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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 1

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 4, 2007

## Senior Center and Food Pantry to Squeeze into Former Library

**BY DAVID DETMOLD WENDELL** - It could be a tight squeeze, but the senior center and the Good Neighbors food pantry are going to try to share quarters in the 735-square-foot building that formerly housed the Wendell Free Library. The building sits on a tiny 75 by 100-foot lot on the corner of Montague Road and Lockes Village Road.

It is nearly 90 years old, has no plumbing, and a narrow staircase leads down to the basement where low-hanging beams make headroom an issue. Yet, according to Good Neighbors board member Kaymarion Raymond, the town saved \$100,000 by not building extra space for a senior center at the new town see **LIBRARY** pg 18



*The Senior Center and the Good Neighbors Food Pantry will try to move into the former Wendell Free Library*

## Zoning Plaintiff, Town Both Say They're Bewildered

**BY JONATHAN VON RANSON WENDELL** - The town of Wendell is waiting to hear what Brian Anderson, immediate neighbor of the new town office building on Morse Village Road, desires for compensation for problems he has experienced from the placement of the structure on its building lot. Selectboard member Dan Keller described the selectboard as "confused" at the "over three-months" wait to hear from Anderson. Meanwhile, Anderson is confused too, and hurt that, in his mind, the town has shown so little interest in negotiating. "I've always been open to

negotiation," he said on Sunday, September 30th, "and have reiterated that recently." As far as negotiations, he said there has been "basically none." He feels his efforts to protect his "legitimate interests," while making sense to his friends and neighbors, have made him a pariah among town officialdom. Anderson lost the view from his house and a sense of rural elbow-room when the town last year erected the long, fairly high town office building 25 feet from his boundary line and 25 feet from the road - both dimensions approved by the town's zoning board of appeals. These set-

see **ZONING** pg 17

## Business Association Kick-off a Huge Success

**BY MARC ODATO TURNERS FALLS** -

*Never mind the chic downtown start-ups and the recent write-up in the Globe, the fledgling Montague Business Association has a decided advantage in promoting local business:*



DETMOLD PHOTO

Business owners and town officials enjoy jazz and hors d'oeuvres in advance of Tuesday's Montague Business Association kick-off event at the Shea Theater.

"It doesn't hurt that your initials are MBA."

So said Art Schwenger, executive director of the Shelburne Falls Area Business Association, to about 110 people gathered Tuesday night at the Shea Theater for the MBA's kickoff meeting.

Schwenger and Rebecca Kurber from the Greenfield Business Association fielded questions from the crowd

about the benefits and possible pitfalls of forming a local business alliance. But the real story was the hour-long schmooze-fest beforehand, and the excitement people in the room already felt about the Zeitgeist that is Montague business.

"It's been a case of 'Build it and they will come,'" said Robin Paris, local realtor and president

of the Shea's board of directors. "People really have the energy to see business and the arts succeed."

As Paris spoke, a three-piece jazz unit played an instrumental "Girl from Ipanema" while guests dipped crackers into smoked salmon spread and sampled other delicacies from Ristorante DiPaolo on Avenue A. Froufrou in Montague -

who knew? The answer, apparently, is lots of people. Collaboration between business interests, non-profits - particularly the town-sponsored RiverCulture arts based economic development project, which sparked Tuesday's gathering - and local government set the stage and fostered the energy to revive the see **MBA** pg 8

## Checking the Scene: Arts & Leaves

**BY ANNE HARDING TURNERS FALLS** -

*Last weekend's Arts and Leaves Tour was a rousing success, according to all the venues that participated. It certainly didn't hurt to have absolutely perfect weather and pre-tour publicity in the Boston Globe.*

Visitors came from all villages of Montague, across the Valley and beyond. According to Karen Stinchfield, outreach coordinator for the Brick House, bidders at their silent art auction came from as far away as Toronto, Ontario.

There were over 60 donated art items on the Brick House display tables, so it was difficult for me to decide which ones to bid on - but certainly there was something for everyone. Approximately half the items had new owners by Sunday evening, but the remainder are available for silent bidders until the Gill Art Fest on October 13th and 14th. To place bids, contact the Brick House at see **SCENE** pg 16

*A painting in the Industrial Passages series by Derrick Zellmann, on display at the 2nd Street Baking Co. in Turners Falls.*





**PET OF THE WEEK**

**Lonely Heart**



**Mayor**

Mayor is a friendly five-year-old male brown and white medium hair cat in need of a good home. Mayor is a member of our Lonely Hearts Club, which means adopters get 50% off the regular adoption fee! He is a sweet boy, but we recently discovered he has a heart murmur. He is looking for a special person to love him and care for him. He is a devoted cat, the type to quickly get attached to you and stay near you. Such a sweetheart. For more information on adopting Mayor please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

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**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**

**Beginning Drawing and Family Music Time**

**Beginning Drawing** for Adults and Teens - An artist's toolbox of approaches and techniques with Instructor Sally Alley Muffin Stuffin. Free classes at the Library on four consecutive Mondays, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., beginning October 15th.

**Family Music Time** - Music teacher Henry Slater offers free Music Together classes on four

consecutive Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Wendell Free Library, beginning October 24th.

Preference will be given first to Wendell families who can commit to all 4 sessions. Registration is required, by October 17th. Group size is limited so register early. Call Naz at 413-423-3337 or e-mail mohamed@erving.com to register or be added to the wait list.

**ERVING LIBRARY NEWS**

**Come Get Beeped**

**BY BETH BAZLER** - The Erving public library is officially circulating under the C/WMARS automated system. After two-plus years of hard work matching books to the database and applying barcodes, followed by a month of issuing new library cards, the moment Erving patrons have all been waiting for is here! The hand stamped and filed card system was officially replaced by a beeping scanner on October 1st, so come visit the library and get beeped. Patrons from other C/WMARS libraries like Greenfield, Montague,

Northfield and Orange will also be able to use their home library cards in Erving.

Patrons that do not have new cards can come visit the library to pick one up. The new library cards can also be used to order materials from any Western MA libraries and have them delivered to Erving. Look online at: www.cwmars.org under, "Library Catalogs," "Western MA Libraries."

The Erving Public Library is located at 17 Moore Street (right on Route 63 just south of Route 2). The hours of operation are Mondays from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Tuesdays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Erving Public Library volunteer Angel Kosloski (left) checks out a book for patron May Grzybowski using the new automated system.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Oct. 8th - 12th**

**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.

**Monday, 1st**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 2nd**  
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi  
**Wednesday, 3rd**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 4th**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 5th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

A suggested donation of \$1.00 per exercise is appreciated.

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (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 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 978 544-

**Wendell Cultural Council Applications Due**

The Wendell Cultural Council seeks funding proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities and science projects. Proposals must be postmarked by October 15th. Grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Wendell - including exhibits, festivals, workshops, performances, and lectures. The council will also entertain funding proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, a ticket-subsidy program for school age children. This year, the council will distribute \$4000 in grant funds. Application forms and specific guideline information are available at the Wendell Free Library, town hall, the Wendell and Wendell Depot Post Offices, and the Wendell Country Store, or via www.masscultural.org/lcc\_public.asp. Contact Phyllis Lawrence, WCC chairperson, at 413-367-2175 for questions.

**GILL NOTES: TRASH STICKER SALES**

The Gill Mobil station will be closed for maintenance October 8th through the 19th. Gill trash stickers will be available for purchase at town hall and at a new venue: the Upingil Farm at 411 Main Rd.

**Monday, 1st**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, 2nd**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, 3rd**  
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
12 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 4th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Pool  
12:30 p.m. Shopping

**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.

**FACES & PLACES**



*Fall is here! Annie Diemand stands with some of her Diemand Farm turkeys on Mormon Hollow Road in Wendell. The holidays are coming; get your orders in now!*

LITCHFIELD PHOTO

**GFMS Students of the Week**

**Grade 6:**  
Lauren Grimard  
**Grade 7:**  
Kayla Drumgoole  
**Grade 8:**  
Kayleigh Turn  
Casey Banning

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# Hundreds of Volunteers Clean Up After Illegal Dumpers

BY ANNE HARDING

**GREAT FALLS** - The Great Falls Discovery Center was brimming with volunteers this weekend, as the 11th annual Source-to-Sea Cleanup got underway. This ever-growing four-state event is coordinated by the Connecticut River Watershed Council, with the daunting goal of cleaning up the Connecticut River and its tributaries.

The Montague to Northfield reach of the river is fortunate to have a cooperative group of organizers that includes: the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, FirstLight Power's Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, Northfield Mount Hermon School, and the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

Many of the hundreds of volunteers gathered at the Great Hall to meet the event hosts, pick up supplies, map out their cleanup areas, discuss safety guidelines and enjoy some morning refreshments. Other groups met at pre-arranged locations, and some actually did their cleanup the day before - like the 60 Franklin County Technical School students who participated in their first cleanup this year, and the Northfield Elementary School - where 6th graders have been collecting trash in the Mill Brook Watershed for ten years.

Volunteers run the gamut from students to seniors - and it is always great to see such diverse groups work together for a common cause - from the Northfield Mount Hermon School students, to the Franklin

County Courts Community Service workers, to the MCTV crew, and many other caring community citizens.

The weather was spectacular, which always makes the day

It was no surprise to find approximately 100 tires during the cleanup. This is half the number of tires found in the previous two years. However, a huge cleanup of the Montague Plains by Smith and Wesson employees in late August had already removed approximately 300 tires from the area.

As always, there were some unusual finds - like the outhouse, a huge tractor tire, (see photo, left) and a virtual village in the making that was floated out of an illegal

campsite on a makeshift raft and two motor launches, thanks to Northfield Mount Hermon School and FirstLight Power.

Two hundred and twenty five volunteers participated in the local cleanup. Dump sites in the Montague Plains yielded construction debris, scrap metal and household waste - eight truckloads of it! The total waste collected exceeded two 30-yard roll-off dumpsters provided by CWPM and MassWildlife. Additional trash was taken to the Northfield Mount Hermon School and the Montague transfer station, which generously accepted appliances like a refrigerator, five televisions, and approximately 1,000 pounds of scrap metal.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District would like residents to know of an opportunity to properly dispose of bulky waste on Saturday, October 13th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Northfield Transfer Station. For a small fee, couches, mattresses, tires, electronics, waste oil and other bulky items may be disposed of. For more info: call: 413-772-2438.



SUSAN RUSSO PHOTO

Volunteer Mike Lipski hauls away trash.

more fun, and the two 30-yard dumpsters were overflowing by the end of the afternoon. The exhilarating feeling of a community pulling together was only slightly dampened by the discouragement of the continued need for the cleanup. It's hard to understand why illegal dumpers are so callous to the natural beauty of our area, and to the hard work of so many volunteers cleaning up their mess.

One of the more frustrating finds was a collection of several glass juice bottles full of used engine oil. Vulnerable to breakage, the bottles posed a potential hazard to ground and water, for no good reason. Used oil is accepted at the Montague transfer station, which is certainly easier to get to than the secluded woods where volunteers found the cache. In addition, the Franklin County Solid Waste District offers several opportunities for household hazardous waste collection, all at no cost to the participant. Check the waste district's new website page titled "What do I do with...?" at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org).

# Girl Scout Troop Participates in Source to Sea Clean Up

Girl Scout Troop 328 has produced an environmental mural on the Vermont RR bridge abutment on Newton Street in Millers Falls. The girls worked on the concept after removing trash from the area during last year's Connecticut River Source to Sea Cleanup. They developed ideas for the artwork at their meetings, and wrote to the railroad to gain permission to work on the concrete wall. They received permission to pursue the project from the Montague selectboard in May. Funds were

Franklin Tech School. The girl scouts returned to the Newton Street site for the second year in a row, where they picked up fast-food trash in addition to a shopping cart, a weight sign from a bridge, a bowling ball, a golf club, a bicycle, waste motor oil in quart bottles, and a significant pile of rusty "stuff" from under the railroad bridge. The items appeared to have been lying there for years, buried in layers of yard waste.

Residents should note: it is good to compost yard clippings,



SARA CAMPBELL PHOTO

Pictured are: Laura Averill, Marion Vielmetti, Katharine Averill, Carolyn Campbell, Lea Sweeney, Jennifer MacGray, Sharon Vielmetti, and Cailin Duncan. The girls were assisted in the mural project by GCC student Emma Connelly

granted by the Montague Cultural Council to purchase the painting supplies.

The troop participated in the watershed cleanup last Saturday with help from students from the

but dumping yard waste in plastic bags at the side of the road prevents natural decay.

Girls in the troop reside in Montague and Greenfield, and meet at Holy Trinity School.

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## SUPPORT THE NEW POLICE STATION: Now Is the Time

BY PAT ALLEN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - I started to respond to Jeff Singleton's op-ed piece "No Road Map, No Police Station" (MR V #46) and realized I was doing the same thing he did: I was using a scattergun approach and addressing all the town's financial issues at once, when his original topic of concern was the value in supporting the police station project at this time.

To that point, I would quote Jeff's statement that "generally speaking I am inclined to support this proposal. We need a new police station. Actually we needed one ten years ago. The current station is a disaster - an embarrassment to the town and an insult to our police officers." He expresses his doubts, but then states "yet right now I am inclined to defer to the judgment of the police station building committee on these issues. They have done their homework and the process that created this proposal was extremely open." But then he announces he will vote "No" anyhow, because of the financial crisis the town is in.

Since I have been on the selectboard we have always had a tough time with our finances, and it doesn't seem to get better. I doubt it will. That has not stopped us from achieving some very positive results for our town. Look what we have accomplished: a refurbished downtown that is bringing in private investment, an upgraded wastewater sys-

tem, theater, visual arts and dining establishments that are drawing people from outside the area (and receiving accolades from the *Boston Globe* no less), a spectacular bikeway, park and Discovery Center that drew the International Crew team to our shores this summer, a new elevator for the town hall, renovated sidewalks for downtown that really enhance the area and make accessibility real, at long last a bandshell and a spruced up Peskeomskut Park that serves as Turners Falls' town common, and a growing reputation around the county for a town that works together and gets things accomplished. Just ask someone from out of town what they see happening here. You may be surprised how good we look.

We haven't done that with a lot of money in the bank. We have done that with grants, matching where we can, in-kind donations where we can, and we have done that especially with the great generosity, efforts, and good will of the citizens of Montague. I have heard many people who have lived here for a long time lament that the police station should have been done long ago - and I believe we are willing to proceed with this project because it needs to be done - the committee has done a great job defining the reasons why it needs to be done and why it needs to be done now, and I would urge you to read their handouts.

