



## AMAZING PLANTERS

Beautify Millers Falls  
Page 2

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 2

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 8, 2009

## Erving Votes Down Gas Station Proposal



Voters study information packets in preparation for voting on zoning bylaw changes in Erving at Monday's special town meeting. (L-R) Connie Henry, Beverly Care, Pat Semb, Ralph Semb, Flo Semb, and Eric Semb

**BY BILL FRANKLIN** – In a standing-room-only-turnout on Monday night, Erving voters failed to reach the two thirds majority necessary to amend the town's zoning bylaws to allow for the construction of a gas station in the town's protected aquifer zone, or to allow drive-through restaurants within a designated central village commercial zone.

Ralph Semb co-owns with his son Eric a site inside the recharge zone of the town's drinking

water supply, on the corner of Semb Drive and Route 2, where they proposed to build a gas station and fast food restaurant, across from their French King Entertainment Center.

Ralph Semb responded to an early question from the floor about what the back-up plan would be in a worst case scenario, if the town's drinking water supply were to be contaminated with petroleum products. The elder Semb said, "We could turn on a valve and get water

from the Turners Falls water district."

Apparently, this fallback plan failed to persuade enough voters to remove protections from the drinking water supply by opening up the aquifer recharge zone for gas station construction, even though the town of Erving presently has no place where the public can purchase gas.

The bylaw change went down to defeat, 163 to 117, failing to gain the needed 2/3rds majority.

see **GAS STATION** pg 12

## Montague City May See Change of Polling Site

**BY BILL DRAKE** – Deb Bourbeau, Montague town clerk, petitioned the selectboard to move the Precinct 6 polling station from the Masonic Lodge, at 20 Masonic Avenue, to the new Montague police station at 181 Turnpike Road. The new polling place would be "a total improvement for accessibility," said Bourbeau.

Bourbeau said the Masonic Lodge has no clear, designated handicap parking spots. Also, the wheelchair ramp is pitched too steeply, is not wide enough, and does not end at a landing at least five feet square. The front door does not have automatic opening hardware, and there are other issues that hinder bringing the

building entirely up to code to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"This is a chance to bring us into compliance in one more precinct," said Bourbeau of the proposed move. "The voting residents would be better served."

Although part of Turnpike Road is located in Precinct 6, the new police station itself is in Precinct 3, Bourbeau said. The proposed move would put the polling station further away from the heart of Precinct 6, traditionally the village of Montague City, with the South End of Turners Falls (the Patch), the Randall Wood Drive and Randall Wood Road sections also included in the

see **VOTING** pg 8



Kathy Kennedy, shown voting in the 2008 presidential election at the Masonic Lodge in Montague City. Voters in Precinct 6 may soon have to make their way to a new polling station, due to accessibility concerns at the Lodge.

## Move Documentary and



Ramona Africa was the sole adult survivor of the bombing of the MOVE communal house by Philadelphia police on May 13th, 1985.

### Ramona Africa at Brick House

House, 24 3rd Street, in Turners Falls, at 7:30 p.m.

**MOVE** discusses in detail the shocking history of the Philadelphia-based MOVE organization, the violence perpetrated against them by the city of Philadelphia, including the bombing and burning of their communal row house, an incident denounced by the city's subsequent investigative commission as

"unconscionable." Six adults and five children died in that fire.

Filmmakers Benjamin Garry and Matt Sullivan of Cohort Media will join Africa for the discussion after the film.

The event will be hosted by Undergrowth Farm of Gill, as

see **MOVE** pg 10

## Lunch, More Flavor Available at Expanded Coffee Company



Donna MacCartney is the new owner of the Great Falls Coffee Company

**BY ANN HARDING GILL** – Great Falls Coffee Company owner Donna MacCartney has a dream of becoming a chocolatier, and

has been studying chocolate-making for some time. She was doing some consulting with former Great Falls Coffee owner Jonathon Shaw when the

opportunity to purchase the business came up. Having met many of the patrons and knowing how happy Gill residents were to have their own coffee shop, she made the leap from consultant to entrepreneur

The business changed hands back in June, but MacCartney planned a soft opening while making changes to the layout of the building and updating the menus, adding lunch.

Coffee is now available on a self-serve basis, and the selection has expanded to include more flavors and types, as well as an additional brand. The shop now serves coffees provided by both local roasters Pierce Brothers and Dean's Beans. MacCartney also serves Pierce Brothers organic teas.

As at many coffee shops, frequent customers at Great Falls Coffee Company are

see **LUNCH** pg 9



## PET OF THE WEEK

### Ha-Ma!



Lucy

This sweet little boopie was rescued after a harrowing adventure, lost beneath the Montague Congregational Church after the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday afternoon. Her distraught mistress wandered the neighborhood like a madwoman, calling her name and shaking a bag of Kibbles, to no avail, until sympathetic neighbors brought her in, fed her dinner and calmed her down (the cat's owner, that is, not the cat). After dinner, and a frantic series of phone calls, door knocking and postings to the local corkboard, the cat heard mommy drive by the church one last time, and came running in a hurry, before night set in.

To get involved in your own exciting animal rescue operation, contact the Dakin animal shelter in Leverett, (413) 548-9898, or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

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(Every other week in July and  
August. Wednesday paper fourth  
week of November. No paper last  
week of December.)  
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FAX (413) 863-3050  
reporter@montaguema.net  
Postmaster: Send address  
changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
58 4th Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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## WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

### Mostly Yoga

**BY ROSE HEIDEKAMP** – Mostly yoga resumes on Sunday, October 11th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Wendell body movement teachers will lead this popular class on a rotating basis, every Sunday from October 11th, through the last Sunday of May, 2010. A number of different yoga styles will be offered, as well as Chi-gong and other energy work. Teachers for the general level class include Apollo, Shay

Cooper, Donna Horn, Arieh Kurinsky, Patty Smythe, and Susan Von Ranson. Students participate at a level that is safe for their physical condition.

Please bring yoga mat, blanket and towel. No scents or perfumes. The class begins at 10 a.m. promptly.

A donation of \$2.00 or more each week is requested to help sustain the class.

Mostly Yoga is also sponsored the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.

## MILLERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS

### Vibrant with Color

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
MILLERS FALLS – All summer, I have really been enjoying the flowers in the pair of planters in front of the Millers Falls Library. They may be among the most amazing planters I have ever seen.

The planters are the handiwork of Anna Greene, who worked at the Millers Falls Library for two years. Greene has a degree in plant and soil science, and has worked at UMass extension doing plant education for the last 25 years.

In the Millers Falls planters, Greene planted waves of petunias, geraniums, coleus, sorghum, thread leaf, and glauca that spill out profusely onto the sidewalk. The colors are amazingly vibrant.

Greene said she wanted to do something nice for the Millers Falls community, and when she noticed how many people walked past the library down Bridge Street, she felt the bright planters would be "like a sign saying, 'We're home – Welcome!'"

The planters quickly became a community project, and a labor of love. Diana Sirum of Montague loaned Greene an attractive pair of sturdy containers. Greene mixed soil from her garden with compost. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries

helped pay for the plants. Greene fertilized the plants every other week and they grew like mad. They needed watering almost constantly.

Greene drove over every weekend from Montague Center to water them. Local resident Barbara Sallfraank and other neighbors have also helped with watering.

"The response from the patrons and the community was very positive," said Greene. "This is a project worth repeating!"

Greene is working closer to home now at the Montague Center Library. I am now watering the planters on the weekends. The new Millers Falls Librarian, Robin Shtulman, is also watering them, twice a week.

If you get a chance, go see these beautiful planters before they are laid low by a hard frost. Photographs do not do them justice.

Here, for plant lovers, is the complete list of varieties Greene planted in Millers Falls: 'Peter's Wonder' Coleus (*Solenostemon* sp.); *Alternanthera* 'Red Threads' (*Alternanthera ficoidea* 'Red Threads'); *Gaura* 'Stratosphere White' (*Gaura lindheimeri*); *Persian Shield* (*Strobilanthes dyerianus*); *New Wonder Fan Flower* (*Scaevola aemula*);

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – Oct 12th to 16th

**GILL/MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site Manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter; call 863-9357.

Tai Chi classes begin on October 15th, 10:00 a.m. Painting class begins October 13th. Register now, \$10 Gill Montague Seniors and \$15 from other towns for six sessions. Chair Yoga classes begin Tuesday, October 13th. See above for more info.

Upcoming Senior Pot Luck lunch will be Monday, October 12th. Please call the center to sign up.

**Monday, Oct. 12th**  
Closed for Columbus Day holiday

**Tuesday, Oct. 13th**

9:00 a.m. Walking group  
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag  
No Chair Yoga  
1:00 p.m. Canasta

**Wednesday, Oct. 14th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, Oct. 15th**  
9:00 a.m. til noon: Flu shots at the police station  
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation with Reconnecting Youth guests  
1:00 p.m. Pitch

**Friday, Oct. 16th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

**ERVING** Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity.



STEPHEN BROLL PHOTO

## Sundial Rising

**BY ROSIE HEIDEKAMP**  
WENDELL – David Scott, of ScottDesign, installed the beginnings of a large sundial, which he designed and crafted, on the Wendell Free Library on Monday. Scott, a resident of Wendell, received funding from

the Friends of the Wendell Free Library and the Wendell Cultural Council for the project. Look for the completed installation by the end of the week. Scott has designed a number of sundials for public and private buildings, locally and nationally.

## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

### Engine 3 Visits Story Hour



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

A Turners Falls fire truck visited Story Hour at the Carnegie Library as part of Fire Prevention week on Wednesday, October 7th. The fire truck was very popular with the young children. Story Hour meets every Wednesday morning at 10:15. For more information, call the library at 863-3214.

Daredevil Orchid Splash Zonal Geranium; Tidal Wave Cherry Hedge Petunia; Wave Purple Spreading Petunia; and Silver Falls (*Dichondra* sp.)

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local gossip, news & business listings

**Great Falls Middle School**  
Students of the Week

**Grade 6**  
Colby Dobias  
Ashley Williams  
**Grade 7**  
Haleigh Bassett  
**Grade 8**  
Kaylannah Frost

**Great Falls Farmers Market**

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## MontagueMA.net 10th Anniversary Celebration

**TURNERS FALLS** – The MontagueMA.net website, a project of Montague WebWorks, will hold a Tenth Anniversary Party at the Rendezvous on Third Street in Turners Falls, Saturday, October 17th from noon to 5:00 p.m., in the parking lot outside. There will be an after-party inside from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m..

The party will feature three live bands; face painting and games for the kids; door prizes; \$2 off food or beverage certificates for anyone wearing the official MontagueMA.net t-shirt; buy-one-get-one-free beer on tap in the beer garden; and other surprises. Meet the people you've been chatting with for ten years, live and in person.

Created by resident Michael Muller in 1999, over the last ten years the website has provided a sounding board for residents to weigh in on town elections, town meetings and school budgets, and a place to announce local events, post missing pet notices, and chat with each other. Town hall departments also post their information on the website.

Currently sporting a membership of more than 1300 people,

including over 1000 Montague residents, the website is fairly active for a town of only 8300 people. The site averages over 1500 page views per day over the past three years, proving the website is a place residents have relied on for a decade.

The anniversary party will also host a technology fundraiser for the Montague Reporter, the local weekly newspaper. Donations of cash, checks and up-to-date technology equipment will be accepted at the party.

Montague WebWorks is a local web development and marketing company run by Michael Muller and Patrick Davis, with offices in Montague, Orange and Northampton. They host many community websites in the Pioneer Valley as well as dozens of small to medium local businesses and municipalities using their software. For more information, call (413) 320-5336.

## Seventeenth Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Fair

The Gill Craft Fair will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 17th and 18th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at the Riverside School building on Route 2 in Gill, two-tenths of a mile east from the lights at the Gill-Montague Bridge.

What started 17 years ago with a few craft booths and an apple pie sale on the weekend after Columbus Day has grown into one of the areas best crafts fairs, with over 50 local and regional artists, crafters, jewelers, potters, wood workers, food producers and more. What makes the Gill fair more fun is the addition of many hands-on activities for adults and children, demonstrations, children's activities, music, the Gill fireman's lunch tent and a farmers market.

The juried arts and crafts booths are still the heart of the fair. Many of the artists return year after year, and each year new artists join the regulars. There will also be a raffle of

baskets filled with local items.

Ongoing demonstrations include a blacksmith, tapestry and woven jewelry, painting, spinning and weaving, garlic braiding and milling and winnowing. The Gill historical museum will be open with new exhibits, including items from the estate of Clesson Blake and Ruth Cook. Children and adults can try their hand at working a letterpress and creating their own cards and bookmarks; making beeswax candles; and carding and combing wool. There will be solar demonstrations and a unique way to use recyclables.

