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YEAR 10 - NO. 2

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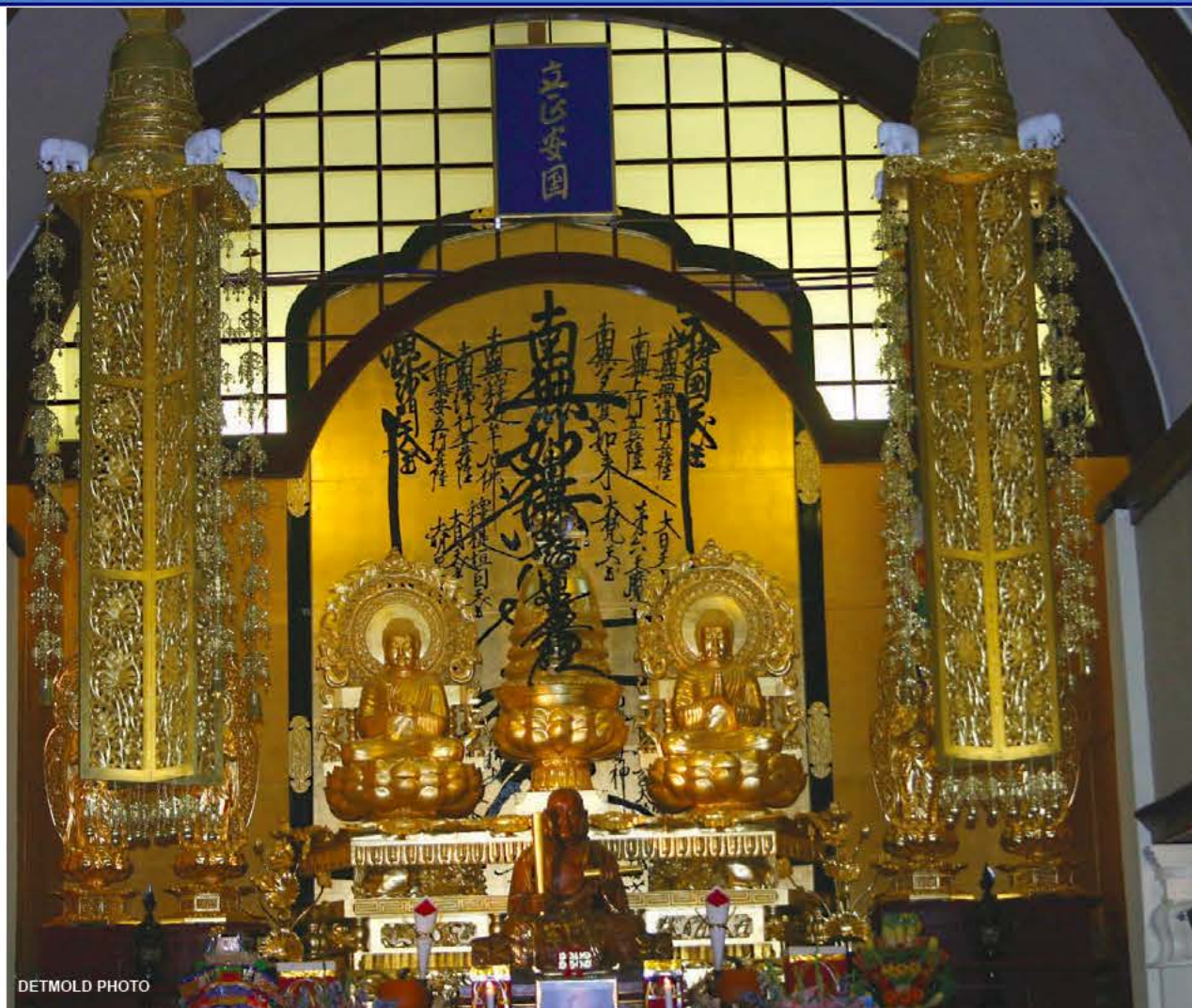
THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 6, 2011

FIRE AND RAIN AT THE PEACE PAGODA

BY DAVID DETMOLD
LEVERETT - Hundreds trekked up the hill to celebrate the dedication of the new temple at the Peace Pagoda on Sunday. The wind blew through the beech leaves, and through the maple leaves, still green, but turning. Rivulets of water ran everywhere, from the rocky soil, from each dripping leaf, from the golden mandala glittering through the fog at the top of the white pagoda, and from the curving concrete eaves of the new temple. Multi-colored origami peace cranes depended from the ends of branches of the trees lining the steep dirt path. Their rainbow colors were echoed in the blooming umbrellas of the many devotees and friends who gathered at the doorway of the temple, so full no more could enter. The shoes of the worshippers stood on the tiled porch, and water filled the shoes, as more came trekking up the path.

Thirty monks and nuns from the Nipponzan Myohoji order who traveled to join their brothers and sisters in Leverett for the opening celebration of



DETMOLD PHOTO

A curtain was pulled aside to reveal the altar at Sunday's dedication of the new temple at the Peace Pagoda.

the temple, bowed their heads in silent reverence, sounded gongs, or beat drums and chanted their

traditional mantra, *Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo* (rough translation: 'To honor or devote oneself to

the wonderful law of the Lotus Flower Sutra') as the golden Buddhas of the sacred altar were revealed

from behind a drawn curtain. A photograph of Nichidatsu Fujii, the venerable founder of the

Japanese order held a position of honor on the altar, and also on a shrine placed before the Peace Pagoda, in front of a tent filled with worshippers and celebrants who could not fit inside the hall of the temple.

Fujii, who met Mohandas Gandhi in India before World War II, was celebrating his 60th birthday in Japan on the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. At that time, he decided to devote himself to founding an order of monks and nuns who would work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. Fujii died at the age of 100 in 1985.

The Nipponzan Myohoji order he founded has built about 80 pagodas dedicated to a future free from nuclear weapons and power worldwide; the Leverett pagoda is one of just three in America. Monks and nuns from the order frequently take part in cross country walks, beating hand drums and chanting their mantra as a call for peace.

On Sunday, Carrie Schuchardt gave a welcome **PAGODA** page 11

Animals Blessed, Fellowship Celebrated



ANN FEITELSON PHOTO

Pastor Barbara Turner Delisle and Reverend Cynthia Crosson-Harrington, holding Dandi

BY ANN FEITELSON
MONTAGUE CENTER
 On Sunday, October 2nd, the First Congregational Church in Montague joined with churches around the world to celebrate St. Francis Day with a service of blessing and

healing for animals. In New York City, simultaneously, there was a huge celebration at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, with thousands of animals (and their thousands of people) - dogs, cats, snakes, par-

rots, monkeys, lizards, turkeys, turtles, llamas, horses, sheep, goats - even camels have attended! - who amble, or, in that exalted context, they might be said to process, down its historic aisle.

In Montague, about 15 people, five dogs and two cats joined with Pastor Barbara Turner Delisle and the Reverend Cynthia Crosson-Harrington of the First Congregational Church in Whately to honor the bond between pets and their people, tugging the heartstrings we share with animals.

We held a moment of silence for all animals suffering inhumane mistreatment. Then we sang words written by St. Francis of Assisi, 800 years ago (translated 80 years ago by William see **ANIMALS** page 11

Hybrid Regionalization Heads to Town Meetings

BY KATIE NOLAN - **ORANGE** - The Mahar regional school district moved two steps closer to hybrid regionalization this week.

On Monday, the Mahar regionalization subcommittee voted to finalize amendments to the regional agreement between Orange, Petersham, New Salem and Wendell. On Tuesday, the full Mahar school committee voted to send the amended agreement to the member towns for town meeting votes.

If town meeting in each of the four towns approves the amended agreement this fall and the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approves it by December 1st, the Mahar district will provide K-12 education for Orange and Petersham and grades 7-12

education for Wendell and New Salem starting July 1st, 2012. The Union #28 superintendency union will continue to govern Swift River School for elementary students from New Salem and Wendell.

Under the amended agreement, assessments to the towns will continue to be in accordance with the DESE statutory formula - a formula opposed by the Wendell finance committee for many years because using it results in Wendell paying a higher per-pupil cost than any of the other towns.

However, one amendment to the agreement clarifies that the school committee may choose to use an alternative assessment method, as long as each town meeting votes to accept using an alternative method.

The Wendell finance committee has proposed several alternative assessment methods in the past, and for fiscal year 2012 (FY'12), superintendent Michael Baldassarre and the finance and facilities subcommittee developed an alternative assessment method that was approved by the full Mahar committee and by town meetings in Petersham, New Salem, and Wendell. But when the alternative assessment method was turned down by the Orange town meeting, the statutory formula contested by the Wendell finance committee was used to calculate FY'12 assessments to the towns.

The amended regional agreement provides for an eleven-member school committee, five members from Orange and two from see **MAHAR** page 10

PET OF THE WEEK

Strategic



Gamer

I am Gamer, a seven-year-old female domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. As my name implies, I love games. I can help you strategize while you're playing your favorite video game ("Watch out! That guy is sneaking up on you.") Or I can help you negotiate a real estate deal while playing Monopoly ("Me and my human will give you Baltic and The Reading Railroad for Boardwalk and Park Place"). I can really help you get into character when you're playing D&D (Every good mage needs a familiar). In addition to human games, I'm good at cat games too. Some of my favorites are string, paper bag and laser pointer. But probably my favorite game of all is snuggling. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

An Author's Perspective by Juliette Fay

Natick author Juliette Fay will speak on how she came to write her new second novel *Deep Down True*. This is the story of Dana, a recently divorced woman dealing with her children and family's reaction to the shock waves of their father's departure. Fay has depicted Dana with the insecurities that dwell within most of us as she navigated her life through what seems to her a foreign landscape. Fay's writing has been described as "sincere, powerful and heartfelt". Fay's

first novel, *Shelter Me*, was named one of the Ten Best Works of Fiction in Massachusetts for 2009. Following her talk, Fay will answer questions and sign books, which will be available for purchase.

The talk is free on Sunday, October 23rd, 2:00 p.m. at the Leverett Library, 75 Montague Road, Leverett. Friends of the Library are sponsoring the event. For more information call 413-548-9487 or visit Juliette Fay's website, www.juliettefay.com.

ATHOL LIBRARY NEWS

A Swift River Anthology Reading October 13th

Dorothy Johnson, author of *A Swift River Anthology*, will visit the Athol Public Library to discuss her work and give a reading in the Library's activity room on Thursday, October 13th, 5:00 p.m.

A Swift River Anthology is a collection of essential musings of imaginary pre-Quabbin residents buried in Ware's Quabbin Park Cemetery. This cemetery is a repository for remains of those who had been buried in the cemeteries of the towns flooded in the 1930s to create Quabbin Reservoir as a drinking water supply for the city of Boston. Farms, businesses, public buildings, and residences were taken by eminent domain to facilitate inundating the area, and all residents were evacuated.

Elizabeth Peirce, curator and historian, Swift River Historical Society, calls *A Swift River Anthology* "a story told with simplicity about stoic, hard-shelled Yankees and how they reacted to the fact that they were being driven from their homes in the Quabbin Valley."

This event is free and open to the public. Please call the library at (978) 249-9515 for more information.

Upcoming at the Library on Tuesday, October 18th, 5:30 p.m. is a Supernatural Evening with Jeff Belanger – one of the leading lecturers on paranormal phenomena. Listen to the ultimate paranormal insider, speaking about what he has learned and seen in the more than fifteen years he has been investigating the paranormal, seeking out ghosts, monsters, and legends all over the world and in your backyard.

Belanger's talk presents highlights from his own adventures, a look at the investigation process, and compelling audio and visual paranormal evidence. Not just ghost stories, Belanger will delve into the reasons behind the phenomena. This library program is free and open to the public. Call the library to sign up at (978) 249-9515. Funding for this program is generously supplied by the Friends of the Athol Public Library.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – October 10th - 14th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, October 10th
Senior Center is open on Columbus Day
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo
No Knitting Circle

Tuesday, October 11th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, October 12th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting

12:00 p.m. Birthday Lunch with cake by Food City
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, October 13th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, October 14th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm summer activities schedule and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, October 10th
Closed for Columbus Day
Tuesday, October 11th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, October 12th



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

This little Roma boy sat in front of a museum in Krakow, grinding out the same tune over and over. When I asked him, in Polish, if he spoke Polish; he replied in English, "I am Romani." He did not look happy, but smiled when I dropped money in the container. Further down the walk, another sad little boy was squeezing out the same tune. I couldn't stop thinking about these kids.

- Joseph A. Parzych, Gill

Historic Bridge Facts

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

Residents of Gill, and others interested in that town, began to raise the possibility of a bridge connecting Turners Falls to Gill, east of the dam. A thriving sawmill operation - the Turners Falls Lumber Co. - had been operating at Riverside, and the proprietors wanted a cheaper and quicker way to move their goods rather than by ferry to Turners Falls.

