



KEEPING ABREAST

Breast Cancer Benefit Sunday
Page 3



CULTURE LINKS

Teens Build Awareness Across Borders
Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 5

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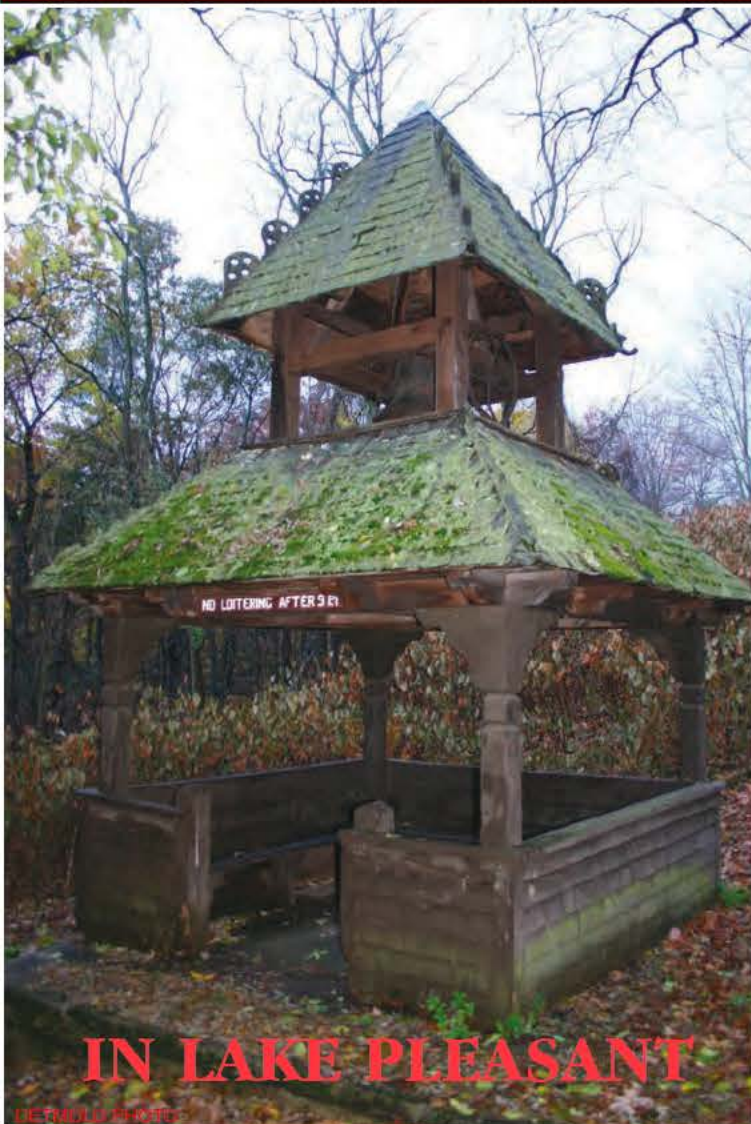
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 30, 2008

'Twas the Night Before Hallowe'en



IN LAKE PLEASANT

The last remains of the Temple of the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association in Lake Pleasant. The Temple burned in 1955. Only the bell survived. The fire chief's son is rumored to have set the blaze.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Saturday, village children in Lake Pleasant gathered for the annual Hallowe'en party in Rutter's park off Broadway, sponsored by the Lake Pleasant Women's Association. They played pass the pumpkin, and pin the eye on the monster, and were rewarded with bags of goodies, and prizes for the best costumes. On Friday, they will

walk the streets of the village after dark, like kids in every town across the land, knocking on doors, ringing doorbells, and threatening mild mischief unless the residents drop a piece of candy or some other toothsome thing in their outstretched bags.

Some say the tradition of trick or treating dates back to the Celts, who lit bonfires to

guide the spirits of the dead on Samhain, one of the four cross-quarter days that divided the pagan calendar. The veil between the worlds of the living and the dead wore thin on each cross-quarter day (Groundhog's Day, May Day, *Lughnasa* and Hallowe'en), it was said, but never more so than on Samhain, halfway between midautumn and midwinter. Food was left out for the wandering spirits, who would play tricks on the living if no vittles were left to appease them.

But how many of today's Lake Pleasant residents realize that in their village people from around the country once came by the thousands to commune with spirits in grand convocations in the woods? How many know that a man who styled himself as America's Premier Psychic once sought to communicate with the spirits of the dead on behalf of the living at the Lake Pleasant Inn, scarcely a hundred feet from the park where last week's Hallowe'en party took place?

One of the two people who have done more than any to preserve the *outré* history of Lake Pleasant is David James, who can often be found working behind the desk at the postage stamp sized Lake Pleasant post office. When work is done, he walks around the back to the former home of Louise Shattuck, which he inherited upon her death (a few days before Hallowe'en) in 2005.

Shattuck co-authored *Spirit in the Spa, a Portrait of the Body, Mind and Soul of a 133-Year-Old Spiritualist Com-*
see LAKE pg 9

Gill Commission to Weigh Benefits, Costs of Remaining in GMRSD

BY DAVID DETMOLD - A joint meeting of the Gill selectboard and finance committee on Tuesday night, October 28th, voted to create a Commission for Education in Gill. The new commission is charged with researching all possible configurations of public education in Gill. According to administrative assistant Tracy Rogers, that research will include, but not be limited to, studying whether leaving the Gill-Montague Regional School District would be beneficial to the students of Gill, whether joining another district would be beneficial, whether to maintain the Gill Elementary School and tuition students to high school, or whether the town should tuition students K - 12 to other schools.

Selectboard member Ann Banash, who proposed forming the commission, said the commission would present a draft report of its findings by March of next year, so public hearings could be held to explore these topics. A final report will be presented to the Gill annual town meeting in May of 2009.

Selectboard member Lee Stevens noted the district agreement that joins Gill to the town of Montague for regional K-12

public education requires a one year notice if either town decides to leave the district. Banash confirmed this point, adding, "We'd have to give notice by July 1st," [of 2009].

Stevens said, "One of the main reasons to form the commission is that the schools are draining the town to where we can't survive. They can't seem to realize they are not the only pebble on the beach. We feel we need to look at all options."

Both Stevens and Banash said talk about the advisability of Gill remaining in the Gill-Montague school district has become general around town in recent months, as the budget impasse with the district has dragged on.

"I've been asked a lot of questions by a lot of people about whether being in the GMRSD is in the best interest of our town and our children," said Banash. "I don't have the answers for that."

One thing the commission will certainly weigh in the balance as it considers education options, Banash said, "is the fact we're paying about \$23,000 a year on the high school renovation project." Gill has 18 years
see GILL pg 6

Second Gill-Montague District Meeting Set for November 18th

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE - In the next attempt to resolve the ongoing budget crisis, the Gill-Montague school committee has scheduled a second district meeting for November 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School. The school district and the towns are facing a December 1st deadline to agree on a budget for Fiscal '09 before the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education takes control and enforces a budget solution.

At the October 28th meeting, school committee member Sandra Brown of Gill emphasized her conviction that the school committee has to go to the meeting willing to look at options, and be open to considering some cuts in the school budget.

Also at that meeting, Turners

Falls High School principal Jeff Kenney addressed the controversy surrounding 'the Tomahawk Chop issue'. A petition was presented at the last school committee meeting seeking to reverse Kenney's directive that the high school band should stop playing the traditional tune at football games, which is usually followed by the crowd making a chopping motion known as the Tomahawk Chop.

Kenney described a meeting held on October 21st with TFHS students and staff, a local town official and three representatives of the local Native American community. He said the meeting was "a great experience" and he is "exceedingly proud of our students and their willingness to express their feelings on this topic while listening carefully to

see SCHOOL pg 10

Robin Sherman to Head FCRHRA

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Robin Sherman, former town planner for the town of Montague, has been chosen to become the new executive director of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. After an exhaustive search for an executive director that drew applicants from as far away as Baltimore and Chicago, the FCRHRA discovered the best candidate among the 40 resumes

it received lived right next door. "Robin's deep roots in local and regional issues, plus her understanding of the rural infrastructure here, will give her a distinct advantage in guiding the Authority's work," said interim executive director Joanie Bernstein. Sherman will simultaneously oversee the Shelburne Housing Authority and FCRHRA's sister agency, the nonprofit Rural Development, Inc.



Robin Sherman

Sherman takes over leadership of the Authority and 36 employees from Paul Douglas,

see FCRHRA pg 6

PET OF THE WEEK

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Zander



Cleo

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MONTAGUE CENTER LIBRARY NEWS



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTOS

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE CENTER- Eliot Sanborn of Montague really enjoyed both the new musical instruments and their storage bin at the Music and Movement program at the Montague Center Library on Thursday, October 23rd. His mother, Anna Heidenreich, was seated behind him. The new instruments, along with many books, DVDs, puppets, music CDs, and book and CD sets for young children were purchased with the Mother Goose on the Loose grant, which was supported by the Institute of Museum and Library services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

MILLERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MILLERS FALLS - Naomi Johnson of Millers Falls was one of ten children who decorated donated pumpkins at the Millers Falls Library Club on Tuesday, October 21st. The Library Club is a free drop in afterschool program that meets at the library every Tuesday from 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.



Church News

The First Congregational Church; Montague Center, will hold their **Annual Roast Pork Supper** on Saturday, November 8th, at 5:30 p.m. On the menu: Roast Pork, Gravy, Roasted Red Potatoes, Spiced Apples, Baked Acorn Squash, Homemade Breads, and Pumpkin Pie. Adults: \$9.00; Children: \$4.00; for reservations call 774-7256. Call for take-outs. Walk-ins are seated as space allows.

The First Congregational Church; 148 L Street, Turners Falls, will hold a **Country Fair** on Saturday, November 8th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jewelry, birdfood, crafts, gifts, books and oil paintings by Joe Graveline, Dolls, Teddies, second time around items, baked goods, vendors' specialties, silent auction, home grown vegetables and Dunk the Clown will be present. Also available: coffee and doughnuts; luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Save the date; save gas, save time. See you at the fair!

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Nov. 3rd to Nov. 7th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided. For trips: Call the Senior Center (413) 863-9357 or 863- 4500.

