** 1 to 8:30 p.m. Bring your children and enjoy safe, fun, interactive fantasy spaces, including: Fairy Princess Garden, Magic Castle, The Forest, Under the Sea plus a surprise new space! Refreshments will be available. \$3/person (or \$10 per family)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st
Montague Center Fire Department Open House, 10 to noon. Everyone is invited to tour the fire house. Lots of "hands on" exhibits for all ages. Fire extinguisher demo, Communication Trailer, ambulance tours, safety info.

Great Falls Discovery Center, **Bats are Cool**. What do you really know about bats? Are they really the scary creatures that a lot of folks think they are? Learn interesting facts, 1 to 2 p.m. 863-3221

Trick or Treat on Ave A, 3 to 4 p.m. Look for the local businesses with the bright orange pumpkins. Then head down to the Food City Parking lot and get ready for the Rag Shag Parade, Halloween Treats at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 10 to 4 p.m.

Halloween Bash at Burrito Rojo, 9 p.m. featuring: **Reggae Vision**. Roots Reggae, powerful dub and smooth Caribbean tunes, prizes for best costume!

Deja Brew, Wendell: Halloween Party with **Free Range**, 9 to 11 p.m. Join Betsy, Mark and Bruce in your best costume and rock out.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Ghost Quartet** and **Walking Ghosts**. '70s Funk Halloween Dance Party! 9:30 p.m. \$3.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Halloween Party with **Evenspeak**. Costume prizes, give-aways. 9:30 p.m.

THROUGH OCTOBER 31st
On display at Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: **Connections**, work by Margaret Fasulo.

The Gallery at Hallmark, Ave A, Turners Falls: **A Second Look**, photographic exhibit by Tony Downer. Gallery open Friday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. (413)

863-0009 for info.

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1st
Great Falls Discovery Center exhibit in the great hall: Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp exhibit. Display thru 12/15.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Knitting & Crafts Night**, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft and any skill level welcome. Get a chance to win our monthly crafty gift with every \$5 you spend at Craft night. Drawings held on the last Wednesday of the month.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Falltown String Band** featuring Kenny Butler on the violin.

At Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: **Zydeco Connection**, 7:30 to 9:30 . Hot zydeco with Eileen Almeida on vocals and rubboard, Mike Rose on drums, Cynthia Rose on accordion and Junior on bass.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: **Laura Cortese** and **Forest Fires**, 8 p.m. Together they play original songs in quirky and energetic arrangements with their three-piece band. \$5 at the door.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th



Cabinet of Natural Curiosities at the Bookmill on Friday, October 30th, 8 p.m. Experimental folk. \$5 at the door.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Occam's Razor**, join Dan Putnam and company for some Rock, Reggae & a little Funk, 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: **Hannah Sanders**, **Liz Simmons** and **Flynn Cohen**, 8 p.m. \$10 adv/\$12 door. Together, the trio create a harmonic blend of voices, guitars and mandolin, delivering renditions of ballads from England, Appalachia and beyond that are not to be missed, as well as their own self-penned songs.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th & 7th
The Country Players present: **Rumors** by Neil Simon, directed by David Grout. At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls, 8 p.m. Continues 11/13 to 11/15. For reservations, call (413) 863-2281, x1. www.countryplayers.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
Country Fair at the First Congregational Church, 148 L Street, Turners Falls. 9

a.m. to 2 p.m. Coffee & donuts, baked goods, jewelry, crafts, silent auction, raffles, luncheon.

Turners Falls Energy Saving Workshop



Rumors, a comedy by the award-winning playwright Neil Simon, performed by cast from The Country Players on Friday & Saturday, 11/6 & 11/7 and 11/13 & 11/14 at the Shea Theater, 8 p.m.

Special information for renters, 2 to 4 p.m. at The Brick House, Turners Falls.

Coming Together: Native American culture, education and fun. Noon to 4 p.m. at Turners Falls High School. Native American drum group Urban Thunder performs. Dancers, food, informational booths, guest speaker: Doug Harris, Preservationist for Ceremonial Landscapes for the Narragansetts, 3 p.m. Presented by the Friends of Wissatinnewag, sponsored by Turners Falls H.S. and funded by Turners Falls RiverCulture.

The Gallery at Hallmark, Ave A, Turners Falls: **Michael Zide**, **Illuminated Ground**, Public Reception 1 to 5 p.m. Works on display thru December 6th.