After much dickering, the Upper or "Red" Suspension Bridge was completed in 1878 for a cost of \$42,000. This bridge was constructed to withstand a load of four times that of the Lower "White" Suspension Bridge.

These two bridges served Turners Falls and the surrounding towns well for many years. Their initial construction qualities required only routine maintenance, replanking and painting. However, in 1918, critical observations were made and subsequently, the Red Bridge was found to be weakening. This situation was remedied, but, since that time, it seemed the bridge had never fully recovered to its original strength levels.

More bridge facts next week!

Wendell Tree Hearing

The next tree hearing on a plan by National Grid to remove or trim more than 100 trees along a corridor from Wendell Depot to Locke Hill Road will be held on Wednesday, October 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the town office building. (For more on this story, see: *MR IX #46* - Citizen Group Forms to Save Trees along Utility Line.)

Notice from Montague DPW

E. Chestnut Hill Road will be closed on Tuesday, October 11th, from below 83 E. Chestnut Hill Road and above the brook for culvert repair. Please use W. Chestnut Hill Road.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Justin Mikalunas

Grade 7

Ricky Smith

Emily Watrous

Grade 8

Jenna Putala

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The "Dog Whisperer" is coming to town. No, not Robert Redford. Raymond DuCharme. DuCharme is a certified trainer, and he will be bringing all his knowledge and experience from his East Oak Kennel and training facility. Whether your dog is a pet or a working dog, this free session held in the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls is a must. Seating is limited, so call 413-863-4316. Light refreshments provided. Please don't bring your dog to this event; surprise them with your new knowledge!

Wendell area youth are wanted to fill out online survey, needed for the Wendell Library to write a report for the funding organization for the Teens and 'Tweens Program. The library is seeking youth between the ages of 10 and 19 to help gather data by filling out an online survey, whether or not they participate in the TnT program. The survey, available at goo.gl/kWpVn is primarily about the kinds of programs teens and 'tweens would like to see in Wendell. Complete the survey and stop by the library for a free \$.99 coupon to the Wendell Country Store.

Mystery fans have a treat in store when **Archer Mayor**, author of the highly acclaimed, Vermont-based mystery series featuring detective Joe Gunther, comes to town. Hosted by Boswell's Books, Mayor will be reading from and autographing his new novel, *Tag Man*, at Shelburne Falls Senior Center, on Main Street, Thursday, October

13th, at 7:00 p.m. Copies of *Tag Man* and Mayor's newest paperback release, *Red Herring* will be available for purchase at the event, and at Boswell's Books. Refreshments will be served and the event is free to all. Mayor's Joe Gunther series has been described by the Chicago Tribune as "the best

police procedurals being written in America."

Come celebrate **National Wildlife Refuge Week** with the Silvio Conte Refuge's new Watershed on Wheels, the WoW Express. Take a walk through an immersion trailer and try your hand at animal identification. The WoW will be at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The annual "Chasin' a Mason" 5K run and 2 mile walk will take place Saturday, October 22nd, at 9:30 a.m. at the Masonic Hall in Montague City, just across from the Farren Care Center. The course is flat and there will be plenty of post race activities. Proceeds benefit the many Harmony Lodge Charities. To register call Cathy at (413) 522-6685.

Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC), Greenfield Community College (GCC) and Boston's LGBT Aging Project are proud to sponsor a local screening of **Gen Silent**, a documentary on LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) Aging by Stu Maddox. The film will be shown on Tuesday, October 18th, at GCC's main campus dining common. Refreshments start at 5:00 p.m., screening starts at 6:00 p.m. with a discussion to follow. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required before October 12th by emailing info@fchcc.org or calling 413-773-5555 Ext 2296 or 978-544-2259 ext 2296.

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

Ladies and Gents, Start Your Pumpkins!

TURNERS FALLS - The second annual Franklin County Pumpkinfest will be held from 3-9 p.m. on Saturday, October 22nd, on Avenue A in Turners Falls. The event will feature 80 food and craft vendors and booths for non-profit organizations. There will be live entertainment in the town band shell throughout the event, and Berkshire and Element Breweries will host a beer tent in the park. There will be an area for people to carve pumpkins, and a children's area.

"Last year's we had 8,000 visitors come to town. That's a crowd equal to the entire population of Montague," said Michael Nelson, event organizer.

Nelson said the food vendors range from classic hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy and fried dough to the more unique, including pumpkin french fries, spaghetti on a stick, and maple candy. "We have Chinese food, Thai food, Polish food, and good old carnival food. You will not leave this festival hungry!"

The highlight of the event is the carved jack-o-lanterns. Visitors to the event are encouraged to bring a pumpkin to add to the display. At dusk the pumpkins will all be lit for a beautiful glowing display. Visitors are strongly

encouraged to use the free shuttling service to the event in order to alleviate traffic congestion. Shuttles are available at the Turners Falls High, 222 Turnpike Road, and Sheffield Elementary, at 35 Crocker Ave. Shuttles will run from 2-10 p.m.

SHEA SPONSORS PIE CONTEST

Franklin County's 2nd Annual Pumpkin Fest is coming to Turners on October 22nd, and the Shea Theater is adding one taste test you won't want to miss. "We're excited to be sponsoring such a delicious event," said Kimberley Morin, president of the Shea's board of directors. "With pumpkins lining the street and so many people out enjoying the crisp fall air, a pie contest is the perfect fit."

The entries will be judged starting at 3 p.m. by a panel of local celebrities. The winner receives bragging rights for an entire year and four tickets to "It's A Wonderful Life - Tribute to a Simpler Time," by the New Renaissance Players, coming to the Shea in December.

Morin said, "We hope the community will join us for fun, hot cider and lots of fresh pie!" Entries welcome from 1 - 2 p.m. at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A.

FALL BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

GREENFIELD - The Franklin County Waste Management District is holding a 'Clean Sweep' bulky waste collection on Saturday, October 15th from 9 a.m. to noon. The drop-off sites include the Northfield Garage, and the Whately Transfer Station.

District residents may bring a wide range of items that are typically difficult to get rid of, such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items.

Residents do not need to pre-register for the collection. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected from residents during check-in at each site. Businesses may participate. A complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at participating town halls, town transfer stations, the district office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. For more info, call the district office at 413-772-2438, or email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.

3RD BRICK + MORTAR INTERNATIONAL VIDEO ART FESTIVAL

GREENFIELD - The Brick + Mortar International Video Art Festival showcases cutting edge video art works from around the world that illuminate the vital role of new media and its significance in the field of contemporary art. The festival runs Friday, October 14th, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, October 15th, from 1 to 8 p.m. It takes place downtown in a variety of extraordinary architectural sites along the city's historic Bank Row. New this year is an installation in the historic former hotel rooms on the fourth floor of Wilson's Department Store. During the event, the city is transformed into a temporary arts district with a number of video projections, installations, art talks, and special music

events. The festival is a free and open to the public.

Each year, professional guest curators bring significant experience, connections, and resources to the event and this year is no exception. Christoph Cox, a philosopher, critic, and curator who teaches at Hampshire College, has focused his curatorial vision on sound, music, and relationships of dissonance and consonance between sound and image.

Because of increasing interest in the festival, it will take place over two days instead of one, as in past years. The Greenfield Annual Word Festival will be happening on Saturday, adding another dimension to the scene. The festival is proud to be a part of the city's Bank Row Urban Renewal Project.

31ST ANNUAL LEVERETT HARVEST FESTIVAL

The 31st Annual Leverett Harvest Festival will take place on the grounds of the Leverett Elementary School on Saturday, October 15th. The festival gets underway with the firemen's pancake breakfast, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and an Old Vehicle Show from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

The festival grounds open at 10:00 with activities, information tables, vendors and food prepared by Leverett Elementary classes for sale all day. Tours of the new greenhouse will be conducted. Winterberry Farm will offer a herding dog demonstration and rabbit fur spinning workshop; birds of prey will be on display, an adventure ropes course will be open. Dawn Marvin Ward will offer nature craft activities for all, and Phyllis Hera will offer a kids knitting activity, sponsored by the Leverett Library. There will be chair massage, maple cotton candy, horse and pony rides, and

many other fun family events on tap.

The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust will be leading tours of the nearby 4-H Forest, off Shutesbury Road from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. The day will end with the sixth grade's spaghetti supper from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets for the spaghetti supper can be purchased using the PayPal link on the PTO page at www.leverettschool.org website.

For more information call 413-548-8099.

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Decisions Await on Town Owned Properties

MONTAGUE - The town of Montague is acquiring abandoned and distressed property like an emergency ward picking up orphans on the doorstep. The goal now is to get these properties back on their feet and back on the tax rolls as soon as possible, without opening a revolving door to more abusive landlords to snap up prime real estate in town for a song, strip the buildings of valuable materials, and leave their shells to decay or the arsonist's torch.

At the upcoming special town meeting on Thursday, October 20th (6:30 p.m. at the high school), members will be asked to vote on warrant articles to fund maintenance, clean-up or provide for the disposition of key properties in the heart of Montague's three main village centers: the Powers Block in Millers Falls, the Strathmore Mill in Turners Falls, and the former elementary school building in Montague Center. By hook or by crook, the town now owns all three.

In Millers Falls, the town's \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant-funded streetscape improvement project, completed in 2006, was intended to spur private investment in the downtown, which despite its favorable location on the Millers River near the intersection of Routes 63 and 2 has suffered a long decline ever since Millers Falls Tool consolidated operations in Greenfield and left town at the end of the 1960s.

The streetscape project was an effort to halt and reverse that decline, and indeed there has been new investment in the village since, including a relocated pet grooming business, a new clock repair shop, and the establishment of a well regarded high end microbrewery - Element Brewery - in the former Millers Falls post office.

But the overall effort to revitalize the village has been thwarted for years by the looming hulk of the vacant three story brick Powers Block

on the most prominent intersection in Millers, East Main and Bridge, and the associated multi-family wood frame buildings next door to it, which have been boarded up or condemned as unfit for human habitation. These three buildings have cast a pall over the town's efforts to revitalize what could one day be a thriving commercial hub again, on a busy East County commuter crossroads, with the untapped potential for whitewater recreation flowing by.

In August, the town took those buildings for \$65,000 in unpaid taxes and penalties. On October 20th, town meeting will merely be asked to grant the selectboard authority to dispose of those properties as the board sees fit.

We support this move, and hope the board adopts an approach for the three buildings similar to the commercial homesteading program that turned two derelict tax title buildings in Turners Falls over to new owners - for a workshop space for the Northeast Foundation for Children in one instance and for the elegant Ristorante DiPaolo in the other - to create new jobs, new tax revenue for the town, and new reasons for people to come spend time and money in Montague. There is potential for off street parking on this lot as well, something Millers sorely needs.

Over in Montague Center, the fate of the former elementary school, once an anchor of community life, remains in doubt. Promised savings to the district towns when that school was closed in 2008 may by now have been largely offset in Montague, as the town has spent \$98,500 to put a new roof on the building, \$20,000 to fund a consultant's study for its possible future reuse, and \$74,431.43 to date to heat, insure and maintain the property, town accountant Carolyn Olsen said this week.

Town meeting will be asked to allocate an additional \$15,000 to heat the building

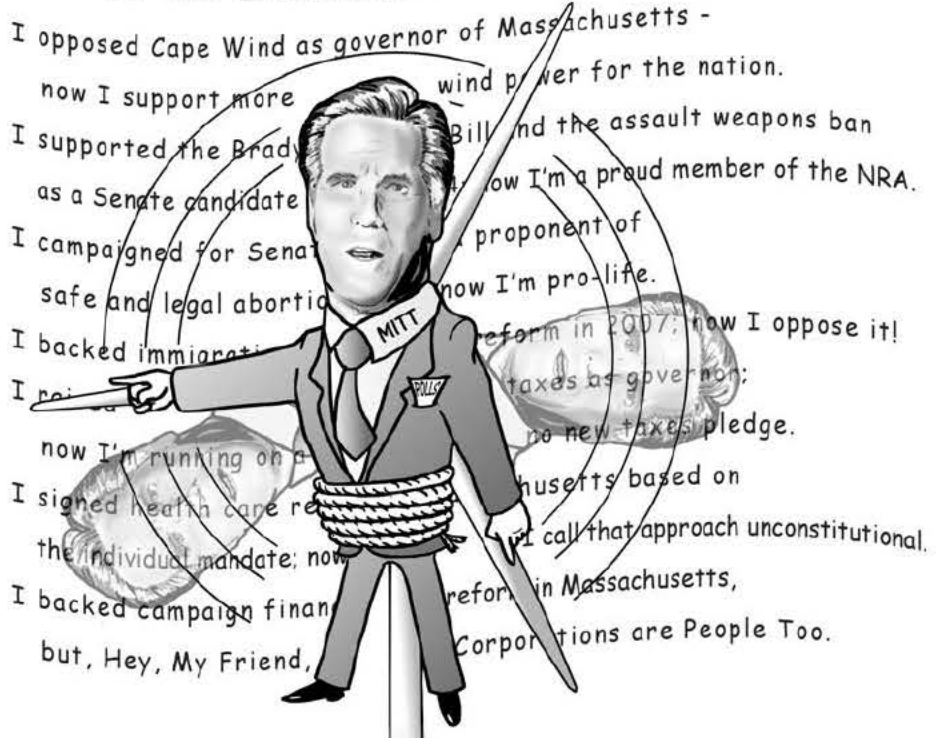
this winter. Meeting members should ask hard questions before agreeing to this warrant. We hear rumors of interested buyers - yet the latest request for proposals for the Montague Center School this summer drew zero responses, as did an earlier RFP.