- Monday, 3rd**
10 a.m. Brown Bag
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics at Our Lady of Peace Church
1 p.m. Council On Aging meeting
- Tuesday, 4th**
9 a.m. Walking Group

- All other activities cancelled due to Election Day. Meals On Wheels will be delivered as usual.
- Wednesday, 5th**
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday, 6th**
1 p.m. Pitch
5 p.m. TRIAD dimmer at St. Kaz. Advance tickets needed.
- Friday, 7th**
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1 p.m. Painting
- Upcoming: Potluck Lunch on Veterans Day, November 11th. Bring your favourite dish or pay \$4. Sign up before November 10th. Chair Yoga resumes November 18th at 10:30 a.m.
- ERVING Senior Center,** 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations



DETMOLD PHOTO

Kevin Smith, of Turners Falls on tuba, and Tony Jillson, of Ashfield on guitar, turned Jethro Tull's Aqualung inside out at the bandsbell on Peskeomskut Park on Monday. Styling themselves the Recyclers, this dynamic duo plays the bandsbell on most Monday afternoons, weather permitting. "We want to see this thing getting some use," said Smith. "Otherwise, what's it for?"

Grand Opening of the new Wendell Senior Center (not for seniors only!) at the Old Library, 2 Lockes Village Road. **Tuesday, November 4th, from 6 - 8 p.m.** Stop by after voting to get a look at Wendell's newest community space. Refreshments.

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GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Grade 6:
Jade Linscott
Grade 7:
Meghan Casey
Grade 8:
Sean Howard
Shawn Englehardt

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Last Mass at St. John's in Millers Falls will be celebrated on Sunday, December 28th, after 110 years of service to the community. A farewell dinner is planned, where we can enjoy each other as a parish for the last time.. St. John's Farewell Dinner: French King Restaurant; Sunday, December 7th, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (hors d'oeuvres. Dinner: 12:30 p.m. Contact either: Terry Miner, 659-3400; or Tom Graves, 423-3902, if you plan on attending.

call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 413-422-2584.

- Monday, 3rd**
9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
- Tuesday, 4th**
Call for Election Day hours
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
- Wednesday, 5th**
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
- Thursday, 6th**
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool

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

Keeping Abreast with Breast Cancer

BY DON CLEGG

TURNERS FALLS - Be careful what you wish for. For Susan Blauner of Turners Falls this is especially true. Blauner survived eighteen years of suicidal thoughts and three suicide gestures. During that time she prayed to get cancer. She has spent the last 25 years redefining her life with the help of many therapists, psychiatrists, support groups, friends, family, and spiritual practice. In 2002, William Morrow & Co. published her book, *How I Stayed Alive When My Brain Was Trying to Kill Me: One Person's Guide to Suicide Prevention*.



Susan Blauner presents *Keeping Abreast at the Rendezvous, this Sunday, November 2nd, at 5p.m.*

Now for the "be careful what you wish for" part. On August 25th of this year, Blauner went for a complete physical, a requirement for entering graduate school at Springfield College; she had decided to go

for a master's degree in social work 20 years after receiving her bachelor's. The primary care physician found a lump in her right breast. Blauner had already scheduled a yearly mammogram at Baystate Comprehensive Breast Center (BCBC) in Springfield for the next day, so her PCP ordered an ultrasound just to be sure. "It's probably nothing," were her physician's words. The mammogram showed calcifications and the ultrasound showed a mass of 1.6 cm. Out of the blue, the radiologist told Blauner, "You probably have cancer." "What?!" she shouted, "I have cancer?!"

Blauner was shocked and started to cry, but quickly went on "high alert," asking ques-

tions about next steps. After surviving an 18-year battle with suicidal thoughts, she was in no mind to let cancer make her old suicidal wish come true.

A core biopsy at BCBC on August 27th confirmed that Blauner had cancer. On September 2nd, what should have been her first day of graduate school found Blauner meeting with her surgeon instead. She tentatively scheduled surgery for September 24th.

Between September 2nd and 24th, Blauner would meet with a representative from Rays of Hope, get a second opinion and have a stereotactic biopsy at Faulkner Breast Center in Jamaica Plain, have an MRI, meet with a plastic surgeon, and have multiple appointments with her breast surgeon to discuss full or partial mastectomy. She decided on a partial mastectomy because the chance of recurrence was only 3% higher.

The weekend prior to surgery, Blauner went to Cape Cod to be with friends and fam-

ily and have a torso cast made. Blauner said, "It was a wonderful experience. Empowering, loving, healing."

On September 24th, the day of surgery, pre-op procedures began at 6:45 a.m., with surgery at noon. She left the hospital with a drain in place. Blauner compared the pain level to "getting a hard blow to the chest." When she and her friend Jennifer Lambert, removed the bandages on September 25th, she saw her post-op breast for the first time. Together they remarked, "It looks just like it did prior to surgery! It's amazing!"

On September 30th, Blauner received the good news: the surgeon got all the cancer with good margins, and there was no lymph node involvement. The tumor was 2.8 cm in diameter, grade 3, stage IIIa.

Since surgery Susan has been on the go. In addition to seeing her surgeon for follow-ups, meeting oncologists and to discuss treatment options - which include four cycles of

chemotherapy treatment, seven weeks of radiation, five times a week, and five years of tamoxifen everyday - she's found time to attend her 25th high school reunion, celebrate her 43rd birthday, and plan a fundraiser entitled Keeping Abreast.

This Sunday, November 2nd, from 5 - 7 p.m. Blauner presents Keeping Abreast at the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, Turners Falls, a benefit to defray her out-of-pocket medical expenses, featuring live music, guest speakers, comedy, juggling, a silent auction, breast cancer literature, and more. Ten percent of all proceeds will benefit Rays of Hope, a non-profit organization offering free breast cancer support services in the Valley.

For more information, visit www.keeping-a-breast.blogspot.com.

Congressman Olver Visits Meals on Wheels Kitchen



GREENFIELD--On Monday October 20th, Congressman John Olver visited Franklin County Home Care's Meals on Wheels packing site, located at the Community Development Center in Greenfield. The packing site was formerly housed in the Greenfield Senior Center. It will soon be the packing site for Meals on Wheels for Montague, Bernardston, Shelburne and Deerfield as well as Greenfield. Centralizing this operation will help meet demand more efficiently.

In 2007, Franklin County Home Care served 1143 homebound elders daily (Monday thru Friday, plus the occasional holiday meal) noontime meals through the Meals on Wheels program.

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VERMONT YANKEE:

Safety is My First Concern

SEN. STAN ROSENBERG (D - AMHERST) - (Statement read at Nuclear Free Jubilee in Brattleboro, VT on Oct. 25th) The health and safety of Western Massachusetts residents is my first and foremost concern regarding the Vermont Yankee facility.

Looking back to the late 1980s and early 1990s, we confronted the same issues with the Yankee Rowe facility here in Western Massachusetts. Then, like now, serious concerns were raised about public safety, but little pertinent information was available. Your elected officials at the time, including myself as a member of the house of representatives and a then-candidate for state senate, demanded a stem to stern review of the facility.



*All in the Same Boat
Bread & Puppet Float
Nuclear Free Jubilee
Saturday, Oct. 25th, Brattleboro*

A number of serious deficiencies were identified through the process. The tremendous potential costs of those repairs ultimately led the operation to close its doors permanently.

The same independent thor-

ough review, known as an Independent Safety Assessment (ISA), should be conducted at the Vermont Yankee before any request for license extension is considered.

I have worked for many years with the seven towns I represent in the Emergency Planning Zone, and understand well the concerns of these residents. Clearly, quality of life is impact-

ed when one has to fear what's happening on their neighbor's side of the fence. It is my opinion that there are simply too many unanswered questions about the maintenance and mechanical soundness of the Vermont Yankee plant.

We need an

Independent Safety Assessment to determine how this facility fits into the future of our region. Our residents deserve a clear and impartial assessment of the plant's future viability.

Government should never endanger the health and safety of its citizens. Vermont Yankee was built to operate for a finite period of time. Extending its lifetime, in addition to operating at an uprate, raises serious questions of safety. The proposed extension seems to be a total unnecessary and unreasonable gamble.

Instead of taking risks, we should follow the path Massachusetts and Vermont have set out in aggressively pursuing conservation and renewable energy sources. Moving forward, our focus should be on promoting clean and healthy energy independence.

The presidential campaign is *finally* coming to a close!
After two years of debates, endless diatribes and attack ads -
Who will the winner be?



The End is in Sight!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hilltown Brewfest a Hit

On Saturday, September 27th, local microbrewers got together to offer free samples of their brew to thirsty patrons at the first annual Hilltown Brewfest. It was a festive event, sponsored by the Wendell Country Store and the New Salem General Store. Nine hundred dollars from the proceeds were split 50-50 between the New Salem and Wendell meetinghouses.

Despite the rain and drizzle that day, 225 tickets were sold. Ticket holders were able to mingle and sample more than 15 brands of beer, ale, wine and mead in tents behind the Country Store and Deja Brew.

The music was a superb eclectic mix, with Americana by 'Nexus,' followed by bluegrass with 'New Found Grass' and jazz by 'the Ghost Quartet.' Besides being a sociable way to spend a rainy afternoon, the Hilltown Brewfest gave both the New Salem and Wendell town stores and the Déjà Brew Café & Pub some recognition, while promoting microbrewers in the region and supporting some outstanding local musicians. The Wendell Country Store and the New Salem General Store expect to sponsor another Hilltown Brewfest next fall.

-Molly Kaynor
Wendell

Now You See It.... Now You Don't

For those of you lucky enough to have seen the new "Welcome to Montague, Home of the Turners Falls Indians, State Champs" sign, wasn't it great? Excellently crafted and painted by Dan Hale, it proudly listed each team sport and the year of their prestigious win.

The sign was installed by the Montague highway department on October 16th and was located on the hillside directly across from the canal bridge as traffic entered Turners Falls.

For those of you who have not yet seen the sign, don't bother looking for it. It is gone! That's right, gone!

The life span of the sign was approximately one week and two days. It was there Friday, October 24th, but gone on Saturday, October 25th. The theft was a very brazen act indeed as the complete sign, including the poles, was taken.

This sign was a gift to the Power Town community by Greenfield Savings Bank and as manager of the local Turners Falls office, I am extremely disappointed to say the least.