This year, the farmers market has expanded to include everything from locally produced maple products, fruits, vegetables, flowers, gourds, cheese and sprouts to wool yarns, sheepskin and fleece. The lunch tent features the Gill firemen's famous hand-cut French fries,

the usual picnic entrees and some hot selections. While you're enjoying your lunch, listen to local musicians. Homemade apple pies will be on sale starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, but be sure to get there early because they sell out fast!

It's just more fun in Gill.

The fair is sponsored by the Friends of Gill, A-J Cycle Shop, Applied Dynamics, Cove Farm Creative Marketing, F. M. Kuzmeskus, Inc, Fosters Supermarket, Greenfield Co-operative Bank, HVB Imaging, Mohawk Real Estate, Renaissance Builders, Skip's Roadside Diner, the Gill Greenery, the Gill Tavern, Pam Veith Real Estate, and Alan Wallace and Barbara Watson

For further information call Barb Elliot at (413) 863-9708, or e-mail friendsogill@yahoo.com.

## Gill Seeks Cultural Grant Applicants

Grant applications for the Gill Cultural Council are due (postmarked) by Thursday, October 15th.

Organizations, individuals, and schools are encouraged to apply for grants to support community-wide cultural activities, including concerts, festivals, plays, workshops, and other performances and projects led by local artists, craftspeople, historians, naturalists, educators, writers, dancers, and creative folk who wish to bring their pro-

grams to the various venues of Gill.

Application forms and detailed guidelines are available online at [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org) or at the town hall in Gill. Applications will be accepted at the town hall between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or can be mailed to the Gill Cultural Council at 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354.

Please direct questions to Liz Gardner, chair of the Gill Cultural Council, at 863-8626.

## Bereavement Support Group Offered

Are you apprehensive about the upcoming holiday season because you have lost a loved one?

Consider coming to a holiday bereavement group sponsored by Hospice of Franklin County.

The three-session group will meet in Greenfield on

Thursdays, November 19th, December 3rd, and December 17th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

The group is free and open to the public. A brief phone interview is required for registration. The registration deadline is November 16th. To register, call Hospice of Franklin County at (413) 774-2400.

### Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Annual Youth Field Day

Sunday, October 11th  
10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Open to everyone, free of charge. All participants under 15 years of age are eligible for door prize raffles

Activities include: archery, canoes, rowboats, casting, BB gun and black powder gun shooting, outdoor sports movies, live pheasant viewing, fish filleting demonstration, police dog demonstration, fly tying and dive team demo.

Special Raffle - One child will win a pair of Boston Red Sox tickets.

For additional information call the TFR&G Club at 413-863-4382

### The Montague Congregational Church Roast Pork Supper Saturday, October 24th 5:30 p.m.

The MENU is roast pork, mashed potatoes, squash, homemade applesauce and apple cake.

Served Family Style. Adults: \$9.00;  
Children under 12: \$4.00

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# The Montague Reporter

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*"The Voice of the Villages"*
**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August, 2002

**Photography**

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## From Walden to Wendell

Back in 2002, the town of Leyden had a moment of national fame over an incident that came to be known locally as 'Pottygate.'

Articles in the *Boston Globe*, the *Portsmouth Herald*, and libertarian websites focused on a Northampton housing court case involving the Leyden board of health and a summer resident named Stephen Laing.

Laing, a gardener who wintered in Key West, Florida said he had been influenced by the writings of Henry David Thoreau.

He was spending summers living in Leyden in a cabin with no electricity, no running water, and no septic system. He was happy with few amenities – as most of us have come to understand the term – and said he welcomed the chance to live close to nature.

Laing used an outhouse at his cabin, until the board of health expressed concerns about groundwater contamination. He installed a composting toilet. Then the board of health ordered him to put in a pressurized water system, a septic system, and electricity.

"They want me to make a yuppie house out of my cabin," Laing plaintively told the *Union News*.

After the board of health won the court battle, the make up of the board changed, and so did their approach to Laing and his cabin.

The board withdrew some of their citations against him, allowed an early variance to stand letting Laing live in Leyden without electricity, and agreed to let his composting toilet pass muster.

"We just decided to leave the guy alone," said former board member Paula Sayword. "We worked out ways for him to live within the spirit of the law, without living up to the letter of the law," she added.

Seven years later, in Wendell, Jonathan and Susan von Ranson are patiently pursuing a conscientious proposal for simple living that would have made perfect sense to Thoreau during his year of self reliant living on the shore of Walden Pond, an approach that balances concerns for local groundwater protection, public health and safety with a growing

awareness that humankind's consumption of fossil fuel is fatally fouling the Earth's atmosphere.

The von Ransons hope to build and live in a 760-square-foot non-electric apartment, in their carefully restored 1850s-era barn on the common in the center of town. They are seeking approvals from town boards to build the apartment without code-required electric wiring in the walls, or a septic system in the yard. They plan to use a hand pump for water, a wood stove for heat, and a composting toilet for waste.

Massachusetts state building codes do not permit people to live in homes without electricity, running water and septic systems. But the von Ransons hope to make their apartment a test case to expand the building code, at least in rural communities.

They say with the threat of global climate change from the buildup of carbon and other heat trapping gasses in the atmosphere, humankind needs to find ways at the local level to reduce the negative impact of our lifestyles and livelihoods on the planet's ecosystem. They believe there must be a native right to live simply, without doing harm to their neighbors, their town, or their planet.

We concur.

State legislators including Steve Kulik, Chris Donelan and Stanley Rosenberg have all reached out to the von Ransons to offer assistance to them in their effort to pave a legal path for others to follow, to reduce the carbon footprint the state requires simply to live within four walls. It may be that a legislative change will be needed to enable the board of health in Wendell, and the county electrical and plumbing inspectors to sign off on their apartment. The state Department of Public Health may be asked to provide assurances to the local boards that the von Ranson's test case may be allowed to proceed with local oversight.

Code requirements should not of necessity be one size fits all, and regulations that make sense in densely populated urban environments may be excessive in rural areas like Wendell.

Whatever adjustment is neces-

## In Support of Simple Living

This is a letter of support for the Wendell rural simple living committee, an independent citizen committee seeking ways to establish conservation-minded, low-carbon building practices.

The committee's efforts are timely, given both our town's recent decisions to declare itself a 'deliberate energy conserving community' and to appoint a Wendell energy task force, as well as the larger global energy context in which we all live. As a selectboard, we also recognize the committee's community support, which is substantial, as evidence by the petition signatures that they have garnered.

We are concerned that the existing building code legally obliges homeowners to increase their ecological footprint. Not only is this contrary to the principles that our community holds dear, but it also seems to be lacking in common sense, given the current global energy crisis, global warming and other issues of sustainability.

While we understand and acknowledge the legal challenges involved in this situation, there is precedent in municipalities that include Amish communities. In those communities, they honor the spirit of the building code, but they allow exceptions when warranted. This approach seems to appropriately balance state concerns about community health and safety with respect for the individual's right to live a simpler lifestyle.

We feel a closely monitored test-case for this type of construction could, and should, prove to be an important influence on the evolving building codes, as we move forward into a more conservation-minded, sustainable future. Anything you can do to help facilitate the efforts of the Wendell rural simple living committee would be most appreciated.

– the Wendell selectboard  
**Christine Heard, chair, Daniel Keller, Jeffrey Pooser**

sary, there is great urgency for our society to find sensible, low-impact, environmentally sound solutions to the carbon fueled fiasco we have boxed ourselves into. Maybe pumping water, lighting a lantern, or relying on a tried and true composting toilet, are simple steps toward a more sustainable future. If Massachusetts allows the von Ransons to prove that proposition, it would give Wendell more than a moment of national fame.

It would give the town a chance to prove that humans can actually live on this planet without colluding in its destruction. A worthy experiment if there ever was one.



## One Earthling March

TIM VIELMETTI CARTOON

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Wanted: FRTA Forum in Turners

I was overjoyed to read last week's notice of an FRTA (Franklin Regional Transit Authority) public forum to be held in the Gill-Montague senior center. As a 64-year-old, I was psyched to attend this public forum. However, this week's notice said "Hearing Postponed" because the FRTA had heard that "some people were coming to discuss issues not directly related to bus services for seniors."

Last month, FRTA administrator Tina Cote had described the new route and fare policies as "minor changes." A week later, I noted how little tweaks like eliminating transfers and charging full fare for partial rides on the longer routes would have a major detrimental impact on seniors and others with fixed incomes. I started advocating for the FRTA to adopt something like the Pioneer Valley Transfer Authority's logical 25-cent transfer policy.

This issue combines student and senior interests, because age does not matter when you have to pay more for essential things even while you have low, no, fixed, or negative incomes.

As a grandfather, I do have concerns about the lives and conditions of younger folks. Knowing what it's like to spin endlessly in one place, or run into brick walls, or reach a dead-end, I have an affinity for students –

whose educational loans may provide them negative incomes – whose futures seem so bright and promising.

Last winter at a bus stop, I met a TFHS senior happy to "be going away to college" after graduation. But by summer, because of high costs, he said he would be living at home and commuting to GCC full-time. The recent elimination of transfers hit him hard (with 130 days of classes each year). He might end up paying \$600 to \$700 for transport each year. Yikes.

Don't we need several FRTA forums, where seniors and other riders can discuss public transit matters and current questions? Because drivers' licenses for 75-and-above-year-olds may soon start getting taken away, if a proposed change in state law passes, there must be an "effective bus system in place," said a senior-advocate from Franklin County Home Care. Bus transportation is a vital senior, and junior, and mid-way issue.

Please, transit folks, bring on multiple forums (preferably in one-fare locations, and with beginning and end times covered by bus service). Please FRTA, don't close the book on our opening and closing chapters!

– John Furbish  
Turners Falls

### Public Access to Board Members and the Press are Valued Prerogatives

I share with you excerpts of a letter received by my husband and others who recently attended a public meeting of the Wendell conservation commission. Although written from the perspective of an individual

property owner, it disturbed me because it was sent by our newly elected selectman. Public meetings, public access to town board members, and public access to a free press are possible see PUBLIC page 14

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**LETTERS continued**

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

**Fight the Flu by Strengthening Your Immune System**

**Source to Sea Eye Opener**

To Beth Bazler and all the organizers of last weekend's local "Source to Sea Cleanup" of the Connecticut River watershed: Great job! As usual the cleanup was an eye opener for me. I had never been down in the woods behind the old Railroad Salvage, next to the river, much less spent more than an hour there rummaging through the leaves, rocks and trees. Actually, the area was in very good shape, with little 'dumping' evident.

One thing you did not mention at the Discovary Center briefing beforehand was what to do when one comes across a recently occupied tent set up by the river, attached to an old Jeep motor. We left it alone, but frankly were concerned it was too near the waterline in the event of a storm or spring flood.

Saturday, October 3rd, was a very busy day in Turners Falls, with the great Booster Day parade (fun floats and happy TFHS students) and the "Arts and Leaves" open studios, not to mention the Green Buildings Tour.

Hopefully we can find a way to get even more people from Montague and the school district involved in the cleanup next year. (A Source to Sea Float? Source to Sea "found art"?)

— Jeff Singleton  
Montague

**Cost of War Mounting**

**Northampton, MA** — October 7th marked the eighth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. National Priorities Project ([www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)) analyses find that, to date, U.S. military operations in Afghanistan have cost U.S. taxpayers \$228 billion, \$60.2 billion of which was spent in FY 2009 alone.

In FY'10, U.S. military spending for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars is projected to be \$130 billion. In the past, funding was split between the two U.S. wars at a 70/30 ratio, with the majority of U.S. dollars going to operations in Iraq. In FY 2010, this ratio is projected to shift, with Afghanistan war spending accounting for over 50 percent of total costs.

**BY DIANA ALLEN**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** — In case you haven't noticed, there's a new season in town. Hot on the heels of the Back to School Shopping season, and in anticipation of the sugar-drenched Halloween season, we now have the advent of Flu season.

Devoid of much festivity, Flu season arrives each autumn not with candy and decorations, but with solemn media coverage and frightening announcements from the Centers for Disease Control, urging the American people to protect themselves with a freshly minted, seasonal flu vaccine.

No one likes being sick, but if you're thinking about heading out for your seasonal flu shot or the new H1N1 swine flu vaccine, please think twice. My experience as a clinical nutritionist and holistic health educator reveals many reasons not to get these shots, along with effective, natural alternatives to protect yourself from illness this season.