Who are these interested buyers? How serious are they? Or are we chasing will o' the wisps as another Hallowe'en season approaches in Montague Center?

A serious proposal to reopen that school as a Horace Mann in district charter should be generated - to bring revenue and students back to the Gill-Montague Regional School District - before this building sits vacant, heated and insured at taxpayer expense for too many more years.

Then there is the mother of all tax title properties, the Strathmore Mill, on the canal in Turners Falls. The town took possession of that 140-year-old, 244,482 square foot property at the beginning of 2010 after a series of improvident landlords failed to pay "one dime" in property tax to the town. Now, what is Montague going to do with a hard to access, hard to heat, hard to secure, former paper mill with all its machinery and almost all its copper wiring stripped out, huge rolls of recycled paper sharing space with pigeons on some floors and a large pile of asbestos tainted debris sitting where Building #10 once stood (before an arsonist burned it down four years ago)? Not an

I'M BACK ON TOP!



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KAREN WILKINSON, CLAUDIA WELLS ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep the Post Office a Community Center

In the early spring of 1999, I returned to the Valley after three years away, moving in with a good friend in Lake Pleasant. When I called the post office to arrange for a mailbox, postmaster Joyce Cote said, "Oh, is this M—'s friend?" Wow, I thought; that's pretty cool: I haven't even moved in and she already knows who I am.

I lived there for three years and one of my favorite activities, besides walking around the lake any time of day, was heading over

to the post office for mail and chat. Maybe if the post office closure is forced, it could morph into another kind of community gathering space - perhaps a cozy room with chairs, books, an electric tea kettle; where knitters come together, or kids do their homework, or people just hang out and watch the weather. Just because the government decides to close something doesn't mean it has to be lost to the community.

- Jenny Chapin
Montague

Local History Appreciated

I'm finally getting around to write to say how much I enjoyed Shira Hillel's story on the recent canal repairs, (MR LX #45: Parting the Seas: the Canal Drawdown at Turners Falls) especially the history of the power canal. I've lived most of my life in Western Massachusetts, growing up in

Greenfield, and just starting work here at Northeast Foundation for Children in Turners Falls since January, so I'm really enjoying learning about the rich culture and history of Montague in your paper. Please keep it up!

- Jim Brisette
Amherst

easy question to answer.

The town has already invested at least \$326,000 in the property, Olsen said, to repair fire damaged roofs on Buildings #1 and #11, to upgrade the mill's sprinkler system and make other needed repairs. Now, town meeting will be asked to spend \$130,000 more, to match a \$200,000 grant from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, to remove the hazardous debris left over from the arson fire.

We support this appropriation for a number of reasons, but we think it is time the taxpayers of Montague are reasonably assured they will see some return on their investment.

To make this long idled economic powerhouse more attractive to private or public investment, the debris pile must be cleaned up, that's the

first order of business. The town has to maintain and secure the mill or face the threat of lawsuit from a number of quarters, including Turners Falls Hydro, which operates out of the ground floor condo in one of the main buildings. Neighboring Southworth Paper, one of the town's major employers, closely abuts the empty mill, and shares some utilities with it. The town's own fire department must continue to enforce fire codes at the mill to protect surrounding jobs and property.

The town's planning department is working to advertise the mill to potential investors, and to secure an agreement with First Light Power on the eventual rehabilitation of the condemned footbridge over the canal, a vital connector to the only available parking at this time.

see PROPERTIES page 5

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U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 10/04/11



GUEST EDITORIALS

Bank of America Announces New \$5 a Month Debit Card Fee

BOSTON, MA – As their latest entry into the bank fee frenzy, Bank of America is rolling out a new \$5 a month debit card fee. Only “premium” customers will be able to avoid the Bank of America’s monthly debit card fee, which will be \$5 every month (\$60 a year) if you swipe your card at a merchant just once. “Apparently, you don’t need to own a jet to qualify as a premium customer, but pretty darn close — you need either a mortgage at the bank or a lot of money...” said Deirdre Cummings, legislative director at MASSPIRG.

The Bank of America received \$45 billion in taxpayer bailout funding in 2008.

Now, “Fee income is the fastest growing profit center for big banks. They are attempting to blame regulators for what

they’ve done for years, which is raise existing fees, invent new fees, and make it harder to avoid fees,” continued Cummings. “If there ever was a time to go find a local bank or credit union, this would be it.”

Consumers can avoid the Debit Card Fee by switching to a local bank or credit union — which are not expected to copycat this fee. For Bank of America, this may be a Fee too Far. Recall that earlier this year Chase Bank tested a \$5 ATM surcharge in Illinois — then dropped it.

Consumers can also use simple workarounds. Use a credit card at the store (it’s also safer by law) or use the debit card at an ATM to get cash (ATM transactions do not invoke the fee) and then use cash at the store.

PROPERTIES from pg 4

But in the present economy, the town would be wise to look to its own resources in developing at least one of the buildings at the mill. Building #11 would do well as an incubator for small businesses, businesses that could grow into larger employers at a time when jobs are desperately needed.

Outside investors may come to look more favorably on redeveloping a mill complex that is showing signs of life, rather than signs of advancing decay.

These are just a few of the important decisions facing town meeting on October 20th. Every citizen in town will be affected by them, and every citizen in town has the right to speak their mind at town meeting — even if they don’t enjoy the right to vote as elected town meeting members.

More significantly, energy production from renewable energy sources in 2011 was 17.91% more than energy produced from nuclear power, which provided 3.975 quadrillion BTUs and has

Renewables Now Provide 12.25% of U.S. Domestic Energy Production

WASHINGTON DC – According to the most recent issue of the “Monthly Energy Review” by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), with data through June 30th, 2011, renewable energy has passed another milestone as domestic production is now significantly greater than that of nuclear power and continues to close in on oil.

During the first half of 2011, renewable energy sources (biomass and biofuels, geothermal, solar, water, and wind) provided 4.687 quadrillion BTUs of energy or 12.25% of U.S. energy production. By comparison, renewables accounted for 11.05% of domestic production during the first half of 2010 and 10.50% during the first half of 2009. (On the consumption side, which includes oil and other energy imports, renewable sources accounted for 9.45% of total U.S. energy use.)

More significantly, energy production from renewable energy sources in 2011 was 17.91% more than energy produced from nuclear power, which provided 3.975 quadrillion BTUs and has

been declining in recent years. Energy from renewable sources is now equal to 79.83% of that from domestic crude oil production, with the gap closing rapidly.

Looking at all energy sectors (e.g., electricity, transportation, thermal), production of renewable energy, including hydropower, has increased by 15.02% compared to the first half of 2010, and by 22.79% when compared to the first half of 2009. Among the renewable energy sources, biomass and biofuels accounted for 46.04% in 2011 (54% from biomass and 46% from biofuels), followed by hydropower (37%), wind (13.40%), geothermal (2.33%), and solar (1.22%).

Looking at just the electricity sector, according to the latest issue of EIA’s “Electric Power Monthly,” with data through June 30th, 2011, for the first half of 2011, renewable energy sources (biomass, geothermal, solar, water, wind) accounted for 13.97% of net U.S. electrical generation - up 26.14% from the same period in 2010. Hydropower accounted for 8.94% of U.S. electrical genera-

tion, followed by wind at 3.24%, biomass at 1.33%, geothermal at 0.41%, and solar at 0.04%. Thus, non-hydro renewables accounted for 5.02% of net U.S. electrical generation. Comparing the first six months of 2011 to the first six months of 2010, solar-generated electricity expanded by 43.6%, wind by 35.1%, hydropower by 30.3%, and geothermal by 4.9%; only biomass dropped - by 4.4%.

By comparison, nuclear power’s contribution to net U.S. electrical generation totaled 19.12% representing a decline of 3.8% compared to the first half of 2010 and a drop of over 5% compared to the first half of 2009. Similarly, coal-generated electricity also dipped by 4.8% from its mid-year 2010 level while natural gas increased by 2.4%.

“Notwithstanding a few high-profile set-backs such as the recent collapse of the solar company Solyndra, U.S. governmental investments in renewable energy sources have proven to be highly profitable and are yielding stellar returns,” said Ken Bossong, executive director of the SUN DAY Campaign.

Information Sought on Turners Falls Dairy

Brian Stafford, of Montague, wrote to us earlier this year seeking any information we could provide on the former Turners Falls Dairy.

“I found an old milk bottle with ‘Turners Falls Dairy’ on it,” he wrote. “I’ve checked everywhere I can think of, and still haven’t found any info on this dairy. Can you ask your readers if anyone knows where this dairy was located, who owned it, and what the time frame was for the dairy?”

Stafford, a retired firefighter who reads the *Montague Reporter* every week, added, “My grandfather used to sell milk in Turners Falls from his home in Gill with a horse and wagon, but I can’t ask my grandpa.”

Stafford’s family came from the Rocky Hill Farm, which used to be located between Peterson’s Welding and the old Alan’s Bar-B-Que on Route 2.

Stafford concluded, “Any

info you could dig up would be gratefully appreciated. Maybe you could start a ‘Remember When?’ or ‘For those Who’d like to Know’ column in your paper.”

Our archivist moves kind of slow, but we finally dug up the following information, from an article written by Barbara Stewart on the extensive milk bottle collection put together by local historian W. Edwin Potter, a former resident of Millers Falls Road. We published it under the headline, “The Historic Milk Bottles of Montague” on December 11th, 2003. (Back issues are available at the *Montague Reporter* office, 58 4th Street, in Turners Falls – call 413-863-8666 to purchase a copy.)

Stewart writes: “Next stop is the Turners Falls Dairy. During the 1910s and 1920s, William St. Germain’s dairy was located on the main road between Turners Falls and

Montague City. During the 1930s and 1940s, the Turners Falls Dairy operated at 101 Third Street, until it was sold by William’s son, Harry, to Tenney Farms Dairy in 1951.”

Stewart notes that one version of the Turners Falls Dairy glass milk bottle shows an imprinted label with a baby’s face inside a circle, and the text: “Yours to Love, Ours to Protect,” printed in red pyroglaze beside.

Readers with any more information on the Turners Falls Dairy are encouraged to reply to Stafford’s inquiry care of the *Montague Reporter* (reporter@montaguema.net), or at 58 4th Street, in Turners Falls.

Sadly, we cannot ask more information from Edwin Potter, who passed away at the age of 89 in 2008.

What happened to his milk bottle collection? For those of us Who’d like to Know...

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**Playground Project Readied**

JOSH HEINEMANN - Kathy Swaim, Rosie Heidkamp, and Tom Chaisson, representing the playground committee, met the Wendell selectboard to update them on the project's progress and expected cost. After a summer of toting up numbers, the committee determined construction of the new playground will cost more than originally expected, and Chaisson came up with a total of \$47,023.

Bob Marinelli, the inspector for the town's insurance company, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency, who got the project started last September after examining the old play structures behind the library, some of which he deemed to be hazardous, had earlier tossed out an estimate of \$30,000, depending on volunteers to do a good bit of the work. But builders have cautioned against relying too much on volunteers to construct the new playground.

The town approved \$15,000 at the June annual town meeting, community policing money will provide another \$15,000, and the Friends of the Wendell Library will provide \$16,000.

Heidkamp said a survey of the Teens and Tweens group that uses the library showed they want a place to hang out, and the solution they came up with is a four seat face to face glider. The young people have already raised about \$700, about half the cost of a glider built from sustainably harvested redwood, slated to be delivered in the spring.