To whomever took the sign, it is not yours. Plain and simple. It

belongs to the town of Montague. Please, just bring it back. Leave it by the Highway Department, the Bank, or call me at 413-863-4316, leave a message where to find the sign, and I will gladly come and get it. No questions asked.

Thank you in advance for doing the right thing!

- Linda Ackerman
GSB-TF Branch Manager
TFHS graduate
and proud of it!

Reality Check

As, practically, the only person who walks on Unity Street, I wonder why they are constructing new sidewalks there.

The old ones were completely serviceable. I traveled either by foot or bicycle up or down the Hill daily for years. It was neither too cracked, nor too uneven, nor was there too much vegetation or whatever other we-need-new-sidewalk-fixing-parameters are used by whoever decides these things.

As the only person who ever (well, maybe a kid or two occasionally) walks this route (all right, I once passed another pedestrian about two years ago, and I am not being facetious), maybe I should have been the one consulted before the expense and inconvenience (really for no reason) of building a new one.

-Peter Monroe
Turners Falls

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 10/29/08



(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Details Potential Cuts

BY P.H. CROSBY

GILL - On Monday, October 27th, the selectboard turned to the difficult task of assessing what items in the town budget may need to be cut if Gill's assessment for the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) is not reduced. Selectboard member Ann Banash and administrative assistant Tracy Rogers developed a list of cuts the town may need to implement if the GMRSD reduces its '09 budget increase from 4% to 2.3%. The cuts would include reducing the police department from three full-time officers to two, which would reduce the need for a third cruiser. The clerical assistant to town committees would be laid off, and board and committee stipends would be cut in half for the year. The animal control position would remain vacant. Highway expenses would be reduced by \$43,200; fire department

expenses by \$5000, and library expenses would be cut by \$800.

Among the cuts proposed, funding for both the senior center and the recreation committee would be reduced by half.

"Our kids and or seniors don't deserve this," said board chair Nancy Griswold. "It's really not fair."

The selectboard declined to consider some cuts. They will not reduce staff hours to 35 hours per week, and they are firm on maintaining a 4.5% cost of living increase for town employees.

To make up the remaining deficit after these cuts, the board would still have to take \$31,314 from the stabilization fund or go to the town for an override. Board members felt it was worth a try to go for an override, perhaps with the option of a higher number, to allow some items, such as funding for the senior center and recreation committee, to be

maintained.

"But this plan will work only if the school reduces its budget to the 2.3% increase [Montague town administrator] Frank Abbondanzio suggested," noted Banash. "If the school refuses to do that, then this plan is useless."

The board began the meeting by reviewing a citizen complaint about a property on Main Road where old vehicles and a wide variety of scrap items are collected, creating a possible health and safety hazard. Questions about whether a business is being operated on the site without a permit were also raised. The same complaints were raised about the site in 2003, but the neighbor who raised them does not believe significant improvements were made to the property at that time.

The town will ask the building inspector to examine the property, and may ask the board

of health or the Department of Environmental Protection to get involved if the situation warrants, after consulting legal counsel.

Rogers reported on her attempt to get a break on 'locked-in' heating and diesel fuel costs this winter. Gill can get a 50-cent per gallon reduction on heating oil, but no break on diesel fuel.

Rogers also checked on the status of the \$30,000 earmark in the state budget for work to mitigate erosion along Unadilla Brook at the Gill Center cemetery, and determined that the funding has not, as yet, been impacted by the recent round of state budget cuts.

Bids were opened and read. The town of Montague was the high bidder on the cruiser being retired by Gill, with a bid of \$2000. The salt contract will go to Eastern Salt, as the bidder with a combination of good price and a reputation for reliability.

The sand contract will go to Mackin.

Selectboard members chose their three favorites among entries in a townwide contest to name the new dumptruck, then drew the winner - 'Gillie' - out of a candy dish.

Sixth graders will visit the town hall in November, after completing the essay contest on, "What I Would Do if I Were Elected a Leader of My Community."

The meeting closed with news from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; the DCR is interested in acquiring and protecting the wooded parcel of land to the north of Hoe Shop Road offered for sale by the Sandri family. With other sections of Bascom Road also recently protected, this could ensure permanent preservation of a substantial section of West Gill farm and woodlands.

GUEST EDITORIAL My Plan for Closing the Budget Gap

BY JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE - In its coverage of the meeting between local and state officials on the school budget (MR VII #4, "Town, Schools, State Meet on G-M Budget") the Montague Reporter failed to discuss the proposal I put forward for resolving this year's school budget impasse. My proposal was put forward and discussed at several meetings prior to the October 17th meeting with the state. Several other proposals, mentioned in the article, had never been discussed at all prior to the meeting and were simply "back of the envelope" budgetary compromises, as we have seen in the past.

My plan, at first glance, is a variation of the proposal the selectboards and finance committees of Gill and Montague put forward at the recent district

meeting. It essentially holds assessment increases to member towns to the same level as this year's increase in state aid to the district (.9%). However the proposal does provide some flexibility if the school district and state feel a higher assessment is necessary this year.

But much more important than the numbers for this year, which are negotiable, is the concept of locking us into a different process for next year. The proposal 1) begins planning for next year now 2) creates a new framework for the school budget process 3) commits all parties to long-term fiscal planning and 4) requires the state be involved in helping resolve a problem they have done much to create.

Although I am not wedded to every detail, some plan like this must be adopted or we will be in exactly the same place, or even

worse, next year. There will be a very large school budget increase and even less state aid (due to the recession). The district will turn to the towns with yet another unaffordable assessment request and the torture will begin all over again.

Unfortunately, it now appears that the only way to make real change is for the upcoming district meeting on November 18th to vote down any plan that does not make guarantees for next year. This is our only power to force change. With all due respect, I fear that without this action by the district meeting, the school committee, state and the towns will revert to the same old dysfunctional habits. It is already happening.

Actually, we have a unique opportunity that should be viewed hopefully, not with fear.

If this means a state 'takeover' of the school district, so be it. Unfortunately that may be the only way to hold the state accountable for the mess they have helped to create.

To read the complete details of my plan, go to www.montaguema.net and look for my post from Thursday, October 30th.

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FCRHRA from 1
 who served as executive director from 1987 until his recent retirement. FCRHRA is a full service housing and community development agency, working on behalf of citizens to bring affordable, sustainable housing options and economic opportunities to Franklin County's municipalities and rural areas.

One of the very first projects the new executive director will oversee is the completion of RDI's Wisdom Way Solar Village, 20 condominiums in Greenfield that have near-zero net energy use. The program is the first of its kind for Massachusetts.

"I've always admired the work of the Housing Authority. Not only regionally and in Massachusetts, but nationally they have been a leader, not just in affordable housing but also in their work to improve the quality of life and the integrity of infrastructure in Franklin County. The Housing Authority and RDI are really responsible for the fact

that the Crocker Building is the tremendous asset it is today for Montague, instead of a parking lot. They took a big risk to do it, and it was tremendously successful.

"The work they have done to promote the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in affordable housing is groundbreaking. They were one of the first housing authorities to adopt Leadership in Energy Efficient Design standards in redevelopment and new development. To me it makes sense, but they're the ones who did it," Sherman said.

"Now they are in the business of zero net energy homes that are not only energy efficient but are also producing their own energy."

The organization has demonstrated real leadership not only from the top, but also from the bottom up. There is a culture of doing really creative things that runs through the organization. I'm really proud to be joining the team."

Sherman will be filling some

famously big shoes, succeeding Paul Douglas, who started at the Regional Housing Authority 33 years ago.

"We had a little shoebox of an office on Federal Street in Greenfield," Douglas recalled. "We were the first ever Housing Authority in Massachusetts for more than one town. The County Commission had the wisdom to initiate it, because they recognized that rural areas weren't seeing their fair share of resources." The enabling legislation to form the Franklin Regional Housing Authority "was the first piece of legislation John Olver ever filed," Douglas said.

Douglas worked for Roger Seward, the FRHA's first executive director, the man he called "the hands-on developer of the Franklin County Technical School." Douglas said, "He set a really good tone of respect for human dignity, and that foundation has served the agency well in the decades since."

Douglas said he began his own work at the Housing Authority by "packaging Farmers Home Loans, so people could rehab their housing, and also buy their own homes. "Right after that, the Section 8 federal rental assistance came down the

pike, probably the most successful federal program ever for housing." Douglas said Section 8 currently allows the FCRHRA to assist more than 600 families to live affordably in private market housing. "That certainly has been a real economic boon to Franklin County, because it gave us an opportunity to bring rental housing up to code. As a rural county we had different levels of enforcement. In order to provide safe, decent rental housing, Section 8 supported those repairs and allowed us to upgrade our rental stock and provide better housing for the long haul."

Around 1978, Douglas said he began working with the federal Community Development Block Grant program through the Housing Authority, which, since then, has brought "hundreds of millions of dollars for infrastructure improvements, housing, parks, sidewalks, sewer systems, and senior centers for our region, one of the more successful programs for Franklin County."

In more recent decades, the Housing Authority has branched out to encompass redevelopment work and new housing made possible through its nonprofit wing, RDI. Douglas explained,

"Public agencies could access resources as a nonprofit to build affordable single family homes; to date we've built more than 120 around the county, with Solar Village in Greenfield now nearing completion. That was also the vehicle that enabled us to do the Crocker-Cutlery redevelopment, which was really instrumental in the revitalization of Montague."

Douglas said the County Commissioners allocated \$17,000 to get the Regional Housing Authority started back in the early 70s. "Since then we've brought in more than \$400 million dollars for Franklin County, and, with the multiplier effect, this has produced a net gain in the local economy of more than \$1.2 - \$1.3 billion," Douglas said.

Douglas credited the FCRHRA board for being "always supportive of what needs to be done in our region. We are very creative and entrepreneurial. We've been able to attract and retain a really creative and talented staff that has grown with our organization."

He said, "I'm really excited Robin is going to be my successor. She is exceptionally see FCRHRA pg 10

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GILL from page 1

remaining before that debt is paid down.

On the other side of the balance, Banash said the commission would weigh GMRSD assessments. "We can't continue to sustain more than 4% increases in the school assessment when we're constrained by Proposition 2½.