Many of us grew up feeling grateful for vaccines that helped to wipe out some really dreadful diseases, notably smallpox and polio. But just because these horrible diseases may have been eradicated after the introduction of vaccines doesn't mean it's a good idea to create or receive vaccinations for every illness known to humankind.

On the contrary, fighting off diseases on our own is actually good for us. Coming in contact with bacteria and viruses stimulates our body to exercise its inborn immune response system. By activating natural killer cells, creating antibodies and overcoming foreign invaders, the body heals itself and strengthens its ability to protect itself in the future. That's why many consider it a good idea, for instance, to contract normal childhood diseases like chicken pox. Though certainly unpleasant to endure, children are healthier in the long run for having soldiered through the chicken pox in early years.

A similar principle applies to influenza. While prevention is best, most people who do contract the flu feel miserable for a few days, suffer with fever, cough and body aches, and recover within two weeks. A

small percentage of flu sufferers develop pneumonia, which can be a serious cause for concern in some, but usually just means a longer recovery period.

The CDC's main flu page states that about 36,000 people in the United States die from the flu each year. However, the vast majority of these fatalities are actually due to bacterial pneumonia contracted as a complication of flu, not the flu itself. This year's swine flu is behaving very much like a normal, seasonal flu. Despite the tragedy of the handful who have died, most people who contract H1N1 only suffer mild flu symptoms.

You might think, "Well, that's all fine and good but just to be on the safe side, I'm going to get the flu shot, anyway." Unless you are at high risk for complications, the problem with this line of thinking is that the "safe side" may not be where you think it is.

The three top reasons not to get a seasonal flu vaccine are: the flu shot doesn't work very well, if at all; the flu vaccine may weaken your immune system, and the flu vaccine contains toxic substances that can harm your body. Let's look at each of these a bit more closely.

First, many of us do not realize that despite hundreds of flu strains in circulation, each year the seasonal flu vaccine contains only three strains of flu virus. The shot offers no protection against strains other than those three so, from the get-go, the flu vaccine is designed to have a very limited target range. And within that range, if a selected strain, like H1N1, happens to mutate (which is common), that vaccine becomes useless.

Worsening your odds of benefiting from the flu shot is research suggesting the seasonal flu vaccine doesn't really do what it's supposed to do. Several published studies from reputable sources, including the Cochrane Collaborative and the National Institutes of Health, suggest the flu vaccine does not prevent young children from getting the flu and does not improve flu-related mortality in the elderly, for example.

Second, your body was designed to go through the nor-

mal process of illness to build proper immune function. The normal process means pathogens enter your body through the lungs and gut via the nose and mouth — regions of the body lined with mucous membranes that contain a powerful antibody called Immunoglobulin A (IgA).

The IgA system is designed to be our body's first line of defense against disease. Once activated, it is often sufficient to get the job done, eliminating the need to dispatch deeper immune mechanisms. Injecting viruses directly into the bloodstream completely bypasses the IgA system, forcing your body to bring out the big guns from the start.

Vaccines may contain only enough killed or live attenuated (weakened) viruses to make you "a little sick," but they rob your body of the opportunity to put up a full fight and can overtax your internal immune reserves. Increased future susceptibility to bacterial and viral illnesses, including colds and flu, may result. Statistics to support this idea include unpublished data just released from Canada. As reported on National Public Radio, the Canadian research suggests that people who received the seasonal flu shot last year are more likely than others to contract H1N1 this year.

Third, the flu vaccine contains substances that may harm your body. The viruses delivered by flu vaccines are grown inside of chick embryos and blended with an unsavory slew of chemical preservatives and poisons.

Among the worst vaccine ingredient offenders is mercury, the well-known brain and nervous system toxin. Mercury shows up in vaccines under the name thimerosal, a preservative. The CDC concedes that most flu vaccines contain thimerosal; some brands, such as Flulaval, contain as much as 25 mcg of mercury per dose. That's more than 250 times the safety limit for mercury as designated by the EPA. Other undesirable compounds added to flu vaccines include spermicides, antifreeze and squalene.

Your best defense against the flu is to practice prevention, beginning with attentive personal

hygiene (hand washing, etc). It is also critical to keep your body in fighting form with a healthy, natural food diet and lifestyle. Don't kid yourself about eating "pretty well" or being "pretty healthy." If you feel run down and tired all the time, are overweight or suffer from chronic colds, infections or allergies, you are not enjoying the vibrant health you deserve!

Even if you choose to get the flu shot, or have already done so, these seven basic steps to support your natural immune defenses will help keep you well this flu season, and all year round.

Eliminate sugar from your diet. Replace with fruit, raw honey, agave or stevia.

Eat more greens. Deep green leafy vegetables and green superfoods like spirulina and chlorella help to alkalize your bloodstream and purify your biological terrain, making you a poor host for viruses and bacteria.

Avoid pasteurized dairy foods and processed starches (white flour, refined grains) to reduce acidity and sticky mucus production. Remember: milk plus flour equals glue. Replace with whole grains, nut milks, and raw milk dairy (preferably goat or sheep).

Balance gut flora and improve intestinal integrity with fermented foods (miso, kombucha, kimchi, sauerkraut), omega-3 fatty acids (walnuts, flaxseed oil, chia seeds, coldwater fish) and probiotic supplements. Fifty percent of your immune system is located in the gut, so keep it healthy.

Take a vitamin D supplement. Vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin, is critical for immune function, and most people just can't produce enough in this northern latitude and climate.

Get enough sleep. Lack of sleep impairs immune function. On average, adults need eight hours to fully replenish, repair and rejuvenate the body. Children may need more.

Reduce and manage stress. Stress depresses the immune system. Regular exercise, yoga, meditation, adaptogenic herbs, magnesium and B-vitamin supplements can all help.

*Diana Allen, MS, CNS is a health writer and holistic clinical nutritionist in private practice at Montague Integrative Health.*

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## NOTES FROM THE MAHAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### MCAS Scores at Mahar Need Improvement

BY KATIE NOLAN

**ORANGE** – The Mahar school committee met Tuesday, October 6th, and considered Mahar's status in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), costs for state-required work at the Mahar School Pond dam, an invitation to the Franklin School Committee Caucus, school breathalyzer policy, and the Mahar superintendent's decision not to air President Obama's back-to-school speech live.

Superintendent Michael Baldassarre reviewed Mahar's MCAS status. Mahar has not met the state's standard for "adequate yearly progress" in mathematics for four years, and has not met state targets for scores in English language arts either. If "adequate yearly progress" in mathematics is not met for a fifth year, Mahar will be classified by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as a "school in need of restructuring."

Mathematics scores for 7th graders show the greatest need for improvement.

Patricia Smith of Orange commented that K-12 regionalization of Swift River, Petersham, and Orange elementary schools with Mahar could result in a "more rigorous curriculum" that would result in better preparation for incoming 7th graders, and better MCAS scores.

Mahar principal Dr. Paul Goodhind reported the administration is focusing on middle school instruction as a way to improve MCAS results. A new 50-minute per day MCAS preparation period has been added to the middle school schedule.

According to Goodhind, half of this prep time was generated by eliminating 25 minutes of non-instructional time, and the rest from reconfigured instructional scheduling. In addition, the school is using PTS3 software, which provides tests similar to MCAS and analysis of testing results by student, by class, or by teacher. All 7th graders took the PTS3 test in September, and Goodhind and teachers have been studying results to determine which students need the most help, and which of their skills need to be strengthened.

Goodhind said by using this new software, testing results are available within 24 hours and are used to "inform and modify" classroom instruction early in the school year. The 7th graders will take the PTS3 test again in December, and a third time before the annual MCAS testing.

In addition, Goodhind said that at the beginning of the school year, he provided the elementary school MCAS scores for each incoming 7th grader to teachers to allow the teachers to focus on individual student strengths and weaknesses from the outset.

Dick Baldwin of Wendell asked whether the PTS3 testing program would help provide academic substance, rather than "teaching for the test." Baldassarre replied he believes MCAS provides a valid assessment of student skills, and use of the PTS3 testing and analysis program will improve both student skills and MCAS scores.

#### Dam Threat

Mahar facilities manager Tom Bates reported on the state-mandated evaluation of the Mahar School Pond dam. The Phase I inspection of the school pond by Mahar's consultant, GZA Environmental, found the dam is structurally deficient and in poor condition. In September, the state Office of Dam Safety (ODS) responded to the inspection report by classifying the dam as a threat to public safety. ODS is requiring a Phase I follow-up inspection and report by November 2nd, a comprehensive Phase II inspection and investigation by March, 2010, and completion of repair or removal work by March, 2011.

The studies are expected to cost approximately \$32,000 to \$42,000. Actual reconstruction work on the dam could cost as much as \$200,000.

Dana Kennan, committee member of Petersham, remarked the repair or removal cost would need to be approved by each member town, and he doubted a \$200,000 assessment would pass in Petersham.

Bates agreed the dam work could be a "huge budget buster."

#### Committee Caucus

Greenfield school committee

member Keith McCormic invited Mahar committee members to attend the Franklin County School Committee Caucus meeting on Saturday November 7th at Greenfield High School, starting at 8:30 a.m. McCormic said the caucus was formed in response to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) pressure for "forced regionalization." Although he believes, "The state is taking a pass on regionalization for now," he said Franklin County school districts still need to organize to consider regional issues, such as collaboration for cost savings, increasing educational and administrative capacity in each district, making school choice a win/win program for the county as a whole, and advocating for the school districts in Franklin County.

#### Breathalyzer Policy

The committee voted to approve a breathalyzer policy that would allow the principal and deans of students to administer breathalyzer tests to students or their guests while on school property or at a school-sponsored event. If it is determined that a student is under the influence of alcohol, the parent or guardian would be notified and the student would be subject to discipline by the school.

A second approval vote is required in order for the policy to take effect.

Reports from the elementary school committees to the Mahar committee included these items:

- Paul Gervais of the Orange elementary committee reported the Orange elementary district is in financial crisis, and needs to cut \$100,000 from its budget.

- Baldwin reported that Baldassarre had attended the last Swift River Elementary committee meeting, and according to Baldwin, "made a good impression." Baldwin also reported that Swift River is now composting all of its compostable waste, and that the Swift River committee was represented at a recent five-town Union 28 meeting.

#### Obama's Speech

As the committee was about to adjourn, Baldwin observed that New Salem resident Mary-Ann

## A Tour of the Tech School Energy Improvements

BY JOSHUA WATSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – As part of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association's "Green Buildings Open House" on Saturday, the Franklin County Technical School opened its doors to visitors, with a presentation on the recently completed eco-friendly renovations and energy-saving improvements at the school. Franklin Tech will save nearly \$300,000 per year in energy costs as a result of the energy efficiency upgrades.

Rick Lane, superintendent of Franklin County Tech, reported that the cost of the projects, financed over 15 to 20 years through an energy service company (ESCO) performance contract, would be paid for by guaranteed savings in energy costs. Lane said the savings had been "immediate," with the added benefit that renovations to the building had made a significant improvement to air quality in the Tech School.

Aaron Budine, a senior in the plumbing and heating department, displayed improvements to the building's lighting system, including motion sensors and an upgrade to T-5 fluorescent fixtures, which alone save over \$40,000 per year in the school's lighting bill.

Budine also took visitors through the boiler room to show off the new hybrid boiler plant, in which four boilers work in concert with variable frequency drives to provide hot water as needed – a great improvement over the inefficient on-off method of the old plant, which maintained 2,550 gallons of hot water no matter



DAWN MONTAGUE PHOTO

Aaron Budine guided visitors through the energy improvements at the Franklin County Tech School the demand.

The improvements, performed under contract with Siemens Building Technologies, will also provide opportunities for students to study the renewable energy science and methods involved, including photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies.

The open home tour also included a number of stops throughout Montague and Turners Falls, including Tina Clarke's home on Marstons Alley in Montague City, the winner of this year's utility sponsored Massachusetts Zero Energy Challenge competition, built from scratch with energy conservation concerns first in mind. Clarke's home, built on a masonry slab, features double-insulated walls, imported triple-pane windows from Canada, passive solar gain, photovoltaic panels, and numerous other efficiencies, and generates significantly more energy than it consumes.

Palmieri's letter regarding President Obama's back-to-school speech was included in the committee member information packet, but had not been included on the meeting agenda and had not been commented on.

Kennan remarked that this was "a dead issue."

Baldassarre responded he had followed recommendations from the Massachusetts School Superintendents Association and had Obama's speech recorded for replay at a later time for instructional purposes. He said 75% of

Massachusetts schools did this, 17% presented the speech live to the students, and 8% neither presented the speech, nor recorded it. Baldassarre said the decision to replay Obama's speech rather than broadcast it live to the student body was "not political, but educational." He said Mahar had been in session for over a week at the time of the speech, and presenting the speech live would have cut into instructional time.