The new playground construction is falling behind its original schedule. Before winter the committee hopes to have the fence along the road moved ten feet closer to the road, to make room for new structures. Heidkamp

hopes the town road crew will pave or put gravel along the road by the fence so that the informal parking already happening there could have a better surface. The committee hopes to have sonotubes in place by winter for the tree house, the play house, and the glider, and to have Geoff Richardson remove the old rocking car and digger, which pose pinch hazards, according to Marinelli. With spring and the burst of new energy that season brings, the rest of the work can start.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich checked with treasurer Carolyn Manley to find out how someone can contribute to a specific town account. All one has to do is write a check to the town with a memo, indicating which account, or include a separate note indicating which account it is to be contributed to.

In other news, Aldrich relayed information from a letter superintendent Michael Baldassare sent to Wendell. That letter asks the town to call a special town meeting before December 1st to get a regionalization agreement passed by the four towns that send students to Mahar High School, an approval required for a new region to be formed.

As it stands, the new agreement calls for Petersham to join a K through 12 region with Orange, while Wendell and New Salem stay in Union 28 for K through 6, and stay with Orange and Petersham in a 7 through 12 region. The state Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) does not like this hybrid approach, but Wendell and New Salem have resisted joining a K through 12 region with Orange, fearing a loss of control over Swift River School.

The selectboard held a

pole hearing, consulting by telephone with highway commission chair Harry Williston. The selectboard approved a request by a Verizon representative to replace a dead pine with a new utility pole on Mormon Hollow Road about a half mile west of the Davis Road intersection. The pine has been guying the pole that carries the wires. The highway department's concern was only that any new pole should be six feet or more from the road edge to allow for snow plowing.

The post office has requested use of the town hall for a hearing regarding a proposal to close the Wendell Depot post office. They tentatively scheduled October 26th at 6:30 p.m., and requested that the regular fee be waived.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that work began on getting rid of the mold in the town hall vault on Thursday, September 29th. Town clerk Gretchen Smith was on hand with Keller to throw out old ballots and other documents that need not be saved.

Kate Nolan, community garden committee chair, asked to use the town hall from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16th for a community garden potluck supper. All gardeners, the selectboard and the agriculture commission are invited.

This potluck should not be confused with the Harvest Dinner to benefit Good Neighbors to be held the following Sunday, October 23rd, also at the town hall, starting at 5:30. This is a good time of year to eat.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked that town custodian Larry Ramsdell be relieved of his snow blowing job at the town buildings in the center this year, as he has been stretched thin with the Green Repair work at the Swift River School.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Unity Park Improvement Plan Moves to Phase II**

- SKATE PARK WILL WAIT FOR PHASE III -

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY With a goal of generating ideas and keeping everyone informed, Monday's selectboard meeting included a Community Development Block Grant program informational session regarding the status of the town's fiscal year 2012 application, which is due December 16th.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio and Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority are seeking input from town residents for the application. Planning is well underway on a draft that includes phase two of the improvements to Unity Park as well as rehabilitating a handful of housing units in Turners Falls and Montague City.

Director of parks and recreation Jon Dobosz stated that Unity Park improvements in the FY'12 application would include upgrades to ball fields to reduce puddles and sloping, better parking near the basketball court, walkways connecting the activities in the park, exercise stations, and a community garden.

Phase one Unity Park improvements have already been approved and funded and are scheduled to be implemented by early summer 2012, according to Hunter. Phase one includes improvements to the playground, existing parking areas, and the field house. Bid-ready plans for phase one should be ready in November, with a request for bids in January.

However, attendees at the public hearing seemed more interested in possible phase three improvements to Unity Park - a long awaited concrete skate park- which would most likely be included in the FY'13 application a year

from now. Hunter explained that for phase three of Unity Park improvements, funding would be limited to a \$450,000 maximum based on the rules of the grant process.

The CDBG program is funded by the federal government's department of Housing and Urban Development, and administered by the states. The types of projects it funds are housing assistance (such as lead paint abatement), economic development and commercial rehabilitation (such as sign and facade improvements), public facilities (such as senior centers and parks), infrastructure (like sidewalks or sewer line repairs), public social services (such as day care subsidies), and planning projects. Overall, projects that seek to improve the lives of low to moderate income persons are favored.

Funding cuts at a national level, however, have already impacted FY'11 CDBG projects, and FY'12 will be funded at the same level as FY'11. In previous years, the maximum amount of funding that could be applied for was one million dollars. That was cut to \$900,000 for FY'11. As a result possibly only three houses will be rehabilitated in the town of Montague, rather than the hoped-for five.

In other news, the selectboard responded to neighbor complaints submitted to them via petition regarding "loud, public, disorderly behavior" at Fourth Street and Avenue A, by first writing a letter on September 22nd reprimanding landlord Walter Williams, owner of 125-131 Avenue A, then by holding a hearing on the topic on Monday.

The letter to Williams

states that "although the board would like to resolve this matter amicably, you should be aware that if the above behavior continues, you - as owner of a disorderly house and holder of a liquor license - can be held personally responsible for your failure to maintain order at the premises. Therefore, if you do not take immediate action to correct this situation, the board may take formal action to abate the nuisance, including but not limited to initiating formal proceedings to revoke your liquor license, and/or directing the police department to initiate criminal proceedings against you."

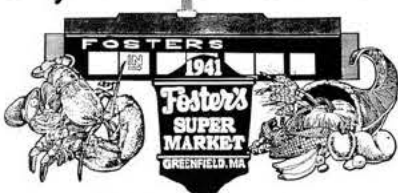
Fourth Street and Avenue A residents and business owners submitted a petition to the selectboard on August 29th requesting that the board address the problem of residents and other guests of Williams' building who "gather on a regular basis at all hours of the day and night in a state of intoxication or argumentation, using loud profanity of the worst kind, until 3 or 4 in the morning." The selectboard's letter to Williams states that the board received a "file of complaints that fully substantiates the complaints of the abutters" from the police department.

Williams responded to the letter at Monday's hearing with concern that it was too harsh and that it labeled him as guilty before a hearing could take place. "These are just accusations," he said. "The police come, but there are no arrests."

"I care about my business," he continued. When the police call him, "I come right over. I don't ignore any problems in the building."

Some of the tenants who see MONTAGUE pg 12

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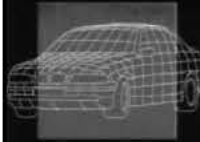
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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Math MCAS Scores Improve

TANYA CUSHMAN - "The happy news," said Leverett Elementary School principal, Anne Ross, while handing out three thick packets of paper regarding MCAS scores, "is we made annual yearly progress in math, which means we have 'no status,' which, believe it or not, is what we want."

For the last two years, Leverett's aggregate scores in math had put Leverett 'in status.' Principal Ross said it would be "premature" to say the rise in points was solely due to Everyday Math, the new math curriculum LES introduced last year, but school committee chair Farshid Hajir pointed out that test scores usually drop the first year after implementing a new curriculum.

However, "the story is not so good" for the English Language Arts (ELA) score. The ELA score dropped five points and if the target is missed for a second year, "we will be back in status," Ross said. Open response questions, topic development and long composition are posing problems for some students, though 100% of last year's sixth grade was rated proficient or advanced in ELA, "an outstanding outcome," Ross added.

In musing about "expectations of going higher," Hajir asked, "what would a school-

wide approach to writing look like, and what would be the school's measurable roles? What does it mean to do this?" Superintendent Joan Wickman was quick to suggest looking at "curriculum, instruction and individual students." Anne Ross commented, "We want to teach kids to become good writers - that is our goal. We want the kids to love writing," not just to write well for the tests.

A letter from Rep. Stephen Kulik was presented to the committee regarding the ongoing question among Union #28 towns about how a school union designates employee benefits.

At a meeting earlier this year in Shutesbury, the selectboards of Leverett and Shutesbury agreed to the wording of a draft amendment to MGL Chapter 71 and forwarded it to counsel for Senator Stan Rosenberg and Kulik to review.

Kulik apologized for how long it took for counsel to review the draft but now the legislation, designated Section 65A of MGL 71, once agreed to at the local level, can be filed and "on its way through the process" of becoming law, first by "assigning it to a committee and holding a public hearing."

The amended wording allows that "towns and regional school districts in a superintendency union may enter into

agreements to fund benefits... in amounts proportionate to the benefits offered by each town to their municipal or regional school district employees."

To Hajir, the wording of the amendment suggests that all towns in a school union would have to agree to the formula.

Ross discussed an informal meeting she held with selectboard chair Rich Brazeau and town administrator Margie McGinnis about the year-old town facilities manager position held by John Kuczek, who has added responsibility for town buildings to his former job of school facilities manager. Kuczek is still paid the same rate by LES, regardless of how much time he spends at the school, but now he is also spending blocks of time managing other town facilities. The town offers Kuczek a stipend on top of what the school pays.

Ross said she let Brazeau and McGinnis know that the amount of time Kuczek is out of the school building is a problem when school is in session and kids are in the building.

Brazeau allowed that quite a few projects that have been happening at other town facilities (including the greenhouse, which belongs to the school) were not planned on when the see MCAS page 12

Three Cheers for the Beavers!

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH NORTH LEVERETT - Northern Tree Service of Palmer, MA, contracted to Western Mass Electric Company, has taken on a seemingly impossible task. Six decaying cedar high tension poles in North Leverett need to be replaced by four steel towers, two of which must be placed in the middle of a 20-acre beaver lake. The pond is on Richardson Road, part of which was submerged by our friends, the beavers, along with a meadow where Dan Bennett's sheep once grazed. Power lines cross the former meadow, carrying 345,000 volts of electricity which linemen will transfer barehanded, while the wires are alive with the deadly voltage.

Wooden poles typically decompose at ground level where moisture and air combine to accelerate decay. Creosote and other chemicals once served to preserve wooden poles, but preservatives are now prohibited by environmental laws. In addition to damage by decay, wood peckers have drilled holes into electric poles and hollowed them out in search of insects, and to prepare nesting sites, thus weakening the timber poles, according to WMECO supervisor, Carl Tyburski. He also cited connectors needing replacement because they show signs of heating up, discovered during routine company helicopter surveillance of electrical lines.

But how do you replace

wooden poles with concrete foundations and steel structures without draining the beaver lake?

"Building a causeway of stone with culverts to accommodate water flow and beaver access was considered," Jason Lizak of WMECO said. "But it didn't work out."

With a causeway, WMECO would have an access to the poles, now and in the future, but that plan was nixed to protect the beaver-made wetlands. Instead, the solution was to lay down a geotextile fabric before installing wooden mats on top of it for a temporary road of wooden mats - 10,500 of them, four feet wide and sixteen feet long, made of 8x8 oak or other hardwood, shipped to the site from Michigan and Maryland. When mats settled during installation, Northern added more, sometimes five or six layers.

Dan Bennett, whose home borders the lake, likes it that way, even though he lost a sheep pasture, and could now face water problems at his house, which is about as far from the lake as you could toss a beaver. He said the area has become a wildlife refuge for ducks, geese as well as beavers, all of which he loves to watch. He even has lawn chairs set up for observers.

Beaver colonies typically move on once high water kills perimeter trees and brush, whose bark beavers use for food. Jason Lizak of WMECO

said he believes one beaver may still live at the pond. He also believes the beaver deceiver pipe the company installed saved the beaver dam from washing away during Hurricane Irene by keeping the pond level down. The pond had originally been dropped by about two feet, but has since gradually returned to nearly the original level as the holes in the slotted pipe of the beaver deceiver become blocked by vegetation and sediment.

"Western Mass had to satisfy a lot of people before we could start," Tyburski said. "Some people like Dan Bennett wanted to keep the pond. Dr. [Samuel] Calagione [who lives on the Montague side of the lake] didn't want water on his land. The Native Americans didn't want Native sites disturbed, so we had archeological digs where we found artifacts and you now see boxes labeled, 'Do Not Disturb.' There were also town and state officials, the DEP, and other environmental people to satisfy. WMECO has made every effort to satisfy everyone. When people complained about speeding trucks on North Leverett Road, we hired pace cars to keep their speed to a safe level. Floats are in place to reduce wave action that could threaten the beaver dam."

Work on the power lines needs to be done with the full 345,000 volts see BEAVERS pg 8

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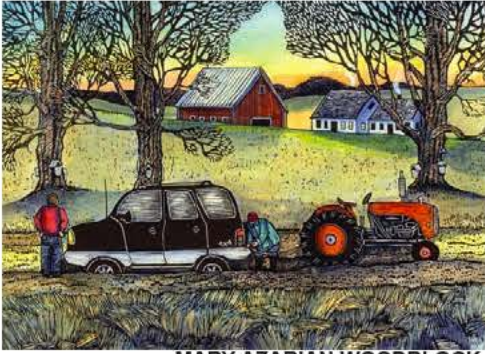
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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

Farm Neighbors Damon's Dirt

BY STEVE DAMON GILL - I have been busy setting up a new music school for homeschoolers, so I fell short on my monthly column on farm neighbors in September. If you'll forgive me, I'll just write briefly now, and give you a quick tour of Damons' Dirt, my own humble briar patch.

