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New Gallery in Millers Falls
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 44

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

Village Sketchbook

Wind in Wings, Prayers in Stone



The Frosted Elfwing is among the rare species that find a home in the sandplain at the Turners Falls Airport

BY DAVID BRULE
TURNERS FALLS – The grassy expanse of the Turners Falls airport shimmered in the summer heat...

It would have been the summer of 1956 or '57 when a couple of boys rode their bikes over to the airfield on the edge of the Plains. We had those old Schwinn or Raleighs, clunkers really, and a pair of heavy WWII vintage binoculars between us.

We were both at that age, fascinated by winged

things. Our interest was sparked by our 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Keough, and her colleague Mrs. Pearl Care, who came to our class every month to talk to us about nature. After that, we often peddled out to the airport to look for horned larks and sparrow hawks.

The heat rose in waves from the tarmac runway, and the killdeer on the far edge seemed to dance and wave like a mirage on the desert. From time to time, see **VILLAGE** pg 11

Runway Replacement Underway

SWEENEY RESIGNS AS AIRPORT MANAGER



DETMOLD PHOTO

Heavy equipment lines the path of the runway at the Turners Falls Airport, now undergoing a \$5.1 million reconstruction.

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS – With the long planned runway reconstruction project finally taking off, Mike Sweeney, part time manager of the Turners Falls airport since 2003, resigned at the regular meeting of the Turners Falls airport commission on Friday, September 4th.

Sweeney said, "I've taken a sales job for a different company which doesn't give me the flexibility to continue to manage the airport."

Sweeney said the change in tenure at the airport management post

would have only "a very small impact" on the \$5 million runway replacement project that began on August 12th.

The full depth replacement of the 3000 foot runway, with the addition of 200 extra feet of paved surface on the Connecticut River end of the runway, will take 90 days to complete and is fully funded by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Sweeney said, "The commission has been actively involved in monitoring progress at the airport," along with a permanently assigned resident

engineer from Gale Associates, the town's engineering consultant for the runway replacement during the course of the construction project.

"My departure will not have a material affect on the replacement project," Sweeney said.

He added, "The project is going very well."

The original cost of reconstruction was pegged at \$5,760,000 for what was planned to include a 1,200 foot expansion of the old runway. With changes to the project, and higher fuel costs three years after it was first bid, Sweeney said

the current runway project – covering 3,200 feet of paved surface – now carries a \$5.1 million price tag. That price includes replacing a rotating beacon light on the field.

ET&L Corporation, out of Stow, MA, is the contractor handling the replacement project. This is the same contractor that recently completed the major rerouting of Route 2 around the Erving Paper Mill.

During the construction period, Sweeney explained, "The airport runway is closed; the airport is open." see **AIRPORT** pg 7

Waiting Longer for the Bus

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – There's some grumbling on the Avenue about the new Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) bus schedules, which the company recently implemented to maximize ridership and "better meet the needs of the customers." But riders are citing the reduction of stops, circuitous route changes, the elimination of the transfer program causing a doubling of fares for many commuters, and the abolishment of reduced fares as sources of particular frustration.

Many of the scheduling changes resulted from FRTA's financial constraints and the necessity of serving a large rural territory, Toomey said. For example, ridership on the nearly two dozen daily buses between Greenfield and Montague was low, and there were many

requests from more heavily populated areas of Greenfield for increased service, so the new schedules reflect both these factors, eliminating stops in Turners and increasing them in Greenfield.

According to Jake Toomey, FRTA general manager, the changes were implemented only after the first significant service review undertaken since FRTA's merger with the Gill-Montague Transit Authority (GMTA) in August of 2009.

FRTA staff undertook a comprehensive survey of bus routes for the better part of the past year. Using paper surveys, discussions, in-depth rider analyses, and a great deal of driver input, the FRTA published proposed schedule changes early in July.

To vet the changes, a series of five well-publicized public hearings were held over the summer,



Bill Warnock of Turners (l) and Mark Bourbeau of Greenfield wait for the 2:30 p.m. bus at Avenue A & 3rd on Wednesday. "If we miss this one, the next bus to Greenfield is 5:00 p.m.," said Bourbeau. "They want to raise the prices and cut more buses. That's not right. You're cutting the service for the people that really need it."

at varying times and locations, with the schedule of hearings posted on all buses.

According to Toomey and FRTA administrator Tina Cote, only 31 people attended the hear-

ings, attend, Toomey said.

But concerns persist about the route and schedule changes. Additionally, confusion has arisen among riders unfamiliar with local geography, because there

are now seven different printed

schedules rather than the one Riders Guide that formerly contained all route information. The new schedules do have the added benefit of maps, but the maps themselves take a little deciphering. Many of the landmarks noted on the maps are not, in fact, bus stops, and most of the actual stops are not marked on the maps. (It should be noted that buses will stop if flagged at a safe site along any route, and special pickups can also be arranged by calling the transit authority.) Sharon Quickchange of Turners Falls was particularly disturbed when told the buses no longer bring riders directly to the Franklin Medical Center entrance. Instead, the alternative route drops riders off at a spot on Sanderson and North Street, leaving passengers to walk the remaining distance. Some passengers need the direct drop off at

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PET OF THE WEEK I'll Make You Smile



Harold

My name is Harold and I'm a seven-year-old male domestic shorthair cat in need of a good home. Just look at that dreamy gaze, the slight hint of a smile. Oh yes, cats smile. I'm smiling about the happy home I know I'll be going to soon. There will be windows to sit in, catnip mice to chase, a tall scratching post for claw sharpening, and, best of all, someone to love me and give me treats and play games. I'll make you smile too. Wait till you see how I wriggle my bottom before I pounce. You'll smile too when I curl up next to you, stretch out my paws and give the greatest contented purr you have ever heard. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: info@dphvs.org.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Staff Changes the Libraries

BY LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE – Patrons of the Millers Falls and Montague Center libraries are seeing new and old faces behind the library desks. Dolly Letourneau of Gill retired from the Montague Center library at the end of August. She will miss the people, but looks forward to being

receiving a masters degree in Information and Library Science from Simmons College. Most recently, she was working at the Millers Falls library. She is happy to be working closer to home.

Robin Shtulman of Erving started last week at the Millers Falls library. She was the Erving



Linda Hickman (l) and Anna Green on August 14th, 2003 at her good-bye party at the Montague Center library. Now, Green has returned to her former post.

able to do whatever she wants. She worked first at the Carnegie library, starting in 2004, and then transferred to the Montague Center library.

Anna Greene of Montague Center now works at the Montague Center library. She worked there previously, before

Elementary School librarian for ten years, and has also been a school librarian in Greenfield. She recently worked with public libraries through the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System as a circuit rider. She is very happy to be back to work in a library setting.

Brick House Seeks Donations for Silent Auction

The Brick House Community Resource Center seeks donations of work from local artisans for its Annual Silent Art Auction, scheduled for October 3rd and 4th, part of the Arts and Leaves Turners Falls Open Studio and Walking Tour. Funds raised through this event will be used to support Brick House's communi-

ty-based programs. Interested artisans can contact kstinchfield@brickhousecommunity.org or 413-863-9559 for info and paperwork which will enable them to record their donation. Details are also available on The Brick House's new website at www.brickhousecommunity.org.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – Sept 14th to Sept 18th

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

Reserve your tickets now for The Polka Fest trip on September 29th and the Salem Cross Harmoni-Cats trip on October 20th. *Gill/Montague Senior Trips: Call 863-9357 or 863-4500 for more information.*

- Monday, Sept. 14th**
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, Sept. 15th
9:00 a.m. Walking group (weather permitting)
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, Sept. 16th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Balance Testing

- 12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, Sept. 17th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, Sept. 18th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

TAI CHI Classes beginning on October 15th, 10:00 a.m. Free workshop October 1st: "Is it Alzheimer's or Just Forgetfulness?" with Wanda Landry, Director of the Quabbin Valley Alzheimer's Center.