Jeff states there "has been virtually no effort to evaluate the project - its cost and scope - in the context of Montague's many other capital needs." He bases his statement on the comment by Mike Naughton that he wished the Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) had had a chance to see the final version before it got this far. Mike acknowledged the many discussions we have had on this project. In fact the CIC, which meets between 12-20 times a year, has discussed all the capital building needs of the town for several years and has prioritized them. A new police facility has been chosen as the highest priority project in town - the committee saying

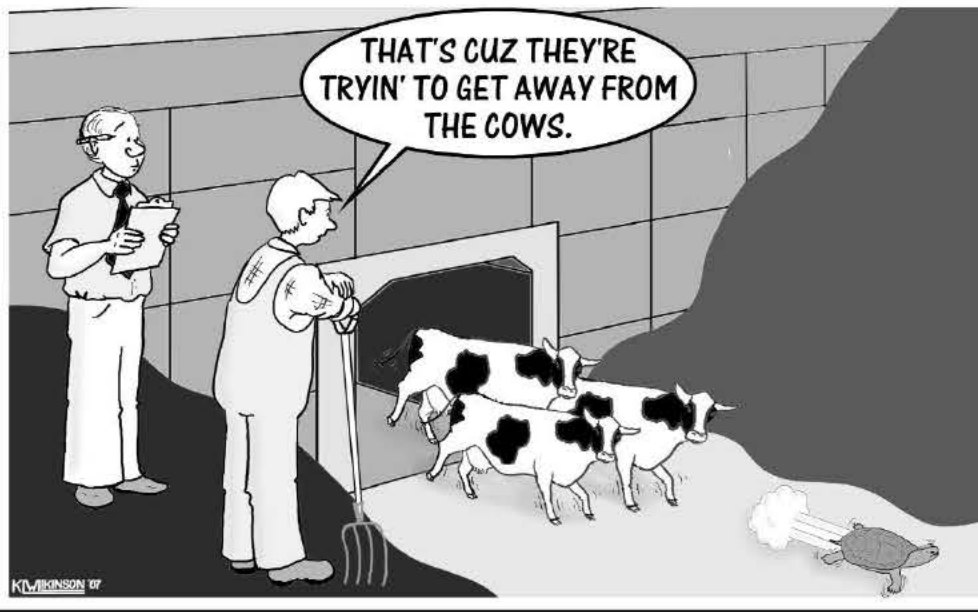
the same thing that Jeff did "that it should have been done ten years ago." The CIC has met with the police station building committee - they just didn't see the final plan. Not only has the committee been invited to specific meetings but each member has had the opportunity to attend any of the multitude of meetings during the course of the last several months. I agree because the finances have been in a state of flux as the plans continue to develop, it has been hard to determine when to meet to make a final assessment - and perhaps that should have been addressed sooner.

Jeff says we need to pull "together to get out of the rut

we are in." I agree we have critical financial issues and their long-term impact to address, but a debt-exclusion vote will allow us to proceed with this project, one that has waited far too long. I believe this is the responsible thing to do for our town and our police department, both for health and safety reasons. I will definitely be voting for the police station project both at town meeting on October 11th and at the voting booth on November 6th.

*Pat Allen is the chair of the Montague selectboard.*

## BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD



**ON MAIN ROAD IN GILL**

## Thanks for the Toxicologist

Please extend my thanks to Emily Monosson for her well researched and fact packed articles, in the Neighborhood Toxicologist. As an engineer, I really strive to make decisions

based on facts, and look for opportunities to address environmental problems effectively. She provides a great service.

- Jason Burbank  
Montague

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Kudos for Booster Day Coverage

You were the only news media to acknowledge the Turners Falls High School annual Booster Day event (MR V#46). Students and staff at Gill-Montague work long hours giving their time, energy and ideas preparing for this event. Booster Day is scheduled at the beginning of each new school year, a very busy time for students and staff, and yet they always present a very professional

event. Thank you to all who worked so long and hard to make this annual event such a success.

Congratulations, and thanks to the *Montague Reporter* for the coverage when all other sources of media remained once again silent on the good things happening in the G-M district schools.

- Sandy Miner  
Erving

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## American Dead in Iraq as of 9/26/07



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



# GUEST EDITORIAL

## We Don't Have Enough Money to Pay Our Bills

**BY MIKE NAUGHTON**  
**MILLERS FALLS** - Suppose you make \$100 a year and your bills come to \$100 a year. Everything is fine, right? But then the next year, your income goes up \$4, but your bills go up \$7. Now you have a problem, and if the following year your income still only goes up by \$4 but your bills again go up by \$7 your problem has gotten worse. In very simple terms, that is the situation Montague and other towns have found themselves in for several years, and there has been an ongoing debate about how to react to it.

Basically, you have three choices. You can increase your income; you can reduce your bills, or you can dip into your savings account (or you can try some combination of these approaches). The town's solution so far has been to reduce expenses somewhat (for example, by level-funding departmental expense budgets) and to

Ross has suggested increasing revenues with his memorable phrase that the town might "need to get a second job." Intriguing as the images of the town of Montague setting its alarm early so it can get up and do a paper route, or rising from its dinner to go off and stock supermarket shelves might be, I think he meant it metaphorically - the town needs to try harder, perhaps, or think more creatively about ways to generate revenue.

There are only so many ways the town gets income. It can increase its tax base (i.e. development), raise its tax rate (i.e. an override), or get more from non-tax sources (basically, state aid). All of these should be, and are being looked at, but I see few quick ways to increase revenues. Development doesn't happen overnight, and every \$1 million brings in about \$20,000 in additional taxes. So it would take several millions of dollars of

the case, although members of both the selectboard and the finance committee have said publicly they think an override may be necessary in the near future. My difficulty is that a tax increase won't solve the long-term problem either. Let's say you pass an override to get an additional \$3 a year - that helps the first year, but in year two you're back to being \$3 in the hole, so really all you've done is buy yourself one year's time. Unless you want to have an override every year, you've still got a problem.

As I see it, the only real long-term solutions are to find ways to increase town revenues as fast or faster than expenses are increasing, or to figure out how to reduce the rate of expense increase so that it's equal to or less than the rate of revenue increase. In other words, figure out ways to either increase our income by \$7 per year, or increase our expenses by only

much to reduce expenses, exactly, but to reduce the rate of expense growth. This won't be easy, as the biggest factors in the yearly growth, both for the town and the school district, are employee salaries and benefits, and lately fuel cost increases. So we're talking about things that affect people. Having employees join the state GIC plan for health insurance was one option for doing so. Happily, school district employees agreed, although town employees did not. By itself, joining the GIC won't solve the problem, but it's an important part of the solution.

Others will involve partnering with the employees' unions, and I believe this issue should be front and center at every bargaining session. Both the town and the district need to keep working on this, and time is running short.

The plain fact is we don't have enough money to pay our bills, and we are frittering away

school district, at the special district meeting in July, without any clear idea where that money would come from. Now they are recommending using more of our reserves to do so, because they are unwilling either to call for an override or to make reductions in the municipal budget. (Note that Gill, which has no reserves, is facing exactly this choice.)

I urge town officials and voters to take a stand and refuse to keep doing this. Using reserves to fund our operating budget might be fine if it's part of a plan to get ourselves out of the hole. But it's completely irresponsible if all we're doing is digging the hole deeper because we can't think of anything else to do. The only thing worse than heading down the wrong path is continuing on that path even after you realize you've made a mistake. It's time for us to turn around, before things get worse than they already are.

### Is Montague Headed for a Fiscal Train Wreck?



use its savings account (in the form of free cash, the stabilization funds, and various one-time revenue sources). Increasingly, though, town leaders seem to be waking to the fact that this is not a viable long-term plan. Even if you could eliminate expense budgets entirely, you wouldn't solve the problem, and while using savings works in the short term, it just makes the long-term situation worse. In our example, if you use \$3 from savings the first year, you'll need \$6 the second year, \$9 the third year, and so on. When the savings eventually run out, you're in a much bigger hole than you would have been if you had faced the problem sooner. And you have no more reserves. Something else needs to be done.

Selectboard member Allen

new growth to significantly impact the town's shortfall, which is now several hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. All indications from the state are that they are feeling financially strapped, so any significant increase from that direction seems unlikely, although state officials should be reminded at every opportunity that they have left local governments holding the bag on school funding - our biggest expense and primary budget-buster - and something needs to be done to fix that system. That leaves a tax increase, also known as a Proposition 2½ override.

Tax increases are understandably unpopular, and I think one could only succeed if it had the strong backing of town leaders. So far, that does not seem to be

\$4 per year, or meet somewhere in the middle. Neither one of these approaches is easy, but I think they are the only things that will work. And given Proposition 2½, the only way the town can increase its revenue growth from year to year would be for the state to increase the money it sends us. I think a case can be made that the state should do exactly that when it comes to school funding, but I'm not convinced the state really has the money to meet its obligations in that area, so I don't have much hope. Even so, I think the issue should be raised every chance we get. If the state can't fully fund education, it should offer some other help to the towns it has left to pick up the slack.

The other option is not so

our savings while we debate what to do. The upcoming town meeting is a case in point. Both the selectboard and the finance committee recommended giving money we don't have to the



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### So Much to Do, So Little Time

I would like to hear more about artistic events and music venues I happen to miss. We can't get to them all, whether because of bad timing or because we are already at a different show. Such was the case a few weeks ago at the Green Trees Gallery on Main Street in Northfield, during an opening of the work of many different local artisans, with music by Greenfield's Stone Coyotes. Dancers jumped to their feet from the get-go, and the band, with their own Texas-style rhythm, providing a fabulous evening of entertainment. During the second set, the crowd, totally enthralled, led a conga-line out one door, around the garden and in the other side.

Only once before do I recall seeing a spontaneous dance erupt like this, and that was back in the 70s at the old Warwick Inn, with the Deadly Nightshade and the Outerspace Band.

Since we can't make it to all

these events, I'm hoping someone will produce a handbook of all the area artists, and the many galleries, antique stores, auctions and so many beautiful attractions and points of scenery in and around Franklin County.

From the art center of Shelburne Falls and our new cultural Mecca in Turners, with the Shea Theater and the Hallmark Museum, there are such an abundance of weekend fairs, fall festivals, and Old Home Days that we need to get the news about these get-togethers. We don't need to leave our own Valley to have a great summer vacation, but I for one am tired of telling my New Jersey cousins what they have missed each week. Believe me, when an out-of-state friend asks, "Is anything going on?" special next weekend, I usually am at my wits' end to explain what's upcoming and what they've just missed.

Here's looking forward to more great happenings like the

opening at the Green Trees Gallery, and more reviews of great concerts we might have missed while we were off to New York or Boston. Arts and entertainment are bountiful in our own back yard.

I can't end this without mentioning the grand opening of the new Rendezvous bar and eatery on Third Street, a great new gathering place in our own downtown Turners Falls. They call it the Vous!

- Gregg Williams  
Turners Falls

**Editor's note:** You can log on to [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org) for an events calendar in Turners and to sign up for a weekly update of events. The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce also maintains an excellent calendar of events at [www.co.franklin.ma.us](http://www.co.franklin.ma.us). You can also visit [www.artwalkeasthampton.org](http://www.artwalkeasthampton.org) to sign up for updates of events in the entire Pioneer Valley and beyond.

### Crucial Time for Health Center

Chris Sawyer-Laucanno's article two weeks ago (MR V#45: Turmoil at Community Health Center) about the Community Health Center of Franklin County and its satellite, the Desmond Callan Health Center in Orange, reflected my own sense of awe about the CHCFC. Yet it helped me to realize that management heavy-handedness was again rearing its head. Of course, I was helped by information I'd gathered over the years from past board members, some of whom had quit in discouragement or protest.

Others might not have that background. So let me say I'm a fan of the Community Health Center's patient care, as a patient myself. But in the last few days I've been asking questions, and I've come to believe the health center has reached a true crisis. It suffers not only from massive, but also key, turnover. It needs to modify its management approach.

While CHCFC director Dr. Sarah Kemble's missionary zeal benefits the center's outside support and institutional philosophy and direction, on the inside, management needs to find much greater respect for the creativity, initiative, good will and cooperative decision-making capacity of the staff, and institute policies that reflect that.

Specifically, the equivalent of Dr. Kemble's bill of rights for patients should be extended - logically, by Dr. Wayne Hioe, Medical Director - to the center's fine deliverers of health care like Dr. Steve Martin at the Orange facility, rather than the present travesty of forcing out this excellent physician. Kemble, by most accounts, keeps tight control of personnel, and can be too harsh. The only hope for a smooth change is the bright light of publicity shining on the health center now. But the fact is, it may take a shakeup of management. The center's board, with the help of the consultant it's hired (and the staff and the whole community), will decide whether it believes this gem of a non-profit can learn appropriate collegiality with the current top people in place, or if a turnover there is in order. This decision, which could raise the quality of our fine, fine health center another notch - or start its decline - is of great consequence to the Franklin County community.

Whether the CHCFC manages to keep Dr. Steve Martin will be the first measure of success.

- Jonathan von Ranson  
Wendell

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Vandalism and Spilt Beverages

#### Thursday 9-27

12:49 p.m. Request for an officer at a G Street address. [redacted] was arrested on a fugitive from justice warrant.

6:02 p.m. Report of a drug violation at a 2nd Street address. Caller states that a drug deal was observed. Information passed on to narcotics detective.

#### Friday 9-28

9:09 p.m. Report of a disturbance in front of Equi's Candy Store on Avenue A. A 13 year old juvenile

male was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and disturbing the peace.

9:41 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Turners Falls Road, [redacted], Greenfield, was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license (subsequent offense).

#### Saturday 9-29

1:57 a.m. Report of a fight at an L Street address. Gone on arrival.

9:06 a.m. Report of vandalism at Unity Park. Someone tipped over the beverage machine. Report taken.

10:15 p.m. Report of breaking and entering at a Griswold Street address. Caller observed a man trying to enter a motor vehicle. Investigated.

#### Sunday 9-30

12:12 a.m. Report of a fight outside of 2nd Street bar. Found to be verbal only. Subjects left on foot.

9:55 a.m. Report of vandalism at a

3rd Street address. Driver side mirror was ripped from a motor vehicle. Report taken.

#### Tuesday 10-2

1:14 p.m. Report of a disturbance at an Avenue A address. Resident was swearing and causing a problem. Peace restored.

2:07 p.m. Report of a disturbance at an L Street address. Caller states music has been loud for 2 hours. Subject advised.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Environmental Supervisor Chosen

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON -

At their Monday, October 1st meeting, the selectboard signaled their preference among six candidates for the newly created post of town environmental supervisor. The person hired will be in charge of operations at Erving's three wastewater treatment facilities, and several capped landfills. Pending contract negotiations, the selectboard will offer the position to Arthur Pace, who trained in municipal wastewater treatment procedures with the town of Leominster before moving on to positions in industrial wastewater treatment. The salary range advertised for

the position was \$46,000 to \$56,000.

The selectboard accepted the resignation of Dan Hammock as the town's animal control officer, and appointed his replacement, Art Johnson. Hammock filled the volunteer post for many years. "He has a great love for animals," said town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp.