The next Mahar school committee meeting was set for November 3rd.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Internet Access Picks Up Speed at Town Library

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser came into the September 30th selectboard meeting fresh from downloading his email at the library, where a new antenna installed by AccessPlus has improved access to the internet.

Librarian Rosie Heidekamp confirmed after the meeting that for the last six weeks library patrons in Wendell have been able to take advantage of the new speedier technology, which relies on line of sight transmission between AccessPlus's fiber optic terminal on Mount Tom and a receiver and transmitter installed by a community internet access group in Warwick, on Mount Grace.

"It's still five times slower than the state average," said Heidekamp, "but it is the fastest thing out this way. We used to get daily complaints," from users trying to access the internet. Now that the new antenna has been installed on the library roof, "Complaints have dropped to zero."

But a few minutes into last Wednesday's meeting, planning

board chair Deirdre Cabral came before the selectboard with a concern that the antenna may have been put in place without going through the permitting process required by an existing town bylaw written for cell phone towers.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the system as it is now receives data, but sends it to computers in a small circle, like the wireless router the library and homes in town have with their satellite dishes. Keller said he did not feel the presently installed antenna violates the bylaw.

After the new antenna is tested in a small circle, the plan is to include a repeater and an antenna at the police station, that will send the signal in a wider circle around the town center, as far as a line of sight might allow, and then maybe further, with repeaters to extend the range. Those steps are conceptual at this point, and before they are put into action a hearing will be held before the planning board to re-examine the bylaw.

Pooser has called the difference in strength between a cell phone signal and a wireless internet signal so great as to be like totally different species.

The planning board will hold a hearing on October 20th, to discuss proposed changes, which

would exclude wireless internet signals, and wireless telephone signals from the cell tower bylaw.

Cabral also was concerned that bylaw changes approved at the annual town meeting had not been submitted to the attorney general's office for certification yet. Town clerk Anna Hartjens came to the meeting, and said that new paperwork from the state, and a shortage of staff had delayed her, but the town meeting results were being mailed out October 1st.

The state has a new ethics law that says that all town employees, elected officials, and volunteers must sign to show they have received a copy of the law's summary, and take an on-line test regarding conflict of interest regulations before December 28th, 2009, and every other year thereafter. Employees must give a printed copy of those tests to the clerk, and she has to keep them on file for six years.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley and assessor Tom Mangan met the selectboard to see about reimbursement for sales tax paid by an employee who buys materials for the town with his own money. The town will reimburse the employee for the price of materials, but since municipalities do not pay sales tax, the town will

not reimburse for sales tax the employee might pay. To avoid the out of pocket expense, an employee must buy at a store where the town has an account, and be on an approved list, or make the purchase with a town check.

Keller said, "We really want to have money come from the state to us, not the other way around."

Mangan said the accountant said the town should not reimburse the employee for sales tax expenses, but that repayment is an option. He said the Department of Revenue has allowed the selectboard to vote for reimbursement.

Mangan had come across a 70% sale, and had bought office materials the assessors needed, saving the town about \$30. It was not worth his time to return 40 miles to town to get an official town check, which would have been sufficient to stop the sales tax, so he paid out of pocket. He was repaid for the purchase, but not for the sales tax. The amount of tax was not much, but he felt there should be a policy so employees do not lose money by helping the town.

Manley said, "You never know how unclear the laws are until you try to apply them."

Keller said the selectboard would have to consult with the town auditor, and possibly a lawyer to see what the correct, legal action might be.

Mangan said he was less interested in getting the few dollars back than having a clear policy in place.

Manley then brought up the town personnel policy, which has not been changed since it was written in the 1980s. Issues have recently arisen that do not have a clear answer in the policy. The highway department works four ten-hour days, instead of five eight-hour days a week, during the summer, and as the policy reads now they get shorted when they take a vacation day or holiday in summer. One employee had an extended probationary employment because he was unable to take a required test before the end of the first 90 days, and the policy for that is not clear. The provision for health benefits for spouses and spouses of retirees is also unclear.

Manley suggested a subcom-

mittee ask town departments with employees to survey any problems they have had with the current personnel policy, to review personnel policies of other towns, and to revamp Wendell's and bring the new proposed policy to a hearing.

Jonathan von Ranson met the selectboard to reserve the town hall for a community event on Saturday, October 24th, to acknowledge a global day of climate action. The day is sponsored by 350.org, the organization dedicated to reducing CO2 levels in the Earth's atmosphere to 350 parts per million, the level scientists believe will allow Earth's climate to remain relatively stable. Von Ranson said he was unsure if he would actually need the town hall that day, because his barn might be ready, in which case a barn dance will be held there.

The selectboard agreed to hold the town hall open for that date, and allowed him until the October 14th meeting to finalize plans.

He still has local details to finish before the selectboard can send a letter supporting his low carbon footprint apartment proposal to state legislators and the appropriate state boards.

Katie Nolan, chair of the community garden committee, met the selectboard to reserve the town hall for a garden harvest potluck dinner on Sunday, October 18th at 5:00 p.m. She said the selectboard and agricultural commission members are invited, and formal invitations would go out soon.

Del Williston resigned from the board of registrars, and the

see WENDELL pg 10

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Three Arrests for Breaking and Entering

At 3:33 a.m. on Thursday, October 1st, an East Prospect Street residence was broken into, and larceny of cash and jewelry reported. Three subjects were seen fleeing. At 3:36 a.m. the alarm sounded at the Box Car restaurant and evidence of breaking and entering was found.

At 9:45 a.m. on the same day, [redacted] and [redacted] were arrested and charged with breaking and entering in the night and larceny over \$250. At 4:35 p.m. on the same day, [redacted] was arrested and charged with the same offense. Police confirm the suspects were picked up for the earlier break-ins.

11:05 a.m. Report of erratic operation of a motor vehicle westbound on Route 2 in the Farley Flats area. Stopped same, found to be eating while driving. Spoke to same.

Sunday, 10/4

11:00 p.m. Loose dog found on sidewalk. Spoke to owner, bylaw citation to be issued to owner.

Monday, 10/5

5:50 p.m. Report of a man in distress in the water near French King Bridge. Dive team dispatched. Found to be false alarm, kayaker was resting on a rock.

11:30 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Greenfield Auto. Checked building, all secure and no one around.

Tuesday, 9/29  
11:45 a.m. Assisted JM Electric with moving a piece of equipment.

area of North Street. Located same, advised owner of leash law and penalties of violations of bylaw.

issued to a father allowing his son to operate an ATV without a helmet on High Street.

11:47 a.m. Report from a North Street resident regarding theft of mail. Several pieces of mail have been missing over the last three months.

Wednesday, 9/30  
12:35 p.m. Report of suspicious person a Northfield Road address. Checked same, all OK.

6:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on West Main Street, assisted same. Subjects were fishing without valid MA fishing licenses. Advised of same and issued verbal warnings.

1:00 p.m. Report of loose, white pit bull dog in the

Friday, 10/2  
6:10 p.m. Verbal warning

Saturday, 10/3

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## BRICK & MORTAR INTERNATIONAL VIDEO ART FESTIVAL

*Saturday, October 10th, 2 p.m. to midnight*

**GREENFIELD** – This Saturday, ten of the historic buildings currently undergoing restoration in downtown Greenfield will be open to the public for a free video art festival. Video art installations will transform both the interiors and exteriors of these interesting buildings into mini-museums and galleries.

Natasha Becker, Mellon Assistant Director in the Research and Academic Program at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, will

curate the exhibit. There will be a selection of contemporary video art installations by national and international artists – some emerging, some well-known. GCC will participate with a special student exhibition.

The installations will be located at the Mix & Match Building, 30 Olive Street; Studio Junction, 56 Bank Row; Ponds & Siano Block, 21-23 & 25 Bank Row; First National Bank Building, 9 Bank Row; Allen Block, 3 Bank Row;

Greenfield Garden Cinema, 361 Main Street; Pushkin Building, 332 Main Street; Arts Block, 289 Main Street; GCC Downtown Campus, 270 Main Street; and the American House – Wilson's, 258 Main Street.

The festival is made possible with the support of Greenfield Community College, Greenfield Business Association, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Conjunction Arts and the building owners. For more information call (413) 774-2791



*Video Art will be popping up in downtown Greenfield this Saturday.*

### VOTING from page 1

Bourbeau had an answer for that concern. "Most people drive," she said.

The upcoming statewide primary election on December 8th (to determine candidates to run in a special election in January to fill the late Edward Kennedy's Senate seat) could be the first try-out for the new polling station.

The selectboard, with Patricia Allen absent, voted to table the proposed polling station change until their next meeting, October 17th, before deciding on the requested move. The delay will give the selectboard a chance to hear from affected residents and investigate the matter first hand.

"I'm hesitant, because I grew up down there," said selectboard member Mark Fairbrother.

Bourbeau needs a decision at least 20 days prior to an election so she can send a letter out to the affected voters, notifying them of the change in polling locations.

After the meeting, the town clerk explained, "It's not that I want to move people out of their comfort zone. Precinct 6 is the one precinct that is largely out of compliance," with ADA requirements, as detailed in a 2004 review of the town's polling stations conducted by the Massachusetts Office on Disability. That report also found problems with handicapped parking at the Highland School in Millers Falls (Precinct 2), and at Hillcrest School (Precincts 3 and 4), and improper slope and landing dimensions for the access ramp at the senior center on Fourth Street (Precinct 5).

"Handicapped voters should

be able to access the polls totally independently," Bourbeau said.

The move from Precinct 1's village center polling station at the Montague Center Library to the fire station on Old Sunderland Road brought that precinct into ADA compliance for polling, but caused a bit of a furor in January of 2008. The move was criticized as making it more difficult for Montague Center residents to walk to the polls, or to notice

Abbondanzio received the Massachusetts Highway bridge ratings for the town of Montague. Eighteen bridges, located within the town, rated either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Six are state highway bridges and fall under the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's jurisdiction. But the remaining 12 are town bridges, and will need work in the coming years.

According to the American

bridge is unsafe for use, but it must have limits for both speed and weight due to deteriorated structural components.

Town bridges indicated in the report as structurally deficient include the Center Street Bridge and the South Street Bridge, both of which cross the Sawmill River in Montague Center, along with a bridge on North Leverett Road.

If a bridge is considered too dangerous then it is closed to traf-

some vehicle sizes or weights. Both the 11th Street Bridge and the 6th Street Bridge, which cross over the canal in Turners, are rated functionally obsolete.

Some repair work will begin within 90 to 120 days on the General Pierce Bridge between Montague City and Greenfield. Built in 1947, the steel truss bridge will receive deck repairs by SPS of New England, out of Salisbury, MA. The work on that bridge will take up to a year to complete.

Meanwhile, preliminary work may get started on the \$40.7 million Gill-Montague Bridge repair, but the major reconstruction work on that bridge will wait until the General Pierce Bridge work is completed, probably later in the 2010 construction season, Abbondanzio said.

During the four to five year course of construction on the Gill-Montague Bridge, traffic on that artery will be limited to one way from Gill heading west towards Montague, and traffic leaving Turners for Route 2 and Gill will exit by the White Bridge to Greenfield. Truck traffic on the White Bridge will be limited to loads of five tons or less, Abbondanzio said.

He added the town is seeking to rent space to the contractor, SPS, in the former town hall basement offices of the police department for the duration of construction on the two bridges.

Other rooms in the former police station will now be used by the Montague parks and recreation department, and for document storage for the treasurer collectors office and town clerk.



### Fallen Arch

*On Tuesday, the Prospect Bridge still described its graceful curve above Spring Street. By Wednesday, it had been reduced to rubble, and memory, making way for new construction.*

signs saying Voting Today. But Bourbeau said the move to the fire station has come to be accepted in that village.

#### Bridge Work

In infrastructure news, town administrator Frank

Society of Civil Engineers, 'structurally deficient' indicates the bridge in question is in need of maintenance, rehabilitation, or (as in the case of the Prospect Street Bridge, above) replacement. The rating of structurally deficient does not mean the

fic; the former Greenfield Road Bridge is an example of such a bridge.

A functionally obsolete bridge has older design features and, while it is not unsafe for all vehicles, it cannot safely accommodate current traffic volumes,

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# Study Shows No Fiscal Benefit to K-12 Regionalization



Farshid Hajir, chair of the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**LEVERETT** – In the run-up to town meeting’s discussion of the issue of school regionalization on October 20th, a study conducted by a four-town regionalization group for Leverett, Shutesbury, Pelham and Amherst has concluded, “There are no significant savings over all for a regional K-12 system,” according to Farshid Hajir, chair of the Amherst-Pelham regional school committee.