All of our extra money goes to the school. We've lost a police officer, and we're not going to replace him at this point. We're looking at cuts in every department, from highways to recreation to the library. We have no place left to go. What we have in stabilization [\$95,000], that's less than 5% of our two million dollar budget. If a boiler blows, that's it."

The commission will consist of 12 members: four appointed by the selectboard, four by the finance committee, and four by the town moderator.

Any resident of Gill who is interested in serving on the commission should contact administrative assistant Tracy Rogers at 863-9347 or at administrator@gillmass.org.

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BY DAVID DETMOLD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Strathmore Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ross called the Strathmore Mill "absolutely key to the

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

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

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

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

Heritage Landscapes

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

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

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

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

status.

Shea Sprinklers

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

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

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

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Public Hearing Planned on Dorsey Road Conservation Land

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Jen Soper, land protection specialist for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, returned to talk further with the Erving selectboard on Monday, October 27th, about the proposed purchase of 21.3 acres of land near the French King Bridge, on Dorsey Road, owned by the Carroll family. DCR has offered to pay \$150,000 for the land if Erving will add \$45,000 of town funds to complete the purchase. The state would own the land and conserve it permanently for public recreation, Soper said.

But what kind of recreation? Board member Andrew Goodwin asked whether motorized access to the land, and to trails that abut it, would be allowed if DCR owns it.

Soper replied, "That's a future management decision."

Downs-Bembury said, "I don't like any kind of motorized vehicles, to be honest," on conservation land. She said when she is walking her dogs in the woods, snowmobilers and ATV operators come roaring up behind her and startle her.

But Goodwin was joined by director of assessing Jacquie Boyden in advocating for responsible motorized use of recreation land, especially if the town helps to purchase the property. Goodwin wondered if a deal could not be worked out whereby some trails in the Erving State Forest could be opened for snowmobiling or 4-wheelers in exchange for town support of the Dorsey Road purchase. He also said there is a need to expand the

trail system for motorized recreational vehicles between Northfield and Wendell, and those trails lead right by the Dorsey Road property.

Boyden pointed out that there are four building lots on the Dorsey Road acreage. If the state purchases the land for conservation purposes, Boyden said, the town stands to receive larger payments in lieu of taxes since the acreage includes otherwise buildable lots.

Selectboard member Linda Downs-Bembury supported the town's participation in the land purchase, saying the planning board had identified the Dorsey Road land for many years as a prime target for conservation.

But selectboard member Andrew Goodwin said, "I want some say-so for the town if we're going to put some money in it."

Goodwin called for a public hearing to be held on the town's participation in the Dorsey Road property purchase on a date to be determined prior to a December special town meeting vote on the appropriation. Soper promised to provide more information at that hearing about how management decisions for the property would be made.

In other business, the selectboard decided to spend \$17,000 from a \$162,839 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to hire Bruce Hunter, of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, to act as the town's project manager through the design phase of the new senior center, to be constructed on town land near the elementary school.

The board asked administrative coordinator Tom Sharp to speak with the architect designing the senior center, John Catlin, of Quincy, to see why geothermal heating and cooling has not been included in the proposed design. The board recalled that Catlin had been enthusiastic about the possibility of employing geothermal design when he made his presentation to win the bid for initial design of the senior center, in February of 2007.

At that time, Catlin told the board geothermal HVAC would pay for itself within seven years of installation. Now, Catlin has indicated geothermal will cost more to include in the design phase of the project.

"This should not be considered an add-on," said Downs-Bembury. "He sold us on it in the first place."

The board also discussed the problem of connecting the new senior center to the town's sewer lines. A gravity feed system would cost considerably more to install in the short run (\$150,000) than a forced main pump system (\$30,000), but the maintenance costs over time would be greater for the forced main system.

The Franklin County cooperative building inspector, Jim Hawkins, has sent a letter to Ronald Bussiere, owner of Patriot Environmental Corp, of Worcester, regarding the lack of progress on demolishing and cleaning up the Usher Mill. Bussiere purchased the Usher Mill last year, shortly before an arson fire damaged the mill complex.

Hawkins wrote the Usher complex "is hazardous to life and safety, and is an unsecured demolition site. The protective enclosure only stands on the front portion of the collapsed structure, leaving the vast majority of the site exposed. This hazardous condition must be corrected immediately."

Hawkins ordered Bussiere to post a security guard at the Usher Mill 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until the site is properly secured.

As the lead town in a seven town consortium, including Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Northfield, Rowe, and Whately, the board received a \$969,024 CDBG grant, more than half of which will go toward zero interest loans for rehabilitating low to moderate income homes in the seven towns. Six of the houses to be rehabbed are located in Erving, Sharp said.

The Department of Revenue has certified the town's free cash reserves at \$1,093,939; Erving has approximately \$3 million in the stabilization account.

The board approved an \$11,870 reserve fund transfer to pay for a new air compressor for the highway department. The 27-year-old compressor the

department has been using died during a repaving job on Poplar Mountain Road this month.

On a positive note, highway superintendent Paul Prest told the board at their October 20th meeting he had received a \$5,000 grant to purchase trench boxes for the town.

Also at the October 20th meeting, Tighe and Bond engineers reported no significant findings from test wells at the Maple Valley landfill; that information was forwarded to the DEP. "By this time next year, if the results continue to be negative, we hope we can cease testing so frequently," Sharp said.

Following a presentation from deputy fire chief 'Bud' Meattay, the selectboard will ask special town meeting in December to spend \$109,578 to purchase 21 self-contained breathing apparatus. Downs-Bembury modeled one of the units.

The board also signed the warrant for the November 4th general election, with polling hours from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the town hall in Erving Center; and appointed Dale Mathey, Brian Mathey, Kendra Stiens, and junior firefighter Cody Pease to the Erving fire department.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Multiple Structure Fires

Tuesday, 10/21
 7:10 a.m. Assisted sewer worker with traffic at Erving center.
 8:35 a.m. Report of barking dog on Mountain Road. No one home; complaint letter to be sent to owners.
 9:35 a.m. Report of vandalism to town property - fence on Lester Street.
 6:05 p.m. Assist Gill police and fire

departments with fire at French King Highway in Gill.
 9:25 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default warrant.
Saturday, 10/25
 11:05 a.m. Report of lines down on State Road. Not a hazard, advised Verizon.
 12:30 p.m. Report of multiple structure fires on Briggs Street; popping wires

and smoke in residences. Assisted Erving fire department.
Sunday, 10/26
 11:00 a.m. Report of large coyote in area of Central Street. Patrolled area; gone upon arrival.
 2:14 p.m. Neighbor report of propane tanks removed from side of house. Under investigation.
Monday, 10/27
 10:40 p.m. Suspicious persons at Northfield Mountain. Subjects were advised to move along.

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CULTURE LINKS: PROVIDING TEENS A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF OTHER CULTURES

BY RICHARD BECKER

TURNERS FALLS - Though the economy is reeling and nations are battling, teens are building community across national borders and investing in their future by participation in cross cultural travel. Engaging youth in guided travel and immersion in different cultures is the mission of Culture Links, an initiative that provides adventurous young adults with the opportunity to learn something new while spending time in a culture outside the United States.

I have been a proponent of intercultural travel since I ventured to Bogota, Columbia, as a high school exchange student in 1980. This first travel experience opened my eyes to many new perspectives that have had positive impacts on my life. My current goal is to procure not-for-profit status for Culture Links and provide travel support for teens from varied ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic groups and life experiences.

Culture Links' mission to provide guided cross cultural emersion, reflection and learning

for teens fills an important travel niche. Culture Links enables teens to better recognize and appreciate that, despite cultural differences, people the world over have much in common. Guided international travel also helps a young person be challenged and learn more about themselves.

A typical Culture Links trip lasts seven-to-ten days and includes structured and supervised community-based action, recreation and volunteer activities in a local community.

Members of each travel group are encouraged to keep a journal, reflect and share what they have learned with each other at planned intervals during the trip. During a recent trip to the city of San Miguel in Mexico, the group volunteered at the "Mexiquito Orphanage" as well as at "Casita Linda" (pretty little home). The teens worked with the children of the orphanage teaching English, and learned

more Spanish in the process. At Casita Linda, they helped to create the adobe building bricks that are necessary to build homes for the most needy of the community. These were eye opening experiences for the teens, and their chaperones as well. Helping a family with nine children have a better and more comfortable home was life changing for us all. The teens left their iPods, game boys and cell



Jyliann Davis, (left - right) Pierce Davis and Justin Wojciekofsky, on the road to Mexiquito.

phones at home and never looked back. They rolled up their sleeves and dug in... literally. After a long dusty day of service

they were tired but energized by the good work they had participated in, and their own lives were changed for the better.

Culture Links has organized another trip for November 20th - 28th to the same locale and will again associate with both these local organizations. The group will also travel to nearby towns, with opportunities to visit to local artisans, museums, natural springs, and other sightseeing.

Culture Links welcomes your interest and appreciates any support to enable more teens to participate. If you are a teen, a teen organization, a mission driven organization or simply someone who wants to help, feel free to contact Rich Becker at XLR8mail@gmail.com or call 617-850-1007.

After a long dusty day of service

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Structure and Vehicle Fires

Tuesday, 10/21

9:26 p.m. Assisted Erving police at a Pratt Street address, Erving.
10:44 p.m. Report of vehicle fire in rear parking lot of an Avenue A address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Thursday, 10/23

1:20 a.m. Report of structure fire on High Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.
3:07 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Third Street address, Turners Falls. Advised of options.
4:47 p.m. Report of motor vehicle disturbance at Aaron Clark Cemetery on Turners Falls Road, Montague.
6:35 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at an Industrial Boulevard address, Turners Falls. Investigated.
8:14 p.m. Report of drug / narcotics violation at ExxonMobil, Third Street, Turners Falls. Referred to an officer.
10:30 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Third Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

Friday, 10/24

1:07 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a straight warrant.
1:53 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Prospect Street address, Millers Falls.
11:20 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Cumberland Farms, Montague City Road, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with disorderly conduct. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with assault and battery, domestic.

Saturday, 10/25

12:39 a.m. Report of fight at the Rendezvous, Third Street, Turners Falls. Subject removed to hospital.

1:55 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to wear a seatbelt.