Hammock also resigned most of his responsibilities as sexton of the town's cemetery, which duties will now be assumed by the town's highway superintendent, Paul Prest. However, Hammock asked to retain an honorary post as sexton, at least to be able to

point out the location of family plots. He is very familiar with the layout of the town cemetery, since he has served as sexton there since 1978.

Board member Linda Downs-Bembury gave an update for the cable advisory committee. She said the ten-year contract with Comcast, the town's cable television provider, is coming up for renegotiation shortly. The committee is hoping to get PEG access (transmitting capability) for the Erving Elementary School, and perhaps to stretch that over to the senior center. This would provide the town with the opportunity to televise events

such as town meetings or school plays, as well as events the senior center may be hosting.

The board sent thank you letters to the recently dissolved Erving Elementary School building committee for their years' of hard work on the now complete school renovation. Bob Brown, Stan Gradowski, Mike Lipinski, Don Mailloux, Gillian Budine, Bob Flaherty, Dave Gendron, Eric Overgaard, and Beth Bazler will receive thank you's for their contributions on the committee; selectboard chair Andy Tessier, who also chaired the school building committee, said it would not be necessary for

the board to send him a thank you letter. But they thanked him anyway.

Capping things off on a positive note, the board reviewed plans for the upcoming Erving Fall Festival, to be held at the Veterans Park in Erving on Saturday, October 13th, with a rain date of October 20th. There will be all-day events beginning at noon, and ending with a bonfire around 6:00 pm.

The Erving Senior Center will be raffling off their latest quilt - Ups and Downs - in conjunction with the festival. Raffle tickets are available at the senior center, and at town hall.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL TOWN MEETING

Voters Make Short Work of Special Town Meeting

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

Over 20 residents attended the special town meeting on Wednesday, September 26th, and approved the entire twelve-article warrant in less than an hour. Most of the articles were housekeeping items, including a prior year bill from the highway department, and one for school transportation, both paid with state funds from the foundation reserve account ('pothole money'). Voters closed out the demolition account for the

house at 9 Morse Village Road, and transferred the remaining \$3,345.47 into the 'clean up town-owned property' account, and approved \$20,000 for repairs to the town hall roof, and \$10,000 for repairs to the police station roof, both sums from stabilization.

The town created three new committees, one for landscaping at the town office building, one for interior design of the town office building, and a building

committee to oversee conversion of the old library into a senior center and new home for the Good Neighbors food pantry.

Article 12 authorized raising and appropriating \$89,417 for the Mahar Regional School District, to be added to Wendell's assessment of \$289,497 approved at the June annual town meeting. Although state law requires this payment, the article provided the most debate of the evening because the payment is also

contrary to the original contract creating the Mahar Regional District, which provides for each participating town to pay the same cost per student sent to the high school. With this payment, Wendell is assessed



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

Finance committee members Michael Idoine (left) and Jim Slavas go over details of the Mahar school assessment, which leaves Wendell property owners paying \$7,400 for each student, while Orange pays only \$5,600 per student. Idoine said, "At some point, peoples' sense of fairness kicks in."

\$7,400 for each student attending Mahar this year, while Orange is assessed \$5,600 per student attending. Payment obligations from New Salem and Petersham are in the middle of this range. All these amounts are determined by the state according to their own inscrutable accounting practice, established under the statutory formula of the Education Reform Act, and then provided to the local school committees. Education reform allows for an alternative formula that would provide equal payment per student for each district town, but the alternative formula must first be approved by a two third vote among the member towns. There was not enough time to reach agreement on the alternative formula for this year's school budget.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas said a new regional agreement is being drafted for the annual town meetings, and all four towns in the district need to approve it for it to pass. That will give Wendell some leverage for insisting on more equitable payments. He said the basic

problem was confusion, and that neither Mahar's superintendent, nor Wendell's state representatives or senators were aware of the discrepancy. When he showed the figures to an Orange selectman, the selectman was appalled, Slavas said. The difference would amount to an increase of \$300,000 to the Orange budget, or 13 cents on the tax rate. Wendell's extra assessment adds \$1.18 to the tax rate this year.

Finance committee member Michael Idoine said, "At some point, peoples' sense of fairness kicks in."

In answer to Morgan Mead's question if there would be any disadvantage to voting the assessment down, Idoine said Wendell would just get the bill again, and have to pay it with interest at another special town meeting. Mead asked why we should have faith that a new agreement would be followed, when Wendell has a regional agreement now that is not being followed. This question defied easy response.

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 Ivey Industries  
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 Town of Montague Transfer Station  
 Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center  
 The Wagon Wheel Restaurant  
 MA Department of Conservation & Recreation  
 Dunkin Donuts, Federal Street  
 Coca-Cola of Greenfield  
 Albert's Bar & Grill  
 Connecticut River Watershed Council

**Groups:**  
 Franklin County Technical School  
 Northfield Mount Hermon School Environmental Team  
 Northfield Elementary School Sixth Grade  
 Gill Elementary School Second Grade  
 Junior Girl Scout Troop 328  
 Conway Junior Girl Scout Troop  
 Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst  
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# Hospice Worker Becomes Hospice Patient

## An Interview with Jane Gilman

BY ANNE JEMAS

**TURNERS FALLS** - At the beginning of this year, my friend Jane Gilman wrote an essay titled, "Let's Talk About Death." As a college instructor and social worker who has worked in hospice for over 25 years, Jane is passionate about helping to normalize a subject we all will inevitably deal with, and educating people about the benefits of hospice. Two months after her essay was published in the newspaper, Jane was hospitalized with the flu, when she received the shocking news that she, in fact, had advanced lung cancer.

When I saw Jane at her home, I asked if she had thought about doing a follow-up piece to her essay. Her reply was an immediate "Yes!" Still an educator at heart, Jane said she sees her illness as a "teachable moment," and hopes that by sharing her story she can help at least one person lessen their fears about dying. We spent long afternoons sitting on her couch at home in Turners Falls taping conversations about her life and what she has learned.

Like many people in the Valley, Jane grew up in a Polish Catholic farm family, where she established lifelong values of hard work and self-reliance. Her family encouraged her to set up her own business as a hairdresser, where she

experienced peoples' need to share their stories with someone they trust. She became the first in her family to attend college, where one professor changed the course of her life by encouraging her to pursue a degree in psychology. Jane started her career in social work working with elders, then moved into the new and growing field of hospice care.

Although a self-described overachiever, Jane has balanced her drive over the years as a teacher and social worker with daily meditation and an ongoing spiritual practice, which her work in hospice reinforced. "Working in hospice taught me so much about how precious being in the moment really is," she told me. "It has been a gift to recognize that death can happen to any one of us at any time. I certainly can't plan on tomorrow now; the most important thing in my life is right now." When I asked her if she knew these things before her diagnosis, she admitted she knew them "intellectually, but now I know on a real level."

Even with her spiritual practice, Jane admits the transition from being fiercely independent and physically fit to increasingly dependent on others for most of her needs has been the biggest challenge of her illness. Her sister Kathy and

children Pam and John, as well as their spouses, have become her caregivers, and although the transition hasn't been easy, she views the one-on-one time with them as invaluable. She has



KIMBERLY MORRITT PHOTO

Jane Gilman

also experienced changing roles in the relationships with her friends and colleagues at Hospice of Franklin County, who are now serving as her caregivers.

Jane says she is now experiencing first hand what she has been part of providing for years: hospice is giving medical care for her to be as comfortable and pain-free as possible, as well as offering psychological, emotional and spiritual support to help her through this time. Equally important, Jane sees hospice offering help and support to her

family.

When I asked Jane how she feels about the prospect of dying, her face became radiant and her reply was astonishingly animated. While she has loved her life, and would rather not be facing death at this time, she is not afraid. "I'm excited about dying! I truly am!" she exclaimed. "I think about all of the mysterious questions that I have had forever. I do believe in an afterlife of some sort, and I think it is the most exciting thing that I'm going to have this experience, and... Wow!"

A lot of how Jane has lived her life and is now approaching death can be summed up in the kind of sayings found in self-help or New Age books. Her life illustrates how these platitudes can actually have concrete results. At the end of life, she can say she has lived with passion, done work she loved, and shared herself with others. It's clear Jane is able to approach the end of her life in peace, not only because she believes in an afterlife, but because she has been mindful of how she has lived. For those of us who may feel we don't measure up, Jane says she saw first-hand through her hospice work that change is always possible, and transformation can happen, even at the end of life.

Thinking about her life and what she has learned, Jane created this list to share:

- Be where you are now - not somewhere else.
- Listen to each person and be present to the moment. Listen for how much they love you.
- Tell others, especially your family, that you love them. Know you are loved, even though you may not know by whom.
- Know everything that happens to you happens for a reason. Hopefully, even in your pain, you have lessons to learn and can learn them, even if it feels unfair or unjust at the time, or even if you feel like you are being turned inside out.
- Stay humble.
- We all go through painful times - ask what you can learn from your suffering, even if it feels terrible.
- Try to learn who you really are.
- Know a contemplative way of life - take five minutes every day to be quiet.
- Learn to be realistically dependent on others. We have very little, if any, control.
- Be honest! All of the time.

*If you would like to be in touch with Jane, you may email her at [namastejane@comcast.net](mailto:namastejane@comcast.net)*

### MBA from pg 1

Montague Business Association in the first place.

"It is a good moment to do something," said Patricia Pruitt, member of the Montague selectboard, and of the MBA steering committee. Committee membership also includes Benchmark & Pratt realtor Mark Abramson, Montague town planner Daniel Laroche, and Ristorante DiPaolo owner Denise DiPaolo. Right now the MBA does not have officers, nor is it an official 501(c) 6 nonprofit agency, steps the steering committee members say will have to be taken in the future.

Several entities have adopted the Montague Business Association moniker over the decades, the most

successful dating back to the 1960s and the most recent about ten years ago. But business and community advocates say Montague in recent years has turned a corner in the perception of its economic vitality.

Laroche said, "There is really a buzz about what is happening in Turners Falls and Montague right now." Exhibit A of that buzz is a September 9th *Boston Globe* article exhorting travelers to visit the "historic but not traditional" Turners Falls.

Paris cited the opening of Ristorante DiPaolo in March 2006 as a catalyst for a revitalized downtown. Since then the town has seen a number of young - or at least young-ish - entrepreneurs set up shop.

Among them is Christa

Snyder, co-owner of the soon to open 2nd Street Baking Co., which provided desserts for the post-event schmooze-fest. "We feel Turners is turning itself around," Snyder said, "and the rent was good, too."

From the standpoint of local government, Pruitt said, "There are a lot of young people opening up businesses and taking risks, and we want to support them."

Mark Wisnewski, a co-owner of hipster tavern the Rendezvous, which re-opened last month after massive renovations and with new management, agreed. "Montague town leadership has a vision and has taken the steps to make that vision real."

What's in it for local businesses to form a local association? Michael 'Mik' Muller, co-owner of internet

startup Montague Webworks and administrator for the website Montaguema.net, said he sees the business association offering affordable health insurance to its small business members, coordinating advertising campaigns to help local businesses, and creating events to draw people to Montague.

Even manufacturers who don't sell most of their products locally have a stake in a local business association, said Dick Haas, founder of Hillside Plastics. Haas told the crowd a thriving business association improves the quality of life for the community, therefore improves the quality of his workforce.

When asked from the audience if the MBA would be

a downtown-only phenomenon, Abramson said the MBA's direction would rely heavily on who was involved. "The question is membership," he said.

The MBA steering committee intends to expand that membership to all local businesspeople who either show up at its next meeting, (scheduled for Friday, November 2nd at Patty Cake - another new bakery and café expanding the downtown business district - at 104 4th Street, Turners Falls), or otherwise contact the steering committee.

DiPaolo, who in her remarks to the audience called Montague "a beautiful part of the world," said she was pleased with the attendance at the kickoff event. "It was a huge success..."



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74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS



# VFW to House Apartments, Commercial Space

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

**TURNERS FALLS** - David Jensen has inspected the VFW building at 109 Avenue A for 18 years. One morning last week, he walked through the first-floor reception hall with his hands in his pockets, head down in thought.

"There have been dozens of surprises," said Jensen, "the condition of the electricity, the plumbing, the hot water, various kitchen hook-ups."

Now it will be the public's turn to be surprised, when Jensen - the town of Montague's building inspector - and his son Enoch are finished rehabilitating the historic 6,900-square-foot, three-floor building into a new combination of residential and commercial space.

The Jensens bought the three-floored, high-ceilinged space for \$112,000, and closed on the property on Friday, Sept. 21st.

"We'd been talking about wanting to invest in a downtown Turners Falls building for awhile," said Enoch Jensen, a recording engineer who lives in Shelburne. While visiting friends here one night, he noticed the "for sale" sign on the former VFW's front door and called his real estate agent, to discover the building's

auction was set for the very next day, Friday, Aug. 3rd.

"We basically had about 24 hours to contemplate what we were getting into," said Enoch, "determining what our financial threshold was, researching whether there were any liens on the building . . . The next morning we showed up with a cashier's check in hand to find there was only one other bidder, aside from the bank."

They plan to rent out the entire building, envisioning the spacious first floor as commercial space for three or four businesses, and perhaps a restaurant in the L-shaped rear of the space, said David Jensen. There is a commercial kitchen almost ready to go, formerly used inside the VFW's reception hall. Wedding banquets were held here in years past.

The Jensens envision the second and third floors, each 1,700 square feet, as residential apartments. The third floor, which has always



DETMOLO PHOTO  
*David Jensen (left) and his son, Enoch, share a bright outlook for the future of the VFW building in Turners Falls.*

been used for apartments, has three bedrooms, one bathroom, a large pantry and 10-foot ceilings, while the second floor, formerly the VFW's meeting hall, has the potential for three or four bedrooms, 11- or 12-foot ceilings and two bathrooms, but will require extensive renovation. It's still one large open space.

Because the second floor is currently permitted for business and residential use, David Jensen said he would be interested in hearing from someone with a vision of running a home-based business from the space, or perhaps an artist seeking a home studio.

"There are a lot of design options on this floor," he said. "It sort of befuddles us not knowing if there's a specific need for it, but the fallback is to make it into a three-bedroom apartment."

David Jensen, who lives in Lake Pleasant, said he is "encouraged" to see the

present downtown revitalization efforts working. "The fact that people are doing well in Turners Falls is pretty exciting. It boosts the level of confidence for everybody, that things are working out and that things can be done," he said.

Enoch, who grew up living next door on 3rd Street in the Cutlery Building, on Ferry Road, in Lake Pleasant and in the Patch, feels similarly encouraged about the downtown's prospects.

"I love the area. Quite frankly I want to see everybody in the area succeed. I love all the people here," said the younger Jensen, who went to high school with Seth Licata of Seth & Eva's, the new consignment shop a few doors down on Avenue A. Enoch lived in Los Angeles for a time, before returning to Franklin County two years ago to run the Shelburne-based East Lake Recording Co.

"I think a lot of people are really believing in the town, to be bringing their work here. That's what is going to do it," he said of downtown revitalization.