Asked why, then, the topic of regionalization was coming to the floor of town meeting at this time, Farshid Hajir, who is also a member of the Leverett school committee, and of the regionalization study group that will present its findings at a meeting tonight at Amherst High, said the answer was quite simple.

“The only thing driving the discussion is state pressure on school committees to consider regionalizing,” said Hajir.

He said the push to regionalize reached Leverett through the Franklin County Public Schools Project, chaired by Greenfield Community College president Robert Pura, which gathered representatives from public school districts across the county to consider cost efficiencies and educa-

tional benefits that might be gained by collaboration or merging of school districts. This group floated the idea of forming one countywide school district for Franklin County public schools, which caused consternation in towns like Leverett and Shutesbury.

“A single Franklin County school district of which Leverett would be a part would mean severing our ties with the Amherst-Pelham regional schools,” where students from Shutesbury and Leverett attend middle school and high school, Hajir said. “That is an unwelcome possibility for most people in town.”

This prompted the formation of a four-town regionalization study group for Amherst, Pelham, Shutesbury and Leverett, to look into the possibility of the elementary schools of the latter two towns, which have been members of elementary school Union #28 since 1901 with the towns of Erving, Wendell and New Salem, to consider breaking their historic ties to those towns and joining with Amherst and Pelham in a K-12 district.

Hajir summarized the study group’s findings: “There are no significant savings for a regional K-12 system, nor even for a restructuring of the union system,” (whereby Shutesbury and Leverett might join Union 26 with Amherst and Pelham, keeping their own school committees and running their own elementary schools). “Under no restructuring proposal among the four towns have we found financial imperatives,” he said.

He said Leverett currently appears to have no trouble offering a full range of educational opportunities to its elementary students, or its middle and high school students, under the present

hybrid arrangement with the two districts: Union 28 and Amherst-Pelham.

“From a Leverett perspective, there is no reason,” to pursue a major change in the present educational arrangement, Hajir said.

Leverett school committee chair Kip Fonsh agreed with this assessment.

Fonsh called the informal discussion at town meeting “an opportunity to bring the larger community up to date on what is happening – or more specifically what is not happening – on the issue of school regionalization, nothing more.”

“From my standpoint,” Fonsh continued, “if the initiative at the state level that began approximately 18 to 20 months ago had never occurred, it’s not likely we would be having this conversation. The community is very, very pleased, they are very content, they *revere* the elementary school. They view it as an institution that does remarkably well by its students, and it’s been that way since 1976 at least, when I first moved here.”

Looking back, Fonsh said, “Leverett is sort of at the center of two sides of the storm.” About a year and half ago, “there began to filter out of Boston, from various sources, including Senator Stan Rosenberg, the governor’s office, and the department of education, a desire to see school districts, particularly in Franklin County, come up with a different way of configuring themselves. That was a pretty loud ‘Thump!’ Many of us perceived this as kind of an implied threat, that if we didn’t do something, they were going to do something for us.

“Leverett is in Franklin County,” Fonsh continued, “but it also has a relationship with a regional school district in Hampshire County. So certain

things were going on there that put pressure on us as well, as they are talking about moving sixth graders to the middle school.”

Consequently, Fonsh said, people in Leverett have been asking, “What’s happening to us?” and “How are we going to respond?”

Hajir said when the idea of moving sixth graders to the middle school was raised, concerns about the academic performance and behavior of students in the Amherst Middle School were placed in the balance against the idea that parental buy-in to a middle school community might increase if students remained there for three grades, rather than two, perhaps reducing demonstrable negative impacts of transitioning between schools. Studies showing sixth graders are developmentally more suited to and do better educationally in a middle school environment were countered by similar studies with contrary outcomes.

Even the question of how early Leverett sixth graders would have to get up in the morning to attend school in Amherst was raised as an argument against the proposal.

But Hajir said for now the proposed expansion of the middle school has been relegated to “the back burner,” while the regionalization discussion plays out.

He said from the perspective of the Amherst-Pelham district, where he serves as school committee chair, a K-12 region incorporating Shutesbury and Leverett’s schools could lead to “administrative streamlining, and ease of administration for the central office,” where superintendent Alberto Rodriguez presently has to work with three different school committees. There is the possibility that K-12

regionalization could lead to more coherence in school curricula within the four towns’ schools, but Hajir called this benefit a “theoretical construct,” rather than a known benefit to students’ educations.

Fonsh said even as the pressure from the state has receded, with an expected bill from the governor on regionalization failing to materialize, the discussions held locally among and between districts has had positive side effects. Each district, including Union #28, has looked harder for ways to become more fiscally self-sufficient, Fonsh said.

He also noted, with some irony, that the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education had supplied grant funds to study the efficacy of regionalization, and of those studies, four completed locally: in Frontier, Hadley-Hatfield, Mahar, and now Amherst-Pelham, have “every one concluded on the basis of their analyses regionalization would not be a cost savings move.”

For his part, Amherst-Pelham superintendent Rodriguez has met recently with the selectboard in Shutesbury, and he will be visiting the Leverett selectboard on Monday, October 19th, at 7:00 p.m. to pursue the discussion of K-12 regionalization, and related issues, a day before the special town meeting.

But in all of these discussions, Hajir said, hovering in the background is the fear that “smaller towns would lose budgetary control over their elementary school, which is the center of the community. That is a very large concern for the citizens of Leverett.”

No doubt, they will bring that concern, and many more, to the floor of town meeting on October 20th, 7 p.m. Fittingly, that meeting will take place in the heart of the community – in the elementary school cafeteria.

## LUNCH from page 1

rewarded with a free cup after nine purchases. The twist is that MacCartney maintains a three-ring binder with a page for each customer, so you never have to keep track of that pesky punch card. Her book now has over 700 names!

Responding to patron requests, MacCartney has increased seating, so wireless internet access is used more often, and the shop feels more like a cafe. In addition, the small sunroom easily seats eight or more, so groups have been hold-

ing informal meetings there, with a removable door installed if privacy is needed.

Food choices have expanded to appeal to a broader range of appetites. Adams Donuts are still delivered daily from Greenfield, but a pastry cabinet has been added to house the homemade muffins and cookies baked on site. In addition, bagel breakfast sandwiches are made to order, and a bag lunch program has been introduced. Customers can call in advance, 863-0033, or place their orders while picking up their morning coffee. A bag lunch includes a

sandwich, beverage, chips and a snack. Homemade soups are made Monday through Thursday, and Burrito Friday is a weekly lunch event.

MacCartney tries to purchase local and organic foods wherever possible, and even makes her own simple syrup using organic sugar. Future plans include installing an espresso machine, as financing allows.

The shop, located just up Main Road from Route 2 in Gill, is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## A Chamber Pot, Turnips and a Sleigh

BY LILLIAN FISKE

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – What do these three things have in common, and what do you suppose they have to do with the Montague Center Library?

Read on, from this anonymous piece of local history written sometime in the late 1930s.

“In 1867, the citizens of the town became interested in a public library and decided to hold a fair [to raise funds]. A committee was chosen consisting of W. W.

Thayer, Thaxter Shaw, E. B. Burnham, and Isaac Chenery, who canvassed the town and took anything that the farmers or anyone else could give. They realized 636 dollars.

“A committee was then chosen consisting of Rev. Norton, Rev. David Cronen, Dr. E. A. Dean, W. W. Thayer, Thaxter Shaw, Isaac Chenery, and R. N. Oakman to see if the town would accept the money and furnish a place for the library. At the March 1869 town see **LIBRARY** pg 13

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## Tag Sale to Benefit Women's Resource Center

**TURNERS FALLS**— A tag sale of outdoor tools donated by Rugg Manufacturing to benefit the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center will be held at the Montague highway garage, 500 Avenue A extension, in Turners Falls this Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Columbus Day weekend, October 10th, 11th and 12th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. A large assortment of factory seconds and discontinued items will be offered: rakes, snow shovels, and gardening tools.

The Women's Center is grateful to the organizers, and hopes the sale will be an opportunity for many people in the community to purchase equipment for their household needs at bargain prices, while supporting the Women's Center.

The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center (TFWRC), a project of Montague Catholic Social Ministries and the Women's Resource Centers of Western Massachusetts, is located at 41 3rd Street in Turners Falls. Open hours are from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The Center is open to all women over 18. Its mission is to provide a safe place for women to build community and support one another. The Center houses a computer center, reference library, and other resources, and an abundance of activities from art and craft making supplies to writing courses, peer-mentoring and, of course, coffee.

The Women's Center is

embarking on a year long series of programs funded by the town of Montague Community Development Block Grant, Montague Catholic Social Ministries, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Springfield. It will offer women in the community the opportunity to learn webpage design skills, how to manage a budget, prepare for a return to the workplace, a change in career, a chance to improve communication and

English or Spanish language skills, as well as training in how to develop original program offerings for the community through its Bridge to Success program. In all of the programs, confidence is built through community and individual support to assure participants' success.

To find out more about these and other programs of the Women's Resource Center, call coordinator Christine Diani at (413) 863-2455, or email christine.mcsm@verizon.net.

### MOVE from page 1

part of their Movement for Self-Determination film series.

On Saturday, October 17th, the film will also be shown at the Latchis Theater in downtown Brattleboro, VT. Start time will be 4:30 p.m. and the film screening will be followed by discussion with Ramona Africa and the filmmakers.

The Saturday event is sponsored by Vermont Action for Political Prisoners. (VAPP) works for the freedom and amnesty of all U.S. held politi-

cal prisoners and prisoners of war.

*MOVE* is narrated by Boston University professor emeritus Howard Zinn, and made its debut at numerous film festivals throughout the United States in 2004.

For more information about the Friday event, email gillgarden@riseup.net or call (413) 863-9197.

For the Saturday event, contact Jacob Leach of VAPP at (802)275-8133 or



### WENDELL from pg 7

selectboard appointed Debbie Lewis as her replacement.

The federal Department of the Interior is asking Wendell to send two representatives to the National Scenic Trails Stewardship Council. The first meeting will be in Amherst, October 14th. Open space committee chair Marianne Sundell recommended Don Chapelle as one representative. Selectboard chair Christine Heard suggested the other should be someone whose land holds a portion of the Metacomet-Monadnock trail, though she added most of the trail through Wendell runs on state land.

The town received four proposals for insulating the town hall, varying in price from \$5,850 to \$14,150, but it seemed to Keller the proposals were not "comparing apples to apples," and that before one was accepted it was necessary to look more closely at each one.

The selectboard approved the

lower of two bids it received, \$800 from Tri County Construction, to make three wrap-around 5/4 pine shelves for recycling in the town office building. The building fund still has enough money left to cover the cost.

The selectboard accepted the low bid of \$2,225 from Greenfield Glass for replacing two of the high fixed windows in the town office vestibule with windows that open and close, to vent excess summer heat. With the fixed windows, the temperature in the vestibule rises above 100 degrees by 8:00 in the morning on some sunny days, and on days no one works in the building, the heat cooks the control panel that operates the fire alarm and building thermostats.

Keller said the highway department was unwilling to move the old generator, superseded by a smaller, more efficient unit outside the building, to Pine Brook Camp because they were not contacted when the town and the camp made the

arrangements. The highway department can foresee possible uses for the old generator.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she would contact Pine Brook Camp to see if they can make arrangements for moving it.

A Rush Road property owner complained about boulders across the road that deny him vehicle access to his land. Keller said the town discontinued the road, but it still may be a legal county road. Aldrich said she would check with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to find out. It was not the Wendell highway department that placed the boulders, and Heard suggested the Audubon Society may have placed them there. Keller suggested sending the landowner a letter from the town apologizing for the difficulty, but since Audubon owns the land on either side of the discontinued road, they have the right to close the entrance.



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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG Jogger Struck By Vehicle

**Wednesday, 8/12**

8:15 p.m. Medical emergency at Ruggles Pond building area. Transported individual to Baystate Franklin Medical Center for evaluation.

**Saturday, 8/15**

Report of fireworks on Farley Road. Officer responded and spoke with subjects.

**Saturday, 8/15**

Wendell fire truck had a minor incident with two other vehicles while leaving Old Home Day festivities. Officer handled it.

**Sunday, 8/16**

Assault reported by a Lockes Village Road resident. Wendell police and Massachusetts state troopers responded.

**Thursday, 8/20**

Resident reported possible identity theft.

**Thursday, 8/20**

Custody dispute at a Farley Road address. Investigated probate court orders and performed welfare check.

**Friday, 8/21**

Report of breaking and entering at a Depot Road address. Three windows broken, nothing taken.