2:23 a.m. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted] on a probation warrant.

Sunday, 10/26

12:46 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent offense, and failure to wear a seatbelt.

2:27 a.m. Report of accident with property damage. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, driving to endanger and failure to use care stopping, turning or backing.

7:47 p.m. Arrested [redacted].

[redacted]. Charged with assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest and four straight warrants.

10:00 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Seventh Street address. Peace restored.

Monday, 10/27
10:37 a.m. Report of a structure fire in the Third and Fourth Street alley, Turners Falls. Investigated.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Pumpkin Vandal

Tuesday, 9/9

8:05 p.m. Maple Valley School reported a runaway. Subject later picked up in Orange.

Sunday, 9/21

12:25 a.m. Medical emergency at a Depot Road address. Subject refused transport to hospital.

Thursday, 9/25

Two abandoned vehicles removed by a private citizen from Gate Lane.

Friday, 10/10

6:15 a.m. Pumpkin and squash reported thrown through rear window of a parked car on Farley Road.

Thursday, 10/23


Abandoned 911 call at Maple Valley School. No problems.

Tuesday, 10/28

911 misdial at a Lockes Village Road address.

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LAKE from page 1

munity in Lake Pleasant, Massachusetts, and with her walking tours, slide shows, and memorabilia was James' guide and mentor in the effort to preserve the village's otherworldly past.

"Hallowe'en is not a significant date from a Spiritualist perspective," said James, seated in a hard-backed chair, as twilight gathered beneath the skirts of low-slung rainclouds that periodically soaked the purlieus on Tuesday. A spindly Siamese watched him warily from a perch above a wheezing radiator in the darkly paneled living room, where a glass-fronted wood stove gradually took over the heating duties as the evening wore on.

A black cat named Inky turned in circles on the hardwood floor, and settled at her master's feet. The porch creaked; the outside windows with their diamond shaped leaded panes crinkled inward and outward, like the surface of a funhouse mirror, as James chose his words. "In pagan tradition, the significance of Hallowe'en is that the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead is at its thinnest. With a connected medium," he explained, "the veil is always thin."

Since its founding in the 1870s as the summer home of the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association, Lake Pleasant grew rapidly to become the largest Spiritualist gathering place in the United States, drawing visitors from across the country and Great Britain to hear the most famous lecturers of the day speak from the lakeside pavilion. Not all spoke on Spiritualism. For example, Colonel Robert Green Ingersoll of the 11th Illinois Cavalry, a Civil War officer regarded as the most popular orator in the land, would hold forth on agnosticism, women's suffrage, and other topics of interest to crowds of thousands.

But mediums of all kinds dominated the Campmeeting programmes, whether they were "platform mediums" addressing

overflow crowds on the bleachers, woods and lawns, "trance mediums," who delivered oratory in a state seemingly of devoid of human volition, as if an agency of the spirit world had taken control of their tongues, or "home mediums," who acted as go-betweens for small circles of seekers hoping for messages from loved ones in the world beyond.

"I think that was what was going on up there in that octagonal room," said James, pointing across the yard to the odd turret that surmounts the post office building, barely visible in the dusk.

Before it was the village post office, the building, home to the rakish G. Tabor Thompson and his wife Almira (heiress of the New Home Sewing Machine fortune, from nearby Orange) was known as the Two Worlds. Almira and G. Tabor gathered friends in the upper chamber and held seances there.

Among the more famous mediums who found their way to Lake Pleasant over the years were the Fox sisters, Margaret and Kate, founders of modern Spiritualism; Cora Scott Hatch, "a young and beautiful woman," according to James, "who was a fantastic trance speaker, with a huge following around the United States and Great Britain;" and Theodore C. Russell, the man who billed himself in the mid-20th century as "America's

donated to the town of Montague when the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association disbanded in 1977.

A year later, the town razed the structure. A basketball court stands in the Inn's footprint now, just up the road from the park on Broadway.

James described Russell as "tall and thin, quite a showman, with a deep voice. He specialized in 'billet reading.'" James explained, "People would come in for public platform performances, and be given a piece of paper and a little envelope. They would write down a question they wanted answered," from the spirit world. "The sealed envelopes would be placed in a bowl on the stage. He'd take out an envelope, without opening it, and he'd address the actual question inside. He'd indicate he knew what the question was, he'd find the author in the room and communicate with that person, unless anonymity was called for."

James said Shattuck regarded Russell as "the second best medium she'd ever encountered." (It may be possible to find out the name of the medium Shattuck regarded as the best, but to do so, you may have to contact her yourself.)

Thomas Merrigan, Esq. of Greenfield once held the job of reporter for the Greenfield Recorder-Gazette. In 1952, he covered one of Russell's



Those who etched names on the pickets of the Bridge of Names obviously had psychic foreknowledge of major events to come, including the present upheavals in global financial markets. Here, the name of the author of the \$700 Billion Wall Street bailout scheme, US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, was carved by unknown hands in decades past.



DETMOLD PHOTOS

Inky on the Hearth

Premier Psychic." He would fill the Lake Pleasant Inn, the beautiful old building that was

appearances in Lake Pleasant, and here is a part of his report:

Prior to the meeting, persons

desirous of hearing from a spirit submit questions in envelopes. These are then placed on the table before Russell. He endeavors to communicate with the spirits in the outer world and in turn delivers messages to the questioners. His psychic abilities impress those who attend the meetings. Russell will lift up an envelope and read off the words on the outside of it, merely as an identification for benefit of the person who submitted it. Then, as he continues without opening the envelope, Russell's recitation may go something like this: "Upon touching this envelope, I hear the name of Mary spoken... and then Henry. Do you recognize these people?" he

inquires of the person who submitted the envelope.

"Yes, I do, they are my mother and father," the person replies.

"They want you to know they have been watching you, and they feel you have been doing splendidly in many ways," Russell continues... Then the psychic continues to identify names, which the questioner says belong to dead members of his or her family, and answers the question enclosed in the envelope...

Doris Farnum, 80, who has lived in the village for 54 years, said she went to see Russell perform his mediumistic feats just once, five decades ago, at the

see LAKE next page

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SCHOOL from page 1

the views of our Native American guests."

The group discussed how the school could honor the culture of Native Americans and develop programs to educate students and staff about local Native American history. The effort was meant to help the community see how stereotypical imagery like the tomahawk chop may have an unintended negative impact on Native Americans.

Kociela asked Kenney how he thought the school committee should respond to the petition, and Kenney stated he would like to continue the community dialogue before moving forward with an official response.

The school committee approved a request from interim superintendent Ken Roche to spend \$12,500 of Pothole funds to fill a gap in funding for the School Resource Officer, as grant funding for that position will run out early next year. Roche said having a police officer at the school who develops positive relationships with the students is

of great value, plus the officer acts as a deterrent to bad behavior. Additional grant funds will be sought to continue the position next year.

The committee also approved spending \$17,995 from Pothole funds to purchase a new math tutorial software program, the Houghton Mifflin Skills Tutor. After some debate, the school committee decided to approve purchase of this program for four years, as a long term investment to encourage teachers to undertake the training necessary to utilize the program fully. The program is web-based with an interactive component, and will be available for use by all middle school students, at home and in school.

Cara Morano, energy consultant for Borrego Solar, made a presentation to the school committee to explain a photovoltaic solar electric system being considered for the district. Morano stated the best location for the new panels would be on the Sheffield building. If the school district and her investors

can agree on a contract, Borrego Solar would install, maintain and operate the system with no up-front investment by the district. The company would make its money from the sale of energy at a rate that would increase by a contractually set percentage over time. An estimated 27% of the school's current electric use could be replaced by the use of this system, which Morano said her company would maintain for 20 years.

It would be in the company's best interest to maintain the solar panels to function at top efficiency, because the success of

the contractual arrangement depends on having a high performing system in place.

Morano emphasized the positive effect of significantly reducing the school's carbon footprint and its impact on global warming, and added that her company would provide materials to the schools that could be used as classroom guides on Green technology. No action was taken on this matter, but the committee's interest was high and the response positive.

TFHS senior Nick Skarzynski has been selected to receive this year's Academic Excellence

Award. He will be honored at a dinner at the Franklin County Tech School. Skarzynski told the school committee at Tuesday evening's meeting that he's chosen his favorite English teacher, Michael Mead, to join him at the dinner. "He taught us to budget our time, taught us to think," Skarzynski said.

Mary Kociela announced the next school committee meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 12th. The schools are closed on Tuesday the 11th for Veterans Day. The school committee adjourned to an executive session after a three hour public meeting to discuss negotiations. 


FCRHRA from page 6

bright, proactive, extremely articulate; she loves our region and has a great relationship with a number of local organizations and our legislators. She has a great staff and great administrative team. If she takes the time to listen to them, the sky's the limit."

Sherman, of Montague Center, was Montague's planner and conservation agent from 1999 - 2006, and received a Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 2007. For the past year, she has been employed as a research manager for the UMass Donahue Institute. Earlier in her career, she worked for several nonprofit organizations, including American Farmland Trust in Northampton, and the Union of Concerned Scientists in

Cambridge. She also has a Master of Arts in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University.

Sherman said, "One of the things that is so attractive about coming into this organization is that it is already doing an outstanding job. It's already a leader in its field. So finding and securing new sources of support for the work they already do so well is clearly a priority. Meeting the needs of the 26 towns of Franklin County will continue to be our goal." With the examples of the Crocker-Cutlery buildings, the Ashfield House, the Moltenbrey, and Solar Village, Sherman said, "the FCRHRA has consistently taken leadership on the difficult projects that needed to be done."

Under her leadership, we expect that trend to continue. 

LAKE from previous page

Thompson Temple (named after G. Tabor and situated across the street from his oddly shaped home).

"There were quite a few people there," said Farnum. "A friend of mine was visiting, and she wanted to go, so I said, 'OK, I will.'"

Farnum recalled that a girlfriend of hers, a mother of six children, was stricken with cancer, and at the time she had guiltily wondered whether she should take one of the children to raise with her own.

"He had you write on a piece of paper," said Farnum, "and place it in a basket in front of him. He'd pick an envelope. He looked right at me and told me I should not worry, this would all play out. I have no idea how he knew it was me who asked the question. I wondered how he could do this. He was the sort of person who could almost read your mind."