CHAIR YOGA classes with Jean Erlbaum on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. on the following Tuesdays: Sept. 15, 22, Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 10, 17, 24, Dec 8, 15. These classes offer a good stretch and strengthening for muscles, oiling for joints, and fun! People from all towns and of all skill levels are invited, including folks in wheelchairs. There is a discounted price of \$2.00 for each class. Pre-registration is not required. For more information and for help with transportation, please contact Roberta Potter at (413) 863-4500.

ERVING Senior Center, 18



DETMOLD PHOTO

The call came into the new Montague police station at 8:18 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1st. vandals had spiked the park fountain with soap bubbles yet again!

Correction

Due to a reporting error, the date of the Lake Pleasant reunion was listed incorrectly in last week's paper, in the article titled "Come Home, Lake Pleasant." The correct date for the reunion, which will take place at the Scalpers Lodge on Lake Pleasant Road starting at noon, is Saturday, September 19th. We apologize for the confusion.

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WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs.

Annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day

BY AMY DONOVAN

GREENFIELD – The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding its annual household hazardous waste collection for households and businesses on the morning of Saturday, September 26th. Pre-registration is required by September 18th. Collection sites are in Athol and Greenfield. Directions to sites and an appointment time will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of the following towns: Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Hawley, Heath, Montague, New Salem,

Northfield, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

Gill, Orange, and Sunderland residents are eligible; however, due to town budget constraints, residents of those towns must pay to participate in the 2009 collection. Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible. Call (413) 772-2438 for info on disposal. Businesses must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

To participate at either of the sites, residents must pre-register by September 18th. Registration forms will be available at participating town

offices and at most town transfer stations. Online registration forms may be completed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

This annual collection provides residents an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, and other household chemicals.

For more information, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438 or visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. The website has a more complete list of items acceptable for the collection.

Montague Cultural Council Seeks Applications

BY LISA ENZER

MONTAGUE – The Montague Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. This is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Montague Cultural Council will distribute about \$4,000 in grants, and is seeking proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities,

and science projects. These grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities throughout the five villages of Montague – including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

Applications are accepted from organizations, schools, or individuals. All proposals must be postmarked by the October 15th, 2009 deadline.

For guidelines, application forms and details please visit us online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp, or contact Lisa Enzer at 413-367-2658.

Free Skate Park Clinic

BY MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Great Falls skate park committee will be hosting a free skate clinic this Saturday, September 12th in Turners Falls, with Alex Maldonado of the Board Room skate camp. The clinic will run from 12 noon until 2 p.m., and will take place at the skate park's temporary location on the corner of 11th Street and

Avenue A. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

After the clinic, please join us for hot dogs, giveaways, and the drawing for our summer raffle. To register, contact gfskatepark@gmail.com. Rain date will be Saturday, September 19th.



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Source to Sea Cleanup:

Volunteer Alongside Thousands this October 3rd

GREENFIELD, MA – The Connecticut River Watershed Council is seeking volunteers for its 13th Source to Sea Cleanup to be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009. In twelve years, CRWC's volunteer fall effort has removed hundreds of tons of trash, tires, and derelict appliances from the riverbanks of the 410-mile Connecticut and its tributaries. "This is one day where people can pool their energies and accomplish an amazing amount of work for our rivers," says CRWC Executive Director Chelsea Gwyther. "The Source to Sea Cleanup links people with their local waterways, their communities, and with folks sharing a river connection across four New England states."

Last year over 3,000 volunteers turned out for the Cleanup, hauling out over 100 tons of illegally dumped materials. CRWC Cleanup Coordinator Christine Luis-Schultz has hopes of surpassing those numbers: "We'd love to have everyone volunteer.

It's dirty work, but it's fun and everyone goes home a winner." For the second year, NRG Middletown Power Inc. of has assumed lead sponsorship of the event. "We're really grateful for their continued support," the Coordinator says. TransCanada, MDC and Lane Construction Corporation have also returned as event sponsors.

A new artistic component has been added for 2009 Cleanup participants. "We've been working with River of Words, another not-for-profit," says Luis-Schultz, "One of their goals is connecting kids to their watersheds through poetry and art." The two groups have joined forces to offer the Source to Sea Cleanup Photo Contest, "Anyone can enter a Cleanup photo and be eligible for prizes – but we're making a special push to encourage young people to also submit pictures to the National River of Words contest."

Volunteer registration information for the Cleanup, as well as

links to the photo contest and information on River of Words are available at: www.ctriver.org. "We're looking for civic groups, scouts, and individuals from all walks of life to pitch in and make our rivers and communities better places for everyone," says Luis-Schultz, "Sponsorship opportunities to help underwrite the event are always available." Volunteers are asked to register by Friday, September 11th. Questions can be emailed to: cleanup@ctriver.org, or you may phone: (413) 772-2020, ext. 201 with inquiries.

Press information contact: Chelsea Gwyther, Executive Director, CRWC: (413) 772-2020, ext. 202, cgwyther@ctriver.org; Christine Luis-Schultz, Cleanup Coordinator: (413) 772-2020, ext. 201, cluis-schultz@ctriver.org.

The Connecticut River Watershed Council has been a nonprofit advocate for the 11,000 square-mile watershed of the Connecticut River since 1952.

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Meeting the Needs of Montague

BY LES CROMACK – Saturday, August 29th was a special day for the Montague police department and the town of Montague. At long last, a new police station was dedicated, with an open house at 10:00 a.m. This was long overdue, and certainly much needed. Indeed, it should have been done 20 years ago.

The chief and his officers are proud, excited, and deserving of a new home. A job well done by the building committee, and cooperation by the fire district, water district, and the town allowed this to happen. Hats off to all who were involved, and this certainly includes the taxpayers, who in spite of many reservations knew this was the right thing to do.

My own excitement on that day was only tempered by the list of other building projects that need to be undertaken in the town of Montague. The list is long: a new highway garage, a new library, a new senior center, more work on our town hall, and likely more money for parks and recreation. This does not include money that the school department will need in the future.

All of these capital needs together could cost the town \$12 million to \$20 million, depending on state or federal aid. I am not naïve enough to think the town is going to pass any overrides in the near future, nor would I be a party to asking for one.

The fact that we cannot afford these very worthwhile projects does not make them go away. Our state and federal governments

have led us down a path that will require all of us to pay more in one way or another in the future. We cannot ask more of our taxpayers at this time.

However, this does not mean we should not be thinking of the future. To me, our quality of life depends on many things in this town, not the least of which is the list of needs above.

I am sure other town officials hear this even more than I do, but it breaks my heart when an elderly person or someone out of work tells me, "Les, I want to do the right thing, but I just can't afford it." As time goes by, more and more of us will fall into this category. The town's needs will continue to grow in the foreseeable future.

I have probably not told anyone anything they don't already know, but at my age I will not be the one to help solve most of these problems. I would now like to ask the younger generations, those of you who are indeed the future of Montague, to step forward, get involved, and become the leaders of our great town.

The quality of life in Montague depends on all of us working to provide the best we possibly can, within the limits of what we can afford, for the good of all our residents.

Les Cromack is the chair of the capital improvements committee. The opinions expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of any other member of the committee.



TIM VIELMETTI CARTOON

Unable to keep up with the cost of living, Betty solved the problem by constructing her own toll booth on busy Route 115

GUEST EDITORIAL

Changes to Bus Schedule Disruptive

BY DON CLEGG

TURNERS FALLS – With inadequate notice or public input, the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, FRTA, has made significant changes to their fixed route service, which greatly affects the riders that are residents of Montague and commuters employed by local businesses.

The previous fixed route service for Greenfield-Montague had fourteen stops in downtown Turners Falls. These have now been reduced to eight. Service to Montague Center and Millers Falls has been cut in half. The Greenfield to Athol service previously had frequent daily stops at 3rd Street and Avenue A in Turners Falls. Those stops have been eliminated on the new schedule.

It gets worse. The previous FRTA schedule had four stops at Franklin Medical Center, with a pass through Stop and Shop. That particular route has been eliminated and folded into a Greenfield route. This means there is no direct bus service to Franklin Medical Center. The only way to the hospital now is to take bus service to Court Square in Greenfield and wait for a transfer to a Greenfield fixed route, or walk there. How convenient.