The VFW building was built in the 1880's, said David Jensen, and was inhabited by diverse businesses through the years.

Montague Public Libraries director Susan SanSoucie collected word-of-mouth data from town residents who lived here in the early 1900s, and then researched the Manning directories to gather

information on the businesses that used to operate downtown, including at 109 Avenue A.

She discovered, "In 1920, James Gunn had a clothing store there. Sometime before - close to - 1940, he moved his store to another spot on the Avenue and the Economy Grocery Store operated out of that location. In 1950, the Griesbach Brothers Groceteria was there, owned by Joseph and Richard Griesbach. The Veterans of Foreign Wars met at the Hibernian Hall in those days. In 1956, Griesbach was still there, but the 1957 directory indicates the VFW was located there."

Sitting on the countertops of the third-floor apartment's kitchen one recent morning, the Jensens shared a father and son moment in their new building.

When asked how he felt about the 24-hour decision to attend the auction last month, David Jensen nodded toward his son and said, "Well, he seemed into it, and I thought it was a good way to make him get to work."

Enoch's eyes brightened and he smiled. "That's the story of my life - you trying to find a way for me to make an honest buck," he laughed.

"Well..." paused his dad, sharing his vision for the building project. "Not going broke is my first goal," he said.

"That's a great quote for the newspaper," laughed Enoch.

"Well, it's true. Second is to make it a functioning, viable building. It'll have two large, nice apartments. It could house from two to five commercial spaces. There's room for an office here. I'm excited about getting the commercial side up and going."

Anyone interested in the building's rental space can call Enoch Jensen at 818-486-3422.

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# 300th Combat Engineers in WWII

BY BRAD PETERS

**ERVING** - "What did Dad do in the war?" asked my wife, Jan Ross. Sergeant Donald H. Ross of Springfield was assigned to the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion in England in 1944 as a replacement engineer trained in water supply. Sergeant Ross talked little of the war with his family, and his story was silenced with his passing in 1983.

The effort to obtain information on his wartime role began with a couple of emails sent to strangers, after an internet search two years ago. The first piece to fall into place was a map of the route of the 300th

lections both in writing and recorded on digital audio equipment. Hundreds of loaned photographs have been scanned and countless hours of research and writing have brought all these pieces together, permanently documenting the legacy of this battalion.

On Memorial Day, 2007, www.300thcombatengineersinwwii.com went live - timed with Memorial Day and the anniversary of D-Day. In June of this year, my wife and I attended the 51st reunion of the 300th in Dallas, where we interviewed veterans and scanned their photographs. Since the site was launched, it

has doubled in size and continues to grow as veterans share new material. The site was created by Paul Lindale of Northfield, who has logged more than 100 hours and generously donated his service at a reduced rate. He has done an incredible job in making this website a true tribute to the 300th Engineers.

The site now includes nearly 15,000 words of narrative, including a history of the 300th; more than 300 photographs and images; an interactive, illustrated map of the 300th in the European Campaign and more than 100 different stories and recol-



**First Bridge Constructed by C. Co. - 300th Engineer Combat Battalion** A temporary treadway across the Douve River, Pont L'Abbe, (4 miles SW of Ste-Mere Eglise) Normandy, France, June 18th, 1944

across Europe, shared with us by the son of a veteran in Oklahoma. The next piece was an email from one of the 300th veterans, a lifetime Texan, Warren Chancellor.

My wife's search for her



**Pvt. Frank Gold, Medic Dan Grob, Sgt. Gilbert Rodriguez** on motorcycle in Huy, Belgium

father's World War II past soon resulted in so much information that the only logical venue for it all was a website. The 300th veterans and their families have shared personal recol-

tions in the words of the veterans themselves. Also included is a recreation of a Roll of the 300th, with more than 600 names and service information. Since many official records



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 300TH COMBAT ENGINEERS

**Corporal Warren Chancellor** *The Bridge at Moosburg, Germany*

The Isar River was a mountain stream with extremely rapid currents. There were quite a lot of large boulders in the river and this was a great aid in anchoring the ropes that held the pontons in place. Company C did a tremendous job in constructing this treadway under adverse conditions. They definitely should have received a unit citation for this job. As you know, General Patton appeared (standing in his command car) shortly after the bridge was completed and exclaimed "damn good bridge." This was the only time I ever set eyes on the general.

were destroyed in a fire in 1973, the military has been unable to provide this information. This Roll was assembled from a variety of sources including military records, captions from photographs, internet searches and personal recollections from veterans.

My wife says, "When we started this project, we had no idea where it would lead or that Ken Burns was preparing his two week PBS documentary on World War II, which just aired. Like Burns, we want this website to reflect the reality of WWII in the words and images of the veterans themselves." She adds, "These men and their families have been wonderful in sharing their experiences and supporting our effort. They, as we, recognize that time is our enemy and that is why we are attending another reunion in Tyler, Texas this week, where we are meeting with several more of the men of the 300th to record their recollections and scan their images."

The urgency of this effort was driven home last month, when we learned that one of the veterans we had interviewed had just passed away.

In researching and writing the history of the 300th Combat Engineers, we used several sources. The basis of the history and chronology is the illus-

trated map of the 300th in Europe, created right after the war by a reconnaissance officer of the 300th. Other resources include the 300th veterans themselves, military records and accounts, historically reliable books of WWII and internet sites. It is amazing to us that more than 60 years later, the men we have interviewed and their recollections match

historical research so closely.

For fans of the Ken Burns documentary, veterans, their families, and any member of the public curious about the epic struggle that defined the 20th Century, a trip to www.300thcombatengineersinwwii.com will be well worth your while.



**Charlie Yelton** operating a dozer. a story by **Sergeant Randy Hanes** Mud Hill in Belgium

It rained almost without stopping for six or seven days. The entire area was a quagmire, necessitating 'snaking' the trucks out with a D-8 bulldozer. Everything we did was in the rain - rain - rain! We always referred to it as 'Mud Hill.' One night I decided to sleep under the truck. I crawled under the truck and went to sleep. When I awoke in the morning, the truck was about four inches from my body and mired down in all that 'slop.' I started hollering for help to some of my men nearby. I told them to get shovels, dig a trench to me and pull me out. Needless to say, I was a real 'muddy old engineer,' and embarrassed by my stupidity and near demise. I came close to being buried - BEFORE dying!

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**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

# More Complaints on Main Road Construction

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

**GILL** - "Why can't they talk to us? Why can't we all work together?" asked Dan Flagg, speaking for farmers who live along Main Road, where MassHighway's multi-year, three mile, \$3.7 million reconstruction project has been making basic farm chores - like getting farm vehicles in and out of driveways whose pitch changes suddenly from one day to the next, or harvesting an outside row of corn without dropping into a drainage ditch that suddenly appears where none had been before - difficult. Flagg addressed the selectboard on Monday, October 1st, along with his parents, Shirley and Skeezzy Flagg, and neighbors Cliff Hatch, of Upinngil Farm, and Sarah Rury and Erika Heilig, of the Ashvana Stables.

Heilig seemed particularly irked that residents' complaints about the inconveniences and sudden alterations to design plans along the roadway had not been brought to the attention of the 'higher-ups' at MassHighway, despite residents repeatedly bringing their concerns to the board, the local design engineers, and the town highway superintendent over the last two years. Heilig said she finally called representative Chris Donelan's office on Monday, who said he was not aware of the frustrations the project had generated. Donelan put in a call to MassHighway District 2 superintendent Al Stegmann who also claimed to be unaware that the ongoing construction had generated complaints from residents along the road.

"Why do we have to be the ones to figure this out?" demanded Heilig, who co-owns the Main Road riding stables for children and adults with physical disabilities and mental health disorders with her partner, Rury. Heilig said she "bot-

toms out" on her driveway every day, because the pitch is now so steep and it no longer smoothly meets the grade of the roadbed. Also, two of her horses have gotten "stone bruises" from the 6-inch gravel F&J Construction has used for fill at the end of her drive, leading to expensive veterinary bills and month long rest periods for the affected steeds; another horse got sick the day calcium was sprayed on the road to settle dust, and neighbors also had allergic reactions to the chemical, she said. Clients have had a hard time finding their way to the stables through the constant detours, and they have had to park below the drive, which has made it difficult for disabled riders; Heilig said they have lost at least one rider due to the inconvenience.

Dan Flagg said, "They still don't have all the catch basins in, and they did a very poor job repairing the drainage ditch in the field." He was referring to a 72-foot long, 4-foot deep ditch that appeared on his property on Monday, September 17th. That ditch had not been in the original design plans, Flagg contends, and MassHighway did not have an easement to send a crew onto his property to dig it. He speculated F&J workers decided to dig the trench to attempt to correct a run-off problem caused by incorrectly placed drainage pipes. "The state engineer told me the pipe's not in the right place," the younger Flagg reported.

His father, Skeezzy Flagg, was less charitable. "They've got the top of that pipe where the bottom's supposed to be. Consequently they go out in the field and put a swale in. They have no common sense. This spring, the water flooded out the house the engineers were sitting in. They should have been fired." He said the road was "way over-engineered, but it

doesn't work. They probably did it by satellite." He added, "This is a third generation farm. I don't know why we have to tear our farm all out just for this road."

His wife, Shirley, said, "Our driveway used to be level. Now it's a steep hill." She said when F&J came to fill the bottom of their drive, they used "red rock and clay," which packs good but washes out in the rain, having first removed the decent gravel fill they had put there.

Skeezzy said, "You've got corn trucks, cucumber trucks, pepper trucks, everything going down that stretch. Why don't they work up (at the Northfield line) where the road is closed? Why don't they work up there?"

Shirley said the curbing put in just south of their property will keep water in the middle of the road, where it will freeze in the winter. The curbing, combined with drainage swales and a lack of adequate shoulders will make that part of Main Road dangerous for pedestrians, kids on bikes, horses, and slow farm vehicles, she said.

"I have eleven driveways for the farm. I had to fix every one of them this summer just so I could use them," Skeezzy said.

Hatch backed up the Flaggs' concerns about safety along the road, now that curbing had been added, and ditches dug alongside. He also said he had "thrown up a gate" across the so-called "turtle culvert" that had been placed beneath the road to ease the crossing for wood turtles. The culvert is big enough for his cows to use to escape their pasture, and they recently took advantage of it to do just that. "I don't think it should be my responsibility to fix it," said Hatch.

Dan Flagg summed up the residents' feelings on the Main Road project. "A common theme is, they'll do whatever they can get away with, and

then they come back to fix it and make it worse."

Shirley Flagg offered a possible solution to the issues residents have been bringing to the board. "Get rid of all these farms and build houses. Then you won't get all these complaints."

After the residents left the meeting, the board conferred briefly with each other. They said a meeting between Stegmann, Donelan, and the selectboard might be needed to clear up the problems the residents have been having with the road construction, but first they

will make a detailed list of the complaints and forward it to MassHighway and Donelan's office.

Board chair Lee Stevens offered to take the other two board members to view some of the problem areas on Main Road before twilight fell, but Ann Banash demurred. "I'm so sick of this road," she said.

Stevens said he agreed with the residents on one issue in particular. "With that berm," installed south of Upinngil, "all the water will run down the

see MAIN RD. pg 12



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# The Avenue Blooms with Volunteer Plantings

BY ANNE JEMAS

**TURNERS FALLS** - About a dozen people involved in the 'Adopt-a-Planter' program met outside the Discovery Center on Sunday, September 30th, for refreshments before starting a leisurely two-hour tour of the planters along the Avenue. The group added to the festive atmosphere in Turners on the second day of the Arts & Leaves weekend, making their way past artists, street musicians, and a group on a walking geology tour.

Besides folks who had 'adopted' and tended to planters, the tour included master gardener Dawn Ward, and Joan Turban of Stewarts Nursery, who added their expertise to conversations about each planter, including the kinds of plants used and suggestions for improvements next year.

This year's planter participants included individuals and businesses or organizations who

have been involved since the beginning, as well as many newcomers. Even with the huge job of taking over a business, Evelyn Daly of Avenue A Café didn't hesitate when she was approached during the summer about sponsoring the planter in front of the café. This planter, along with several others this year, presented a significant challenge, with weeds and saplings taking over. With help from another new business in town, Alpha Stone, Evelyn and some of the youths that patronize the café got the planter cleared and planted. Last week her business manager and consultant, Brian Daly, added a unique touch to the planter by adding river stones along the border and rock cairns throughout.

Another planter that benefited from the collaboration of two businesses is situated in front of Seth & Eva's consignment shop.

Seth & Eva's was one of the first planters to get planted in the spring. Owner Seth Licata said Stephen Cahill, of Cahill Masonry, donated dozens of flowering annuals so the business would stand out for their spring opening.

This was also the first year for local resident and planter volunteer, Louise Sauter, who used the sponsorship of Turners Falls Pizza House to make that planter look fantastic. Louise went the extra mile in recruiting the Franklin County Rotary Club, of which she's a member, in taking on a second planter downtown. Another first-timer, Meg Ryan, did something different by making a flower garden bloom inside the farmers market sign barrel at the corner of Second and A.

While most of the folks who've adopted planters have their names on the planter signs, some folks prefer to remain

anonymous, including one downtown resident who took on the amazing task of overhauling three planters this season. Then there is the local couple who have made it their personal mission to maintain Spinner Park, and the countless other folks who weed, pick up litter, and return shopping carts during their travels downtown.

The walking tour concluded with the distribution of certificates of appreciation along with bags of daffodil bulbs purchased by the town. Next spring, downtown Turners should be awash in color, with 100 different varieties of daffodils blooming along the Avenue.



Children's librarian Linda Hickman has cared for the planter on the corner of 5th Street for the past two years, and it shows!

You can participate in a variety of ways in the Adopt-a-Planter Program, from funding a planter, to planting and tending one, to being a back-up waterer and weeder, to contributing your ideas at the streetscape meetings. For more information, call Michael Bosworth at the Brickhouse at 863-9576 or Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

## MAIN RD from pg 11

middle of the road and turn to ice in the winter. It shouldn't be there." After the town plow makes a pass or two this winter, Stevens thought that problem might be removed.

### Center Road Warning

The board heard another road complaint, this time related to Center Road where it passes by town hall. Jim Tomasi called that cul de sac, "an accident waiting to happen." With the Main Road detour bringing "a lot of strange people coming down the road," Tomasi said he has seen numerous instances where drivers, traveling at speeds that exceed the posted limit, have missed the right turn by town hall, and continued down the dead end of Center Road, brakes squealing.

"I've been out working on my fence. The other day a tour bus came through, and couldn't stop. Then a tractor trailer came down; you can still see the skid marks. This afternoon, an elderly gent went right on through. They don't realize..." the road

ends one block past town hall.

The board said they would speak with police chief David Hastings about the situation.