Farnum added, "We bought our home from Mr. Russell. He used to hold séances in the front room to the left."


Of her one experience watching Russell in action, Farnum said, "It was interesting. A lot of people passed him envelopes. He spoke to each one. It wasn't just me he was speaking to. Even now, 54 years later, I think there probably was something to it. But I still don't

want to get into it."

Now, with horror movies and monster masks popularizing a view of Hallowe'en and the unquiet dead that conjures fear, if not terror, of the spirit realm, the thought of thousands of people gathering in front parlors to attempt to receive messages from departed loved ones may seem quaint, or simply misguided. But James said the followers of Spiritualism turned to mediums and their supposed ability to communicate with the departed not in fear but hope, seeking solace, wisdom and education.

"Mediums seek the highest and the best," said James, "to preclude the entrance of lesser spirits who may lie or cause harm." James noted, "Just as there are people who don't have a lot to recommend them while they are living, so with spirits."

Perhaps the treats we offer little ones who run from door to door on Hallowe'en recall the offerings people of yore once left on doorsteps to appease these tricky spirits. But James, and other adherents of Spiritualism, point the way to nobler intercourse with the denizens of the afterworld.

"Through eternity, all will evolve," James said, as Inky swirled at his feet, and the Siamese stood still as stone on the shelf above the radiator. 

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**Captive in Auto**

Wednesday, 10/22

6:59 a.m. Responded to a fire at 26 French King Highway.

1:45 p.m. Medical / welfare check at a Main Road residence.

Saturday, 10/25

8:52 p.m. Motor vehicle accident with no personal injury on French King Highway.

Sunday, 10/26

12:10 a.m. Traffic hazard on Boyle Road, responded to remove same.

6:45 p.m. Report of youths causing traffic hazard on Pisgah Mountain Road at French King Highway; unable to locate.

Monday, 10/27

11:59 a.m. Report of subject held against their will in a motor vehicle at Gill lights. Incident under investigation.

7:08 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Oak Street, stopped and investigated.

9:20 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with domestic arrest.

Calling all Friendly Goblins

The Montague Business Association is proud to present the list of the following businesses and organizations that have graciously agreed to participate in our first annual Avenue A Trick or Treat Fest:

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Trick or Treating takes place between the hours of 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31st. The Rag Shag Parade gathers at 5:15 at the parking lot in front of Aubuchon's. Please come and make this a Halloween to remember!

Thank you - Linda Ackerman, MBA Membership Chair

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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno,
Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street,
Turners Falls, MA 01376;
or email us your poetry at
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Demarcation of Indigence

When in the (inter) coarse(ness) of humane events. When everything fails. Again. When yes means yes-and-no. When the net is full and sinks and sinks. . . .

Hold in hand lack of evidence. Hold that all have evolved as needed, enduring an explication told with certain unalienable connotations. Hold that hairs are split and teased amid the pursuing of hats.

Refuse wholesome good. Forbid pressing neglect. Dissolve firmness. Endeavor others hither. Erect swarms to eat out substance.

When words are based less on gift than graft how can we mutually pledge lips, eyes and sacred breath?

--Gian Lombardo
Western Massachusetts

NON-SONNET FOR THE PHRASE "BUT I BELIEVE."

This afternoon slowly
flaking away in sheaths.
3:00 grandfathered
in. Collector's stamps
accidentally licked and posted, the Basil Dove
heckling the rest of the
postal pouch.
Leaves faking change and
then the guard.

To the waitress I said
wondermeat meaning
wonderment. Meaning I
wonder where you are, and
how you spend your wooden
nickels. Every cup
of coffee after noon counts
as addiction but nothing
compared to how much I
miss you. Your gleeful,
airless laugh. Your lashes
lashing. Languishing.

Pinioned stars say I am both
born and dying
in love's mystery. Penelope
weaving and unweaving
her weaving. I say I do not
believe. I do not believe.

--Betsy Wheeler
Northampton

The editors would like to thank the
following for their generous financial
underwriting of The Poetry Page:

Anonymous, Klondike Sound,
Carlin Barton, Montague Dental
Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin, Green
Fields Market, Michael Farrick,
and Michael Muller.

Fear of Houses

Chain of tooth, mail and foxtrot
holds the moon in its purse.
A moneyed lamb in stiffened blood
pawing its bets on the board.

Claw of berries
with a black arm swirling
on a golden stake, your purse
in the laundry, my grimace
in the moonlight, staunch bandage,
blue rummage,
consoling pigeon, murderous dove.

Added limelight on some
chickenwire,
some love test,
some rinse agent,
your woolly peasant,
my night-tossed skin clause,

stars rocketing,
galaxies cleft.

--Lori Shine



A's Tale

It wasn't the primacy. It was how primal it was. (Unless there's a misreading and it wasn't the privacy - or rather it was how private.)

The weekly, occasionally daily, sessions of who gets what when, where what gets taken, handled, withheld.

That's all well and good, you might say, but what's begun bound by one category ends with the snap and release of another.

There's that envy of what someone has done. Whether or not the why enters, there's that previous shudder, the ladder of expectation.

I'm not saying what you might say whether or not there's been an interjection. Rather, it's primarily what gets spilled, what gets righted, what's left, what's lost and who cleans up the act.

--Gian Lombardo
Western Massachusetts

Number Seven Charm

My sweetheart the hard-ass,
he is like a patient cactus
making a painting with crushed-up spiders.
Later he'll soak the heirlooms
in india ink. They'll be stamps of themselves.

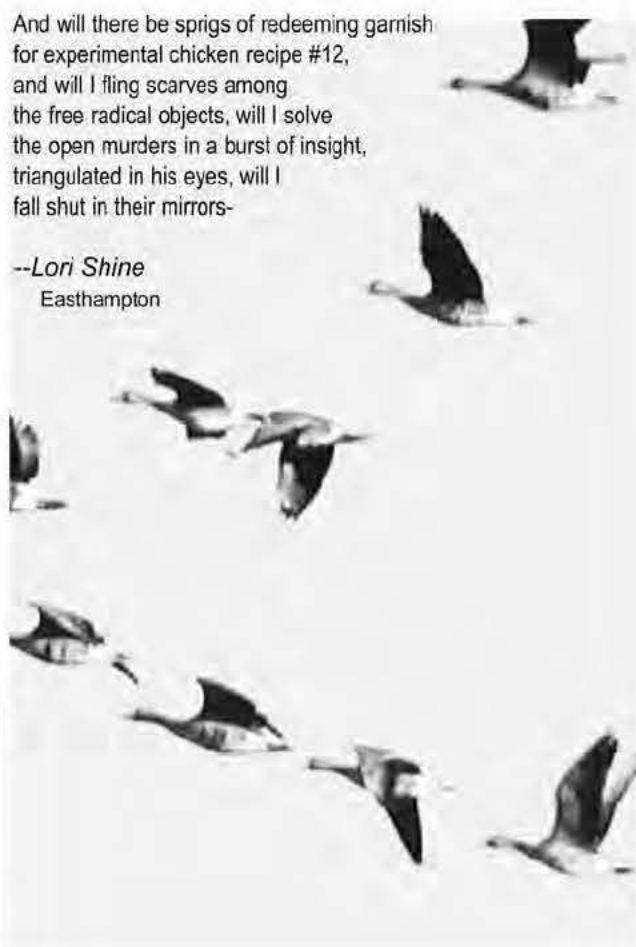
I'm walking back to him through a series of transport devices.

On the plane there's some kind of famous hockey person and a flat lady with a tired pink smile asks for his autograph for her son and says his life is hockey and he says mine is poetry.

I hope my sweetheart is like the geese in a vee and not the one I saw waddling cross the highway reaching toward wettish glowing green, drinking the juice and taking its lumps. I come walking back over ramps and engines and what will I say I have done, will I get to the shoulder?

And will there be sprigs of redeeming garnish for experimental chicken recipe #12, and will I fling scarves among the free radical objects, will I solve the open murders in a burst of insight, triangulated in his eyes, will I fall shut in their mirrors-

--Lori Shine
Easthampton



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Betsy Wheeler
Gian Lombardo

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CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Gian Lombardo is Publisher-in-Residence in the Writing, Literature & Publishing Department at Emerson College. Gian also directs Quale Press. He is also the author of *Between Islands*, a collection of poems and verse translations; and three other collections of prose poetry - *Standing Room*, *Sky Open*

Again and Of All the Corners or *Forget*.

Lori Shine's chapbook *Coming Down in White* was published by Pilot Books. Her poems have appeared in *6x6*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Conduit*, *New American Writing*, *Tin*

House, and in the anthology *Isn't It Romantic: 100 Love Poems by Younger American Poets*. She lives in Easthampton.

Betsy Wheeler grew up in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, received her MFA in poetry from Ohio State University, and was a

Stadler Fellow at Bucknell University's Stadler Center for Poetry. Her poems have recently appeared in numerous journals, and her chapbook, *Start Here* is available from Small Anchor Press. She is co-editor of *Pilot* and *Pilot Books*. The above poem first appeared in *Octopus Magazine*.



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CD REVIEW

Nudge it Up a Notch

STEVE CROPPER & FELIX CAVALIERE

BY DAVID DETMOLD - *Nudge it Up a Notch*, the new collaboration by Booker T & the MG's legendary guitarist Steve Cropper and his blue-eyed soulmate Felix Cavaliere, of Rascals fame, hit the CD player at the Montague Reporter underground sound studio last week, and has been receiving endless play ever since.

Cropper etched his sound deep into the nation's consciousness with such pearls of Memphis soul as Eddie Floyd's "Knock on Wood"; Wilson Pickett's "Midnight Hour" and Otis Redding's "Dock of the Bay", on all of which he co-wrote. He has hardly been lying fallow since the glory days of Stax, and lately he has been working on projects in Nashville with Long Island transplant Cavaliere. Producer Jon Tiven got the two of them together at his home recording studio, brought in Curtis Mayfield

protégé Shake Anderson on bass and session man Chester Thompson on drums and told them to go to work.