As a result of these changes and many others such as those affecting students at GCC, there will be a civil demonstration and discussion planned for Monday, September 14th, on the Greenfield town common, just across from the Court Square bus stop. For more

information on this demonstration, contact speakout2009@aol.com

The changes to the FRTA fixed schedule took affect on August 31st, with printed schedules not available until almost the day of the changes. Riders were told to go online and look for changes. This was inadequate notice for riders who depend on public transportation for school, work or medical appointments.

It appears that Montague took a significant hit in this decision to reduce bus service.

We are all being urged to conserve carbon fuels in an era when global warming is making headlines and changing weather patterns. We need more mass transit options in rural areas like ours, not less.

WILDFLOWER FIELD WALK

BY CHRISTINE LONG

ATHOL – New England is glorious with wildflowers in fall, especially asters and goldenrods – many species of both. Join naturalists Lula Field and Christine Beckert Long next Saturday, September 12th, for a ramble at Tully Dam in a search for these beauties, and other fall bloomers, tips on how to tell them apart, and discussion of botanical nomenclature.

Those interested in the field trip should meet at the dam overlook parking lot on Athol Road, Royalston (Route 32), at 10 a.m. Bring water, a snack, a field guide and a camera if desired.

Rain date for the outing is Sunday, September 13th; if in doubt, call (978) 249-0246 by 9 a.m. on Saturday.

The trip is sponsored by the Athol Bird & Nature Club and is free and open to the public.

INVASIVE ALIENS IN THE NORTH QUABBIN

BY CHRISTINE LONG

ATHOL – Japanese knotweed gobbling up the roadsides? Oriental bittersweet strangling trees? Water chestnut clogging ponds?

These are all examples of exotic invasive plant species - plants deliberately or accidentally introduced into this country – that exploded through the landscape and now threaten natural ecosystems.

They are the topic Thursday, September 17th, at 7 p.m. when

the North Quabbin Garden Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club present noted author Peter Alden of Concord to discuss what these exotic invasives are, how they spread, and why they are a threat. The meeting will be held at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, in Athol.

Alden is a world-renowned naturalist, lecturer, ecotourism guide, and author of 15 books on North American and African wildlife,

including the National Audubon Society's Field Guide to New England. He is consid-



Japanese knotweed in flower

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ered an authority on birds, large mammals, and invasive species, and is often consulted by the media and the ecotourism industry for his expertise.

The program is free and open to the public, supported by the cultural councils of a number of localities.

GUEST EDITORIAL

BY JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Last week's *Montague Reporter* included an interesting editorial by my colleague on the school committee, Joyce Phillips, regarding the Gill Montague Regional School District budget, which will be the subject of a September 30th district meeting. Although I disagree with the central argument – that the towns of Gill and Montague should vote in favor of the GMRSD's \$16,657,788 budget – I am certainly glad to see school committee members expressing their views and encouraging public discussion.

In that spirit, I would note two parts of the editorial that particularly struck me. Joyce endorses the concept of keeping the state involved in the GMRSD budget process. I strongly agree. But she seems to

Just Say No to the G-M School Budget

feel that voting "yes" at the district meeting will help to make that happen. I don't understand that at all. I feel that passing a budget will in fact make the state disappear from the table completely, except for its inadequate aid and under-funded mandates. We will be left to deal with these as best we may.

Secondly, Joyce writes, "It has been stated that the Gill-Montague school committee has no fiscal plan.... I do not believe this is true. Not only are there a number of initiatives and programs currently being implemented, but we also have a two to three year draft financial plan to maintain a viable district...."

Well I have been on the school committee for nearly four months and have not seen this plan. As far as I know, nothing like this has been discussed

or endorsed by the committee. I have presented a detailed outline of a process for producing such a plan in collaboration with the state, but this requires the towns to vote down all budgets and assessments until they see an actual plan, the real thing.

I strongly feel we can make significant progress solving the chronic school budget problem over the next six months. But to do that, the towns should "just say, 'No'" to keep the state at the table until we get our act together.

Jeff Singleton is a member of the Gill-Montague regional school committee. The opinions expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily represent those of any other member of the school committee.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

District Meeting Set For September 30th

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

A district meeting will be held on September 30th at the Turners Falls High School auditorium at 6:30 p.m. to seek agreement on the issue of the Gill-Montague Regional School district FY'10 budget. All registered voters of the towns of Gill and Montague are welcome to attend and to vote on the school budget.

Montague defeated that budget, but since the towns failed to approve a budget for the district schools by July 1st, the state was mandated to set a budget so the district could operate in the new school year, and that budget – \$16,657,788 – will stand unless the towns and school district agree on a new budget.

Superintendent Ladd made it clear prior to the August 5th town meeting he wanted to move on with the FY'11 school budget, and didn't want to get bogged down in lengthy budget discussions of the FY'10 budget. Last year the budget process dragged on until December 2009 and pre-occupied the school committee, which did not begin working on the FY'10 budget until January.

Ladd set a budget meeting for FY'11 for next week, showing he is intent on moving ahead with budget discussions for next year, regardless of the outcome of the vote at district meeting. The FY'11 budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th, at 7 p.m. at Turners Falls High School, with the full school committee, open to the public.

The school district has hired Bill Doyle for the position of resource officer at Turners Falls High School. School committee member and former resource officer Doug Brown said he thought Doyle was an excellent choice.

Brown said Doyle is "very laid back, easy going, very smart and good with kids. He has a good way of getting his point across to the kids." The resource officer provides a presence in the schools meant to give students extra attention and guidance in order to help them avoid getting into trouble. Creating a rapport with the students is very important to success in the position. Brown said, and he believes Doyle will do a very good job.

Ladd said that he, director of curriculum and instruction Chip Wood, and special education director Nadine Ekstrom attended a meeting in Boston of all school districts that received the first round of Readiness Planning grants. Each of the sixteen districts gave presentations of their projects to state secretary of education Paul Reville and deputy commissioner Karla Baer, along with other staff from the secretary's office. Ladd reported to the school committee that Secretary Reville was "favorably impressed" with both of the Gill-Montague district's proposals, especially the regionwide collaborative autism project. He added there is a good chance the districts that received early grants will be first in line to receive federal "Race to the Top" grants.

The school committee is in the process of developing and prioritizing a list of goals and visions for the district. The work-in-progress list includes, in part, the values of promoting lifelong-learning (instilling a love of

see SCHOOL pg 10

Montague Historical Society Meeting & WW I Presentation
September 17th at 7:00 p.m.
at the Great Falls Discovery Center

Richard Colton will speak on a Montague soldier's WWI chest of memories left behind by Lt. Stephen Richardson. Lt. Richardson served on the Western Front and left his trunk with documents, uniform, letters and more. It is an extraordinary time capsule.

The annual meeting of the society will follow and the public is invited.

The society is looking for photos of Montague people who were veterans of World War I. We have very little information on World War I in our archives. Please contact Lillian Fiske at 367-2280 or Mary Melonis at 367-2184 if you have any photos.

Also, a great celebration took place in Turners Falls after the Armistice was signed. Lionel Girard searched for years for a photo of this long day of celebration without success. Please contact the society if you have any souvenirs to share specific to Montague and World War I or the Armistice celebration.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Again Considers Non-Electric Apartment

BY JOSH HEINEMANN—The most controversial issue the Wendell selectboard dealt with at its September 2nd meeting concerned the effort by Jonathan von Ranson and Susan Dunlany to build an apartment for themselves in part of the barn they are rebuilding in the center of town. In an effort to reduce their carbon footprint, von Ranson and Dunlany hope to build their apartment without installing wires for electricity, to use a pitcher pump to supply water, and to deal with waste by using a composting toilet. Heat and hot water would come from a wood-burning masonry stove with a water reservoir, and light would be supplied from kerosene lamps and flashlights kept handy by the doors to outside.

State building code requires electric wires in a dwelling, standard plumbing, and a septic system that can treat much more than the five to six gallons of greywater per person per day the

couple expects to produce.