I am not a "real farmer," as Skeezezy Flagg often reminds me. Damons' Dirt consists of a garden, most of which crawls through the fence and onto Karen Cole's Kidd Island Farm. Fruits and vegetables from the garden are consumed mostly by the family, but are also donated to Gill agricultural commission projects, such as agricultural commission meals and Veggies to Veterans.

Damons' Dirt's busy agricultural season is spring sugar-

ing. Since elementary school, this reporter has boiled sap into maple syrup with his Uncle Jim (Graves) at Graves-Glen Farm in Shelburne, a Community in Support of Local Agriculture (CISA) Local Hero Farm.

For the last few years, my wife Joyana has helped occasionally in the sugarhouse. This year, six-year-old son Isaac was bitten by the sugaring bug. He enjoyed hanging buckets on trees, transporting wood, fetching containers, and bottling syrup.

His favorite job - by far -



STEVE DAMON PHOTO

Isaac has been bitten by the sugaring bug

was climbing into the large, dark sap tank to wash it after all the day's sap had been boiled out.

With Joyana's and Isaac's help, Graves-Glen Farm produced 268.25 gallons of syrup last season - a number Isaac has memorized. That's almost 11,000 gallons of sap!

This syrup is often donated to Gill agricultural commission and CISA functions. This year, the syrup also made it to Friends of Gill's annual pancake breakfast.

That's the dirt behind the chairperson of Gill's agricultural commission. And now you know why I'm such a sap!

BEAVERS from page 7
surging through the wires. PAR Company employees doing the electrical work perform the change-over, bare handed, wearing a suit of clothing with fine wires of stainless steel woven into the fabric. The suit is energized by hooking onto the 345,000 volt line.

This is not the job for a person faint of heart, and only a chosen few take the special training required.

The foundation for the steel replacement structures is constructed by boring a hole with a huge auger about six feet wide down to solid ground, which could be 10 to 35 deep according to test borings. A steel caisson acts as a coffer dam. Once the hole is dug, a weather resistant inner steel caisson about four feet wide with three quarter inch thick walls is inserted as a

form for the foundation. A cage of reinforcing rods goes inside the caisson with a surrounding cage of long threaded rods which will serve as a base to which the new steel tower is then bolted. The outer caisson will be removed, but the inner caisson stays as an integral part of the structure's foundation.

"This power line runs about thirty miles between Northfield Mountain and Ludlow," Tyburski said. "Electricity is generated at 13,000 volts at Northfield Mountain where a step-up transformer increases it to 345,000 volts to reduce resistance during transmission. It is then reduced to street voltage of 23,000 volts to feed transformers that further reduce power to 110 and 220 house voltages."

No one had a firm figure for the cost of the job. Tyburski would only estimate that it will

last until December or January and cost in the millions of dollars. His understanding is that the job contract has a clause, "Not to exceed." But, he does not have that figure.

When asked what will happen when the lone remaining beaver moves on, or dies, and heavy rains breach the dam, draining the lake, as often happens, no one had an answer. In the meantime, more timber mats arrived.

Not only are mats needed to cross the lake, but for an access road approaching it. At the site of each structure to be replaced, a platform of timber mats big enough for a basketball court

was laid down. On sloping land next to structures to be replaced, stacks of mats have been cribbed up, leveling the work site. The total number of mats needed is mind boggling.

"Timber mats are leased, bought, and sold all across the country for similar applications," Tyburski said. "It's a big industry."

Beavers may be what Obama needs to create jobs. Beavers certainly have created plenty of jobs in North Leverett. Mat demand is keeping people in the timber industry working like beavers turning out more and more of the versatile portable platforms.

Cartoonists and Illustrators Wanted

If you would like to apply your graphic skills to some editorial cartooning for your local community newspaper, please send a sample of your work to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, 01376, or to: reporter@montaguema.net. We are happy to receive original cartoons, or to suggest a topic for illustrators to draw. For more info, call 413-863-8666.

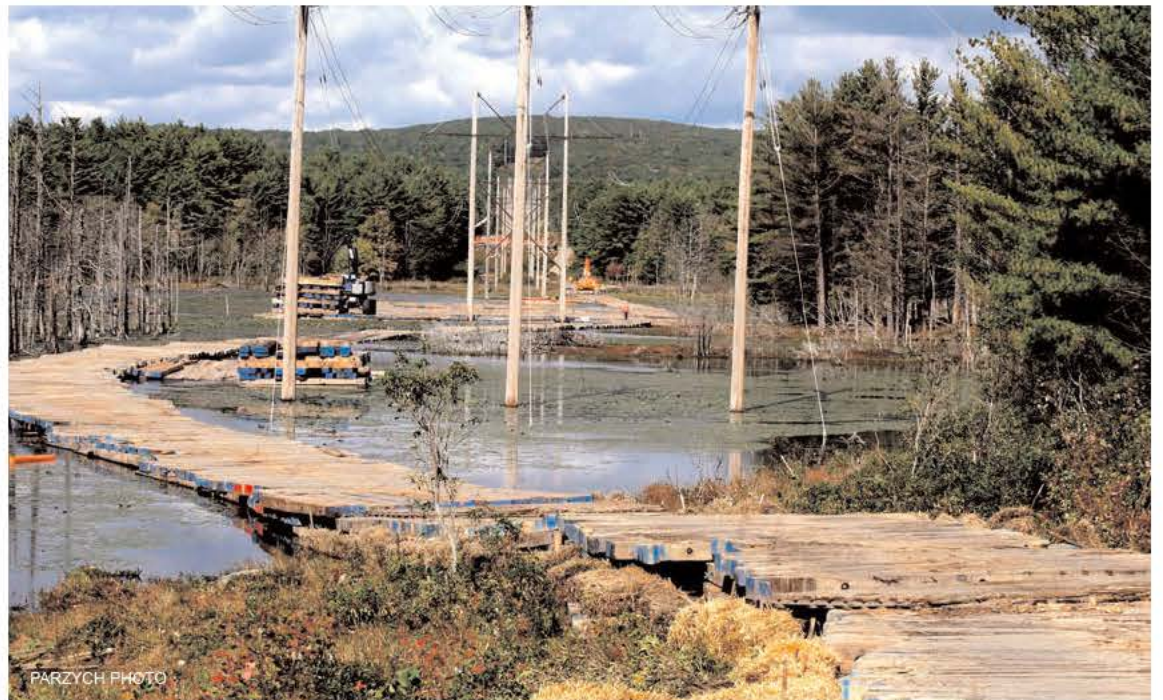
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PARZYCH PHOTO

A temporary causeway has been constructed to allow Western Mass Electric to replace wooden utility poles without draining the beaver lake on top of Richardson Road in North Leverett. Montague is in the background.

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A Treasure Trove of **LOOT!** New Store Opening Soon on the Avenue



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

Loot, an industrial artifact and handmade goods emporium will open at 62 Avenue A on October 21st.

BY LAURA HERBERT

TURNERS FALLS - The large bay windows at 62 Avenue A are covered in blueprint paper, keeping an anxious public in suspense, wondering what the future holds in store. Proprietors John McNamara and Erin MacLean have owned the building for four years, during which time they have completed massive renovations, while at the same time brewing plans to open a store that features a delectable array of vintage items, industrial artifacts, as well as work from local artisans and craftspeople. The store, aptly named Loot, opens on October 21st. It will be open weekly from Wednesday to Sunday.

For the past five years McNamara and MacLean have been collecting vintage items

and industrial artifacts and selling them out of their warehouse, at the Brimfield flea market, and at other flea markets in New York. But their idea to open the store came from being inspired by Turners Falls.

The couple had been looking to relocate from Fitchburg to Franklin County, but when they saw Turners Falls, "It was love at first sight," said MacLean. Jazzed by the unique combination of city and country, the creative and cultural activity in the town, McNamara and MacLean felt they wanted to be a part of that. Although they didn't know anyone when they arrived, they felt Turners possessed a special sense of community. "We could see it before we were a part of it," said McNamara.

Four years later, McNamara

and MacLean are very much a part of it as they prepare for the grand unveiling of Loot, which is located in the 1877 building on Avenue A between the Crocker Building and Jake's Tavern. This past week, I was lucky enough to be granted a sneak preview of Loot, and I can attest that it will, without a doubt, be worth the wait.

Upon entering the beautifully renovated high ceilinged space, I found myself overcome with excitement, trying to decide what to look at first. A few things stood out, such as a beautifully handcrafted table in the middle of the room, made by local artisan James Fountain. Other items, like a giant wire swan (a former window display from Wilson's Department Store) and an oversized tiger

mask perched on top of an industrial locker begged further attention.

I wandered the premises, looking at tantalizing displays created by MacLean, who has a background in art and design. There, I found fun and quirky collections of vintage rulers, tools, men's ties, fabric, buttons, ribbon, ladies gloves, rubber Hallowe'en masks, cocktail napkins, one-of-a-kind art, and a wide assortment of delightful treasures.

While touring the premises, McNamara and MacLean explained to me their store features items both found and made. The fantastically eclectic assortment of goods I had been viewing was found by McNamara, who has been an antique and industrial artifact

collector and dealer since 1988.

Industrial artifacts, as McNamara explained, are pieces that have been found in factories, such as metal desks, tables, cabinets, molds and the like. These items, cleaned up, take on a whole new life, and are highly valued by decorators for their use, either practical or as decoration, in homes, restaurants, and bars. Many such items, including a vast multi-drawer cabinet and a sleek steel desk, are for sale at Loot.

Loot also features many handmade items, mostly made by local artisans. Such items include jewelry, cards, handbags, mittens, soy candles, pottery, wooden bowls, custom tables and benches. Much of the work has a repurposed quality, which fits in rather nicely with the collections of found items. For instance, one of the artisans produces jewelry made from tin containers. There is even work by local artist, Daryl Ballou, which was made using the original wood salvaged during the renovations of the building.

When you walk into Loot you'll know you're not in your average antique shop. This is not a museum-like room filled with expensive, dusty antiques. What you'll find is a surprising and delightful assortment of affordable treasures waiting to be explored.

"We want it to be an affordable, approachable, creative, and welcoming environment," said MacLean. And it is just that. Even the logo features an artist's rendering of a friendly-looking raccoon, just the kind of masked bandit that frequents the back alleys of Turners Falls. "We want to encourage people to search through things and explore," MacLean exclaimed.

Loot will be a welcome addition to the retail scene in Turners Falls and Franklin County. The inventory will be "ever-changing," promised McNamara. As he and MacLean are always collecting new things, you just never know what loot you'll find there.

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Lake Pleasant Opposes Post Office Closure



LISA DAVOL PHOTO

Former postmaster Joyce Cote stands in front of the ornate brass stamp window and antique post boxes at the Lake Pleasant P.O. in this 2005 photo.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - More than half of the 43 offices on the US Post Office's Retail Access Optimization Initiative (i.e. - the

possible closure list) for Massachusetts are located in Boston and Springfield, mainly in low income areas of those

MAHAR from page 1 each of the other member towns. School committee members will be elected at-large by voters in all four towns, but only a town resident may represent a specific town. Regional school committee elections will be held every two years in November, in conjunction with state elections. Committee members will serve for a term of four years.

The amended agreement requires that the annual school budget for grades 7-12 must be passed by a five-member subcommittee consisting of two members from Orange and one member from each of the other three towns. At least four members of the subcommittee must approve the budget. The combined budget for grades 7-12 and Orange and Petersham K-6 then must be approved by a two

third vote of the full school committee before being sent to the towns for town meeting votes.

Johanna Bartlett, Wendell representative to the Mahar committee, commented on the fast pace requested for approval of the amended agreement, saying committee members received the final version on Monday night, with a vote expected from the full committee the following day. She said she had wanted to consult with finance committee member Jim Slavas, who has been working on the assessment issue for years, but he was out of town and unavailable on Tuesday.

New Salem representative Michael Yohan said the New Salem selectboard wanted to review the amended agreement, but, because they were also

cities. Other post offices being studied for closure in Massachusetts are located in the big cities of Worcester, New Bedford, Cambridge, and Fall River. And then there are a few outliers - rural post offices in small, off the beaten path communities, like Wendell Depot, and Lake Pleasant.

About 45 residents of Lake Pleasant turned out for a meeting Wednesday with Carissa Surprise, USPS acting operations manager and post master of Chicopee, to discuss the fate of Massachusetts' smallest post office in the smallest of Montague's five villages.

Putting a face to the bureaucracy that is threatening to shutter the one public building in the village of about 275 people, who live on either side of a wooden footbridge over the dingle on the south shore of the lake that gives the village its name, Surprise seemed at first open to hearing the residents' opinions and finally supportive of their desire to keep their post office open.