The result is the tastiest updating of classic Memphis soul you are likely to hear in a month of Sundays. Every track grooves above a deep funky bass line, tightened up on Thompson's precise snare and simmered in the signature melody lines and eloquent solos that spell Steve Cropper to the most casual fancier of soul. Cavaliere's Hammond organ floats behind every track, and his vocals, shot through with the plaintive yearning that propelled the Rascals' 60s hits like "A Girl Like You" and "People Got to Be Free" to the top of the charts, still sound like pure gold.

The disc kicks in with "One of Those Days", a deceptively simple plea to lost love, except what kind of guitarist can make those chords sound like they are

bending over backwards to get her back? And what kind of woman could walk out on a rhythm section like that?

Then track two comes on, and the hounds of love start baying down in the swamp. Cavaliere still sounds like a fallen angel begging for what every man wants in a voice no reasonable woman could resist. So why does he always end up torn up and beaten down, like he does next on "Without You"? Aw, but it hurts so good, you can't stop listening.

Every song is original, every song a finely cut gem; the instrumentals bring Cropper to the fore and make you remember how tight time can be, especially on "Cuttin' it Close", which shows a great guitarist in command from the first bar to the last with his signature style on the melody line.

Time and its passage figures in more than one song on this CD, including numbers where

bittersweet refrain, "Whatever's left of forever, I'll still be lovin' you." On "Make the Time Go Faster", Cropper and Cavaliere nod toward modern times, with a Hip Hop intro, before busting out in a satisfying boogie-woogie stomp.

A lot of 60s reunion bands are content to trot out their old tunes to diminishing acclaim as years go by. These guys sound like they just got together in the recording studio for the first time a few months ago, to apply their well-honed chops to all



Cropper and Cavaliere cook up some good ol' Memphis stew, recording together for the first time

Cropper steps back and lets Cavaliere's keyboards and vocals take center stage, as on "Still Be Lovin' You", with its

new material. Which in fact they did. Pick it up at your nearest independent record store, and *Nudge it Up a Notch*.

FREE FLU SHOTS

BY PAT ALLEN
TURNERS FALLS - Fall has arrived and the flu season is not far behind!

Free flu shots will be available Saturday, November

22nd at the Turners Falls High School, from 10 a.m. to noon for residents of Gill, Wendell, Erving and Montague who are 18 and over. No appointment is necessary, however supplies are limited.

Even if you normally go to your doctor's office or get your shot earlier in the year, please come to the school this year on November 22nd. A large turnout will help our towns be better prepared in the event of an infectious disease emergency.

Jay DiPucchio, chair of the committee preparing the free clinic said, "This format will be quick and easy for our citizens. In addition, our local EDS (Emergency Dispensing Site) committee has designed this clinic to implement its plan for emergency dispensing during a major regional disaster, and this will be our first test of that plan. Not only will you receive your annual flu shot free, but you will further efforts to ensure

your safety during a regional or national emergency."

Your local EDS committee has been meeting for more than a year and a half with volunteers from the four towns including members of the fire and police departments, boards of health, medical personnel and town officials, as well as the Franklin Council of Governments to create a viable plan to protect citizens in the case of local or regional disasters. State and national organizations have developed guidelines and protocols which have been utilized to provide a simple, coherent structure for dispensing information and medications, as needed, in a timely manner. This clinic will help formalize the EDS plan and allow feedback and alterations to that plan where necessary.

Planners for the clinic are also seeking volunteers to help with registration and logistics. Call the Montague board of

health at 413-863-3200 ext 205 for more information.

See you on November 22nd

at the Turners Falls High School, and thank you for your

help.

Franklin County Voters
Write - In Candidate
For Council of Governments
Executive Committee
Margaret Sullivan
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Consultant
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Please Write-in Margaret Sullivan on November 4th

Please Vote November 4th
Ann H. Banash
Write in candidate:
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Experienced leadership. 16 year Gill Selectboard; 10 years Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG); 6 years regionally elected to Executive Committee. Serves as Chair - FRCOG Finance Committee, Vice-Chair Personnel Committee and is Immediate Past Chair Executive Committee.
Committed to finding regional solutions that benefit the towns in Franklin County
Please write in: **Ann H. Banash, 55 French King Highway, Gill**
For Franklin Regional Council of Governments Executive Committee

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION
BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm having an MRI and I heard that tattoos can present problems for this test. True?

True. Tattoos can create a misdiagnosis with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) because there is metal in many tattoo pigments. Magnets attract metals. So, tattoo pigments may interfere with the quality of the image from an MRI. In some rare

cases, people experience swelling or burning in the tattoo when they have an MRI.

If you have a tattoo, you should discuss it with your doctor before undergoing an MRI.

A tattoo is made with pigments injected into the skin's top layer. A needle connected to a machine with dye tubes pierces the skin repeatedly. A large tattoo can take several hours. The process involves some bleeding and pain.

Tattoos are very popular today. According to U.S. News & World Report, there are more than 20,000 tattoo parlors operating in the United States. The magazine ranked tattooing as the sixth fastest growing retail business of

the 1990s.

A recent study done by the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology found that almost one in four Americans between 18 and 50 are tattooed. I was unable to find any statistics about how many seniors are getting new tattoos. My suspicion is that there aren't many of my contemporaries heading to tattoo parlors, although there are some with body art left over from their youth.

During my research, I found an auction on Ebay for "Over-the-Hill Temporary Tattoos" for senior parties. I could not resist sharing some of these: Bite Me with dentures in a glass, Retirement Home Boy with skull

and cross bones, Born to Ride across an electric scooter with flames, and Who's Your Grand Daddy? over an anchor.

Complications from tattoos are relatively uncommon. However, there are risks that include: blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis, tetanus, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS; granulomas, which are bumps that can form around tattoo; keloids, which are scars that grow beyond normal boundaries; local bacterial infections, and allergic reactions.

If you decide to get a tattoo, make sure the establishment is licensed and reputable.

Many people who get tattoos decide they want them removed because the artwork faded, became blurred or because their body changed with age. There are a variety of removal methods, but none of them is perfect. Removal

methods include:

- Laser. A surgeon removes the tattoo by treating the pigment with a high-intensity laser beam. Many treatments may be needed to lighten the tattoo. The process may not completely erase the artwork. Laser surgery is the most common method used today.

- Brush. The tattoo is removed by dermabrasion, a technique that uses a wire brush or a diamond wheel to remove skin. This technique may leave a scar.

- Scalpel. A surgeon cuts out the tattoo and closes the wound with stitches. This technique is effective in removing some tattoos. This surgery can leave a scar.

Tattoos can be removed by a dermasurgeon on an outpatient basis with local anesthesia.

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

Granny Lore

The Dreaded Flu Season, Part I: Prevention

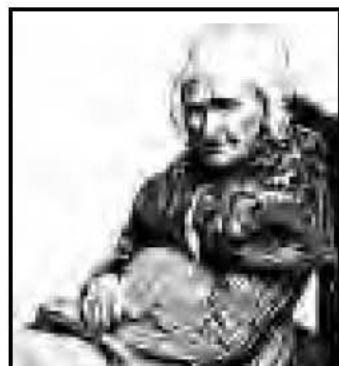


ILLUSTRATION: WEBSTER'S ONLINE DICTIONARY
BY KAREN ADAMS

TURNERS FALLS - Grannies have been around for a while; we've learned hardly anything is the way it seems on the surface. Here's a big assumption many people share: 'I'm totally at the mercy of the flu each year, unless I have a doctor's intervention'.

No one wants to get the flu,

and we particularly don't want to get one of those nasty flus we hear about in the media. Lots of hype; lots of scary stories. Granny's response? Be sensible about this - and please don't believe everything 'they' say.

First of all, if we are generally healthy and our immune systems are strong, we are far less likely to get sick. I'm sure we all know people who sail through flu season, year after year. Haven't thought about it that way? Most of us only see our ailing friends and colleagues. We don't actually notice the healthy ones. If we see the people around us as about to be disabled by the flu, exposing us to the virus, making us sick (then the kids aren't cared for, work doesn't get done, bills don't

get paid) - can you feel your anxiety rise? This is stress, and stress is a major challenge to our immune systems.

Stress is a reaction to all the information the body acquires through all of the senses, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's one of the ways the body responds to its environment. It prepares the body for fight or flight, which is useful sometimes and not so useful at others.

So, step one in flu prevention: avoid stress. No really. Stress reactions are a lot about attitude. We often don't have a choice about the things that happen to us, but we do have a choice in how we respond to those events. Often our reactions to the unfair boss, the inane co-worker, the traffic jam are merely habit, mindless knee-jerks activated from old ways of believing and behaving. When we find ways to notice and change our reaction habits, our

stress level will drop. (Other things will change as well. If we challenge our belief that a traffic jam is created solely to make us late and raise our blood pressure, it can become an opportunity to, perhaps, listen to that great new CD. Now we have a lovely, relaxing drive home.)

Every time you feel stressed, find something to appreciate. Look at the sky; watch the wonder of the changing seasons. Enjoy the sight of a child playing. Remember that (obnoxious) hit song 'Don't Worry, Be Happy'? The man had a point.

Grannies have always said, 'If you get angry, count to ten before you speak'. Better yet, take ten deep breaths, counting to four on the inhale, pause, counting to four on the exhale. If you find your thoughts wanting to drift back to your anger-target, start again. Pause and repeat as necessary until the tension eases.

Move. Constrained energy makes us frustrated, so get up and walk around. Stand up and stretch. If you work at a computer, make sure you follow that rule about getting up and moving every 20 minutes. Any intense mental work challenges the whole body, and can leave us feeling edgy and congested.

The way toward good health starts by feeling good. Attitude is probably the only thing in life we really control. Try to find something to feel good about as often as you can. If we feel good, other things are so much easier to deal with. Sure, you'll probably slip on these, so here's another thing: forgive yourself and start trying again. And laugh. Laughter is always, always good.