**Saturday, 8/22**

Report of possible theft of money and credit card from a vehicle parked on Mormon Hollow brook. Card later used in Athol.

**Tuesday, 8/25**

A Checkerberry Lane resident reported feeling harassed by a helicopter fly

ing over his residence. Referred to Athol headquarters of MA state police.

**Thursday, 9/10**

Welfare check request at a Montague Road address, responded to residence. No one home and no vehicle around. Accompanied by fire chief.

**Saturday, 9/26**

Responded to an accident on Mormon Hollow Road. A jogger was struck by a motor vehicle. Orange ambulance transported victim to landing zone on Jackie Lane. Victim transported by Life Flight to Baystate Medical Center.

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# County Towns Consider Joint Purchase of Highway Equipment

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**ERVING** – On Monday morning, October 5th, the town of Erving hosted a meeting of town administrators and highway superintendents from around East County to talk about the possibility of sharing the purchase of specialized highway equipment, like road sweepers, sewer vacuum trucks, or bucket trucks for roadside tree trimming.

The meeting was called after a survey of town highway department needs initiated by

the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments. The FRCOG has received a \$150,000 technical assistance grant from the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

But Bob Dean, director of regional services for the COG, made it clear this is one regionalization effort being driven by the localities, not the state, and Franklin County is once again in the forefront of experimentation and change.

“We are entering into this

with no pre-conceived notions. Our aim is to help provide value to the process, so towns can see savings in the long run,” said Dean, a former Buckland town administrator.

He said the COG was instrumental in organizing a conference in Worcester last month, under the auspices of the state Department of Revenue and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies, to bring together regional planners

see **PURCHASE** pg 14

## MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER



### Lake Pleasant Energy Saving Workshop

**BY CHRIS MASON** – Find out how you can save up to \$2,000 on insulation and home energy upgrades, and enter a drawing to win a new high-efficiency gas furnace, at a free workshop sponsored by the Montague Energy Committee, Saturday, October 10th, from 9:45 a.m. to noon, at the National Spiritual Alliance Meeting Hall, on Montague Avenue, in Lake Pleasant.

This is the first of two free

fall energy saving workshops organized by the MEC, where you can learn how to seal air leaks, insulate your home, and receive up to \$2,000 on insulation and home energy upgrades. The second workshop will be on November 7th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Brick House, 24 Third Street, in Turners Falls.

Both workshops are open to any resident of Montague. For more information on either event, call 367-9923

## Red Sox Face Angels in Division Series

**BY LEE CARIGNAN**  
**MONTAGUE** – Autumn is here, the leaves are changing, and the Boston Red Sox are in the playoffs. This is becoming an annual event for the Red Sox, to the satisfaction of their fans. The Sox have made the playoffs every year this decade except for 2002 and 2006, and have won two championships, in 2004 and 2007.

The Yankees won the American League East, so the Red Sox, who finished the regular season with a record of 95-67, had to get in the playoffs as a wild-card this year. In 2004, the Red Sox were also a wild-card team and went on to win the World Series.

fought to try to win the division right up to the last day of the season. They did not get to rest their players and have their pitching set up for the playoffs, and were swept by the Chicago White Sox in the Division Series, 3-0.

The Red Sox have announced that John Lester will be their Game One starter. The left-hander has been their most consistent pitcher this year. Lester was 15-8 with a 3.41 ERA in 203 innings during the regular season.

year, but has had some time off, which hopefully will benefit him in the playoffs. Beckett was 8-0 this season when he pitched on extra rest. The Sox will need him at his best if they hope to win another championship this year.

Clay Buchholz has been penciled in as the Game Three starter, at Fenway Park. Buchholz was 7-4 with a 4.21 ERA this year. The Red Sox have not announced their Game 4 starter yet, but it is expected to be Daisuke Matsuzaka. Matsuzaka was 4-6 with a 5.76 ERA, but was much better after returning to the club in August.



Starting Lester in Game One was a somewhat surprising move, because Josh Beckett has been Boston's ace pitcher over the last three years. Beckett will pitch Game 2. The big right-hander was 17-6, with a 3.86 ERA, in the regular season. Beckett was not healthy in the playoffs last year, which cost the Sox a trip to the World Series, losing to the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in the American League Championship Series. Beckett has been struggling with back spasms down the stretch this

The Los Angeles Angels finished with a record of 97-65, winning the American League West Division. However, tragedy has struck the Angels twice this year. The Angels special assistant to the general manager died of injuries sustained when he was hit by a car on January 13th. Then, on April 9th rookie pitcher Nick Adenhardt was killed in a car accident after pitching six shutout innings in a game against the Oakland A's. The other driver in the accident was intoxicated: twice the legal limit. As a tribute to Adenhardt, and to keep his memory alive,

his teammates have been assigning a locker at home and on road games with his jersey in it.

The Angels ranked second in all of major league baseball with 883 runs scored. The Red Sox were third, with 872. The Angels collectively hit .285, with 173 home runs this season, and are led by first baseman Kendry Morales: 34 HR, 108 RBI, .306 AVG., and Juan Rivera 25 HR, 88 RBI, and .287 AVG. However the Angels pitching ranked 9th in the American League in team ERA, at 4.45. Their pitching rotation consists of Jered Weaver 16-8, Jo Saunders 16-7, John Lackey 11-8, and Scott Kazmir 10-9.

This should be a tough matchup for the Red Sox this year. This is arguably the Angels' deepest team in recent years, and they are playing with a lot of emotion because of their fallen comrades. This should be a great series, and it could easily go five games.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Sex Offense Reports in Millers, Turners

**Wednesday, 9/30**

8:19 a.m. Report of vandalism at Hillside Plastics on Millers Falls Road.  
 8:51 a.m. Report of vandalism at an East Chestnut Hill Road address.  
 3:00 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering in the public parking lot, Third Street.  
**Thursday, 10/1**  
 1:24 p.m. Report of sex offense, exposure, around the village of Millers Falls. Referred to other police.  
 3:20 p.m. Report of assault

at a G Street address.  
 7:13 p.m. Walk-in to station report of forged paperwork. Referred to other police.  
 7:30 p.m. Report of a hit and run accident on Oakman Street.  
 7:39 p.m. Report of a hit and run accident on Montague Street.  
 8:52 p.m. Report of sex offenses in the alleyway between Shea Theater and Jay K's Liquor store on Avenue A. Unable to locate.  
 8:54 p.m. Report of van-

dalism at an East Main Street address.  
 9:08 p.m. Report of illegal dumping off Northfield Road in the Montague Plains. Referred to an officer.  
**Friday, 10/2**  
 10:07 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a G Street address. Investigated.  
 10:51 a.m. Report of a restraining order violation at a Fourth Street address.  
**Saturday, 10/3**  
 11:53 a.m. Report of illegal dumping in the area of

Millers Falls Road and Lake Pleasant Road.  
 6:10 p.m. Report of assault and battery at a Fifth Street address. Subject removed to hospital.  
**Sunday, 10/4**  
 9:12 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Griswold Street address. Services rendered.  
 11:24 a.m. Report of a fight outside on Fourth Street. Investigated.  
 5:56 p.m. 911 abandoned call from an H Street address. Arrested [redacted] Charged with disorderly conduct.

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**GAS STATION** from pg 1

In discussion leading up to the vote, citizens voiced concern for future generations, who would bear the consequences of decisions made now.

We have a "long term responsibility to our children and to our grandchildren," said Joe Graveline, a Northfield resident who presented statistics of petroleum contamination at a Northfield Mobil station, where unreported spills over a period of three decades required the removal of tons of soil and thousands of gallons of groundwater, and a half-million dollar price tag for the ongoing clean-up. Graveline said, "Human error and repeated surface spills can cause problems equivalent to a single large rupture of fuel tanks. There are disincentives for owners to report small-scale spills. And although Northfield residents were continually reassured

as to the quality of their drinking water, these unreported spills accumulated to a point where over one thousand tons of soil are now contaminated."

Ralph Semb appealed to a sense of history, continuity and community service, telling how the proposed site (the former home of the Countree Living Restaurant) has been used from the 1940s till the present time. The property has been the site of numerous businesses over the years, even, at one time, a Richland gas station. Semb argued that current technology has improved considerably since the Northfield Mobil station was built, and would be adequate to prevent and detect spills.

Comments from the floor suggested that since Erving already has two existing fuel tanks in the aquifer zone, at the town garage and state highway garage, a third site for fuel dispensing in the zone should be

acceptable.

Selectboard chair Andy Tessier replied those two tanks are not operated by the general public, but by fire, police and state highway professionals, and would therefore presumably be less prone to spillage. Also, Tessier continued, the two tanks are located down-gradient of the town's well, whereas the proposed gas station site was uphill from the well, where spills could flow toward the town's water supply.

Bill Bembury seemed to sum up the opponents' position when he said, "We are playing Russian roulette with our drinking water." He added that a spill contaminating the Erving side water supply would not affect homeowners' wells in Erving Center, where he lives, but it could have a negative impact on property values all over town.

Townpeople voted by secret ballot. When the votes were counted, and the motion declared defeated, Eric Semb shook his head, and commented later that more education was needed to convince people of the fail-safe features of new gas station technology.

Another controversial article on the ballot was a proposed bylaw change to permit drive-through restaurants within the central village commercial district. This planning board proposal was modified from its original form, which would have allowed drive-through restaurants only within a small neigh-

borhood commercial district along Route 2 in Erving side. Because only one property owner, the Semb family, would have apparently benefited from that change, it might have given rise to a charge of spot zoning and failed to gain approval from the attorney general's office..

Planning board member Jacquie Boyden proposed amending the motion to enlarge the scope of the bylaw change, to allow drive-through restaurants anywhere within the central village district, in Erving side and Erving Center.

Planning board chair Jeff Dubai, speaking against the proposal, said, "This is even worse."

Noting the town had banned drive-throughs as a way of preserving the rural, historic character of Erving, Dubai said the expanded motion would open the door to a "cluster" of drive-through fast food restaurants. He added some local businesses would then be forced to compete against others who would have the advantage of a drive through window.

The only disruptive moment came when some supporters of the measure booed Dubai. Stan Gradowski took the microphone and asked Dubai, "Are you accusing the Sembs of putting the Box Car out of business?"

At this point moderator Richard Peabody stepped in to remind the audience that personal attacks were not acceptable. "We are the gold standard by

which people run town meetings," said Peabody, asking the audience to behave accordingly.

Eric Semb spoke in support of the proposal, extolling the virtues of drive-throughs.

"You never have to get out of your car," he said.

He pointed out the elderly and parents with children in child safety seats would find this an advantage. He also indicated the drive-through restaurant would be built in a tasteful manner, preserving Erving's rural character.

Despite these assurances the proposed article as amended failed to pass: the vote was 114 for, and 61 against, missing the required two thirds majority by one vote.

In other matters, voters supported a number of proposed articles: one would permit the planning board to hire outside consultants to advise the board in complex projects. Another would increase the police budget by \$10,000, to compensate the police chief and other officers for a temporary increase in their workload, due to the departure of one of Erving's police officers. Another \$20,000 was approved to send a part-time police officer from the force to the police academy. In exchange, the officer would be contractually obligated to work for the town for a period of three years.

Another \$6,000 was approved to conduct the special election to fill the senate seat left vacant by the death of Sen. Edward Kennedy. These funds may be reimbursed by the state, in which case the monies would be transferred to the general fund.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Tai Chi for Seniors

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. They're starting a tai chi class at our senior center. Do you think this is worth taking?

Tai chi (tie-chee) has helped many people feel better. However, you should check with your doctor first to see if this form of exercise is okay for you.

Tai chi is practiced all across China, where it was developed in the 12th century. It's common in Chinese hospitals and clinics. In Asia, tai chi is considered to be

the most beneficial exercise for older people, because it is gentle and can be modified easily if a person has health limitations.

Tai chi began as a martial art and evolved into a series of fluid movements that relax and stimulate the body and mind. Tai chi is based on chi (or qi), vital energy that is believed to flow throughout the body and regulate a person's physical, spiritual, emotional and mental balance.

Advocates of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), say chi is affected by yin (negative energy) and yang (positive energy). When the flow of chi is disrupted and yin and yang are unbalanced, the condition leads to pain and disease, according to TCM.

A person doing tai chi progresses slowly and gracefully

through a series of movements while breathing deeply and meditating. Tai chi has been called moving meditation. The entire body is always in motion during tai chi. All the movements are performed at one speed.

Tai chi can include dozens of movements. The simplest style of tai chi is limited to 12 movements. These include such colorful names such as grasp bird's tail, carry tiger to the mountain and step back to repulse monkey.