Von Ranson sent a letter asking for the selectboard's support in getting the required permits. They say their goal is to reduce their ecological impact by living simply, and to do so within the law. Von Ranson said the couple has the support of the Wendell Rural Simple Living Group, and he included a two page list of people who signed a petition in support of their effort.

Building inspector Phil Delorey also corresponded with the selectboard and the von Ransons about the proposed non-electric apartment, outlining the problems he has with that concept. Delorey said town boards do not have the authority to overrule state law, and so von Ranson's petition for the overall project should be addressed to the state, rather than the town. In addition, Delorey said, there are steps in the local process von Ranson has not dealt with properly, which the letter enumerated.

Von Ranson has not had the barn inspected, has allowed his building permit to expire, did not get a permit for roof replacement, did not have a final inspection on a chimney replacement, and the step he put in front of the barn makes the barn more out of compliance with town setback requirements than it was originally. (The original barn is grandfathered.) For each of these issues, Delorey gave von Ranson a remedy that might put his construction in compliance with the town's regulations.

However, Delorey's letter did not address von Ranson's central aim — to build a non-electric apartment without running water or septic system — which the building inspector contended does not fall within the scope of town jurisdiction.

Selectboard members were sympathetic to the couple's overall goal to reduce their environmental footprint, but agreed with Delorey that they need to go

about the process in a more organized way, get the appropriate permits, and then deal with the effort to get state approval for his project.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser wrote a response to that effect, and with some small changes, the other board members agreed to sign it and deliver it to von Ranson and Dunlany.

A hearing on the von Ransons' building is scheduled at the next planning board meeting, September 15th.

Selectboard member Dan Keller reported that Ted Lewis is not interested in being the town's representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. He asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to include a request for a volunteer to fill that post in the next town newsletter.

Bob Cellucci, engineer for National Grid, met the selectboard for two pole hearings. Both poles are needed for

National Grid to put in a temporary substation so the company can take the substation in Wendell Depot out of service and rebuild the tap from the high tension wires to the Wendell Depot substation.

Cellucci said that the work could be done with electricity still connected to the Wendell Depot substation, but it would be more dangerous for workers, and more expensive for the company than the larger construction the temporary substation involves. Cellucci said the company hopes the work will be done within six months. No abutters came to the hearing, and since no trees will be cut and the temporary poles will be as far from any road as existing poles, the selectboard approved the request.

Selectboard members signed a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District concerning the upco-
see **WENDELL** pg 10

from **BUS** pg 3

the hospital, she believes, and she hopes the FRTA will reinstitute it.

Sharon King of Millers Falls is planning to kick off a public demonstration over the schedule and route changes on the Greenfield town common on Monday, September 14th at 3 p.m. King has never organized any kind of protest before, but listening to riders discuss the impact of schedule and fare changes on their lives, King decided the only way to address the situation was to hold a public gathering. For more info on this event, contact: speak-out2009@aol.com.

King submitted a four-page letter to the FRTA when she read about the proposed changes months ago, responding to the request for feedback prior to the July 30th deadline. King said she did not receive a direct response to her letter or phone calls, though it appeared some of her suggestions were incorporated in the final route and

schedule changes.

Chief among King's concerns is the Greenfield to Amherst route — the only route that directly serves Millers Falls at key commuting times in the morning and afternoon. The fare has increased to \$3 each way, and FRTA has done away with the partial fare system so riders traveling only from Millers Falls to Greenfield must pay full fare. For King, this means she now walks to the French King Bowling Alley to pick up the Athol to Greenfield route, which offers several pickup times and many more stops, at half the price.

Toomey acknowledged the significant fare increases on this route, and said they result from the lack of financial support from the primary service towns of Amherst, Leverett and Sunderland.

The lack of transfers throughout the FRTA system under the new schedules appears to be one of most consistent complaints from riders.

Many patrons of the system are dependent on the buses to get them to work, medical appointments, school or stores, and they have relied on transfers to get them from one route to the next economically. Cutting the transfers has doubled transportation costs for these riders.

Toomey said he is aware of the issue, and reminds patrons the current fare system relies on the labor intensive collection of fares by drivers. One of the FRTA's top goals in the coming months is the installation of electronic fare boxes on all buses on fixed routes. He believes the fare boxes will relieve some rider anxiety over rates and transfers, as they will allow the efficient implementation of multiple fare packets including day passes, weekly or monthly passes, student bus passes, and other special fares.

The FRTA plans to use federal stimulus funds to pay for the installation of electronic fare boxes, and will issue requests for proposals for them as soon

as the grants are formally awarded.

John Furbish of Turners Falls has made some comprehensive comparisons of the old and new routes and schedules. He cites 23 full or partial trips to and from Turners and Greenfield in the old bus schedule, compared to the new schedule with just eight. The ten direct trips to Stop & Shop have been completely eliminated, although you can still get to Stop & Shop from Turners by bus if you are willing to go to Court Square first and pay a second fare to get there, and again to return.

Or, you can get to Stop & Shop by walking across the Gill-Montague bridge and catching the Athol to Greenfield bus, which will drop you off at Stop & Shop, returning the same way.

In fact, if you want to get to Athol or points further east from Turners, you'll have to make this hike first. This might be a little rough in the winter, when the bridge sidewalk is not

plowed. For trips to the supermarket, the hike across the bridge would likely limit riders' purchases.

Toomey said the FRTA is working with the town of Gill to find a better stop where a shelter can be constructed for Greenfield to Athol riders. For now, the Riverside stop is inconvenient and unsheltered, at the busy Route 2 intersection with Main Road and the Turners Falls bridge.

Furbish was also unhappy about the fact that FRTA dropped the Sunderland connector bus from the Greenfield to Northampton route. Toomey claims customer complaints about the 20-minute detour to Sunderland in the old plan was a large factor in eliminating that stop, as was the lack of financial support from Sunderland.

Shelburne resident Will Yager, a former bus user, travels to Greenfield for medical appointments, but now uses the state PT1 system, which he said

see **BUS** page 11

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Hallmark Gallery Opening Saturday

TURNERS FALLS – Hallmark Institute of Photography will celebrate the grand opening of its newest photographic exhibition venue, the Gallery at Hallmark, with an inaugural exhibition this Saturday, September 12th, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., in the first floor of the Colle Building at, 85 Avenue A.

The event will feature a group exhibit by Hallmark Institute of Photography's resident faculty, entitled "Collected Visions." The reception, free and open to the public, will include *hors d'oeuvres* and live music.

"Collected Visions" will be on display Fridays through Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m., through Sunday, October 4th.

Montague Center Fire Department Appoints Chaplain

Chief John Greene of the Montague Fire Department is proud to announce the appointment of Rev. Stephen Palso, Sr. to the position of fire chaplain. Palso has been working closely with the officers of the Montague Center Fire Department over the last few months, setting up a new chaplain's program to be offered to the firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and the citizens the department vows to protect.



Reverend Steven Palso, Sr.

Palso is also working to set up Western Mass Fire Ministries, an organization that will help to minister to other fire departments, and all area citizens. Palso will be responding directly to major incidents to help with families and responders that may have a need for counsel, at no cost to the department or the public.

For more information, contact Palso through the Montague Center Fire Department, at 367-2757.

from AIRPORT pg 1

Most of the pilots whose planes are based at the Turners airport "have made arrangements to house their aircraft at other local fields," including the airports in Northampton and Orange. These two airports allowed the Turners pilots to use their fields free of charge for the duration of the construction project. But not all pilots have chosen to move, and on Tuesday afternoon, after the construction crews had packed up for the day, at least one plane landed at the Turners field, using the still paved but badly cracked airport taxiway.

Sweeney said the commission's policy is to make no comment on pilots flying in or out of the Turners field "at their own risk," by using the old taxiway while the main runway is under construction.

Sweeney also said he preferred to make no comment on his new employment status, other than to say his new job is in a field similar to his former one, as a salesman for airplane components.

Sweeney expressed considerable pride about the realization of the runway replacement project, which he has worked for since he first took the part-time position of airport manager in

Turners in 2003. "I was just driving by the airport today, thinking, 'This is a once in a lifetime event. It's been 49 years since the runway was first paved. I don't think I'll ever see another replacement of the runway in my lifetime.'