Karen Adams is a local acupuncturist and a grandmother. Reach her with your remedies by email at kradams1@verizon.net, or at her clinic: 413-863-0088.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st
Brattleboro Music Center presents one of chamber music's most accomplished and promising young piano trios, Trio con Brio Copenhagen, at Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro, VT., 8 p.m. Trio con Brio Copenhagen will perform a Halloween themed program: Beethoven's Piano Trio in D major, "Ghost", Bent Sørensen's Phantasmagoria; and Smetana's Piano Trio in G Minor. 8 p.m. at Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro, Vt.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Evenspeak Halloween Party. Costume, prizes! 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: DJ Pushplay Halloween Dance Party! \$3.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Nexus**, Halloween Costume Party, dancing tends to break out when this group gets going! Harmonic, eclectic rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st & NOVEMBER 1st
At The Shea Theatre, Turners Falls: The Country Players present *Count Dracula* by Ted Tiller. Reserve tickets (413) 863-2281, ext. 1 or www.countryplayers.org

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st THROUGH DECEMBER 13th
At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Winning entries of the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp competition on display.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: F-Bomb, Rock and Roll covers, come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

Local Geology: Join Bob Coyle for a talk on the Center's extensive rock and mineral collection, 1 p.m. Outdoor field trip following. Meet at the Millers River

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The ASC Stark Raving Sane troupe performs Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, under the direction of Jim Warren. Tom Stoppard, co-writer of the screenplay for the Oscar-winning 1998 film Shakespeare in Love, shows us the Dane's story from the point of view of Hamlet's school chums. Stoppard serves up a feast of wordplay, wit, and slapstick while exploring the timeless questions about identity, illusion, and toenail growing. Sunday, Nov. 9th at 7 p.m., Rand Theatre, UMass.

Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Info. call, Bob Coyle (978) 249-6083.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **A Ghost Quartet**, Jazzy Blues with a taste of "Fist Fight Swing", 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd
Hike to Stevens Swamp and Indian Cave in Warwick. Clare Green and Allen Young will co-lead this trip, Noon - 3 p.m. Leaves from Warwick Public Library. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Hard rain cancels.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Adam Bergeron**, classical piano improv, 7 to 10 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Keeping Abreast*, a benefit for Sue Blauner, 5 p.m.. *Oweihopsn* and *Leftheaded*, 8:30 p.m., \$3 cover.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Election Night**-big screen viewing.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th
Tyler Boudreau, author of *Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine*, will speak at the Leverett Library, 7:30 p.m.. His book is a timely account of the ordeal of a marine officer in battle in Iraq and the equally difficult task of coming home. Info. call 548-9220 or www.leverettlibrary.org.
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Industries of Turners Falls* presented by Al Shane. The Montague Historical Society and the Great Falls Discovery Center hosts Mr. Al Shane, curator of the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, Greenfield. His program will be an historical perspective of the paper, cutlery and textile industries demonstrated through vintage photographs and artifacts. The program will be followed by refreshments and the annual meeting of the society. All are welcome. 7:30 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6th
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Kellianna**, acoustic folk rock, Kellie's amazing voice is always a crowd pleaser. 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Mass Production**, Simon White, Joe Cunningham and Christian Marano make this Reggae night something special. 9:30

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Free Range**, rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to oldie cover tunes from the 60's and 70's. 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
Great Falls Coffee House: *Dodging the Bow* a Celtic acoustic trio from the Pioneer Valley performing a repertoire of traditional and contemporary songs from Ireland, Scotland, and England and folksongs from North America. Cellist Mark Fraser, Daphne Bye voice and piano and, Jennie McAvooy, singer/guitar and voice, 7 p.m. At the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. - coffee & homemade baked goods will be available. The museum and Museum Store will be open during intermission. There is a suggested sliding scale donation of \$6 - \$12, free for children.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16th
Slate Roof poets Janet MacFadyen and Janine Roberts join guest photographer Stephen Schmidt for a reading/slide show at 2 p.m. at the Leverett Library, Leverett. Leverett resident Janine Roberts reads from *The Body Alters*, Janet MacFadyen and Stephen Schmidt-both of Shutesbury-present a multimedia fusion of poems and nature photography entitled *Under the Influence of Water*. Free, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th & NOVEMBER 8th
At The Shea Theatre, Turners Falls: The Country Players present *Count Dracula* by Ted Tiller. Reserve tickets (413) 863-2281, ext. 1 or www.countryplayers.org.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Full Moon Folklore*, story and a hands-on craft activity. Come join us! 11 to 12 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Richard Chase Group**, acoustic folk/singer song-writer. 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9th
Renaissance Center presents the American Shakespeare Center production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Rand Theater, Fine Arts Center, UMass, 7 p.m. Wickedly funny companion piece to Hamlet that turns Shakespeare inside

out. \$15/\$10 students & seniors, and \$25 for reserved seating which includes a Meet the Actors reception following the performance. (413) 545-2511 or www.umass.edu/fac.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
Accessible Birding: Join Joe Superchi on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to visit local sites. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street. 8 to 10 a.m. Open to birders of all abilities. Call ahead for wheelchair van access. (978) 248-9491.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Free Range**, rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to oldie cover tunes from the 60's and 70's. 8 - 10 p.m.

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Scandinavian Dance at The Montague Grange, Montague Center, 3 to 6 p.m. Telemark (Norway) Gangar, for Hardanger Fiddle. No Partner necessary. Dancers with all levels of experience are welcome. \$8 donation, (413) 253-0525.

Paul Caponigro - Select Photographs: 1956 thru 2005 on display through December 14th at The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography Gallery 52 and Gallery 56, Turners Falls. Free.



Paul Caponigro - Select Photographs: 1956 thru 2005 on display through December 14th at The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography Gallery 52 and Gallery 56, Turners Falls. Free.

photographers Don Cooper and Linda Henderson exhibit this month.

Select Photographs: 1956 thru 2005 by photographer Paul Capinigro on display in Gallery 52 & 56 at the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. At Gallery 85: Lois Greenfield - *Celestial Bodies*, *Infernal Souls*. Both exhibits through Dec. 14th.

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Sunday, 11/2, 7 - 10 p.m.
Classical Piano Improv: **Adam Bergeron**
Thursday, 11/6, 8 - 10 p.m.
Acoustic Folk Rock: **Kellianna**
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FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15 PG13
5. PRIDE & GLORY R
DAILY 9:15
5. BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
DAILY 6:45 PG
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. ZACK & MIRI MAKE A PORNO
DAILY 7:00 9:30 R DTS sound
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. SAW 5 R DTS sound
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The Natural World Continues Unperturbed

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - Here we are again. The busy days of summer light and bright flowers have given way to dim evenings and fall harvest. Groups of big mallard ducks from the north, who apparently spot the Cold Brook pond from the sky, settle in for a day of dipping and feeding and swimming up and down with purpose. On occasion, three more may swish in from the sky. And the next day they are gone.

The smaller resident mallards do not appear. They delight in a quiet pond with rocks and a log or two in the sun to share with a friend, and leisurely visits to the milfoil bed.

And here they go again, the trees in proper order, divesting themselves of their color: maples and birch, hickory and reluctant oaks, the weeping willow drooping sad grey green over the pond, the catalpa, last to leaf out in the spring, finally releasing its leaves in an overnight windstorm, and the stalwart pines holding their green on the hill.

They know the sun rules their lives. We know it too. Our Congress even passes the laws that regulate our labeling of it. In 2007, an energy bill extended the prevailing Daylight Saving Time by four weeks. Forget what you were brought up with. Now Standard Time ends on the sec-

ond Sunday in March and extends to the first Sunday in November.

The animals don't know about this change in our energy related adjustment to our social and economic world, and on November 2nd, your cat and dog will let you sleep another hour. For some of us, the saving general rule is "fall back" and "spring ahead." We set our clocks accordingly and find the misplaced hour a nuisance for some time.

Again, the open outside world is closing in for less active folks. The reassuring holidays once more offer social stability. Perhaps their ethical value is somewhat lost as holy days

become the darling of the business world. Still, with their sense of regard for others and domestic activity, the holidays buoy up the spirits of a darker and colder season.

The lady cardinal who stopped last week at the bird feeder for an infrequent visit was probably filling up before lighting out for a warmer spot. By 1950, these handsome birds had just begun to bring a bit of elegance to New England from the south. Now, they have become welcome additions in our natural world, whose mostly consistent structure gives us pattern and security.

Tips for Montague Voters

Adapted from MassVote - 1. Vote early. Turnout will be huge, so expect a line during peak hours. Vote between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. to avoid the rush. But don't worry - you have a right to vote if you're on line before 8 p.m., and polls will stay open until every voter in line votes. 2. Check your registration. If you've moved in the last year, haven't voted for a while, or for any other reason feel your registration may be in question, call the Montague town clerk at 863-3200, ext 203. 3. Know where you vote. Montague Center's polling location has changed to the fire station on Old Sunderland Road. 4. Do your homework. The candidates are exciting this year, but so are the ballot questions. Know where you stand on eliminating the state income tax (Question #1), decriminalizing marijuana possession (#2), and outlawing dog-racing (#3). Research the candidates as well. www.sec.state.ma.us/ele is a good place to start. 5. You may vote if you have a CORI, or if you're on parole or probation, so long as you're a registered voter. Only people currently incarcerated for a felony are not eligible. 6.

Bring ID. Most voters are not asked for identification, but some are, especially those who are voting for the first time or who haven't voted in a few years. Your MA driver's license will work, but so will a recent utility bill or rent receipt on landlord's letterhead. 7. Get help at the polls. Do you have difficulty speaking English? A disability? A question? You have to right to get help from the poll-workers. Request another ballot if you spoil yours.

Montague Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the town clerk's office for the November 4th general election. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, November 3rd. To vote absentee you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to the town clerk's office by the close of the polls on November 4th. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. For info: call 863-3200, x 203.

Blood Donors Needed!

Greenfield Community College
Blood Drive

Wednesday, November 5th
Noon to 5 pm

The Associate Degree Nursing Program students are sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive at the GCC Downtown Center

Our goal is 80 usable pints!

Please call 413-775-1609 or email: villeneuve@gcc.mass.edu to set-up an appointment.



The Rendezvous

GREAT FOOD, 12 HOURS A DAY, 13 ON WEEKENDS!

FRI: 10/31
DJ Pushplay HALLOWEEN DANCE \$3
Costume Contest • Prizes!

SUN: 11/02
5PM - KEEPING ABREAST - a benefit for Sue Blauner (details at: keeping-a-breast.blogspot.com)
\$15
8:30PM - Dweihops • Leftheaded \$3

TUES: 11/4
ELECTION NIGHT
BIG SCREEN.
Liquor on hand, come what may.

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- Rep. Steve Kulik

First Franklin District

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