Research suggests that tai chi may offer many benefits that include: reduced stress, anxiety and depression; improved flexibility, strength, balance and coordination that lead to fewer falls; improved sleep; reduced bone loss in women after menopause; lower blood pressure; better cardiovascular fitness; relief of

chronic pain and stiffness, and higher immunity to shingles.

Reducing the number of falls is especially important to seniors because falls in older people can be serious. We heal more slowly as we age. And, osteoporosis, arthritis, and weak cardiopulmonary systems can delay rehabilitation and prevent full recovery.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 33 percent of Americans age 65 or older have at least one serious fall each year. About 60 percent of falls occur at home during normal daily activities. With seniors leading increasingly active lifestyles, hip fractures have steadily increased.

Tai chi is generally a safe activity, but you can hurt yourself if you don't do it properly. It's possible you could strain

yourself or overdo it when first learning. The best way to learn tai chi is from a qualified tai chi instructor. Tai chi class are offered at not only senior centers, but at the Ys, health clubs, and community centers.

If you want to learn at home, you can get tai chi instructional videos. You can also learn online at:

[http://hprc.stanford.edu/pages/classes/005\\_taichi/default.htm](http://hprc.stanford.edu/pages/classes/005_taichi/default.htm)

This is a website operated by the Stanford Health Promotion Resource Center at the Stanford University School of Medicine in California. This website includes film clips and text to teach tai chi. I'm studying tai chi online myself.

If you have a question, please write to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com)

### LIBRARY from page 9

meeting, it was voted that the town accept the library and provide a place for it, lighted and heated when necessary, [and] also provide a librarian who should open the library room for the delivery of books not less than one hour per week, [and] that a fee of one dollar a year be charged each family in town for the use of books.

"The library is in the town hall building, a brick building built in 1858 facing the town common. There have been three librarians during the nearly 70 years as a town library.

"Miss Aloney Chenery was the first librarian chosen, and served until 1881, when ill health compelled her to give up the work she loved. Miss Kate Armstrong was next chosen, and served faithfully for 38 years. Miss Haden, the present librarian, was appointed in 1918, having been assistant to Miss Armstrong for several years.

"The library is open three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. It is also open two noon hours for the convenience of the children who come to the school in buses, that would have no other method of reaching the library.

"There are over 9000 volumes on the shelves, and 565 registered borrowers and the average circulation is around 1000. We have a very fine reference monthly collection and also Polish and French collections. The library and school cooperate by having

special shelves for school reading and by lending books to be used at the school.

"The magazines include thirty titles, with special care given to the selections that all may be served. The Montague library is supported by town appropriation and its administration is in the hands of trustees. It is interesting to note that Miss Mary A. Deane, a valued member of the trustees, is a daughter of Dr. E. A. Deane, one of the founders.

"The volumes include religion, sociology, science, useful arts, travel, history, biography, fiction and children's books.

"Some interesting incidents in the history of the library were found in an old notebook belonging to Isaac Chenery, and presented to the library by Miss Fannie Chenery, in the way which the money was raised to start the library, dated Dec. 11th, 1868.

"A chamber set was given, and also an extension table, one pair steers, one sheep, 17 wallets, one shawl, one barrel cider, one sleigh, one bureau, 25 hens, five turkeys, turnips, potatoes, rye, chickens, corn, lumber oak wood, one side sole leather, brooms. Lottery chances were sold on these articles, and 236 dollars was realized."

I have no clue who wrote this history of the library; the paper is not dated. It must have been written after I started school in 1929, as I remember walking to the library when it was open for the bus children to borrow books.



### MCTV Channel 17 Afternoon/Evening Schedule 10/9 - 10/15

visit [www.montagueTV.org](http://www.montagueTV.org) for complete schedule

<b>Friday, October 9</b>	2:00 p.m. Discovery Center: Northern Bats	8:00 a.m. Seabrook 1977.	8:00 p.m. Gill Select Board 10/13/09
12:30 p.m. Both Sides of the Bridge	3:00 p.m. Dodging The Bow	9:30 a.m. Friends present Fall town string band	<b>Thursday, October 15</b>
1:30 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson "Big Fat Lie"	5:00 p.m. Exploring New Worlds in New England	11:30 a.m. 9/11 Blueprint For Truth	8:00 a.m. All About Bats
2:30 p.m. Child and Family: Children's Mental Health	5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market 09	1:30 p.m. A funny thing happened on the way to the moon	8:30 a.m. An Afternoon of Music with Daniel Clarke
3:00 p.m. Montague Update MontagueMA Net	6:00 p.m. Falls Table Michaelangelo "Gnocchi with Shrimp"	2:30 p.m. Rosner Car Show	10:30 a.m. Both Sides of the Bridge
4:00 p.m. Charlie Conant and The Green River Band	6:30 p.m. Independent Voices #50	3:30 p.m. Seabrook 1977.	11:30 a.m. Masters of the Universe
6:00 p.m. Common Man Denise Grendan	7:00 p.m. Finance Committee 10/7/09	5:00 p.m. Green by 2015	12:30 p.m. Montague Update MontagueMA Net
7:00 p.m. GMRSD District Wide Budget Meeting 9/30/09	9:30 p.m. Francis Doughty	5:30 p.m. Independent Voices #47	1:30 p.m. Naturalist Laurie Sanders
9:00 p.m. Gill Select Board 9/28/09 I	10:30 p.m. Franklin County Matters Franklin County Home Care Corp	6:00 p.m. Montague Update MontagueMA Net	2:30 p.m. Baystate Healthbeat October 2009
<b>Saturday, October 10</b>	<b>Monday, October 12</b>	7:00 p.m. GMRSD (Live)	3:00 p.m. Chainsaw Massacre
12:44 p.m. Two Gentlemen of Verona	12:30 p.m. Proud to be a Mason	8:00 a.m. Silly Wizard "Polar Cartoon"	4:00 p.m. Mark Beaubian: Biomass Plant
1:30 p.m. TWB Growing a Green Community	1:00 p.m. Rosner Car Show	8:30 a.m. Songs For Wee People	5:00 p.m. Mercy Medical Airlift
2:30 p.m. Turkey Day Game 2008	2:00 p.m. Finance Committee 10/7/09	9:30 a.m. Surviving the Vernon Reactor	6:00 p.m. TF Block Party 2009
5:00 p.m. Underground Railway Concert 07	4:30 p.m. Reconciliation Ceremony	10:30 a.m. Tapping Maple Ridge	7:00 p.m. Select Board 10/5/09
6:30 p.m. Valley Idol Finals	5:00 p.m. Senior Center: Ruth Harcovitz	11:30 a.m. the epics at the vous	8:00 p.m. Montague Update MontagueMA Net
9:00 p.m. White House Chronicle #1034-1035	6:00 p.m. Montague Update MontagueMA Net	12:30 p.m. The Reflecting Pool Interview with filmmaker	9:00 p.m. Over The Falls Local Wheat
10:00 p.m. Montague Update MontagueMA Net	7:00 p.m. Select Board 10/5/09	1:30 p.m. White House Chronicle #1034-1035	10:00 p.m. Physician Focus October 2009
<b>Sunday, October 11</b>	8:00 p.m. On The Ridge Hunting Memories	2:30 p.m. Wendell Old Home Days 09	10:30 p.m. Baystate Healthbeat October 2009
12:00 p.m. An Afternoon of Music with Daniel Clarke	9:00 p.m. The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion	3:00 p.m. Zero	10:57 p.m. TF Block Party 2009 #2
	<b>Tuesday, October 13</b>	5:00 p.m. TWB Snoring and Sleep Apnea	
		6:00 p.m. Finance Committee 10/14/09	

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## George Soulos Returns to GCC for Night of Oboe & Piano

George Soulos, pianist, composer, and retired professor of music, will be returning to Greenfield Community College on Tuesday, October 13th, to perform 'An Evening of Music for Oboe and Piano' with Zeke Hecker, principal oboist of the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra.

The concert, which is a fundraiser for the Friends of

### Art Display Applications Sought for Wendell Library

The Herrick Meeting Room Art Gallery at the Wendell Free Library is designed to provide opportunities for local artists to show their work to the public. The Wendell library trustees consider the display to be part of the cultural and educational mission of the library.

The gallery is curated and scheduled by an arts exhibit committee including representatives from the trustees, the Friends of the Wendell Free Library, and community members.

The first round of applications will be accepted from now until Oct 31st.

Generally, exhibits will run for one month. The gallery has approximately 140 square feet of available display space for work that can hang on walls. The space is not available to display three dimensional work.

Interested individuals can pick up a copy of the two-page gallery policy and application at the Wendell Free Library. For more information, call the library at (978) 544-3559.

Cushman Library, will take place in the Katherine Sloan Theater at 7:30p.m. The program includes selections from Hindemith, Bach, Poulenc, Chopin, Debussy, Nielson, Barlow, Piene, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn, and promises a memorable evening for all who attend.

Tickets are \$12.00 and are available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, the Book Cellar in

### PUBLIC from pg 4

tive, not negative aspects of our community.

The impression I had from the letter was that Jeffrey Pooser saw these as negative.

The letter opens with, "To whom it may concern:" and continues, "You are receiving this letter because you were present at the Wendell conservation commission meeting Wednesday, September 16th, 2009. There has been some speculation about whether or not the intention of the anonymous phone calls to local newspapers and the Wendell conservation commission regarding my activity within the wetlands buffer zone was to inconvenience me personally rather than any legitimate concern for the wetlands. I would like to address the later here, and leave the former to my attorneys. Please understand that my entire life and career is dedicated to the healing of our planet, including its wetlands."

The letter then provides examples of some actions he has taken, costs he has incurred, opinions about the Wetlands Protection

Act, and states that he got a signature from the conservation commission for the building permit. We assume that proper protection of the riverfront and wetlands will occur under the permits required of all of us, perhaps belatedly in this case (apparently no notice was filed for clearing of trees and brush, exposing earth right up to the wetlands or for the big building(s)). I doubt anyone wants to "inconvenience," so "attorneys" are not necessary. However, I urge us all to step back and acknowledge that no other citizen proscribes for me, or you, how we may communicate in the public, or with our public and elected committees.

- Dede Cabral Wendell

Brattleboro, and Cushman Library at 28 Church Street in Bernardston. Proceeds will benefit programming at Cushman Library, including summer reading programs for children and adults, performances by storytellers and musicians, nature and art workshops, and more. For more information contact cushmanlibrary@yahoo.com or (413) 648-5402.

### PURCHASE from pg 11

and officials from as far away as Pennsylvania to discuss cost saving cooperative equipment purchases between municipalities.

"In Connecticut, several towns have pooled resources to purchase street sweepers and vactor trucks, and to draw up legal agreements for sharing their maintenance," said Dean.

As of yet, he said, Massachusetts towns have relied entirely on informal "handshake" agreements to share equipment, or employees to operate specialized equipment like sewer vactor trucks. These have worked very well, but problems can arise around liability, "What happens when an employee of one town gets hurt working in another town?" or maintenance costs.

The towns that were represented at Monday's meeting - Erving, Sunderland, Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Warwick, Wendell and Whately - appeared to agree that regional or cooperative equipment purchases is an idea worth exploring, according to Tom Sharp, Erving's administrative coordinator.

But Sharp said, "The rub might come when the guy who buys the new shovel has to share it with another town; then it loses value."

Dean said the COG will hold a similar meeting at the Buckland town hall at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14th, primarily for West County towns and whatever other towns were unable to make last Monday's meeting.

At that point, the Dean said,

he will try to pull common threads together from the ideas shared at both meetings, and see in what ways the COG could be helpful in moving the ideas forward. He said it is not out of the question that the COG itself could be the purchasing agent for shared equipment, and certainly could be helpful in providing boilerplate legal contracts for towns to work with in drawing up joint purchasing agreements. He said there should be no legal impediment for groups of towns using their state Chapter 90 highway aid to make joint equipment purchases.

Gill highway superintendent Mick LaClaire attended the meeting in Erving, and said it was a useful first step. "There are lots of ideas on the table. It's something the COG needs to look at now," he said.

LaClaire said Gill spends anywhere between \$2300 and \$6000 annually on contracting with a private firm for street sweeping, depending on conditions, and he said many area towns face similar bills just for this one specialized use of equipment.

Sharp noted the problem with considering a shared street sweeper would come when a number of towns all want to use it at the same time.

"There are hurdles to overcome with each idea," said Dean.