Michael Sweeney

"The commission should take great pride in its accomplishments over the last six years. They've done an extraordinary thing, not just in the \$5 million replacement of the runway at no cost to the community. They have taken control over the airport's operations; they have taken control over its fiscal responsibilities; there's a lot the commission has done as good custodians of the airport."

Sweeney pointed also to the steps the commission has taken to institute a development program at the Turners airport –

frustrated for now by the recessionary economy – and the sale of timber from trees cut last year on airport property as fiscally prudent efforts to create a revenue stream for the airport outside the income provided by the town and lease payments from tenants. In FY'09, Montague contributed \$15,000 toward the airport's operation from taxation, down about \$10,000 from earlier years.

Sweeney's tenure as airport manager has been marked not only by success but also by controversy. In February of 2007, an ad hoc committee formed of pilots who were frustrated by a sharp rise in lease fees

for private and commercial hangars at the Turners airport, which they claimed were well in excess of fees charged at other local airports. The pilots were also angered by what they considered punitive interpretation of policies regarding access routes, security clearances, and personal items stored at hangars, among other complaints. Dubbed the Committee to Save the Turners Falls Airport, the pilots group gathered 162 signatures from pilots and other members of the airport community calling for the removal of Sweeney as air-

port manager, and brought them to the selectboard. They told the board they had attempted to work out their differences with the airport commission and Sweeney, but had been unable to make progress at commission meetings.

Sweeney defended his performance at a hearing before the selectboard on February 26th of that year, with the pilots group jeering and heckling claims made by the commissioners, including Brian Carroll, who commented, "We're very sensitive to bad relations with the tenants. We keep trying to come up with something to improve them. We've asked them to come to meetings. We've pleaded with them. They don't come."

At that hearing, Sweeney said he was essentially taking the heat as a lightning rod for policies approved by the airport commission, "to restore the airport to effective control.... As

many of the policies put into place have required the users on the field to come into compliance with FAA and Mass Aeronautics and airport regulations, it is understandable that users would chafe under the changes."

Sweeney weathered that storm, and a subsequent flare-up around claims Native American tribes made regarding the cultural significance of a stone formation found on a hill on airport property slated for excavation and removal as part of the original plan for runway replacement, which included adding 1000 more feet of paved surface on the southeast end of the current runway, in the direction of Millers Falls Road.

Airport commissioners made disparaging remarks regarding the stone formation on the airport hill in public, with Carroll calling the site, see AIRPORT pg 13

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG Boater Possibly Intoxicated

Tuesday, 9/1

7:45 p.m. Report of speeding bus, driving erratically on Walnut Street.

8:20 p.m. Report of trespassers on West Gill Road.

Wednesday, 9/2

10:40 a.m. Report of suspicious activity in wooded area off of high tension lines.

10:50 a.m. Report of suspicious activity in area of Mountain Road.

Thursday, 9/3

12:10 p.m. Assisted Northfield police department with motor vehicle accident on Rt. 142.

1:00 p.m. Unknown utility lines down across French King Highway near boat ramp.

9:54 p.m. Family dispute on Chappell Drive.

Friday, 9/4

4:30 p.m. Assisted Sheriff's Office civil process division with court paperwork.

4:45 p.m. Fire alarm on Mount Hermon Campus.

11:20 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle on French King Highway. Gone on arrival.

Saturday, 9/5

7:10 p.m. Report of possible intoxicated boater at state boat ramp on French King Highway, investigated same.

11:05 p.m. Assisted Erving police department.

Sunday, 9/6

3:55 p.m. Criminal complaint sought against [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with unlicensed operation of motor vehicle, and failure to wear safety belt.

Monday, 9/7

9:45 a.m. Noise complaint on French King Highway

10:40 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Meadow Street.

Tuesday, 9/8

7:55 a.m. Fire alarm on Mount Hermon Campus.

12:20 p.m. Suspicious vehicle on Boyle Road.

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A Collage of Art and Music Opens in Millers Falls



HARDING PHOTO

Collages by Max Rudolph on display at the Faces and Places Gallery in Millers Falls

BY ANNE HARDING

MILLERS FALLS – Over Labor Day weekend I dropped by the newly opened Faces and Places Gallery and interviewed owner Moonlight (George) Davis as he was hanging the upcoming show. The freshly painted Bridge Street space, on the main intersection of town, which once housed Wards, a clothing store for men, and more recently, Curves, an exercise facility for women, had been vacant for several years prior to the opening of Davis' studio on the first day of August. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, from 1 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

September's exhibit includes photographic works by Davis as well as a number of featured artists – painter Tamara Stevko, from New York; collage artist Max Rudolph, of Longmeadow; and photographer Jack LaForte, of Northampton. In addition, you'll find one-of-a-kind large magnet works by Jessy Grenier.

Painter Tamara Stevko first

studied art at Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, MA before graduating with a BFA from Elms College and traveling to Newcastle University in England to pursue a masters degree in fine arts. The work on exhibit at the gallery references her European travels, and reflects her fascination with light sources. In her words, Stevko "paints her memories in order to feel out the essence of the regions and essence of her experience."

Max Rudolph got his start in formal arts education at Greenfield Community College and ultimately graduated from the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts. He was trained in print making and collage, but has given up the former medium, believing there are enough pollutants in the environment without adding to them.

Rudolph is a self-professed "American Artist," though his bio at blugirlart.com claims he was born in Chicoutimi, Quebec. He tends to be classified as a mixed media found artist – which to Rudolph

hallways.

There are a trio of black and white photographs by Jack LaForte of Northampton, who believes, "a photograph should challenge the viewer's perceptions in some way." He seeks to share his "aha" experience with the viewer.

Grenier lacks the formal training of the other exhibitors, but her small (approximately 5" by 8") painted magnets are tiny microcosms of the mundane she finds fascinating, and translates into miniature 'portable' paintings. After all, everyone has a refrigerator door available.

Naturally, there are also works by owner and artist Moonlight Davis on exhibit at Faces and Places. Renowned on the local music scene, Moonlight plays keyboard and hand drums and has toured widely in gospel and R&B venues for decades. More recently, he has teamed up with his wife Morning Star Chenven to perform at universities, concert halls, coffeehouses, and community events.

It is less widely known that Moonlight opted for formal schooling in his mid-50s and went back to school at Greenfield Community College, graduating in 2006 with an associate's degree in fine arts. Davis then attended UMass Amherst, and graduated in May 2009 with a fine arts degree in photography.

It was never Davis's desire to own or operate a gallery, but one requirement of his UMass degree was a public showing of his thesis portfolio. The first presentation of his work took place in a borrowed space in Millers Falls, followed by a more formal show at the UMass campus Augusta Savage Gallery. The original borrowed space has now become the Faces & Places Gallery.

Several of Moonlight's thesis works were on display in August including four collage panels of 'local people' (now on display at the Round Here Café in downtown Turners Falls).

When you stop by the gallery, I suggest you ask to see the 'train' piece currently tucked behind the black curtain room divider. It is a classic example of Moonlight's ability to gather seemingly mundane images and elevate

them to the remarkable by conjoining them in collage.

Moonlight's vision for the gallery is expansive – it is both a working space for him, and a place of community inspired by the public that enjoyed his premier exhibit. September promises to be a busy month with children's movies, "An American Tail" and its sequel "Fievel Goes West," showing on the 9th and 16th from 6 to 8 p.m. Carefully tucked between the Tuesday and Thursday library programs across the street, Davis plans to expand offerings for children in Millers Falls on a regular basis.

Friday, September 18th from 6 to 8 p.m. visitors can hear "Mixed Nuts" performing their unique blend of jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues. There will also be a community sing led by Morning Star Chenven on September 22nd. Hoopo the Clown will be on hand for two shows on the Saturday the 26th, one at noon and another at 1:30 p.m., while Montague's own Adam Bergeron will perform classical piano later in the day at 4 p.m.

For further information, contact George Moonlight Davis via email at gmoon1010@gmail.com.