At the Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: **DogBite** with **Watcher**, 8 p.m. Dogbite is an eclectic ensemble dedicated to performing acoustic roots music or any other music that is energetic and fun!

Deja Brew, Wendell: **A Ghost Quartet**, Jazzy Blues with a taste of fist fight swing! 9 to 11 p.m.

Northampton Independent Film Festival presents: **Sex & Cinema**, a scintillating evening of Indy films. 5 to 11 p.m. at the Academy of Music, Northampton. The 15th annual independent film celebration will showcase three important independent films and short bonus films prior to each screening. Filmmakers will be in attendance and available for Q&A and discussion. www.niff.org.

Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell: **The Gypsy Wranglers**, performing on fiddle, guitar, accordion, trombone, bass and drums, with appearances by blues harp, chromatic harmonica & mandolin, 7:30 p.m. Partial proceeds benefit Temenos Retreat Center, \$6/\$12. (978) 544-5557 or www.wendellfullmoon.org for info.

At The Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts (LCA), 13 Montague Rd. Leverett: **Raise the Roof** benefit concert by the **Black Rebels**. 8 p.m. \$10. (413) 548-9070 or info@leverettcrafts.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th
The world-famous Moscow Ballet special benefit performance of Tchaikovsky's Great Russian Nutcracker at Symphony Hall, Springfield, 2 p.m. (413) 788-7033. Proceeds from the ballet will help support children's services at the Brattleboro Retreat. Children in the production are being cast out of Brattleboro School of Dance. Tickets range \$35 to \$100. Ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House**
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

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Showtimes for Friday, Oct. 30th to Thursday, Nov. 5th

- 1. MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT** in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 2. WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE DAILY** 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00 PG
- 3. COUPLES RETREAT** PG13
DAILY 6:30 9:00
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 4. ASTRO BOY** PG
DAILY 6:45 9:15
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 5. THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT**
DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 6. PARANORMAL ACTIVITY**
DAILY 7:00 9:30 R in DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- 7. SAW 6** R in DTS sound
DAILY 7:00 9:30
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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Friday, 10/30, 9 to 11 p.m.
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Saturday, 10/31, 9 - 11 p.m.
Free Range Halloween Party!
Wednesday, 11/4, 7 to 10 p.m.
Craft Night Any craft and skill level welcome!
Friday, 11/6, 9 to 11 p.m.
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Thaddeus Hands (Prog Rock)

FRI: 10/30 | 9:30 PM | \$3
PLAY w. DJ Lance (House + more)

SAT: 10/31 | 9:30 PM | \$3
Ghost Quartet 70's Funk Halloween Dance Party!!! with opening act Walking Ghosts (rock!)
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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Fall is a time of endings: the end of the growing season, the end of the time of warmth and seemingly endless light. Still, the yard is lovely, and there are beautiful changes each day.

Now most of the sugar maples have dropped their leaves, but the oaks shine with yellow and bronze. The sumacs are bright red, as are the low prickly bushes.

In summer the yard is a private space, screened by huge growths of green. Now the tree skeletons have a beauty of their own. The vistas have reappeared. Soon the view towards the eastern hills will return.

The sky has opened up again. At night the planets will glow over the trestle which spans the river.

While it's sad to come to the end of the garden season as we

put last year's plots to bed, there are still new planting activities to fill the last crispy days of fall.

The end of October and early November are perfect times to plant the bulbs and corms to enhance next year's garden. Whether you are primarily a food or a flower grower, this season still has delights for you.

Putting the garden soil to bed with compost and manure to ensure good growth in the coming season, cleaning up spent and diseased plants, and putting garden tools away cleaned and sterilized for the next year give the gardener a good sense of accomplishment, as well as the promise of a new planting season to come.

Planting in the fall reinforces the notion that, however long and cold the winter, however long the wait for fresh local edibles and flowers, these things will all come in time.

In the vegetable garden, this is the perfect time to plant garlic cloves for harvest next summer. Choose a healthy, hefty head or two of locally grown garlic. You can purchase these from a seed catalog such as Pine Tree Seeds in New Gloucester, ME. You will

also find seed garlic at your local garden store or in the markets that carry local produce.

There is no special garlic for growing only, just the caveat that your future crop will only be as large as the cloves of the head you plant. Do not choose, however, hefty elephant garlic. Instead, choose garlic which has been successfully grown in our area.