Over and over again, Surprise meeting on Tuesday night, they would not see the final amended agreement until after the Mahar committee vote.

Regionalization subcommittee members explained the amended agreement needed to be approved by the committee Tuesday night because the warrant for the October 20th Orange special town meeting was closing on Wednesday.

Yohan said the New Salem selectboard wanted to be sure that, under the hybrid region, New Salem would not be subsidizing Orange Elementary School through the Mahar budget. This year, because of budget problems, Orange Elementary laid off teachers and cut art and music programs. The town of Orange is currently facing fines from DESE for failure to fund its elementary school at the

called the little post office - with 85 antique brass post boxes, manufactured in 1887 in Indianapolis, subscribed rent free by village residents (since they do not have the option of home delivery) - "quaint."

In fact, as of 2005, it was officially the smallest post office, by volume, in the state. Surprise cited the decline in customer demand and the availability of four other post offices within five miles as the main reasons Lake Pleasant's post office made it onto the closure list.

The decline in customer demand in Lake Pleasant, although this was not mentioned at the meeting, may have been in part due to the death, just before Hallowe'en in 2005, of Louise Shattuck, descendant of one of the village's foremost families, from the time when Lake Pleasant was home to huge summer revels of Spiritualists. Shattuck, who bred Cocker Spaniels and operated the Carry On Kennels, maintained an active postal correspondence with dog breeders internationally; her

state-required minimum level for the past three years.

Bartlett told the committee, "Worded as it is, there may be problems with getting Wendell to agree," to the amended agreement.

Baldassarre told her, "Much of the language [in the agreement] is because of Jim Slavas and [former Wendell representative] Dick Baldwin."

"You should thank them, then," Bartlett replied.

Baldassarre said, "Wendell has nothing to lose with all the safeguards put in place. Why stop progress for other towns if you lose nothing?"

Yohan commented he foresees a positive impact for New Salem students from the hybrid region, "If we help the students of Orange, it will improve conditions for all Mahar students."

demise may have inadvertently led to Wednesday's meeting with Surprise in the National Spiritual Alliance Temple, the town's only large gathering spot, across Montague Avenue from the post office.

Still, as David Jensen pointed out, "The [US] Post Office has huge financial problems. We're so small as to be insignificant. Whatever you do to us or for us is not going to cure your problem."


Surprisingly, the USPS's acting operations manager replied, "I personally feel this is the type of situation that should stay open."

"I've been in the Lake for 30 years," said Mike Naughton. "I've never seen this big a meeting." Practically everyone in the room raised their hand when asked whether they would like to see the post office stay open.

Lahri Bond said the USPS is making a big public relations push about how Green its operations have become recently, but he said, "This is about as Green as you can get - one place to see **CLOSURE** pg 14

Bartlett replied, "I believe in that concept."

She explained that when she talks to people in Wendell about changes at Mahar, "They ask, 'What will it mean for the kids?' Meaning all of the kids, not just Wendell kids." She added, "But you need to know there are real concerns in Wendell," with the hybrid regionalization plan.

According to the current regional agreement, once the school committee has voted to amend the regional contract, the towns are required to consider the amendments at the next scheduled town meeting. Orange has a special town meeting scheduled for October 20th and Petersham for November 14th. Neither New Salem nor Wendell currently has a town meeting scheduled. 

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PAGODA from page 1

coming oration, in which she dwelt on the symbolism of the destruction by fire of the first temple at the Leverett Peace Pagoda, which burned to the ground six weeks after it opened in 1987. The origin of that fire was never determined.

Twenty-four years later, the new temple, with sleeping quarters for resident monks and nuns on the ground floor and a 40 by 60 foot worship hall, with murals of the life of Buddha, on the upper floor, was finally rebuilt in concrete. The temple design combines traditional features inspired by the second century Ajanta rock caves near Bombay, ancient masterpieces of Buddhist art, with modern solar features and huge win-

dows to access the sun.

Schuchardt said, "From the ashes of the first temple came a revelation and commitment that resounds so movingly. We have built it with love. We continue our work with love. From ash there is a mystery. This temple, this pagoda, bears witness to the victims of other conflagrations, of all wars. The victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shall have their voice..."

Schuchardt continued, speaking of "the truth of transfiguration: this temple on this high holy hill in North America, in a country desperately in need of its truth - its high windows illuminating the mystery of the heavens, the expression of all temples in all countries in all times: each human being is a

temple. We honor you with the deepest devotion of our newly opened eyes and hearts."

A sign outside the new temple states that the prayer hall will now be open to all who wish to make use of it, to pray for "the peace and welfare of the world, and tranquility within our hearts." The temple was built entirely by volunteer labor, with donated money, and in some cases donated materials.

Turners Falls resident Sita Lang was among those in attendance on Sunday. She called it a wonderful occasion, and mentioned that she had donated salvaged cabinets and lumber for the building.

Prayers for the dedication of the temple were offered from faith leaders of many major reli-

gions, and a keynote speech by Dr. Vincent Harding, a colleague of Dr. Martin Luther King's, was given - a free lunch was shared by all. Then attendees enjoyed performances from traditional Cambodian dancers and from dancers from the Wampanoag tribe. Incense was offered at the shrine in front of the Peace Pagoda, where the large portrait photo of Fujii was surrounded by pyramids of bananas, apples, and oranges, as well as gay bouquets of freshly cut flowers, along with boxes of Oreos, and boxes of Cheerios, perhaps signifying all the good things that make life on Earth a garden of delight, if only the people of the world could come to live in peace to share and enjoy it.

Booster Day at the Tech School with Cool Rides Car Show

TURNERS FALLS - On Saturday, October 8th, the Franklin County Technical School will host the second annual "Cool Rides" car show, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come view classic cars, trucks, motorcycles and antique farm tractors while waiting to test drive a 2012 Ford Focus. Booster Day at the Tech School starts at 9 a.m. at 82 Industrial Boulevard. Ford of Greenfield and Ford Motor Company will donate \$20 to Franklin County Tech for every person who takes the wheel and test-drives a new Ford vehicle between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. With your help, this exciting fundraising event can generate as much as \$8000 for the school; there will be no sales pressure. Participants must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license, with a limit of one test-drive per household. For additional information, please contact Chris Pinardi at 888-211-5409.

Entries for the car show are still being accepted; you can drive in and register the same day. Contestants will receive a free t-shirt. There are no fees for entry or admission. Call 413-262-3601 with questions the day of the show or contact Franklin County Technical School at (413) 863-9561 ext.264

The Turners Falls Fire Department will be on hand to demonstrate the Jaws of Life. On the lighter side, there will be face painting for children; and a DJ playing dance music; food and refreshments will be available for purchase. To cap off the day, the Franklin County Technical School varsity football Eagles play Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School at 1 p.m.

ANIMALS from page 1

Draper, abridged slightly by this reporter): "All creatures, lift up your voice with us and sing. O brother sun with golden beam; O sister moon with silver gleam...O brother wind, air, clouds and rain..."

The rain had not let up for the service, which had been planned for the verdant Montague common. Instead, it was held indoors in the Fellowship Hall.

We continued singing, "By which all creatures ye sustain." (Did this mean that the rain sustains us, contrary to how it has been seeming? Or, probably, it meant that God sustains us all, no matter the weather. With the words "brother" and "sister" it implies that all creatures, and all of nature, are part of one family.) "...All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part... Let all things their creator bless..."

Comforted with feelings of communion with our tender animal friends, and with our common creator, we next recited from the Sutta Nipata, a Buddhist

scripture:

"...Frail or firm, long or big, short or small, dwelling far or near, may all creatures be of a blissful heart."

Louisa, the black border collie mix, swished her tail. Mack, a tiny 16-year-old Maltese, panted. Andy, a Lhasa Apso-Poodle cross, wagged. Tigger, a black and gray tiger cat, rested patiently in his owner's arms. They were evidently happy, if not utterly blissful.

Dandi, the Shih Tzu belonging to Crosson-Harrington, was serene, having spent many hours as a Service Dog for Ministry, visiting hospitals and nursing homes.

From the Book of Job, we read, "Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee..." We gazed at the animals, and they gazed calmly back. Perhaps they imparted their ability to tolerate imperfection in people. Continuing from Job, we recited, "Speak to the Earth, and it shall teach thee." No answer was heard at that moment.

Turner Delisle read a litany

that noted the omnipresence of animals, the way they share in our lives with their love, and their abilities to help us. She concluded, we need "to care for them just as we are to care for the Earth." In call and response, those present repeated, "Thank you God, for animals."

Then we read a prayer for animals by Albert Schweitzer: "Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost, or deserted or frightened or hungry, for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all, thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals."

All those in attendance seemed quite friendly. After the service, the pastor and the reverend, in splendid white gowns, offered private blessings to each animal-human team, and even prayers for a deceased dog whose family brought a photo of him.

And then people relaxed and chatted. Something about dogs seems to encourage flowing conversation. Crosson-Harrington explained further what it means to be a service dog of ministry: when she preaches, she said, Dandi "ministers along with me. He's hanging out being holy," she half-joked. Turner Delisle talked about how "we are just beginning to discover the ways animals communicate with us and with each other, and how they form community with each other."

"Dog is a mirror of God" (meaning not just in spelling), she said.

The conversation veered to human carnivores and animal slaughter; Mack's owner opined that as long as animals were humanely slaughtered, it was OK to eat them.

The conversation shifted again, to ticks. Turner Delisle, though wishing Lyme disease on no one, said ticks are "part of God's plan."

On that note, the rain abated, ever so slightly.

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Free Community Supper this Friday

TURNERS FALLS - On Friday, October 7th, all are invited to join friends and neighbors for the 4th Annual Free Community Supper at the Brick House. Apple cider pressing begins at 5:00 p.m., supper is served at 6:00.

The meal will include Diemand Farm turkey prepared by Holy Smokes BBQ Delicatessen, Real Pickles, Katalyst Kombucha, Burrito Rojo rice and beans, Rendezvous macaroni and cheese, bread from the 2nd Street Bakery, and many more donations from local schools, businesses, and farms.

The Brick House Community Resource Center is located at 24 3rd St in Turners Falls.

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MCAS from page 7 shared position was first created.

Ross hopes that the school committee and selectboard can find time soon to discuss the shared position, before preparation of next year's budget begins in earnest.

Also hoping for better communication, Hajir said he would like a school committee member to be present at every selectboard meeting, and said that, in general, he would plan to attend the selectboard meetings himself. He had already spoken to the town administrator about it.

A special town meeting is planned for October 25th. The selectboard has voted to include a warrant article that will allow the town to create a "regional school district planning committee" so that the committee can join with other similar town planning committees to form a "regional school district planning board."

Pelham and Shutesbury will be voting on similar articles, and Leverett will use wording from both of those towns' warrants to create one for Leverett.

The town-wide forum proposed a few months ago is now going to be held in conjunction with the special town meeting. Hajir mentioned that Brazeau had said at a previous meeting, "maybe a dozen people would show up" at a separate forum, while town meeting must have a quorum.

School committee member Sarah Dolven emphasized that regardless of when the forum happens, "the main goal is to educate the town."

Hajir added that the school committee especially wants to stress that this article gives "no authority to form a region - only town meeting can do that."

MONTAGUE from page 6 live or have lived in Williams' building are close relatives to Williams, which he noted makes it tricky for him to resolve the problems. "I take it seriously. I am upset with my brothers. But, I can't fix it overnight."

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell said that he was confident that Williams will address the complaints.

Petitioner and Fourth Street resident David Detmold said that the noise has included "the worst kind of language," a problem he said has persisted for three years, despite direct appeals to the Williams family to take action to abate the nuisance and repeated calls to the police to restore peace in the neighborhood. He further stated, "We should be able to invite dinner guests to our home without having to warn them. We should be able to live in peace, like every other village." Detmold said he is willing to be a witness in court to describe the problem.

Since the petition was submitted to the selectboard in late August, "it has been very quiet," said Detmold, who thanked Williams, police chief Zukowski, and the board for taking action to relieve the situation.

Fourth Street resident Don Clegg agreed it has been much quieter since the petition was handed in.

Detmold also said that there have been suspicious fires on Fourth Street - one after the petition was submitted and another on Friday, September 30th. Police have been notified about a pizza box that was found burning outside of a Fourth Street resident's house, who also happens to be one of the petitioners. The house is two feet away from Detmold's residence. Also, mail in the *Montague Reporter's* mailbox was found burnt on September 30th, with char marks

on the adjoining wall. The *Montague Reporter* offices are in the basement of Detmold's residence.

"I would be shocked if there was retaliation," said Detmold. "But if a message is being sent, it could have devastating consequences."