HARDING PHOTO

The paintings of Tamara Stevko, at Faces and Places in Millers Falls

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THEATER REVIEW

Fresh and Witty Gentlemen of Verona at the Shea

BY JEN AUDLEY

TURNERS FALLS – Several hundred folks who stayed in town for Labor Day weekend were treated to a delightful performance of William Shakespeare’s *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at the Shea Theater on Sunday afternoon. The production was the first stop on the Cambridge American Stage Tour, an annual undertaking by a company of students and recent graduates of the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, UK. Their performance in Turners Falls was a last-minute addition to the Shea’s fall schedule, made possible by the Shea’s board of directors, who welcomed the production to Franklin County after company manager Tim Checkley contacted them “in desperation,” explaining that the venue they’d booked on the Cape had cancelled two weeks before the show was supposed to go on.

Shea board members hustled to promote and support the free performance, sending out press

releases, printing tickets, and arranging accommodations for the sixteen-person troupe at “Queen of Cheese” Ricki Carroll’s place in Ashfield. On Sunday afternoon, they opened the theater doors and started handing out tickets an hour before curtain, and were rewarded with a capacity crowd that included both regular theatergoers and first-time visitors of all ages.

“We’re thrilled about the turnout,” said Robin Paris, president of the Shea board of directors, as she welcomed the audience. “We really weren’t sure if people would come out on a holiday weekend.”

The Cambridge players quickly established their fresh and witty take on this Shakespearean classic with an intricately choreographed ensemble dance number in which, by lip-syncing a well-known Italian aria, the young Proteus managed to convey all we needed to know at the outset: he is in love – and also in love

with the feeling of being in love – and that his best friend, Valentine, is not. Instead, Valentine is intent on seeing the world, and he leaves Verona at the end of the scene, headed for the big city of Milan.

We soon learn that the object of Proteus’ affections is Julia, who, though not initially quite as smitten, quickly falls under love’s spell. As this part of the story unfolds, we make the acquaintance of some other important characters: the noblepersons’ servants, including Julia’s sensible maid Lucetta, Valentine’s clever man Speed, and Proteus’ deadpan servant Lance, who, as played by Josh Higgott with a tip of the hat to Charlie Chaplin, had the audience in stitches time and time again.

The plot starts to thicken when Proteus is sent to Milan by his father, where he immediately falls in love with Silvia, the same girl who’s already caught his friend Valentine’s eye. Proteus chooses to betray both his friend

and his sworn love, Julia, in order to pursue Silvia... but despite his ardent efforts, Silvia does not fall in love with him.

As the story unfolds, and eventually resolves, all sorts of interesting and universal questions are raised: Should feelings guide actions? What about when feelings suddenly change? How does love of friends stack up against romantic love? What does it mean to love someone (or something) who doesn’t love you back? How much should one do for love? In the play, as is typical of Shakespeare’s romantic comedies (though not so much of real life), everything works out in the end. However, to its credit, this production found a way to use stagecraft to put an ambivalent twist on the ending, helping the resolution sit better with modern



Cast of the Cambridge American Stage Tour company in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

audiences.

“O heaven! were man But constant, he were perfect.”

Two Gentlemen of Verona was an excellent show, a triumph for the Shea, and a great gift for those who had the chance to see it last week. If you missed it, never fear! MCTV volunteer extraordinaire Don Clegg was there to record it, and it should start airing this weekend on channel 17.

Farm Journal

Making Hay While the Sun Shines



Ayrshire Heifer, artist unknown

BY PATRICIA CROSBY

GILL – Clear and cool this Saturday morning in early August. Yesterday Calamity (a two-year-old Ayrshire heifer) took her maiden walk from the home farm to the business farm, about two miles. Slow-going but relatively smooth. Cars don’t bother the heifers when they take

this walk – especially if cars slow down nicely, which they do – but the cows don’t like the gratings and storm drains. Once the heifers get to the other side of Hickory Hill, their step picks up, as if they can sense there are “new” cows out there, and they’re going to join them. Actually, their mothers are there, though they don’t appear to remember them.

Then, it’s cucumber picking. The twelve-year-old is helping. These cukes are for the Real

Pickles people, and also for ourselves and our farm stand. The cucumbers have been slow-growing this year, due to the wet.

There is also a presentation at the NOFA conference to prepare for, on “value-added” farming.

Left behind on the home farm, without Calamity, are two calves, May and Rain, a year-old heifer, Susan, and a young bull, AI Steve.

Sunday. Two of us go to Meeting. For the rest, it’s work as usual, but a littler slower pace on Sundays. They picked cucumbers; S__ made nine loaves of honey oat bread, which she’ll put out in the honey house. They’ll be gone by tomorrow.

A helper milks for us on Sunday evenings, so we can have dinner before 8:30 at night. We have two new kittens on the home farm, Shiner and Sheila. Shiner, the rowdier one, crawled up the side of a five-gallon pail the other day and fell into a full bucket of milk. He came out even faster

than he went in. His sister promptly ran over to lick him, but he wasn’t enthused. The milk wasn’t for people, but meant for the calves, who didn’t seem to mind the kitten flavor.

Monday – Hot, hot, hot. They picked cucumbers and cleaned the wheat in the a big seed cleaner, sifting out any bugs and small seeds. S__ delivered to the Real Pickles plant and took the cukes too big for them to the Salvation Army. She also planted an herb garden today.

Tuesday – Dug new potatoes. Small ones, from the earth to the pot to the plate. Don’t get any newer than that, observed someone at the table. S__ hung up sage to dry. People starting to get their fair registrations done.

On Wednesday, R__ mowed the strawberry, raspberry lanes and the grounds in general.

Thursday, three different batches of chickens arrived at the home farm. A coop of “old” ones, three years plus, half of whom

probably aren’t even laying any more. They need to go. M__ delivers eggs, by bicycle when possible, to seven customers around town; the rest go to the farm stand and disappear quickly. We also have eggs from three other vendors at the farm stand, from large commercial to small backyard, all local.

Batches of new chickens are in the “nursery.” They are brown leghorns, red leghorns, and maybe some black stars. Also two Japanese bantams: we had hoped for a hen and rooster but it looks like we got two hens. (We order from a Midwest hatchery.) We had a Japanese bantam rooster once who was a wonderful pet, ‘Charlie’. Usually the roosters get mean and you have to get rid of them, but he was a sweet and affectionate bird, tamed by R__.

Next Monday – Again, hot, hot, hot! More mowing today and haying.

And so it goes, while the sun shines.

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SCHOOL from pg 5

learning), encouraging students to reach for the stars and providing them with the tools to do so, keeping more resident students in the district schools, considering cultural diversity as an asset and teaching tool, and recognition that teachers are the heart of the school and the need to empower them. The goals included increasing the percentage of students graduating and going to college, building leaders who will support strong student councils, as well as creating fiscal stability through better relationships with the towns and a strong 3- to 5-year budget and finance plan.

At the meeting on Tuesday evening, Ladd presented his goals for the district, based in part on the list of goals and visions provided by the school committee. His primary goal is lifting student achievement and building personal competence. To do this, he said the district needs to define and communicate the concept of educating the whole child. He suggested aligning pre-K through 12 curriculum, instruction and assessment. He concurred with the major goal of increasing the district graduation rate and seeing a greater number of GMRSD students go on to college. Ladd would also like to see broader parental involvement in the

schools. He also said the district needs to improve the evaluation process for all staff and continue to build upon previous initiatives.

Ladd said he wants to develop a coordinated process for professional development, saying there are now 60 individual initiatives or programs in place that require sound professional development in order for teachers to be able to feel confident using the programs. Teacher confidence would translate into more student success, Ladd said. He added he didn't want to see more new programs instituted until teachers and administrators had conducted a thorough evaluation of current programs and made sure teachers were fully trained to implement them.

Ladd said the most important thing is to give students a safe and healthy learning environment. The concept of educating the whole child includes making sure students have a challenging educational experience; that teachers are not just meeting the needs of children who are struggling but also pushing or prodding those students who need to be inspired to do more.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held at Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls, at 7 p.m. on September 22nd.