### GIC Meeting Thursday

The selectboard planned to meet with town employees this morning at town hall, to try to come to an agreement on joining the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) health plan. The deadline for signing up for the cost saving plan for next fiscal year has been extended to Friday, October 5th.

### Override Delayed

Board member Nancy Griswold, who also serves on the board of assessors, said the assessors have forwarded the town's new property values to the state Department of Revenue for review, but it could take up to ten weeks before the figures are finalized. Therefore, the town tax rate might not be set until the middle of December. The board has chosen to delay the scheduling of an override vote for the town's share of the increase in the Gill-Montague school assessment until the

impact on property taxes can be accurately estimated - that is, until the tax rate is finalized.

Banash said, "I don't care when the tax bills go out. I want to know when the tax rate gets set, so we can tell people, and they can look at their valuation and know what (the override) will cost."

Griswold said the assessors kept the three districts - Riverview, Riverside, and Gill Center - for purposes of property valuation in this triennial assessment. The formation of the Riverview district, with higher property values, led to an outcry three years ago from affected residents.

### Use of Town Common Reviewed

A request by the Ashvana Stables to put up a thermometer on the town common to track the progress of a fund drive for their therapeutic riding center led to a discussion of allowable uses of the common. The board turned down the request. Banash said, "Either you allow nothing or you allow everything." This led to questions

about whether the Friends of Gill picnic and summertime concerts on the common would fall under the category of events not to be allowed, and whether non-profit groups should present a certificate of insurance for events like these. The board will seek advice from counsel on a clear policy for use of the town common.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Big Fight and Mutual Aid

#### Wednesday 9-26

10:55 p.m. Noise complaint at a French King Highway address.

#### Thursday 9-27

6:24 p.m. Medical emergency at a Pratt Street address. Assisted Erving Fire and BHA.

#### Friday 9-28

12:50 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle Route 2 westbound. Unknown mechanical problem. Motor vehicle removed.

1:55 p.m. Traffic complaint. Three juvenile females on Route 2 in Erving in roadway attempting to touch vehicles as they passed.

#### Saturday 9-29

2:24 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted] for [redacted]

operating with a suspended license (subsequent offense) and a marked lanes violation.

#### Sunday 9-30

1:08 a.m. Mutual aid to Montague. Report of a large fight in front of 2nd Street Café. Verbal only, crowd dispersed.

1:17 a.m. Report of an attempted suicide at a French King Highway address. Subject sliced wrists with knife and fled on foot. Later located and assisted to hospital.

#### Monday 10-1


8:50 a.m. 911 open line at a Lillian's Way address. Small child playing with phone. No emergency found.

3:15 p.m. Report of mail fraud. Subject requesting information from Spain. Mail collected for investigation.

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# Following

He substantiated and documented a number

BY ANN FEITELSON

**TURNERS FALLS** - A string of six camels heads out the door of the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, poised to lead you on an expedition across Asia, following in the footsteps of the Venetian explorer Marco Polo (1254 - 1324).

Photographer Michael Yamashita retraced the journeys of Marco Polo, using his 1299 *Description of the World*, what we know as the *Travels of Marco Polo*, as a guidebook. Yamashita went east overland through Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan - he was one of the last photographers allowed to travel freely there before 9/11 - and on to China. He returned overseas, with the trade winds, through Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India.

Fabulous photographs from these far-flung locations are at the museum in an exhibit titled "Silk Road and Great Wall of China," through December 16th.

As he explained in his Saturday evening lecture at the Hallmark Institute of Photography, Yamashita's interest in trailing Marco Polo, was, in addition to deepening his already-great knowledge of Asia (he majored in Asian history at Wesleyan and has traveled there frequently since) to counter a Marco Polo denier. The British scholar Frances Wood contends that since Marco Polo didn't mention the Great Wall (much of it was built centuries later) or foot binding, or Chinese calligraphy or tea or chopsticks, that he must have traveled only part way to China and relied on other people's guidebooks for his portrayal of that country.

Starting out a skeptic, Yamashita soon became "a confirmed believer in Marco Polo."

of Polo's **in the**

observations from the 1299 book in both the lecture and his own 2002 book, "*Marco Polo: A Photographer's Journey*" a 500-page tome of seductive images which pairs photographs with quotations from the 13th-century pathfinder. It has sold nearly a quarter of

liant, stunning, or spectacular in all the photographs on display. The vibrant voids, twilights, sunsets, snowfalls and horizons

# Footsteps

have a strong emotional sweep and impact. Every photo has a breathtaking panorama, an unearthly glow, vivid colors, or something deeply shocking.

gondola race). His photo showed only traditional gondolas.

Yamashita's goal, he said, is "to give the illusion of what it was like to travel in the 13th century - so that you

think I took a picture

# Marco Polo

700 years ago." Those six camels that greet you at the door of the museum, so evocative of lonely desert treks, were actually just a tourist ride, he explained. Just beyond them were "hundreds of tourists and hundreds of camels." The camels wore numbers on placards, but Yamashita photographed them from the backlit side, looking into the sun, so you can hardly see their identifying numbers, or the western clothing of the people astride them. There are few cars, skyscrapers, sidewalks, or modern footwear visible in any of the photographs.

Many of the images contrive to sift the mixture of present and past, leaving only the past. Not that all photography doesn't involve some degree of contrivance - from the distortions of lenses, to the manipulation of light and color, to the cropping of the extraneous. Yamashita has a further arsenal at his disposal: fixers, assistants, an expense account that allows him to rent the hotel room with the best view and to charter a two thousand dollar an hour helicopter to circle a sacred mountain.

In the most interesting shots, past and present are allowed to clash, making a dissonant harmony, such as a picture of Venice's Piazza San Marco dwarfed by the arrival of "the world's largest cruise ship," the Grand Princess. (Think of the Queen Elizabeth cruising up the canal in Turners.) In a picture

snapped in China, a Buddhist monk enveloped in a brilliant magenta shawl proffers holy water to a crowd extending a bevy of junky plastic bottles.

When the audience asked questions after Yamashita's lecture, someone wanted to know: what does he see as the ultimate importance of his work? His answer: creating a historical document, especially of what may be threatened or disappearing. In the last few years, some of the sights he has photographed have vanished. The 2,000-year-old Bam citadel in Iran, once a haven for Silk Road travelers (Marco Polo described its "lofty walls of mud") crumbled in an earthquake in 2003. (A historically accurate reconstruction is underway.)

As another example, he offers a photo of parallel rows of men seated on countless Oriental carpets, drinking coffee, which shows Basran Marsh Arabs in their traditional tribal guesthouses, tunnels of bent reeds. It illustrates a way of life that has been threatened since Saddam Hussein diverted the Tigris, destroying the marshes' ecosystem of reeds, water buffalo, fish and birds, and devastating the Marsh Arab's 500-year-old culture. Yamashita called it "Saddam's biggest crime."

Yamashita had flown in from Hokkaido, where he had been shooting an upcoming *National Geographic* piece on the haiku poet Basho, to be in Turners Falls on Saturday. Unaffected by jet lag, he's an obsessive photographer and storyteller. His shutter finger seemed to be itching to twitch again. He's out the door, off again soon to both Japan and China. Stop by the Hallmark Museum, Thursday through Sunday, to see the brilliant images he left behind.



a million copies, and is available at the museum.

"Good wheat is grown... in the mountains," Polo had written; Yamashita photographed a radiant, golden pouf of chaff being winnowed by two men, against a dramatic mountain backdrop. It's a timeless image. For hundreds, or thousands, of years, people have been growing wheat and rice and tea, fishing, herding livestock, praying, producing silk from silkworms, and spinning fiber; Yamashita's photographs beautifully document these ongoing facts of Asian life.

*National Geographic Magazine* devoted an unprecedented series of three issues to Yamashita's Marco Polo story in May, June and July 2001. Yamashita is well-practiced in thrilling its forty million readers, having published stories in the magazine for 28 years. There's something vast, bril-

Check out the 'penitents' whose backs are pierced by multiple hooks, or the opium smoker crashed on the floor, or the elderly Chinese women with 3-inch feet (Yamashita said Marco Polo had noticed their mincing gait, but the women he saw in China wore long skirts, covering their bound feet) or the Kurdish wedding guests with machine guns, who illustrate Polo's observation while traveling in Kurdistan: "Unless merchants be well armed, they run the risk of being murdered, or at least robbed of everything; and it sometimes happens that a whole party perishes in this way when not on their guard."

Like his trailblazing muse, Yamashita started in Venice. He explained how he managed to get a photograph of Venice without *vaporetti*, the motorized water busses that usually clog the canals, on the one day a year when Venice holds a regatta (a

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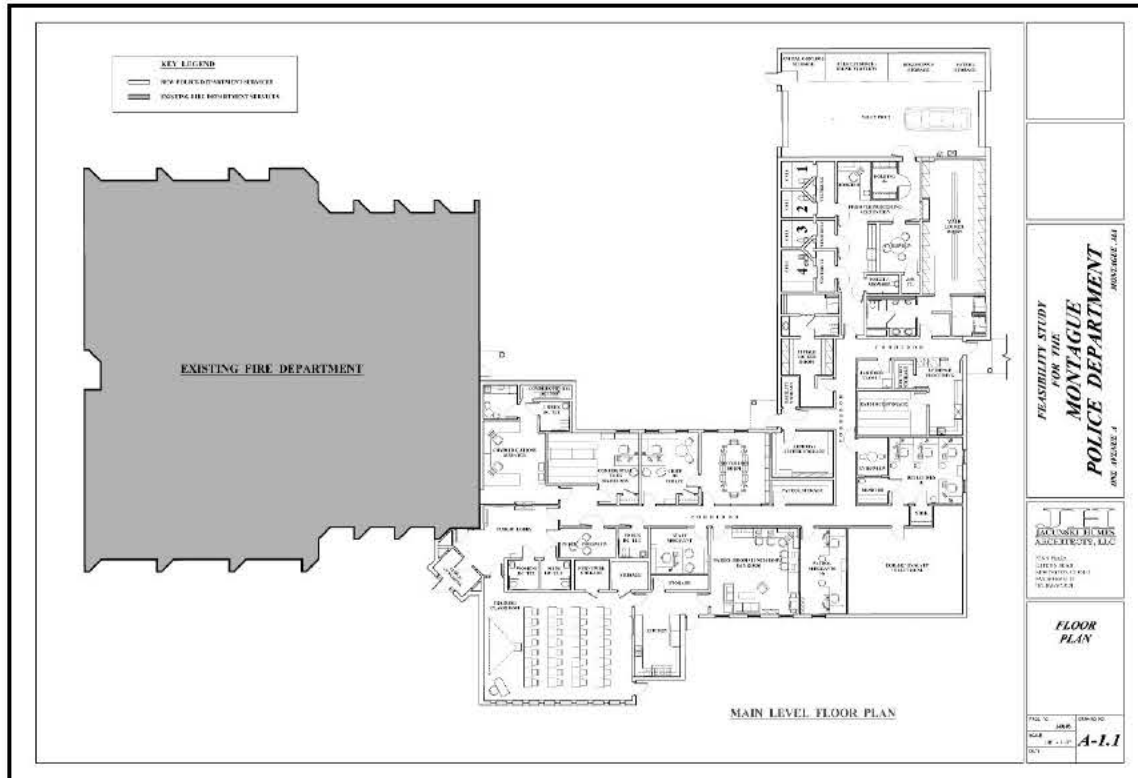
# Police Station Discussed in Millers Falls

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MILLERS FALLS** - The police station building committee brought their traveling roadshow of community meetings to Millers Falls on Thursday, September 27th, where eight committee members met with an equal group of residents at the library to go over details of the proposed building project. The plan calls for building a 12,300-square-foot masonry block police station adjoining the current Turners Falls fire station on Tumpike Road. The building itself will cost about \$3.6 million to construct. Acquisition of a 25-acre parcel of land contiguous to the abandoned extension of Montague Road, owned by the Diocese of Springfield (\$230,000), along with architect's fees (\$550,000) site development costs and contingencies will add an additional \$2 million to the project, bringing the total price tag to \$5.6 million. The committee hopes to bring in about \$800,000 in grants to defray the cost of borrowing, but, if town meeting approves the plan on October 11th, the committee expects the voters of Montague will be facing a debt exclusion vote on November 6th for at least \$4.8 million.

If grants do not come through, and the town has to borrow the entire \$5.6 million, at 5% interest for a period of 20 years, the average Montague homeowner will face an increase in their tax bill of approximately \$115 annually for 20 years, before the debt for the new police station is retired. If a decision is made to amortize the debt for 40 years, the increase to the average tax bill will fall to \$43 annually, but interest payments will add \$4.1 million to the project's total cost before the debt is paid.

Police chief Ray Zukowski took the audience through a slide show of overcrowded, unsafe conditions at the current police station in town hall, where the department has been working for decades in a 1000-square-foot basement. There are no locker rooms for female officers (and no females on the force at present), the two holding cells cannot house female offenders or juveniles, who now must be transported to Greenfield or some other nearby



Building Plan site plan

lockup, evidence and arrest reports are kept in helter-skelter file cabinets in hallways or the garage, offenders and victims are forced to cross paths in the crowded corridors, officers, detectives, sergeants and dispatchers share crammed work space with resident mice, the basement floods in heavy rains, or occasionally suffers from overflowing sewer pipes that add an air of misery to their offices. With poor ventilation, computers plagued by dust and prone to breakdowns, juvenile offenders chained by leg-irons to a hallway bench, little privacy for interrogations, and generally cramped conditions, Montague's present police station has the lackluster quality of a 19th century dungeon.

Then Zukowski showed them a schematic of what the town will get for its \$5.6 million, if voters approve the new police station. The station would be attached to the existing Turners Falls fire station, with a common foyer, where the public would be greeted by a dispatch officer "24/7," Zukowski said. Public restrooms would be available here. The dispatch desk would have easy access to commonly requested forms and records, a kitchenette and bathroom.

Built off the foyer, a 40-seat training room will allow enough space for fire and police personnel to conduct joint trainings, and to make those trainings available to other

emergency service providers in the region. The room will double as an emergency operations center in the event of a pandemic, flood, or other catastrophe requiring multi-agency, multi-town coordination. A kitchen and storage rooms will be built off this center for routine use, or for round the clock staffing in an emergency.

Beyond the dispatch desk, through a secure door, the rest of the police station is laid out in a pattern that would allow for the smooth interrogation of suspects, safe handling of firearms and evidence, and ergonomic working conditions for chief, sergeants and officers. The chief's office will be located next to a conference room, adjacent to the second in command staff sergeant's office. Nearby, the patrol sergeants will share one room; further down the hall, patrol officers will share a common workspace. There will also be a secure room for weapons, and a detectives' office with four work stations.

Next to the detective's office, a "soft interview room" will be located, with video and audio hook-ups, and one-way glass. This room will be ideal for interviewing juveniles, since multiple agencies often wish to be present, but not visible, during these proceedings. The Montague police now need to transport juveniles to the Greenfield DA's office, or to

Northampton to conduct such interviews.