Williams and police chief Ray Zukowski both noted that some of the callers who have reported problems in the area have been reluctant to press charges. "We need witnesses. We have to be able to go to court," explained Zukowski.

Selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother said, "Hopefully, it gets better. We need to help the chief bring charges, and we need to solve the problem as a community."

The selectboard approved permits for two favorite events in town. The Rag Shag Parade will be held on October 31st at 5:30 p.m. starting at the Food City Parking lot and proceeding along Avenue A to the Great Falls Discovery Center. The Chasin' a

Mason 5K charity road race will be held on October 22nd starting at 9 a.m. at the Harmony Lodge on Masonic Avenue, and then continuing on to the bike path.

The selectboard signed a contract with the Hampshire Council of Governments for municipal aggregation to allow for cheaper electricity rates in the town of Montague for residents and businesses. Town meeting voted last spring to support the contract.

A special town meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School Theater, 222 Turnpike Road. Warrant information packets for town meeting members will be mailed out this week. All town residents have the right to speak at least once on any topic on the agenda.

The next selectboard meeting is October 17th at 7 p.m. at town hall, unless new agenda items come up, in which case there would be a meeting on Tuesday, October 11th at 7 p.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Vandalism, Loud Vehicle, Stolen Vehicle Recovered

Tuesday, 9/27
9:17 p.m. Report of a male screaming in the woods on Ridge Road, yelling for help. Searched the area. Nothing found.

Wednesday, 9/28
12:55 p.m. Spray painted fence was cleaned and restored to original condition on River Street.

12:56 p.m. Report of suicidal subject at French King Bridge. Transported to hospital.

6:00 p.m. Report of female on the railing of the French King Bridge. Same was found to be Hallmark student taking pictures. Advised of complaint.

Friday, 9/30
5:45 a.m. Removed a deer from the roadway on Route 2 at Old State Road. No reports of motorists hitting deer.

12:00 p.m. Report of tractor trailer truck on Maple Avenue into low hanging wires. No damage. Advised phone company of wire being low.

Saturday, 10/1
7:00 p.m. Call to station for domestic dispute between mother and daughter. Verbal only, parties separated.

8:00 p.m. Complaint of loud motor vehicle on Prospect Street. Unable to locate.

8:30 p.m. Complaint of loud party on North Street. Advised to keep noise down.

10:00 p.m. Complaint of loud motor vehicle on Prospect Street. Located same and advised of several complaints.

Sunday, 10/2
12:30 a.m. Located stolen motor vehicle at French King Motel. Criminal citation issued to [redacted], for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and larceny of a motor vehicle.

4:35 p.m. Criminal citation issued to [redacted], for operating a motor vehicle without insurance and failure to wear a seatbelt on Route 2 at Semb Drive.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Magnetic Resonance Imaging Explained



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION
BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. How does an MRI work?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create pictures of cross-sections of a human body. In many cases, MRI gives more information than other types of diagnostic imaging. Sometimes contrast agents are used to enhance the images.

Most MRI machines are large cylinders. Inside the machine, the human body produces very faint

signals in response to radio waves. These signals are detected by the MRI machine. A computer then interprets the signals and produces a three-dimensional representation of your body. Any cross-section can be extracted from this representation.

There are MRI machines that are open on all sides. These newer open MRI scanning systems are useful for the claustrophobic, obese or anyone who feels uncomfortable about lying inside a cylinder.

The MRI often helps with the diagnosis of central nervous system disorders such as multiple sclerosis, because it produces such high-resolution images of the brain and spinal cord.

Q. Why is it so important to complete an antibiotic prescription and not stop taking the medicine when you feel better?

Taking antibiotics unnecessarily and not completing your pre-

scription are the leading causes of "superbugs," bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. These superbugs are one of the most serious threats to global public health.

The first thing you should know is that antibiotics are used to combat bacteria, not viruses. So, these potent drugs should be used for infections of the ear, sinuses, urinary tract and skin. They're also used to treat strep throat. They should not be used for viruses that cause most sore throats, coughs, colds and flu.

However, doctors in the USA write about 50 million antibiotic prescriptions for viral illnesses anyway. Patient pressure is a major cause for these prescriptions.

When you don't finish your prescription, your antibiotic doesn't kill all the targeted bacteria. The germs that survive build up resistance to the drug you're

taking. Doctors are then forced to prescribe a stronger antibiotic. The bacteria learn to fight the stronger medication. Superbugs are smart, too; they can share information with other bacteria. More than 70 percent of the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to at least one of the antibiotics most commonly used to treat them. About 100,000 people die each year from infections they contract in the hospital, often because the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to antibiotics.

Q. What causes muscle cramps?

A cramp is an involuntarily contracted muscle that does not relax. The common locations for muscle cramps are the calves, thighs, feet, hands, arms, and the rib cage. Cramps can be very painful. Muscles can cramp for just seconds, but they can contin-

ue for many minutes.

Almost all of us have had muscle cramps, but no one knows for sure why they happen. However, many healthcare professionals attribute cramping to tired muscles and poor stretching. Other suspected causes are dehydration, exerting yourself when it's hot, flat feet, standing on concrete, prolonged sitting, some leg positions while sedentary.

Muscle cramps are usually harmless. However, they can also be symptoms of problems with circulation, nerves, metabolism, hormones. Less common causes of muscle cramps include diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hypoglycemia, anemia, thyroid and endocrine disorders.

Geezers are more likely to get cramps because of muscle loss that starts in our 40s. And your remaining muscles don't work as efficiently as they used to. Studies show that about 70 percent of adults older than 50 experience nocturnal leg cramps.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Suspicious Incidents and Assault

Wednesday, 9/28
 1:00 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Fifth Street. Services rendered.
 3:32 a.m. Officer wanted at Carnegie Library. Perpetrator(s) gone.
 1:55 p.m. General disturbance at Turners Falls High School. Report taken.
 5:28 p.m. Breaking and entering into a vehicle on Avenue A. Investigated.
Thursday, 9/29
 11:30 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Court Square residence. Report taken.
 5:03 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Peskeomskut Park on Avenue A. Verbal warning.
 5:32 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Church Street. Advised of options.
 6:47 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted]
Friday, 9/30
 3:35 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation

behind Teddy Bear Pools on Avenue C. Unable to locate.
 3:45 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for assault and battery of an elder (60+) or a disabled person.
 5:54 p.m. Suspicious incident on Fourth Street. Services rendered.
 8:06 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery on Griswold
Saturday, 10/1
 12:01 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, failure to stop for police, failure to stop at a stop sign, and speeding near the railroad on East Main Street.
 10:14 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Eighth Avenue in Lake Pleasant. Advised of options.
 11:42 a.m. Domestic disturbance at Fourth and L Streets. Investigated.
 3:02 p.m. Suspicious incident on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

4:45 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted] for violation of a restraining order.
 7:35 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Investigated.
 7:51 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery, assault and battery of a police officer, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, and assault with a dangerous weapon on East Main Street.
 10:26 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and no inspection sticker on Sherman Drive.
Sunday, 10/2
 6:04 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery on H Street.
 2:23 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Turnpike Road. Investigated.
Monday, 10/3
 6:35 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on H Street. Referred to an officer.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG
Minor Accidents

Monday, 9/26
 9:55 a.m. Animal complaint on Meadow Street. Owner located.
 12:40 p.m. Animal lost in area of north end of Mountain Road.
Tuesday, 9/27
 7:30 a.m. Report of tractor trailer stuck on the Gill-Montague Bridge. Assistance provided.
Wednesday, 9/28
 6:45 a.m. Hit and run motor vehicle accident reported on Main Road. Telephone pole struck.
 1:25 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident on Main Road. Motor vehicle towed out
Tuesday, 10/4
 2:36 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for violation of an abuse prevention order.
 9:41 a.m. Straight warrant arrest of [redacted]
 2:34 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Eighth Avenue. Services Rendered.

of ditch.
 2:10 p.m. Party placed in custody for Section 12 evaluation at the French King Bridge.
 5:25 p.m. 911 hang up call received from Boyle Road resident. Child playing with the phone.
Thursday, 9/29
 6:50 a.m. Animal complaint of horse running in the roadway on Mt Hermon Road. Assisted with gaining control of same.
 8:35 a.m. Contacted Boyle Road resident regarding harassment order.
Friday, 9/30
 12:40 p.m. North Cross Road resident complaining of speeding neighbors. Will speak with party involved.
 6:29 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Second Street. Report taken.
 7:36 p.m. Straight warrant arrest of [redacted]
Wednesday, 10/5
 1:43 p.m. Threatening harassment on Fourth Street. Advised of options.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part IX

U.S. East Coast 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL

"Why don't we get her into the car," Neil says. "We'll have a lot of time to talk while we're driving."

"How's she getting in the car?" I ask, pointing at my likeness on the couch.

"I can carry her," he says.

I follow Neil, who is carrying the doppelganger somewhat clumsily toward the back door. Diana runs alongside him, moving things out of the way, opening doors, helping to support the sleeping body. She opens the back door, peeks out, and then runs ahead down the stairs. A few seconds later, she's back.

"No one's around," she says.

Now Neil moves more quickly, getting the doppelganger down the stairs and shoving her into the car. I can see that someone has already put a couple of pillows in there. Diana arranges the body comfortably on the pillows and straps her in. She shifts and mumbles a bit in her sleep, and I have the weird feeling that someone is jostling me.

Neil puts a blanket over the doppelganger. He backs out of the car and straightens up.

"We should get going," he says.

"I still need to get my suitcase," I say.

"I got it already," he answers, "while you were getting accli-

mated."

"You sit in front," Diana says, "I'll sit with the Body at Rest, and Neil can drive."

"You sure?"

"Yeah, I don't think you two should be stuck in back together."

After a while we are chatting almost normally. Neil keeps steering the conversation back to things he wants to be sure I remember.

"If the Body at Rest wakes up," he instructs, "you will have to figure out how to control the bodies separately. The Body at Rest should stay in bed with your eyes closed. Pull the covers over your head, if you can."

"What if I have to pee?"

"It's better not to," he says.

"OK," I say, "but what if I have to anyway. I mean it's not like I ever want to go pee in the

middle of the night."

"You get used to it pretty quick. We train ourselves to keep the Body at Rest in bed and asleep," Diana explains. "You also get better at handling the situation if both bodies are awake."

"That's good to know," I say, "because that was pretty crazy back at your house."

Then I realize that Diana is calling my name over and over. I have been dreaming. "I'm awake," I say, trying to wrench myself out of the dream.

"Yes, you are awake," Diana says. "The doppelganger is asleep and dreaming."

"You need to dream, of course," Neil says. "Your brain needs to. But you can control the dreams some. The Body in Motion can steer them, so they don't mess up your concentration

so badly."

"So she will dream that she is sitting in the car talking to you?" I say, realizing that I can kind of talk to them and dream at the same time.

"Something like that, yeah," Neil answers. "You'll get used to it." It seems like he has said these words many times tonight.

I follow along with the doppelganger's dream while also talking and slowly begin to feel more in control. Then abruptly it stops, and I am alone inside my brain. "It stopped," I tell them.

"She's out of REM sleep now," Diana says. "You get forty minutes or so of quiet time."

"You two do this all day? And all night, too?"

"Well, it does get easier," Diana says. "Much."

- Continued next issue

CLOSURE from pg 10

deliver to two times a day." Then everyone in the village can walk to drop off or pick up their mail.

Robert Beck said he lives so close to the post office that David James can hand him his mail out the window.

James, a Postmaster Relief

worker who has been filling in for Lake Pleasant postmaster Ron Croteau for the last 15 months while Croteau is on "temporary leave" to the Leverett post office, said Lake Pleasant is the only place he has ever delivered mail, and he will never deliver mail anywhere else.

Beck said, "We all live within 200 or 300 yards of that building. That's the hardest thing to give up."

"It's like your town hall," suggested Surprise, to widespread

agreement.

Some residents said they would be glad to rent their post boxes, if the marginal increase in revenue from that would tip the balance in the USPS decision in their favor. Others pledged to buy more stamps. Others talked of the cost, even at today's prices, of gasoline and wear and tear on their own vehicles, and tail pipe emissions that would result if all the villagers have to drive to Montague Center or elsewhere for their mail. Others suggested the post office would in effect lose revenue if they switched to private carriers for deliveries rather than drive to another post office to pick up packages.

Surprise said the USPS would

weigh the cost of constructing more post office boxes elsewhere - say at the Montague Center post office, or in stand-alone locked boxes at two locations in the village, to which mail would then have to be delivered - against the savings of closing the Lake Pleasant post office before a decision is made. But she stressed the decision has not yet been made, and customer feedback will weigh on the higher ups who will soon make it. She urged all Lake Pleasant residents to sign a petition being circulated or write letters in support of keeping the post office open.