There are two types of garlic, soft neck and stiff neck. Soft neck garlic is the common garlic most often found in the supermarket. It is white skinned, wrapped in layers of parchment, and ideal for braiding. It is also hard to peel, and often forms heads with a few large cloves at the outside and much smaller cloves at the center. This garlic stores well and is generally mild in flavor.

Stiff neck garlic produces a smaller number of large cloves around a tough central stem, and is often more flavorful. It produces a flowering stem during its mid-growth season; the stem needs to be trimmed for maximum bulb development. Stiff neck garlic thrives in our cool New England season.

Choose the type of your preference and separate the cloves. Do not peel, just set them root down about an inch deep in the soil, and cover. Plant your cloves about four inches apart. If you have bone meal on hand, sprinkle a small amount in the planting space to enrich your crop. Choose a well-drained area for planting to avoid rot.

The object of November planting is to take advantage of

the cool season and to let the crop get a head start before frost sets into the ground. You will likely see green tops emerging before we get a killing frost. Do not be concerned. These plants will rest during the season of frost and snow and will re-emerge in early spring to start growing again.

Flowering bulbs and corms provide the other gardener's delight in this late season. Plant daffodils, tulips, crocus and lilies now for early spring and summer pleasure. Daffodils have been bred for naturalizing and can be set out at the edge of the yard in woody areas, or in beds.

You can give these beauties a head start with the addition of bone meal in the planting hole, but they are not fussy and will produce year after year with no further assistance. The rule of thumb is to plant daffodils or narcissus at about a depth of six inches. Use a planting tool specifically designed for bulbs for greater ease in planting.

Tulip, crocus and lily prefer beds with little competition and plenty of root room. Also, unlike the common narcissus or daffodil, which is poisonous to animals (and, if eaten, to humans), tulip, crocus and lilies are enjoyed by underground rodents. I have found these bulbs blooming a long way from their original planting site. They can also serve as a food source for voles, moles and chipmunks. However, they are extremely beautiful in their own way and worth the potential future loss.

Planting now for the coming

early spring season gives continuity to the garden and will provide exceptional pleasure as the snow pulls away and we pine for the start of spring.

Fall is also the time for the celebration of the harvest, the feasting on the last season foods; the gathering of friends and family. This is a great time to buy winter vegetables for storing if you have not grown your own. The valley farm stands are full now with winter squash, potatoes, and onions and apples. With a little care you can enjoy these crops for a large part of the winter months, by storing them in a dark cool place protected from frost and too much heat.

Here is a soup to enjoy for this late fall season and perhaps to freeze for a future winter night.

Butternut Squash Soup

- 1 large squash, peeled, seeded and cut into large pieces
- ½ a large, tart apple, peeled and cored
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon ground clove.

Simmer the above ingredients with a cup of chicken or vegetable broth until soft in a heavy pan or a crock pot. This will take 2-3 hours. Mash the vegetables and fruit or puree in the blender. Thin with coconut milk to the thickness you desire. Add freshly ground pepper.

Coming Together
A Native Celebration
 Presented by Friends of
 Wissatinnewag
 & Turners Falls River Culture

Saturday, November 7th
 Noon to 4 p.m.
 Turners Falls High School

Performances by Boston area inter-tribal Native American drum group, Urban Thunder and native dancers.

Lecture by Doug Harris of the Narragansett Indian Tribe on preservation of sacred sites.
 Native food and information booths.
FREE and open to ALL.

For more information write Cris Carl at cstormfox@NativeNewEngland.org or call 413-773-9337 www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

Brick House Gallery Seeks Artists

BY KAREN STINCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS – The Brick House Community Resource Center is seeking local artists, craftspeople, musicians, and food makers to place work in the Brick House's sixth annual Brick House Gallery, December 4th through 6th and 11th through 13th, at 24 3rd Street in Turners Falls. The gallery, which on the first weekend will be a stop on the Arts & Icicles Turners Falls Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour, will feature quality handcrafted items, local music, and non-perishable food products. Located in the recently-renovated Community Arts and Performance Space in the Brick House, the gallery offers maximum exposure for this favorite gift-buying destination.

The Brick House receives 35% of all sales, with proceeds



music, or offer samples of their food by arrangement. They are also invited to take a shift as sales assistants. People love to meet the creators of the gifts they purchase. Artist applications are available

benefiting community-based programming. While participants are not required to be present during the event, they are encouraged to demonstrate their work process, perform their

online at www.brickhousecommunity.org or at the Brick House.

For more info contact karen@brickhousecommunity.org or call (413)863-9576.

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