LaClaire said the town of Gill is presently the lead town in a five town arrangement to share the use of a side-of-the-road mower, purchased by WMECo, and used to keep power lines clear of trees and brush. After three years of joint use, LaClaire said, cracks have appeared in the welds of the mower boom arm. The warrantee for repairs on the mower had expired, but LaClaire said the company would make good on the repairs, which will be completed this month, because defective welds had shown up on that particular make and model around the country.

However, the incident points up the larger problem with shared equipment. "Whoever purchases equipment has got to have an agreement amongst the towns," LaClaire said. "There has to be a shared cost of repairs. Otherwise, it's not feasible."



### Do YOU have the skills? INSTRUCTORS WANTED


Experienced & enthusiastic individuals wanted to instruct fitness classes, arts and crafts, or any other teachable skill in which you have experience. Contact Jon at Montague Parks & Recreation at (413) 863-3216, or recdir@montague-ma.gov.

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF WENDELL PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40, Chapter 40A Section 5 and Section 9 of M.G.L., the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on October 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the town offices at Morse Village Road to consider changes to the Wendell Zoning Bylaws as described herein: In Article XIII. Wireless Communication Facilities, (1) In Section C, Definitions and word usage, in the paragraph defining Personal Wireless Services, delete the phrase "unlicensed wireless services." and (2) In Section D, add to the list of exempted facilities at the end of the first sentence: "unlicensed wireless broadband receivers and transmitters, consumer wireless routers and laptop computers, home television and internet satellite dishes, and cordless telephones." On or before October 6th, the proposed text of the bylaw changes under consideration will be posted outside the town offices for review and are available from the Town Coordinator and the Town Library during their regular business hours.

### Youth Services Coordinator Wanted WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

The Wendell Free Library seeks qualified applicants for a 7 hour a week, two-year position of Youth Services Coordinator to work under the direction of the Library Director. Responsible for all duties involved in carrying out a two-year grant funded pilot project intended to create community, and provide programs, activities and opportunities for Wendell youth ages 10 to 19. Activities include establishing and mentoring a Tweens and Teens Advisory Board, establishing relationships with area agencies that serve youth to bring their programs to Wendell, purchasing resource material for youth, and outreach to the Wendell community to provide opportunities for youth engagement. The Applicant must be available on Sunday afternoons to oversee teen focused hours at the Library when many of the activities will take place. Computer and related technology skills essential. Salary is \$14.00 per hour. No Benefits provided. Resume and cover letter and three professional references due by Oct 24th, 2009. Wendell Free Library, P.O. Box 236, Wendell, MA 01379 For more information call Rosie Heidkamp at 978 544-3559 The Town of Wendell is an equal opportunity employer.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8th

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Utah Green*. Accompanied by mandolinist, Billy Bodway, whose circus style playing lends blues & jazz to Utah's frontier original sound. 8 p.m. \$5.

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

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ameri-MF-Cana*, 8 p.m. no cover.

Barry White Crow Higgins at the Great Falls Coffeehouse. An evening of Native American story & music, 7 p.m. Barry tells tribal stories of the flute's origin and evolution, discuss tribal differences and influences, and perform both traditional and contemporary songs. In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Coffee & homemade baked goods. \$6 to \$12, free for children.



At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Oh Liza Jane*. Country folk from

Roy Zimmerman, satirical songwriter at the Echo Lake Coffee House on Thursday, October 15th at 6 p.m.

Brooklyn, New York? Sound incongruous, no? *Oh Liza Jane* can play well-structured and heartfelt songs that resonate for fans of the Mammals, Greg

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Hear Heather Maloney at Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls on Friday, October 9th at 9 p.m. and at Deja Brew on Friday, October 23rd.

Brown, Paula Frazer, & Ida. \$5 adv.; \$7 door. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9th**  
Burrito Rojo, Third Street, Turners Falls: Heather Maloney, 9 p.m. [www.heather-maloney.com](http://www.heather-maloney.com).

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ben and Ansel Have a Party!* (for everyone with records and stuff). 9:30 p.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *DLB Band*, featuring Peter Kim and Dave Loomis, 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9th to 11th**  
*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* cons its way into the Shea Theater as JaDuke Inc. brings you the Franklin County premiere of this Broadway smash hit. Fri & Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. \$12; \$10 ages 12 and under and 65 and over. [www.jaduke.com](http://www.jaduke.com).

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10th**  
Free music workshops at Brattleboro Music Center: Round-Robin Chamber Music, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Drop in with your violin, viola, or cello, and play chamber music with others! Brattleboro Music Center, 38 Walnut Street, Brattleboro, VT. (802) 257-4523 or [www.bmccvt.org](http://www.bmccvt.org).

GreenTeen concert! *Phone Calls From Home, The Venetia Fair, Signal the Escape* and more! 6:30 p.m. at the Greenfield Teen Center, 20 Sanderson St. Greenfield, \$10. All ages welcome.

Lake Pleasant Energy Saving Workshop at the National Spiritual Alliance Meeting Hall, Lake Pleasant. 9:45 a.m. to noon.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sweet Dynamite* with DJ Studebaker Hawk & Co. (house/funk/disco) no cover.

Memorial Hall Theater in Shelburne Falls kicks off its new season of live high-definition broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera on the big screen on Saturday October 10 with a production of Puccini's *Tosca* at 1 p.m. Tickets \$23 [www.shelburnefallsmemorialhall.org](http://www.shelburnefallsmemorialhall.org).

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th**  
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT KARAOKE with Opa Opa specials and

swag, 8 p.m. free.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12th**  
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Slope Poetry, James Haug, Brian Baldi, Lesley Yalen, 7 p.m. no cover.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th**  
The Super Fun Bowling Club is a non-competitive club devoted solely to the enjoyment of bowling. At the French King Entertainment Center, Erving. The SFBC meets every other Wednesday at 7:30 pm This week's theme: Wild West! Questions contact: Laura (413) 423-3027 or [laura@ladyelvis.com](mailto:laura@ladyelvis.com).

The Great Falls Farmers Market, corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls. 2 to 6 p.m.

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

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: High Country, low-fi with Goody. Jeff Foucault and friends (country classics).

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *New England Forests Through Time*. John O'Keefe, co-author of the book *New England Forest Through Time*, shares information on the present state as well as the history of our local forests. 7 p.m.

Roy Zimmerman at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Leverett Town Hall. Satirical songwriter, Zimmerman has been writing satirical songs for twenty years and has played in clubs across the country sharing the stage with George Carlin, Bull Maher, Kate Clinton and more. 7:30 p.m. with pot-luck at 6 p.m. Info. (413) 548-



*The King and I* at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Friday, October 16th & Saturday, October 17th at 8 p.m. and Sunday, October 18th at 2 p.m.

9394/ [www.royzimmerman.com](http://www.royzimmerman.com).

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16th**  
Film showing of the 2004 documentary *MOVE* at The Brick House, Turners Falls, 7:30 p.m. Following the film there will be discussion time with original *MOVE* member Ramona Africa along with filmmakers Benjamin Garry and Matt Sullivan of Cohort Media. Hosted by *Undergrowth Farm* as part of their ongoing film series, *Movements for Self-Determination*. *MOVE* is narrated by historian Howard Zinn, and made its debut at numerous film festivals throughout the United States in 2004. Info: [gillgarden@riseup.net](mailto:gillgarden@riseup.net) (413) 863-9197.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16th & 17th**  
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Singin' In The Rain*. Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, directed by Stanley Donen, 1952, color, rated G. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie at 7 p.m. Fri: *The Damon Trumpet Duet*, Sat: *The Shelburne Falls Military Marching Band*.

**FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16th to 18th**  
Arena Civic Theatre presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical: *The King and I*. At the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Continues 10/23 to 10/25. Friday & Saturday performance at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m. \$13; \$11 seniors; \$8 children under 12.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th**  
*Mission: Wolf* at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. Come experience a personal encounter with a live wolf with the Ambassador Wolf program. View an audio-visual show covering subjects such as an introduction to wolfs and hybrids, wild wolf issues, wolf communication and behavior, and current status of wild wolves in North America. Two programs, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Registration required. Call the Discovery Center: 863-3221.

*Family Fun Day!* 1 to 3 p.m. at Unity Park, Turners Falls. Come out and celebrate the New England season! Scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin carving, bake sale, and more! Fees: Scarecrows: \$6 per, pumpkin carving: \$2 each. We need clothes for our scarecrows! If you have some long sleeve shirts and pants that you're not using anymore, we will gladly take them off your hands. Drop them off at our office.

*Diwali, a Celebration of Light* Opening reception, 4 to 11 p.m. at The Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts, 13 Montague Rd. Leverett. Indian Food, dance performance by *Nataraj classical Indian Dance Co.*, *Mehandi*, kirtan music, *Bollywood* movie showing, *Bangra Dance* party, and lots of light. Exhibition is entitled *East of What?* Art inspired by Asia and a Temple for the Goddess. [www.leverettcrafts.org](http://www.leverettcrafts.org) or 548-9070.

Tenth Anniversary Party for [MontagueMA.net](http://MontagueMA.net) Noon to 5 p.m. Held in the parking lot next to the Rendezvous, Third Street, Turners Falls.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: Heather Maloney, 9 p.m.

**UNTIL OCTOBER 27th**  
Greenfield Community College, downtown center, exhibition of works by Claudine Mussuto. Maps painted on kraft paper, entitled 'kraft triptych: eugene, far east, truro, & provincetown.'

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

The Gallery at Hallmark, Ave A, Turners Falls: *A Second Look*, photographic exhibit by Tony Downer. Gallery open Fri-Sun, 1 - 5 p.m. (413) 863-0009 for info.

**ONGOING**  
Social Ballroom Lessons, Montague Elks, Turners Falls. \$8 per person, 7:30 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday night. (413) 885-8888. October focus is Rumba!

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

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



[www.gardencinemas.net](http://www.gardencinemas.net)  
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**2. CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS** PG in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:00  
FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:00 3:00

**3. JULIE & JULIA** PG13  
DAILY 6:30 9:00  
FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:00 3:00

**4. THE INFORMANT** R  
DAILY 6:45 9:15  
FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:15 3:15

**5. ZOMBIELAND** R  
DAILY 6:45 9:15  
FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:15 3:15

**6. COUPLES RETREAT**  
DAILY 7:00 9:30 PG13 in DTS sound  
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**7. FAME** PG13 in DTS sound  
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**FRI: 10/09 | 9:30 PM | FREE**  
Ben and Ansel Have a Party! (for everyone, with records and stuff)

**SAT: 10/10 | 9:30 PM | FREE**  
Sweet Dynamite w/ DJ Studebaker Hawk & Co. (house/funk/disco)

**SUN: 10/11 | 8 PM | FREE**  
TNT Karaoke w. Opa Opa Specials • Swag

**MON: 10/12 | 7 PM | FREE**  
Slope Poetry: James Haug, Brian Baldi, Lesley Yalen

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# Picking Up Other People's Trash



MAY GRZYBOWSKI PHOTO

Propane cylinders, computer monitors, tires: just another day of dumping on the Montague Plains!

BY BETH BAZLER

**ERVING** – The good news? Around 200 people came out on a rainy Saturday morning to participate in the Source to Sea Cleanup last weekend in East Deerfield, Gill, Montague, and Erving. Some sites, like those cleaned by employees from Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Greenfield or the Gill Elementary School sixth graders were long time farm or industrial dump sites. These spots are satisfying to tackle because, once the work is done, they tend to stay clean. Others, like the riverside sites that Northfield Mount Hermon students visited, had historic dumps along with lots of flotsam – items that just wash up every year.

The worst of the sites, and the worst news for lovers of unspoiled open spaces in Franklin County, come from riverside locations in East Deerfield, cleaned by Franklin County Technical School students on Friday, and many spots in the Montague Plains in Montague, cleaned by the Mohawk Ramblers, Smith and



PAT DONOVAN PHOTO

Bernardston Brownies shared cleanup stories and ate whoopie pies after the cleanup.

Wesson employees and the Trial Court Community Service Program, Franklin Division.

These places are on the Cleanup "to-do" list every year - and they look really great during the first few weeks after the event. In addition to being well known by Cleanup volunteers, these locations are also fre-

quently visited by illegal dumpers who leave thousands

House, or even larger companies like Coca-Cola Bottling



DETMOLD PHOTO

The Turners Falls High School Booster Day parade made its way down Avenue A on Saturday. The theme of this year's parade was 'Board Games'. The sophomore class's float, pictured here, was a 3-D takeoff on 'Operation'.

**It's just more fun at the Gill Craft Fair.**

October 17 & 18  
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50 artisans plus demonstrations and hands-on activities, farmer's market, children's activities, great food and music, Famous Gill Apple pies.

[www.gillcraftfair.org](http://www.gillcraftfair.org) for details and the complete schedule

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