WENDELL from pg 6

ming annual hazardous waste collection day. The collection day will be Saturday, September 26th, at the Athol highway garage, and at Greenfield Community College. Wendell residents can bring in household hazardous waste free of charge, but businesses have to pay, and anyone wanting to take advantage of the collection day must register with the FCSWMD by September 18th. Registration can be handled online at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org, or on the back of the information sheets available at the town office building and at the Wendell recycling station.

The Fiske Pond advisory committee reported they are working on clearing woody vegetation from the dam, and lowering the pond's level by clearing out the spillway where beavers have added material, as the inspection report dictated. Work is not yet complete.

Dan Keller said the former library building, where the senior center is now located, has had a longtime problem with water accumulating in the basement. The town has put new gutters on the building, and the highway department cleared the building's perimeter drains, but the basement is still damp. He suggested buying a dehumidifier for the building, and recommended a Kenmore, which costs \$400 including a service contract for annual maintenance. The other board members approved the purchase.

Aldrich said only two bids came in to replace the two fixed high windows in the town office entryway with windows that open and close. Both bids were for more than the amount budgeted, \$2,000. In the summer, the temperature in the entryway room is often over 100 degrees. There is still money in the construction account that can be used to supplement the amount budgeted. Alternately, venting only one upper window might

be enough to make the entryway more comfortable, and add less heat to the whole building in summer.

Fire chief Everett Ricketts wrote a grant proposal, and the town's insurance company, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) awarded the town money to buy a flammable materials storage cabinet for materials in the highway garage and fire station. The town can buy it and send the bill to MIIA.

MIIA also is announcing its annual 6th grade essay contest on the subject, "If I were elected leader of my community I would make a difference by..." Selectboard chair Christine Heard said she would pass along the information to the Swift River School sixth grade teacher and invite her class to participate.

Heard said she fielded a complaint about the condition of town cemeteries. The complainant said the cemeteries were not mowed and were poorly maintained; but when she looked at them, Heard said her view was that they were as well tended as the town common. Some weed heads stand up above the level of mowed grass, but weeds have learned to bend over when the mower comes by.

When former road boss Dan Bacigalupo was head of the cemetery commission, he could get road workers to maintain the cemeteries, Heard explained. But now it costs \$300 from the cemetery maintenance budget to mow all three of the town's cemeteries, so mowing is done only as needed.

Aldrich reported she had her final meeting with FEMA representatives to go over reimbursement for extra expenses the town incurred for ice storm damage in December 2008. Heard said the amount the town receives should come close to the amount the town spent, including some of the extra hours she had to work to complete the FEMA paperwork.

Keller said he had checked


the ceiling over the town hall stage because of complaints from Full Moon Coffeehouse performers that white granules were falling on them during performances. Keller said there is a thin layer of fiberglass above the ceiling, and a thin layer of cellulose, but at least there is no asbestos. There is no insulation in the town hall walls.

Heard suggested the town should get an estimate from Eastern Weatherization of Montague, the company that insulated the senior center, so an article could be placed on a town meeting warrant to pay for insulating the entire town hall. The Full Moon Coffeehouse committee might help pay for some of the cost.

Board members approved a motion that would allow one of the regular members to sign for the selectboard, if the chair is unavailable.

Pooser said he has been inundated with calls from residents upset about helicopters flying low and hovering over houses well below the 500 foot limit agreed upon by the state, an agreement Keller said was reached 15 years ago. Pooser said he was appalled at the intrusion of the helicopters flying so low that it is easy to see the pilot, especially in light of the decrease in state aid to education and local governments. He thought some kind of range finder might be used for legal documentation of how low the helicopters are flying.

Heard said she had seen state troopers dressed in full camouflage driving three SUVs on her road, and said she would call police chief Ed Chase to see if he has any information about the escalation in the state's surveillance of citizens, and if he can contact the agencies carrying it out.

A statewide primary election will be held on December 8th, and a special election on January 19th 2010, will be held to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Senator Edward Kennedy. 

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Two Businesses Burglarized

Tuesday, 9/1

5:34 p.m. Report of restraining order violation at an Avenue A pay phone.

6:44 p.m. Report of sex offenses at an Avenue A address. Referred to an officer.

8:18 p.m. Report of vandalism on Avenue A at Seventh Street.

Thursday, 9/3

2:24 a.m. Officer initiated investigation of suspicious persons. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted] arrested

[redacted] Both charged with trespassing and possession of class A drug.

Friday, 9/4

8:13 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at Miller's Pub, East Main Street. Investigated.

1:19 p.m. Officer initiated arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant.

2:43 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at Couture Brothers building on Eleventh Street. Investigated.

Saturday, 9/5

12:23 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, second offense, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, and disorderly conduct.

3:10 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Montague Street address. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] on a default warrant.

Charged with assault, domestic, and vandalism, damage or defacement of property.

8:34 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Turner Street address. Peace restored.

Sunday, 9/6

4:08 p.m. Report of a hit and run accident at Route 63 Roadhouse, Federal Street.

Monday, 9/7

1:16 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Peace restored.

Tuesday, 9/8

4:27 p.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance at an East Main Street address. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] on a default warrant.



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from **BUS** pg 6

used to allow transfers to the FRTA for non-medical appointments. He plans to attend GCC in January and has two chief travel concerns: lack of transfers and schedule changes that will make it difficult for him to get to class on time.

GCC student Chris Geoffrey had to change his classes due to the new schedule. He had to drop a class he needs to graduate, but hopes the course will be available at a time he can make it there by bus during his final semester this spring. Geoffrey also noted the change in transfer policy has doubled his fares to and from college, and says he simply can't understand the rationale behind some of the new routes. He now departs Turners Falls and travels to the center of Greenfield, then pays a second fare to travel a lengthy and circuitous route to GCC.

Geoffrey claims the route change from Court Square to GCC now takes anywhere from half an hour to forty minutes, and the new routes seem to get him there either late for class or "two hours early."

Shane Hammond, associate dean for enrollment at GCC is the acting liaison between the school and the FRTA. He said the new schedule was implemented just two days before classes started, so a number faculty and students were unaware of the changes. Hammond confirmed the routes and schedules have impacted students, in particular those with early classes. He has been working closely with Cote and Toomey to review the schedules, and hopes additional routes might be added soon.

Hammond said some of the challenges are related to the multiple schedules necessary to navigate the system. It is not

always easy to tell which routes are compatible with others. FRTA officials intend to review connection possibilities, and hold a public forum at GCC to go over the changes with affected riders.

Maureen McNamara, another regular bus user, reiterated concerns about the number of stops eliminated from downtown Turners Falls. She has an upcoming medical appointment at the Community Health Center in Montague City, and will either have to wait two hours for a return bus or walk back – a decision that will likely depend on the weather. She said she is grateful that walking is an option for her.

C. Kelley of K Street in Turners Falls said he appreciates the willingness of FRTA to work with folks who are handicapped, and praised drivers for their professional behavior and willingness to be accommodating. He

rides the bus to Greenfield regularly and confirms that the buses are often close to empty, so he can understand why the number of stops had to be reduced.

Kelley also appreciates FRTA's use of the more efficient, smaller buses, but other riders expressed concerns that some routes are now over-crowded and passengers are standing up with no effective hand-holds to en route. They hope that once route numbers stabilize, the overcrowded routes would switch back to the larger buses for safety reasons, or that additional runs might be added to accommodate demand.

The FRTA continues to serve an average of 3,000 riders per week over wide rural terrain. Amendments to the new schedules are already beginning, and as more information becomes available there will undoubtedly be more changes. Toomey cites coordination with other transit

systems as a priority for the FRTA – particularly in the five college region, where ridership is increasing.

Cote believes most people are satisfied with the changes, or will realize their options are not as limited as they might at first appear. Both she and Toomey acknowledged the separate maps for each route has made it more difficult to see the interconnections. They encourage customers to contact the FRTA for more information or assistance in organizing their routes.

Since the implementation of the schedule, Cote said, the company has received only 12 letters of complaint.