Speaking of the USPS's fiscal woes, she said, "We're losing millions a day." Surprise said the USPS receives no taxpayer support; all its revenue comes from sales. The USPS was forced by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act passed by Congress in 2006 to prepay health and retirement benefits for employees; critics of the RAOI closures cite this as a major cause of the USPS deficit.

Still, Section 101 of the 1970 Postal Reorganization Act specifies, "The Postal Service shall

provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities."

Surprise said, "We're looking at all options," and said if Congress would allow the service to end Saturday delivery (not retail service, just delivery), a move she supports, "The problem would be solved."

Meanwhile, Surprise pledged to push for a swift resolution to the question of whether or not to close the Lake Pleasant post office, and promised to keep residents informed. "I'm glad I took the time to come here," said Surprise, again calling the village and its post office "quaint."

James said, "It's been said that walking into that post office is like walking into a Norman Rockwell painting."

Some things are hard to put a dollar value on.



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Day talk with Dr. Dan Bennett. Columbus, Anglo-swarm, Puritans, Pilgrims and Strangers over-running the beaver-bearing rivers of the Northeast, Philip's War locally, channeling Mary White Rowlandson, Weetamo's slave, and Capt. Church, ranger slayer of Philip. 1 p.m.

Michael Donahue and Nate Paine (fiddles), Alex Scala (bass), and Jon Bekoff (guitar). 7 - 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Lenny's Lounge, Vegas a la Voo, free, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Ari & Mia, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Nexus, eclectic harmonic rock, 9-11 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: Full Moon Coffeehouse presents *Primate Fiasco*, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23rd
Wendell: *A Taste of Wendell*, Free, 12 - 4 p.m.

Leverett Elementary School: *Leverett Harvest Festival*, Pancake Breakfast, Spaghetti Supper, Birds of Prey, Car Show, Guided Walk on the 4H Trail (2 p.m.), Open Greenhouse, Horse Rides and more, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Show*, featuring Bryan Gillig, Blacktop Kenny and others, 4 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill: *Lac La Belle Marko Packard & Addie Rose Holland*, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dance party*, 9:30 p.m.

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

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

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 23rd
The Mead Art Museum at Amherst College: *A Memorial Display in Honor of Jerome "Jerry" Liebling* Photographer, Filmmaker, Educator.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th

Beacon Field, Greenfield: *1st Annual Riverside Blues & BBQ Festival* - Come Smell the Smoke! Food & product vendors and blacksmith & kitchen demonstrations. Come sample professional BBQ. Blues musical performances by *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, *The Reprobates Blues Band*, and *Susan Angeletti*. Kids' activities, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 30th
Wendell Free Library, Herrick Room: *Old Massachusetts Gravestones*, an exhibition of twenty black and white prints by Arthur P. Mange of Amherst, one of the Valley's best known photographers.



Primate Fiasco plays Wendell's Full Moon Coffeehouse at the Wendell Town Hall on Saturday, October 15th at 7:30 p.m.

through November 3, at GCC's South Gallery. An opening reception, for the community, will be held on Wednesday, October 12 from 6-8pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19th

Montague Bookmill: *Happening in the History Room with Heather Christle, Jack Christian, Plan D*, Free, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, acoustic driven originals, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, with DJ Greg2000, the dance party, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Free.

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Catch a Falling Star*, Family-science fun hunting for micrometeorites, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Mt. Sugarloaf State Reservation, South Deerfield: *The Soulful Landscape Concert with Erica Wheeler*, Share your experiences in Massachusetts State Parks and hear them come alive through song with Erica Wheeler. Invite your friends and family. Bring a picnic lunch, blanket or chair. Please arrive on time. Department of Conservation and Recreation, sponsor. 1-3 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m.

White Elephant Yoga Studio, Orange: Drama Circle reading of a play, *Justice Served* by Athol resident Steve Silva and a chapter of a play within a novel by Kevin Romano of Petersham. Free. 2 - 5 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics, Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen* playing all your favorite oldies from the 50's & 60's, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th

Montague Grange: *Colleen Kattau & Nice Guys*, 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

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Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wishbone Zoe, rock, indie, and Carrie Ferguson & the Cherry Street Band*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Thomas Memorial Golf Course, Turners Falls: *Fred Eaglesmith Show, Ginn Sisters* opening, doors 7 p.m., show at 9 p.m. More information on facebook. 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Loose Change*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 8:30-11 p.m.

Leverett Historical Society: *Columbus*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th

Boswell's Books, Shelburne Falls: *Mystery fans have a treat in store when Archer Mayor*, author of the highly acclaimed, Vermont-based mystery series featuring detective Joe Gunther, comes to Shelburne Falls. Mayor will be reading from and autographing his new novel, *Tag Man*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, classic rock and dance music, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th and SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th

Downtown Greenfield: *Brick + Mortar International Video Art Festival*, cutting edge art installations in historic spaces.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel, Arena Civic Theatre will present the musical *The Secret Garden* on October 14, 15, and 21 at 7:30pm, and October 16, 22, and 23 at 2pm at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, MA.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Wildcat O'Halloran*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Damon Reeves & The Love Thieves*, 9-11 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *José Ayerve*, an intimate concert with music, custom-made Mad-Libs for *Henning Goes to the Movies*, and other nonsense. Also playing *Henning Ohlenbusch*. 8 -10 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Coffeehouse featuring Zydeco Connection*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Loot Opening After Party, Dance Party*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th
Montague Grange: *Square Dance*, Sally Newton will call the dance, music by

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quizmaster Chad's Quiznite Quiz*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Where do the Birds around Turners Falls spend their winters?* Come join Scott Sumer from the Hampshire Bird Club help kick off our fledgling group of birders! 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, blues based roots music, 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Justin Boot*, honky-punk, 8 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st and SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd
Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Charlie Chaplin's Gold Rush*, 7:30 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. before the movie: *Friday Coop Jazz* and *Saturday Dan Lederer*.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st
Leverett Elementary School: *Echo Lake Coffeehouse* presents *Sharon Katz and the Peace Train*, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Payton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m. Free.

Montague Bookmill: *The Novels, Hands and Knees*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, 9-11 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd
Harmony Lodge, Montague City: *Chasin a Mason 5K charity road race*, 9 a.m.

Downtown Turners Falls: *Franklin County Pumpkin Fest*, 3 - 9 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Pumpkin pie contest*. Entries from 1-2 p.m. Judging at 3 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Micah Blue Smaldone, PG Six, Redwing Blackbird*, 8 p.m.

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SUN 10/9 9pm-1am FREE TNT KARAOKE

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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Early Fall Garden

fires in the fire pit are warm and welcoming. The foods of the cooler season are inviting. Baking is a pleasure again.

It is time to put the garden to bed. Sadly, the vine crops have been truncated by powdery mildew. These plants should be pulled and burned or at least placed anywhere but in your compost pile for next year's use.

Any crops that are permanent benefit from fall fertilizing, providing you do so with your own frost season in mind. For many of us it is already too late. If you have had or anticipate a killing frost soon, it's too late for you. Fertilizing now will only encourage late growth, soon to be killed.

We fertilized our new asparagus bed in mid-September before the monsoons returned, since with the protection of the nearby river we will not have a hard

freeze before the second week of October. Now at least we have had more than sufficient rain to send the food deep into the ground.

Take the time to weed once more. If you turn your soil before planting, add manure and compost and turn now, so that when the earth is ready, you can begin planting cold crops in April or maybe even March. Remove and clean fencing and garden cages and poles. The goal is to leave the space as clean as possible.

This past wet season left many gardeners with mold, mildew and blights in the soil and on its surface. If this happened in your garden space, sanitation is especially important.

We plan to douse the tomato lot with peroxide and cover it with dark plastic to bake out any residues before the winter, hoping the frost will finish the job.

Generally speaking, the compost bin is not the place for your garden residue. It is a fine spot for grass clippings and leaves as well as vegetable matter from your kitchen. If you are fortunate enough to have two bins or piles, cover the newest with dirt and start fresh in a new bin or spot. Left to rest, this past season's compost will be ready to use next year.

While the growing season ebbs, this is also the perfect time to divide perennials and make new plantings for the spring to come. You can pull the weeds in your perennial beds, separate lilies and other bulbed or corned plants for replanting in the empty spaces. Making this a habit will develop a bed that will leave little foot room for weeds. Many nurseries sell stock at reduced prices as fall approaches. Do some shopping for the perennials you've always wanted to try.

Plant now for next spring: garlic cloves, spring bulbs, a patch of lettuce or other green seed. Before the ground is deeply frozen these seeds will start root growth which will allow them to get a head start next year. All of these plants are highly resilient and will start growing again in March as the snow slides into slush and the earth begins to warm. Bare patches in your lawn can be seeded now. The frost will crack the seeds. You won't see improved growth now, but next spring will provide new blades of grass.

The baby balsams we brought

home from Maine can be planted now. We'll make sure the roots are spread and put organic food like compost or manure in the hole. We have had so much rain you won't need to water these transplants, or any other plantings you start. Fall is a less stressful season for plant growth. Adequate moisture and cooler temperatures are a boon to all but the most heat-loving crops.

Finally, bring in any flowering plants with a chance of surviving the winter inside. Geraniums are the hardiest of creatures and ask for no more than a few hours of sunlight and occasional watering. We have a lovely tuberous Begonia I hope to maintain in the sunroom. Help these plants make the adjustment to indoor life by bringing them in at night and putting them out in the daytime for a week or so. Check all plants for insect life; you don't want to bring in pests that will happily jump to your current repertoire of house plants. Consider purchasing an orchid at the garden center and try your luck with a plant that produces an incredibly long lasting bloom.

While fall and the impending winter bring dark and cold, we can look forward to the warmth of the fire and the excuse to share hearty foods with friends before and through the coming holidays. Meanwhile, the gardener's work is hardly done. There is still good time to accomplish it in the brilliant sun and daylight of this month of beauty.

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY - Fall is such a spectacular season. I am baffled by the melancholy that seems to come with it. So many last things to note: the last of the long awaited tomatoes, the end of the fresh corn, a final blooming of the repeating roses, the visible shortening of the days. Yet the trees will soon be clad in spectacular color, the air at its most clear and bright and the nights agreeably cool for sleep. Soon the biting insects will be history - until next year. Evening

Donors:

- FirstLight Power Resources' Northfield Mountain
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- Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO)
- MassWildlife CT Valley District
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Emergency Response Section
- MA Department of Conservation and Recreation
- New England Environmental
- Covanta Energy
- Northfield Mount Hermon Dining Services
- The Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Greenfield
- 2nd Street Baking Company
- The People's Pint
- Gill Tavern
- Adams Donuts
- The Rendezvous

2011 Source to Sea Cleanup
15th Year Successes

SARAH DOYLE PHOTOS
 Jeff Comenitz of Greenfield prepares to load 17 tires found on dirt roads in south Montague by the Gill Elementary sixth graders and families.

Linden Hill School student sports a rain coat and a smile - both of which were essential to having a good time during the Source to Sea Clean-up on Saturday, October 1

Trash was removed from beautiful natural areas in the towns of Gill, Montague, Millers Falls, Turners Falls, Erving, Northfield Farms and East Deerfield.

Debris Removed:
 Two, 30-yard dumpsters
 160 tires
 9 televisions
 6 recliners/chairs
 5 mattresses
 2 couches

Participating Groups:
 Franklin County Technical School, Landscaping
 Gill Elementary Sixth Grade Families
 Franklin Trial Court Community Service
 Linden Hill School
 Mohawk Ramblers
 All the great families & individuals that volunteer

Event Organizers:
 Beth Bazler, Northfield Mountain
 Chris Toby
 Ray Purington
 Sarah Doyle, Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center
 Connecticut River Watershed Council

Please support and congratulate these organizations that make Franklin County a better place to live!

Harvest Supper to Follow Road Race

WENDELL - October 23rd is shaping up to be quite a full day of activity in Wendell, and everyone's invited. A 10-K road race to benefit the new playground at the library will start at the Wendell Country Store parking lot at 10:15 in the morning (for walkers, with a choice of 1 mile, 2.8 mile, or 4 mile walk) and 11 a.m. for runners; a \$15 donation at registration will benefit the playground. For more information, call: 978-544-2537.

The race will be followed from 12:30 - 4:00 p.m. by the Howevermany Annual Wendell Wine, Beer and Cheese Tasting, hosted by the dynamic Donna Horn at the Deja Brew pub.

Lynne Davis will offer Music of Healing and Transition at 4 p.m. at the senior center, next to the town common. To top it off, a community Harvest Dinner potluck and pie contest (with a preference for local ingredients in the pies) will take place at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall. So spend the day taking in the beauty of the season, and run, walk, heal or dine on the common amid the autumnal charm of Wendell.

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