In the rear of the building, a sally port will be designed to allow for the safe removal of suspects, with a gun safe, shower and eyewash facility for mace victims. On one side of the sally port, lockers for bulk evidence, bike storage, tires, barricades, flares, cones, and such commonly needed equipment will be built in to the wall for easy access. There will be a floor drain, allowing officers to wash the cruisers inside.

Just inside the secure entrance to the sally port, a temporary holding facility will be able to accommodate up to six people at a time, with adjacent booking station and breathalyzer. Further along, four cells will be provided, able to hold males, females, or juveniles for longer periods of time. One cell will be handicapped accessible, as the law provides. At present, the Montague station cannot hold women or juveniles, and these prisoners must be transported to Greenfield or elsewhere, taking officers off the beat during transport.

A "hard interview area" will be available near the cells, for prisoners to meet with their lawyer, away from administrative staff and the public (unlike at present). A small shower and toilet will be provided near the cells. Zukowski explained, "Not

everyone is in their best condition when they come in that door."

One added feature, not available at the town hall location: the new police station will have female as well as male locker rooms. Hello. The town of Montague is an equal opportunity employer.

Zukowski (and other members of the building committee) fielded a number of questions from the crowd, and gave a sobering history of past efforts to relocate or enlarge the town's police department. In response to Jean Golricks' promise that she would be Zukowski's "biggest critic" for what she called "a big, luxurious police station," committee member Pam Hanold said, "I can assure you, this is a very tight station. The one concern I have is, 'Will this be adequate for the police department we have now?'"

The committee is not planning for an increase in Montague's census figures, but even with present call volume, the project's architect, Jacunski-Humes, out of Connecticut, had recommended a new station 6,300 square feet larger than the committee opted for.

Fire chief Ray Godin pointed out the possibility that Montague may someday wish to employ its own ambulance service, something the town of Orange has found to be profitable - bringing \$400,000 a year into their town budget. The new safety complex will be sized to meet such possible future needs, with adequate land available for expansion if need be. (The Diocese of Springfield is only willing to sell the 25-acre parcel adjoining the fire station as one unit, but at that, the committee felt \$9,000 an acre was something of a bargain.)

Carol Lapointe wanted to know whether dispatching for police and fire could be shared in the new complex, possibly saving on personnel costs. Godin said that subject had not been studied yet.

Questions about the upfront costs for installing a geothermal heating and cooling system, to maintain the building at an ambient temperature of 55 degrees, revealed that for an additional \$150,000, the see POLICE pg 15

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# Bike Path Nears Completion, at Last!

BY JENAUDLEY

**EAST DEERFIELD** - Last weekend I biked from my home in East Deerfield to downtown Turners and discovered the event I've been waiting for since spring had finally occurred - all the barriers on the new part of the bike path, by the bridge to Deerfield, have been removed! For months now, use of the path has required an intrepid sprit, involving willingness to turn a blind eye to caution tape, tolerance for rough terrain, and a few tricky maneuvers around barricades and dormant earth moving machinery.

Actually, about a month ago, on a morning when I was feeling particularly well-behaved, I asked a man in a Northern Construction hat if I could ride through. "I'd rather you didn't," he said, explaining that his guys were "moving some big rocks down there." Since then, I've forayed the path only in off-hours and on weekends, noting signs of progress each time - first grading, then pavement, followed by new sections of fence, and recently the emergence of a small but fully-formed parking lot at McClelland Farm Road entrance in Deerfield.

I've been keeping tabs on the progress of this new bike path, which links Montague City to Deerfield by means of the reclaimed railroad bridge at the confluence of the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers, since March. Although I can see Montague from the bank of the river near my house, to get there overland requires traveling a couple miles north on Deerfield's River Road, across the Deerfield on 5 & 10, and then back in the opposite direction on Greenfield's Cheapside Street.

The new bike path eliminates this dogleg and provides me with a way to commute by bicycle to Turners that is safe, beautiful, and almost completely car-free.

The addition extends the path that runs along the power canal by about a mile. In Montague, it's just a few blocks of wooded corridor tucked behind a sweet neighborhood in Montague City. The Deerfield side is a bit longer and less residential -- a wide, flat, tree-lined boulevard followed by an uphill switchback that ends on McClelland Farm Road, at the north end of the railroad yard.

The bridge in between offers a splendid view of the spot where the Deerfield River joins the Connecticut. It's covered with planks and enclosed by a combination of chain link and wood fencing that's reasonably unobtrusive. It's quiet, it smells good, and you can stay for as long as you want. Other travelers have already discovered it, but it's not crowded yet.

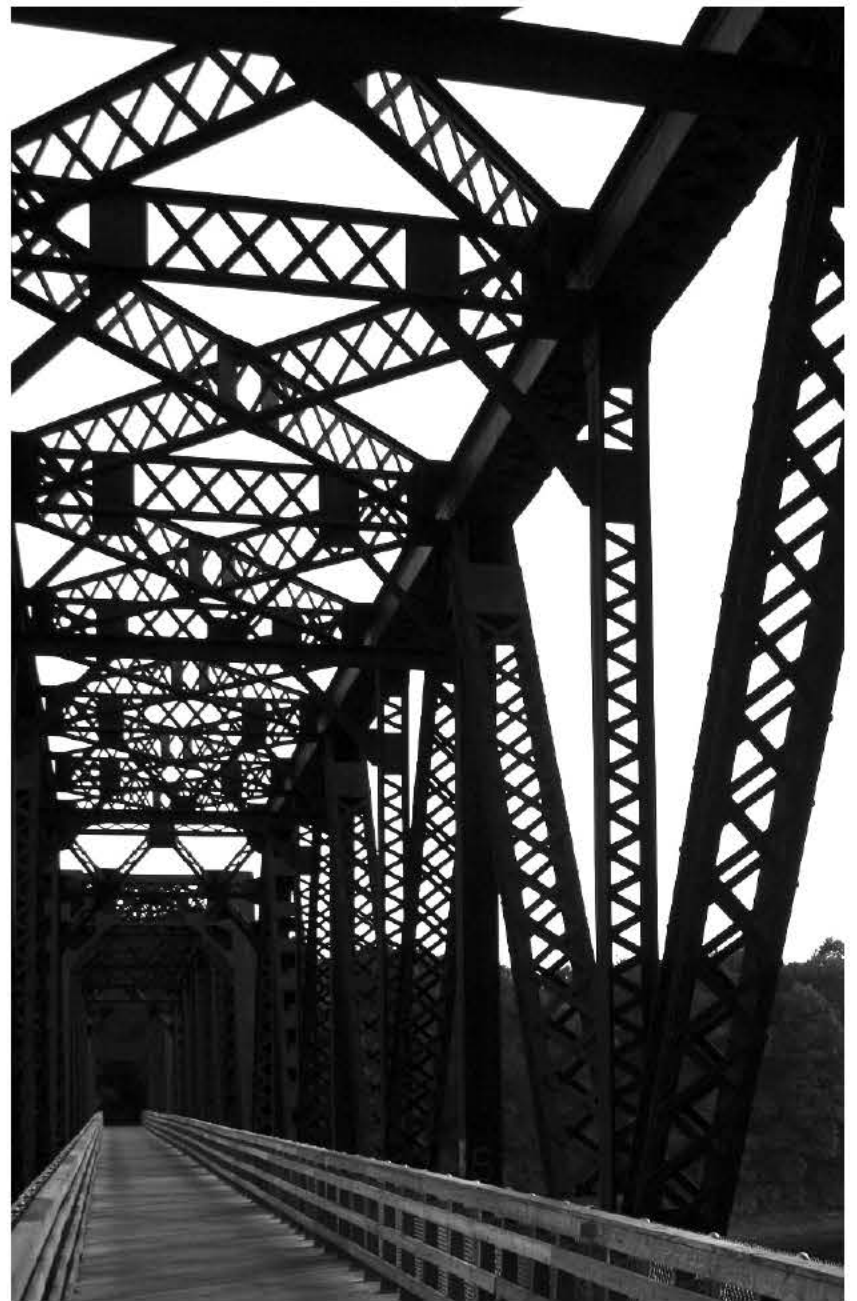
To see for yourself, starting from the canal bike path's terminus on Depot Street, proceed to the intersection with Montague City Road. Turn right, go one block, and then take the first left onto Masonic. The entrance to the new path is at the end of the road, clearly marked by yellow posts, next to the Harmony Lodge. Watch out for traffic as you cross Greenfield Road! There's no signage to warn motorists up there yet, and area drivers are not accustomed to seeing walkers and bicyclists emerge from the woods in this spot.

After crossing Greenfield Road, you'll cross a small bridge and then the big one. The river below you is the Connecticut, which is joining forces with the

Deerfield before your very eyes. In this spot, the Deerfield River ends its long run down from Vermont with a final northerly hook. As a result, instead of simply merging with the southbound Connecticut, it collides with it. The opposing forces from the two rivers result in unpredictable, dangerous currents that took a swimmer's life earlier this year.

Once you've crossed the bridge into Deerfield, look left to see land used by Turners Falls' Stewarts Nursery - easy to spot because of its neat rows of shrubs and trees. Then follow the path until it takes you uphill and deposits you at the freight yard. To continue on from this point, bear right and head uphill. The road ends at a T intersection with River Road. Turn right to get to 5 & 10 (about a half mile), or left to head south to Route 116 (about seven miles).

One final tip: although perfectly walk- and ride-able, the path is not truly, officially open yet, at least not on weekdays during working hours. On Monday morning, invigorated by the weekend's successful circuit and excited about riding to work, I arrived at the trailhead, only to discover it was being minded by a neon-jacketed police officer. When I asked if I could go through, he said, "I wish you wouldn't," explaining they were putting down a final layer of blacktop, to be followed



The bike path crosses the Connecticut River on a former railroad bridge

by more finishing touches over the next few weeks. So I expect I'll be taking the long way around for a little while longer.

But you should have no problem if you plan an excursion after working hours.

## POLICE from 14

geothermal system will break even in approximately three years, and provide energy cost savings for the life of the building. Godin said the "house side" of the fire station will also be able to take advantage of the geothermal system, with minimal retrofits, providing long term, though modest, cost savings for the fire district as well. Grants are being sought to place photovoltaic panels on the roof, to cut electricity costs.

Mike Naughton said, "It is pretty clear to me the department's operating costs are

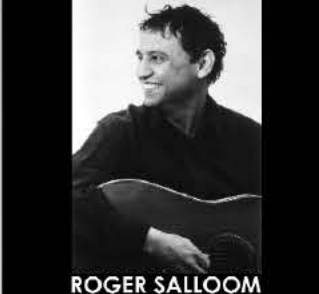
going to rise," in the new police station. "The town is whittling away its operating budget as it is. How are we going to add to it?"

Hanold said the possibility of moving the town's parks and recreation department into the basement of town hall may save costs elsewhere, if the police department vacates that space. Other committee members stressed the choice of low-maintenance flooring and wall materials and basic masonry block construction for the new building, with an eye to keeping long term maintenance

costs down.

In addition to efforts to expand the police station behind town hall in 1987, when Mike Saharceski was chief, or to move it to the Turnpike Road site in 1992, committee member Walt Kostanski recalled an attempt when Richard Cade was chief to move the police station to Peskeomskut Park in 1978, under a committee chaired by Booda Allen. According to Kostanski, that effort was abandoned when Allen declared, "The town was broke."





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**SCENE** from pg 1

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Volunteers for the 11th Annual Source-to-Sea Cleanup gathering at the Great Falls Discovery Center managed to also take in the first stop on the Art Walk. Frederick Wilda of Hadley is the featured artist at the Great Hall this month, and prints of his exquisite watercolor renderings of natural subjects were on display.

Moving on to the Avenue A Café for my morning coffee, I saw the latest wall adornments by Jo of Pedestrian Perspectives. She told me she bought her first 35mm camera at age 16 for a mere \$35 - and she still prefers it to the digital models of today. Jo, a resident of the Avenue, travels by foot and bicycle most of the time and believes the slower pace allows her to see many sights missed by most passersby. The prints at the café have been laminated for display, but are also available framed.

I found two other newcomers to the walk at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries' Avenue A storefront, showcasing their crafts. There, Ericka Almeida introduced me to the art of lampwork, her passion for the past four years. After heating a chopstick-sized piece of glass in a simple torch until it began to melt, she dripped it onto a thin piece of steel called a mandrel, rotated the mandrel to cause the drops of molten glass to evenly encircle the steel, added tiny adornments with a contrasting color, and slipped the bead off the mandrel and into an insulated blanket to cool. Sounds pretty simple doesn't it?

I watched Almeida do a demonstration on the street corner forming a perfect bead in less than ten minutes. She reminded me that properly made beads are normally "cooled" in a kiln to anneal or harden the glass. As fascinating as the process was, it became clear the demonstration was a scaled down version of her day-to-day work, and the elaborate pieces of glass jewelry in her showcase. I'm hoping to visit her studio for a more in-depth look at glass bead making, and I'm anxious to see her at work with the big torch with all its regulators, oxygen tanks, and control valves.

In the other corner of the storefront, Jessica Fafner Adamites exhibited beautiful felted rugs that made you want to take off your shoes and wiggle your toes in the luxurious fabric. A knitter of wearable garments for years, Adamites and her partner bought a house in town recently, and her knitting has turned toward household items.

She just wasn't interested in mass produced rugs, and has strived to find the colors she liked as she made her own. Hand knit, using 100% wool and felted in the washing machine, these simple rugs have fascinating melded color effects due to the vibrant mixed hued yarn she uses in the felting process.

After participating in the river cleanup, I managed to get back in time for the Saturday evening open mic at Madison Cripps' new puppet theater in Tim de Christopher's transformed 3rd Street studio space (formerly Chick's Garage). I suspect I was the only member of the audience that hadn't heard the performers previously (though I've met most of them on the streets of downtown). I missed the first act of Hilary Graves and Luke Eaton, but I could hear the applause as I walked up the street. They were followed by Nick Picariello and Luke Eaton, with excellent renditions of Tom Waits tunes. John Kurtyka was well known to the audience, and though he told me he started out playing Christian folk tunes, the requests were all for his own music. Kurtyka's banjo had broken, so he wasn't too thrilled to be playing a loaned guitar, but the audience had no complaints.

With such a small stage, there was barely enough room to hold the evening's final act - Taxidermy Grandma - a self-styled rotating cast band. They included a dozen or so young people with varied musical talents, and these were certainly on

help young people bring their 3-D ideas to fruition. The Third Street Sculpture Park is still in the planning stages, but applications are available by calling Joe Landry at 863-2915 or by email at youth3dperk@aol.com.

With lots of encouragement from town officials, and plenty of help from the Montague Highway Department the site is looking better all the time. Interestingly, I heard from many businesses along my tour that Turners is known for the encouragement and cooperation of its town officials in the burgeoning downtown development effort, in all its artistic variety.

Near at hand, Nelson's Canal Star studios were brimming with pottery, painting, and sculpture, including amazing amalgams of glass, metal, and stone. His pen and ink renderings of the female form graced one wall, interspersed with vintage French fashion advertisements, while around the corner this sorcerer's apprentice, Jeremy Latch, displayed his own works, in a bold maze-like style.

Sunday I was back in the puppet theater watching the amazing Madison Cripps, his unofficial helper Amy, along with Lord Binky (the puppet she made at Saturday's workshop) and a wonderfully bizarre cast of puppets crafted by Cripps. Each was a work of art, yet they ranged from fairly simple, with few strings attached, to complex articulated creatures requiring up to 12 strings. Watching Sammy - one of the marionette's many wooden minions - pick up a broom and coffee cup, I wondered how many years of practice must have gone into this show. (Only two, said Cripps.)

While some of the puppets could be a little scary, Cripps was sensitive to the small children in the audience, and showed incredible patience until they were comfortable with the antics of his alter egos. In the meantime, the subtle (and sometimes not-so-subtle) humor of his improv performance had the audience in stitches. When in doubt, a rat

with gas is sure to get laughs, but it didn't seem to matter which puppet was in hand, the puppetmaster kept us under his spell.

For my afternoon snack, I decided to stop by the 2nd Street Baking Company - I'd heard rumor of delicacies like Laura Puchalski's raspberry chocolate cheesecake pops, pear scones, squash soup and fresh coffee. The rumors were all true! In addition, there was plenty to gaze

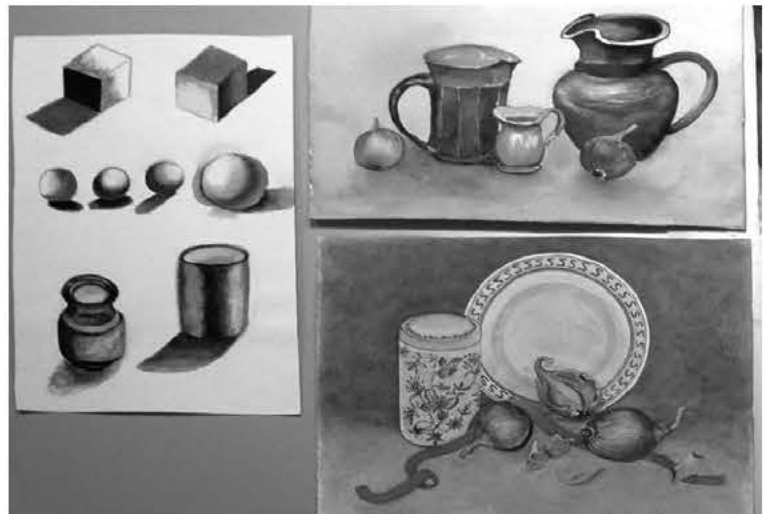
at with the art of Derrick Zellmann and Bridget Bresnahan on the walls, as well as co-owner Christa Snyder's hand painted canvas tabletops. The sun splashing through the west facing windows filled the renovated room with light, promising a warm gathering spot once the oven gets hooked up and the bakery opens for regular business later this month.

Over at the Rendezvous on Third Street, evidence of another amazing renovation of a formerly down at the heels business venue is to be found. Even the bathrooms are works of art, and they were on full display for the arts tour.

Stephen Cahill and Cathe Janke have left their mark on the bathroom walls at the Voo - these

permanent art installations alone are worth the trip. With a base of untreated steel walls and brick floors laid by Cahill, the two bathrooms are an adventure in imagination. It's difficult to see it all in one quick visit but what the heck, have another beer so you can check out the other. Or better yet, visit often, as there is plenty of upcoming entertainment on the horizon - see [www.rendezvousfma.com](http://www.rendezvousfma.com) for all the details.

Roaming about the town, it was exhilarating to see so many strangers, listen to the wandering musicians, look at artwork in the store windows and parks, and feel the positive energy of people turning visions into reality. Downtown is where it's at.



JARED LIBBY PHOTO

Work by Blanche Finkowski at the Brick House Silent Auction. Her work will also be available at the Gill Arts & Crafts Festival, October 13th & 14th.

*A Gift of Color*

BY KAREN STINCHFIELD

Sometimes, amid the bustle of a busy day, a gift from an unexpected source can emerge and lighten one's spirit, making both the giver and the receiver feel joy in the exchange. Recently, in response to a press release requesting donations of art for the upcoming silent auction at the Brick House, at which I am the outreach coordinator, Ann Gochinski of West Deerfield called to offer us "some drawings" she thought we could use. A few days later I found myself on my way to her home, with no idea what I might find.

It turned out to be a big bag of about forty watercolors painted by her late sister. It was a simple motion - the handing off of this gift - but it was incredibly touching for me, to see

her joy in response to mine. I felt as though I was being blessed as the caretaker of these painted gems that can never be re-created. She told me her sister's name was Blanche Finkowski, she lived in Winchester, MA.

Blanche's paintings are varied in theme and style, from loose and carefree flowers to tightly detailed buildings. Some are clearly studies in perspective, others exist because of a free and unconstrained brush, and some are unfinished, but all of them are lovely in their own way. With this in mind, the Brick House will be offering Blanche Finkowski's watercolors (those that remain from the silent auction) during the Gill Art Fest on October 13th and 14th.

Personally, I am looking forward to writing to Mrs. Gochinski to tell her how her generosity helped the Brick House raise funds for its community-based programs, and to thank her for her gift of color.



Madison Cripps, with Pinky

HARDING PHOTO

display Saturday evening. I look forward to hearing more from them. The four on stage that night were Justin Smith, Chris Edwards, Luke Eaton and Nick Picariello.

On the other end of Third Street, the corner lot by the canal is in the early stages of transformation as well. Four area sculptors (Joe Landry, Jack Nelson, Jaye Pope, and Jamie Rourke) have volunteered their time to



BY KAREN WILKINSON

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** *Do your ears hang low? Do they wobble to and fro? Can you tie them in a knot? Can you tie them in a bow? Can you throw them o'er your shoulder like a continental soldier? Do your ears hang low?*

The real question I was asked was: Why do old men have big ears? I just couldn't resist starting out with the well-worn ditty.

Well, it turns out that old men - and women - have bigger ears than they had as young adults. In short, your ears grow larger as you age. I know this sounds like a myth, but it's been proven by scientific studies.

tific studies.

Examples:

- Researchers at the VA Medical Center and Texas Tech University found that ear circumference increases an average of 0.51 millimeters per year.

"This study," the Texas scientists reported, "supports the view that as people age, their ears get larger, particularly the ear circumference, which increases on average 0.51 mm per year. This enlargement is likely associated with aging changes of collagen. The knowledge from this study allows us to calculate the age of an individual based on ear size: subject's age = 1.96 x (Ear circumference in millimeters - 88.1)."

(Definition: Collagen is the fibrous protein part of bone, cartilage, tendon, and other connective tissue. It is converted into gelatin by boiling.)

- Physicians at the Royal College of General Practitioners in England measured their patients' ears. They found that, as we get older, our ears grow about 0.22 millimeter a year.

"A chance observation - that older people have bigger ears - was at first controversial, but has been shown to be true," Dr. James Heathcote reported. "For the researchers, the experience of involving patients in business beyond their presenting symptoms proved to be a positive one, and it was rewarding to find a clear result. Why ears should get bigger when the rest of the body stops growing is not answered by this research. Nor did we consider whether this change in a particular part of the anatomy is a marker of something less easily measurable elsewhere or throughout the body."

- Dr Yashhiro Asai, a physi-

cian at the Futanazu Clinic in Misaki, Japan, along with three colleagues, agreed with the British analysis. Their study of 400 consecutive patients aged 20 and older concluded that "ear length correlates significantly with age, as Heathcote showed, in Japanese people."

- A computer analysis at the University of Milan documented how facial structures change as people age. Ears, the researchers found, get larger with age. Dr. V. F. Ferrario and four colleagues from the Functional Anatomy Research Centre at the university presented evidence that not only do ears get longer with age, but this phenomenon applies to both women and men.

- Doctors from the Medical Branch of the University of Rostock in Germany measured the ears of 1,271 children and adolescents. They reported that ear length increases "steadily and annually," but ear width

remains the same.

So, there is strong evidence about geezer ear growth. The cause of the enlargement is still a subject of debate in the scientific community. There are many theories. My personal favorite is that skin loses elasticity as we age. This tendency and gravity make ears get longer and wobble to and fro.

Kay-Teo Khaw, a professor of clinical gerontology, said it may be that "big ears predict survival. Men with smaller ears may die selectively at younger ages. Ear size or pattern, or both, may be a marker of some biological process related to health."

While this may sound far-fetched, many studies have shown that men with a diagonal crease in both ear lobes may have an increased risk of heart attacks.

*If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com*

**ZONING** from 1

backs are half of what is normally required under the town's bylaws.

Last December, Anderson said, he discovered that the ZBA's variance had never been filed, and he brought a lawsuit against the town in land court - nominally to force the building to be moved, but more realistically to develop, or add weight to, his negotiating position with the town. He also initiated an appeal with the town, asking building inspector Phil Delorey to rescind the town office building permit on the grounds that, without the proper variance filing, the permit should not have been issued. When Delorey formally refused, Anderson appealed to the ZBA, which, a few days ago, issued a decision that

upheld Delorey's decision and his reasoning: i.e., that revoking a building permit for such a big project, of such importance to the town, would be drastic and would only make sense in a case where a building didn't meet building code.

Meanwhile, Anderson's lawsuit is still pending.

Anderson has said he was never notified as an abutter of any hearings or other meetings involving the building's placement, including the ZBA hearing that resulted in the variance. (The request for the variance came out of a desire by local officials to place the building close to the road, and as far west as possible, to get it as close to the common as possible, and to place the driveway and the parking to the east of the building, out of sight of Anderson's property).

Anderson said lack of notification explains his absence from the siting hearing and his failure to express early objections. His realization of the problem came in stages during actual construction: first he was amazed at how close to Morse Village Road the foundation was going in, without thinking, he says, of how close it also was to his property line. Then, he said, he was disappointed at losing his downstairs view when the first, lower section of the building went up. It wasn't until the front, higher section went up last fall that he realized the structure was also taking his upstairs view, which became a broad, red roof rather than the Orcutt Hill ridge a mile east. He recently erected a fence to deal with another loss - his sense of privacy in both his

house and yard.

Anderson said he brushed aside, in a meeting with town officials last June, offers that seemed to concentrate on planting trees to hide the large, new building from view, and asked instead for willingness to negotiate a financial settlement to help with the sudden depreciation in the value of his property. The town, as he related it, told him "to write a letter to their insurance company" naming his figure, saying it couldn't, or wouldn't negotiate directly. He took this as an "un-neighborly" rejection and a brush-off.

Asked it were true the selectboard can't negotiate such a settlement, Keller said this week the town's insurance policy is regarded as its "first line of defense" against such suits, and the town would enter

into direct negotiations only if and when the insurance company had offered a settlement that both the claimant and the selectboard thought was too low. Keller acknowledged that by forwarding a letter to the insurance company, the selectboard acknowledges, implicitly, that it feels Anderson's request has some legitimacy.

"We need to know what he wants, preferably in writing, so we can forward it to the insurance company," Keller said. "If the town made errors, as is possible, the officials are covered." He said the town has spent close to \$1,000 on legal fees dealing with Anderson's suit to date. Both Keller and Anderson spoke unhappily, and a little helplessly, about the expense to the town of this unproductive impasse.



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# JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XLVIII

## Life Gets Better

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**GILL** - Not long after Pa buried the old green car, the Keith Paper Mill began providing him with fairly steady work. With the girls handing over their pay from their housekeeping jobs and the farm providing much of the family's food, Pa had a fair amount of income. He even patched the roof and remodeled the back shed into a kitchen. A fellow worker from the mill helped him.

The shed floor sloped, so Pa and his helper sloped the ceiling to match. Ma nearly burst with pride when anyone admired her new kitchen with wainscoting installed on the lower portion of the wall. A chair rail ran around

the top. Pa and his helper put up sheetrock above the chair rail.

They used the wrong kind of nails on the sheetrock walls and ceiling. Paint wouldn't stick to them. They compounded the error by countersinking the nails too far. Pa's helper suggested using roofing tar to fill the holes. The tar bled through the paint, despite repeated painting. They next tried window putty, and eventually got the paint to stick. The countersunk nails didn't hold and the ceiling began to come down. They next nailed strips of lath over the joints to keep the ceiling from collapsing. A breech baby would have been a far lesser ordeal.

Pa built a pantry on the north end of the kitchen and installed a

pitcher pump and sink. Ma was delighted to be able to draw water right there in the pantry without having to go outside to fetch water. We were glad to see the kitchen built, because it got rid of the dark and spooky shed with boxes and barrels half hidden in the shadows where there was no telling what danger lurked. Ma was happy to have the kitchen but we were even happier to have windows bringing daylight into that scary place.

Pa converted the former kitchen to a bedroom, so he and Ma could move out of the dining room. He never got around to fixing the two bedrooms upstairs and seldom went upstairs except to whack us with the strap if we were not quiet at bedtime. Girls

slept in one room, boys in the other. When our parents invited people to stay over, the guests slept in our beds and we slept outdoors or in the barn. Pa had a lot of friends who visited back and forth. Often they held lawn parties at the farm, eating and drinking, talking and laughing.

One day I asked Pa why we couldn't have a picnic for just the family. Pa said we would. And true to his word, when we dug new potatoes late in the summer, he built a big bonfire in the field by our house. When the fire died down, he buried a dozen or more potatoes in the glowing coals. When they were done, the baked potatoes looked like charred oversized lumps of charcoal briquettes. He scooped them into

a burlap bag, took one end and Ma held the other end. They shook the potatoes back and forth to knock loose charcoal off. When they opened the bag, the potatoes were still black.

"Eat. Eat," Pa said.

To wash them down, Ma had prepared a kind of 'lemonade' made with water, onions, salt and pepper. That was our picnic. Pa was quite pleased with the results and often repeated the ritual. We didn't dare suggest hot dogs, marshmallows or root beer.

To our surprise, the potatoes were quite good. The charcoal made them taste salty. Still, hot dogs, marshmallows and root beer would have been nice.

- Continued next week

## LIBRARY from pg 1

office building, just across the way on the north end of the common. The plan is to use \$10,000 in funds set aside by the town to salvage the handsomely appointed old building - with its yellow pine interior, built-in shelving and fireplace - and

renovate it to meet the needs of the town's seniors upstairs, and for storage and perhaps distribution of food pantry items in the basement.

On Tuesday, senior center representatives and Good Neighbors board members sat down with the planning board for a site plan review hearing for the

change of use at the former library. Although all parties seemed eager to make the plan work, there was a sense that no matter how they use the shoehorn, it will be a very tight fit.

Deirdre Cabral, planning board chair, emphasized that her board's role was to look at the exterior impacts of the building's proposed reuse: things like parking, signage, and pedestrian access. But consideration of these matters somewhat depends on how the interior of the space is to be used.

For example, if all drop-off and pick-up for the food pantry is to take place from the basement level, then loading zones and pedestrian walkways will be configured toward the west of the building. But if, as Raymond suggested, a discussion with the senior center could lead to using the upstairs for food pantry pick-up on Sundays during bad weather, rather than downstairs and outdoors at the rear of the building, where pick-up will occur on fair weather days, then loading zones and pedestrian access will be needed in both areas.

Raymond began the hearing with an admission that plans were still in flux, that as many as 22 cars may require parking at one time during food pantry pick-up hours, that adequate parking for that number of cars exists around the common, but that pedestrians will need pathways cleared across the common during the winter to avoid walking in the road. Also, the 30 m.p.h. speed limit near the town's main intersection may need to be lowered, temporarily, during Good Neighbor pick-up hours on

Sunday afternoons, and caution signs placed further back from the intersection to protect pedestrians.

Up to 40 or 50 households take advantage of the free food pantry, which distributes food provided by the USDA, along with surplus or out of code items from Fosters Supermarket in Greenfield, Whole Foods Market, Trader Joes, and Maple Farms Foods in Hadley. Counting children in tow, double that number may use the pantry on a given Sunday.

Upstairs, the senior center would continue to serve at least 12 seniors at once a month health screening clinics, although Charles T. Smith, (who works with both organizations) said the council on aging would like to survey the town to see what other needs the new senior center might meet, once they are secure in their new home.


Senior center director Kathy Swaim said there will be 175 Wendell residents over 60 next year, out of a total population of around 1000. "That's an astonishing percentage," she said. "I think our senior center is going to move to serve another demographic besides the most frail, once we get in the space."

Raymond recalled the senior center allowed the food pantry to use their space for distributing food during bad weather in the former town office building, but said the two organizations had not yet talked about whether that arrangement could be continued in their new quarters. She said the basement of the old library would be big enough - but barely - to store food pantry items that are delivered prior to Sunday distribution days, but if all the

food had to be distributed out of the basement, including the produce and perishables delivered by truck on Sundays, there would be no room for people to move.

Tommy Chaisson, a carpenter whose mother, Rosalie Rosser, had spearheaded the food pantry for many years before her untimely death in an auto accident this June, said it might be possible to remove the (composting toilet) bathroom from the basement level, once a plumbed facility is installed upstairs. Additional headroom could be created on the lower level by hanging floor joists off the beams by metal hangers.

For now, the senior center is holding clinics in a room at the town office building, but Smith pointed out that a dedicated space for a senior center is a requirement for receiving the annual state council on aging grant. The food pantry is operating out of an unheated storage bay at the highway garage, which supplied an electric space heater to keep canned goods from freezing there last winter.

A joint meeting is tentatively set between the two organizations and selectboard member Dan Keller on Thursday, October 4th, at the town office building. The planning board agreed to continue the site plan hearing until the applicant - in this case the town of Wendell itself - had a chance to go over parking, pedestrian access, and signage with the town highway commissioners and the highway department. The hearing will be continued on Tuesday, October 16th, at 7 p.m. at  the office building.

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**VENDORS WANTED** for Wendell Holiday Fair, Dec. 1 & 2. For info contact: Marianne at 978-544-8981 or msundell65@hotmail.com.

**CARTOONISTS** Wanted for discussion group. Amateur or pro. Call 659-5339 or email klwilkinson@comcast.net.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH - 7TH

Ja'Duke presents Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound Of Music* at the Shea Theater, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for 12/under and 65/over. Tickets available 863-2281, and at World Eye Book Shop.

## ONGOING

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography presents National Geographic photographer Michael Yamashita's *Great Wall of China & The Silk Road*. On display through December 16th.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

Deja Brew, Wendell: Acoustic Rock - *Kellianna*, 8 to 10 p.m. Film showing: *The Power of Community - How Cuba Survived Peak Oil* at Wheeler Memorial Library on E. Main St, Orange.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

Songster Jeff Martell performs American roots music and original compositions with expert guitar and blistering harmonica. Jeff plays great music and isn't afraid to pick on a few sacred cows! This is the only local release party for his new CD, *Crazy through the Grain*. [www.jeffmartell.net](http://www.jeffmartell.net). Delicious refreshments, suggested donation sliding scale \$5-\$10. Held in the great hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Pressure Relief*, members of Factory Defects new band. Rock, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.



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## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center: Colors of Autumn with Deborah Bazer. Dyeing local wool and yarn using plants from our backyards and kitchen scraps. Flowers, leaves, and roots can be used to make beautiful colored yarn for knitting, weaving and other projects. We'll learn how to prep the wool, make the dye bath and dye the wool using a few different plants. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. For ages 6 to 9, \$10 per child. Pre-register 800-859-2960.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Loose Change*, rock covers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Jazz: *Ndigo Moon*, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous presents three live music acts: James Blackshaw, Kurt Weisman, and KG Fields. 78 Third St, Turners Falls. 9 p.m. \$8 at the door. Food, wine and beer available.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Open House - Dharma Gathering  
Talk topic: The Heart of Warriorship  
"When we talk about warriorship we are not talking about conducting warfare, but we are talking about manifesting fearlessness and gentleness that can save the world. It is a question of heart. That is what the world needs. The heart of warriorship is fearlessness." -- Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche  
This month's Open House talk will include an audio talk by Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche given in 1979 at a Naropa Institute seminar, entitled "Warrior of Shambhala." Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche is the founder of Shambhala Training, a secular meditation program. Open House Schedule: 10:00 Open House begins with meditation instruction and practice (sitting & walking meditation) followed by a Dharma talk at 11:00 and refreshments and socializing at noon. Join us for all or part of the morning. 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Open to All. Donation requested.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

Acoustic performance by **Paul Spaterella**, 7 - 10 p.m., no cover



Chris Chandler performs at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Saturday, October 20th with Boston-based musician Jim Infantino, 7:30 p.m.

at Deja Brew, 57 Locks Village Road, Wendell. 978-544-BREW.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

Rock performance by *Free Range*, 8 - 10 p.m., no cover at Deja Brew, 57 Locks Village Road, Wendell. 978-544-BREW.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

Athol Bird & Nature Club and Millers River Environmental Center invites birding enthusiasts to join Mark Taylor for *Fall Migrants in the Connecticut River Valley* - an all day trip through Hatfield, Hadley, and Northampton in search of late migrating shorebirds and passerines. Meet at 7 a.m. at parking lot opposite the *Pocket Saver Store* off Rt. 2, Erving center. For info (978) 248-9491 [jem499872@yahoo.com](mailto:jem499872@yahoo.com).

Benefit Concert for Katie Limateian - in support of Katie's battle against leukemia. 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls. Performers include Lost in the Groove, Curly Fingers Dupree and

House Party. 100% of the door, 100% of the ticket sales of raffle items (big ticket and 50/50) and a portion of the kitchen proceeds will be donated to Katie and her family to cover medical and personal expenses. 21+, Tickets \$10 are available for sale at the door (walk-up) or reserved by calling ahead at 413 659 3384. The Road House kitchen showcases its new menu.

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

Deadline for proposals to The Montague Cultural Council for grants for community arts, humanities, and science projects. Priorities for applicants: Concerts, festivals, plays, projects led by local artists, environment, nature, science programs, arts & cultural organizations, school programs. Form & guidelines: Lisa Enzer at 367-2658.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

Preserving and Using Herbs - Mary Ellen Warchol of the Stockbridge Farm Cooking School will demonstrate how to preserve herbs and show samples of herbal concoctions, like herbal vinegars, syrups, sodas, and dressings. The North Quabbin Garden Club sponsors this program and there is a \$5.00 fee for nonmembers. 7:00 p.m. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

Chris Chandler, folk singer/songwriter and spoken-word performing artist will appear at the Echo Lake Coffee House at the Town Hall, 9 Montague Rd., Leverett. Chris will be accompanied by Boston-based musician, Jim Infantino. Admission is \$12/\$10 seniors. 413-548-9394.

## UNTIL NOVEMBER 2ND

*Remembering Matt*, an assemblage exhibit of original, collaborative work inspired by Matthew Leighton at the Artspace, Greenfield. Many of the tribute works are on display in the windows of Matt's former studio at 9 Mill

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.  
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THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.  
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## Upcoming at the Discovery Center

Summer Hours through Columbus Day: Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by special arrangement. (413) 863-3221

## SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 7TH & 14TH

Great Falls GeoWalk. Join DCR Park Interpreter and geologist Steve Winters for a leisurely 90-minute stroll back in time to rocks that formed in the Mesozoic Era about 200 million years ago—including real dinosaur fossils! About 3 miles. GeoWalk meets at 1p.m. in the Discovery Center lobby.

## TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, IN OCTOBER

Nature@8 is an early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Meet at the bird bath outside the main entrance at 8 a.m. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes, never more than about 2 miles over level pavement.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

The Great Falls Coffeehouse begins its second year with a move from the last Wednesday of the month to the first Friday. The coffeehouses are hosted by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Sliding scale donation of \$5-\$10 benefits GFDC. Jeff Martel performs.

Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org)

Street, just a few steps from Artspace. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 1 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will also be open on Saturdays, October 6, 20 and 27 from 11- 2 p.m. 772-6811 for information.

## THROUGH NOVEMBER 4TH

*Made of Thunder, Made of Glass:* American Indian Beadwork of the Northeast features one hundred beaded bags and hats from the Gerry Biron & JoAnne Russo collection. Accompanied by contemporary paintings of Native Americans by Gerry Biron, of Mi'kmaq descent. Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 774-7476.



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6. BALLS OF FURY PG13  
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7. THE HEARTBREAK KID R  
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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Frost on the Pumpkin, Squash Beneath the Bed

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - Fall is a bittersweet season. The early maples are turning orange and red. Late wildflowers edge the yard: purple asters, yellow sunflowers and a white blooming weed I have no name for. There are crisp apples for the picking and eating.

The cool weather makes the mouth water for soups and apple pie. The humidity is gone and the night sky is full of stars. October light brings everything into sharp focus. Cooling temperatures add zest to the step and a new infusion of energy.

All this beauty comes with the poignancy that it signals endings. The days are too short; the morning light comes later, and the evenings close in too soon. The summer-weight clothes are too light for all day wearing. The midday warmth disappears too quickly. The songbirds are mostly silent;

their daylong music has been replaced by the quarrelsome chatter of crows and jays. The dreamy languid days are over.

In the garden the tomato plants are exhausted; the last fruit is ripening slowly now. The winter squash leaves are succumbing to powdery mildew. The weeds are legion. It's time to harvest what you can preserve for the long cold months ahead. It's time to put the garden to bed.

While it is likely two to three weeks before a killing frost here by the riverbank, the current dry spell and the shorter daylight punctuated by cold nights have halted plant growth. Only the indeterminate tomato plants, Arkansas Traveler and Believe It Or Not continue to sport green leaves at the top. They also continue to produce new green fruit. It's best to snip any late blossoms and tiny fruit now, so the plant can put its last spurt of

energy into the remaining fruit of good size. When plants die off, they should be removed from the garden and composted



MARY AZARIAN WOODCUT

separately. Unless your compost pile is especially hot, composting diseased plant material will only return the problem to your garden next spring. This is especially true of plants blighted with powdery mildew.

Here are some tips from the UMass Extension Service

newsletter regarding the harvesting and storage of winter squash. They recommend harvesting winter squashes when the rinds are hard and the color deep and solid. They recommend leaving a couple of inches of stem on these fruits. Winter squashes should be stored at temperatures of 45-55 degrees. Finally, the newsletter notes, "In olden days, settlers would store winter squash beneath their beds." I love that. I've never yet found the right spot for squash storage. The cellar is too warm with the wood stove going. The garage is too cold. I never thought about the unheated upstairs bedroom. Perhaps I'll try the under the bed trick, at the risk of frightening my paranoid feline friend.

While you are pulling up spent plants, grab a hold of those huge weeds, too. The best garden sanitation involves removing all you can. As it is,

there will be plenty of weed seed left behind to start next year's crop.

If you wait to put the garden to bed until we've had a killing frost, some of these seeds may be killed.

Finally, take the time to spread composted manure and turn your garden under. Putting the work in now will pay off in the spring. You won't disturb the earthworms you want to encourage, and when the time is ripe for early spring planting, you'll need only to break the soil with a rake and begin the new year's growing season.

Now sit back and enjoy the last fruits of the harvest and look forward to the arrival of next year's seed catalogues and to planning for the coming garden season.

Look below for a couple of tasty fall foods you can make with your end of season fruits.

Happy harvesting!

## Elks Soccer Shoot



EILEEN TRUMBLE PHOTO

Nine contestants in the Montague Elks #2521 soccer shoot at Unity Park on September 22nd

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521, in Turners Falls held its third annual soccer shoot on Saturday, September 22nd at Unity Park. The winners of the competition are as follows:

Boys under 14: 1st place Summer Forest-Bulley Jr.

Boys under 12: 1st place Frederic Rigollaud

Boys under 10 winners: 1st place Milou Rigollaud; 2nd place went to Kenny Olchowski

Boys under 8 winners were 1st place Jacob Sisson, 2nd place went to Conner Bobala and 3rd place went to Sam Bobala.

Girls under 10: 1st place Rhiannon Stafford-Wolfram

Girls under 8: 1st place Emily Sisson

The 1st place winners were invited to Auburn Lodge #2118 on September 30th for the district soccer shoot.

### Roasted Winter Squash Soup

You will need:

- Two large squash (acorn or butternut)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- Pinch of ground clove
- 1 small apple, peeled and diced
- 1 sweet red pepper
- 4 cups chicken broth

Set the oven to 375. Cut the squash and red pepper in half and remove the seeds.

Place these vegetables on an oiled sheet and bake for about an hour until tender.

Heat the olive oil in a saucepan and add the onion and garlic, chopped. Cook over low heat until tender, and then add the apple, ground clove and broth. Simmer until the apple is tender. Scoop the squash from its peel and chop the pepper. Puree all ingredients together in a blender or food processor. Heat gently and add seasonings. If you are lucky enough to have leftovers, you can freeze the soup for future use.

### Grandmother's Apple Pie

You will need:

- 1 pie crust
- 6 to 8 tart apples

Peel and slice the apples.

Mix ½ cup sugar with ½ teaspoon cinnamon and ¼ teaspoon ground clove. Stir in with apple slices.

Heap the apples in the bottom of your pastry and dot with butter.

Cover with the top crust and slit it in a few places.

Bake the pie at 450 for 10 minutes and then reduce the heat to 375. Total cooking time is about 50 minutes.

The pie is ready when the juices ooze from the crust. If the crust browns too quickly, cover it with a sheet of foil.

Serve warm with cheese or a little ice cream.

Don't forget the Yankee custom of leftover apple pie for breakfast!

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