Riders with concerns about the route and schedule and fare changes should write to the FRTA directly at 474 Main Street, Greenfield, MA, 01301, via email through their website, www.firta.org, or call (413) 774-2262.



from **VILLAGE** pg 1

a noisy Piper Cub took off, startling the bird into flying and calling its shrill alarm.

I watched the bird, but my boyhood pal Fran Dobosz watched the plane. He knew he wanted to do that. He knew he wanted to fly. As for me, I was definitely going to keep my two feet on the ground, watching the birds.

Who was in that Piper Cub? Maybe it was Freddy Macker, Lenny Doton or Henry Waidlich heading down to Plum Island or somewhere up the Maine coast. Whoever it was, Fran wanted to be up there too, with wind under his wings, pulling away from Earth's gravity.

He did learn to fly, spent a lifetime in the air, but he started out at the Turners airport, like many had before him, inspired by the proximity of the planes and the possibility of flight. From this local airstrip he went on to the Air Force, then three years in the Phillipines and Vietnam, before piloting commercial 727s.

As for me, I did keep my feet on *terra firma*. As was true for my friend, the small country

airstrip made up of a couple of hangars and a humble windscock was a field of dreams for many a young man, and some not so young.

I suppose it all started with the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk in 1903. The joy of flight that affects some of us began spreading across the country. By 1927, the White Coal Farm, an experimental agricultural development that lasted maybe ten years, allowed private flying on its property on the edge of the Montague Plains. By 1930, the Turners Falls Airport, Inc. was founded by Charles Mosher. The corporation purchased the White Coal Farm, and other properties, extending the airport-owned land to 116 acres.

Later, during the Depression in 1936, a W.P.A. project (read Economic Stimulus Package!) enabled the town to develop the site as a public airport and increase the land holding to 185 acres.

By 1942, a certain Dr. Joseph Levy leased the facility and brought in 17 planes. During his association with the airport, over 1000 pilots were trained here.

These trainees put in three

months at the airport and then transferred to a college for further training. Among them was one Ted Williams, who not only trained at the airport, but spent time fly-fishing for trout in the then-pristine Millers River.

By 1945, the first airport commission was appointed by the Montague selectboard. Arthur Davis, Ed Pleasant, Henry Waidlich, Frank Kuzmeskus and Dr. Levy were the first to serve in that capacity.

Problems arose fairly quickly, with the lack of funding being the primary concern. Local businessmen founded a corporation to give a boost to the airport. Among them were many names familiar to long-time residents: Peter Mackin, Ron Zschau, Sam Blassberg, Sam Couture, Freddie Macker, Walter Garbiel, Henry Wasileski and John Broslick.

Again, in spite of the support provided by the local business community, various commercial operators at the airport failed to make it a profitable concern. It was written in the *Turners Falls Observer* of 1960, that "only two members of the board of directors had faith in the future

of the airport, Fred Macker and Sam Couture. These two purchased the remaining shares of the corporation in 1953," and by the way, kept the dream alive.

Finally, by 1960, a paved 3,700 foot runway was completed and dedicated. More than 5000 people were in attendance for this gala that included stunt flying and parachute jumping.

Later, in 1970, Pioneer Aviation set up business on the airfield, providing fuel, repairs and maintenance for pilots choosing to locate or drop in at the airport. This business, founded by Charles Bohonowicz, provided the link between those historic early efforts and our contemporary times by drawing business to the field. Without the Bohonowicz family, Charlie and son Bruce, the airfield might well have disappeared.

But before the daring men in their flying machines ever arrived on the scene, the rolling hills on the edge of the Plains already had a long history.

We have to turn back the calendar about 14,000 years or so for a few minutes here. Imagine you are moving along the

Millers Falls Road, but back in those days. You would be under 30 or 40 feet of water. A post-glacial lake called Lake Hitchcock lay over the Plains from 17,000 to 13,000 B.P. (Before Present).

At the bottom of the lake along which we are traveling, deposits formed that make up the soils we find today in our own back yards. Move the time machine up a few thousand years to when the lake had drained completely, when the lake sands had dried out, and pushed by the winds, formed dunes we can still see today.

If we had been there then, as we moved along the road to Millers Falls, we would be dodging mammoths and mastodons moving out of the drying delta of the Plains on their way to the Connecticut River to drink and feed. Not really a Jurassic Park, but more like a late Pleistocene Park!

Eventually, around 10,500 BP, small bands of paleo-Indians moved into the region to hunt the mastodons, caribou and elk that thrived here. They were the first tribal people to arrive

see **VILLAGE** pg 12

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Summer Hours Linger at the Discovery Center

BY DON CLEGG

GREAT FALLS - Summer, as short as it seemed this year, is rapidly coming to an end. However, the Great Falls Discovery Center will remain open on summer hours through the end of September, seven days a week, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All month the Center will offer a variety of programs to entertainment and educate the public.

On Friday, September 11th, the Great Falls Coffeehouse Series presents Connecticut River song contest finalist Charlie Conant, for an evening of original music on acoustic guitar, banjo and dobro. Doors

to the Great Hall open at 6:30 p.m.; the concert starts at 7:00 p.m., with refreshments and baked goods for sale. And, of course, coffee. The museum and store are open at intermission. A sliding scale donation is appreciated to benefit the Friends of GFDC.

This is hawk migration season. On Saturday, September 12th, at 11:00 a.m., come learn identification techniques and find out about the birds migrating down our watershed to warmer climates.

On Thursday, September 17th, a unique program co-sponsored with the Montague Historical Society will take you

back in time 90 years to the end of World War I. Richard Colton will speak on one of Montague's citizens, Lt. Stephen Richardson, who served on the Western Front. His soldier's trunk filled with documents, souvenirs, uniforms and letters will be presented. The program starts at 7:00 p.m., with the Historical Society's annual meeting to follow.

Join educator and frequent Discovery Center presenter Rachel Roberts, for an afternoon presentation on the life cycle and migration pattern of the monarch butterfly. The free workshop geared toward families with

young children starts at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19th. This program is presented with the support of the Montague Cultural Council.

Do you have a powerful grip? On Saturday, September 26th, at 1:00 p.m., come to the Discovery Center and see how you measure up against the gripping strength of an eagle, and other birds of prey. All are welcome for this informative and interactive program.

Just around the corner, the 13th Annual Source-to-Sea Cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The starting

point for this event is the GFDC. Areas usually covered in our region include Gill, Montague, East Deerfield and Erving. Volunteers and groups are always needed for cleanup and hauling. Contact Northfield Mountain at (800) 859-2960, or the Connecticut River Watershed Council at (413) 772-2020 x 201, for more info.

October 11th to 17th is National Wildlife Refuge Week, and Project Wolf may be headed to the Center on Saturday, October 17th. More details will be available soon, but pencil it in your calendar now: this event is sure to pack the Hall.

6th Annual Drug-and-Alcohol-Free "Recovery Jam" Draws Sober Artists to Greenfield on September 19th

GREENFIELD - Franklin County's Annual "Recovery Jam Sober Music Festival" will be at the White Eagle Polish Picnic Grounds (249 Plain Road, Greenfield) on Saturday, September 19th, from 12 to 6 p.m.

This event includes music entertainment, barbeque, and kid's activities. Children under

12 will be admitted free of charge. All are welcome to attend this drug- and alcohol-free event!

Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. For more info, contact the RECOVER Project at 68 Federal Street, Greenfield, via phone at 413-774-5489, or visit www.recoverproject.org.

VILLAGE from pg 11

on the scene, to camp and to hunt. Later populations followed over thousands of years, and by 1000 - 450 BP the Late Woodland Tribes were settled in large complex villages throughout our region. It is estimated that the population along the Connecticut River in Central and Western Massachusetts and southern Vermont was in the vicinity of 75,000 inhabitants!

Ten thousand years of tribal history and habitation, with their accompanying artifacts, mean that our region is highly sensitive in archaeological and cultural terms. Many state and federal laws now protect such sites and artifacts. Federal law specifically states that projects receiving federal money must be surveyed in order to locate and identify any archeological resources that might be affected by the proposed undertaking.

The Turners Falls airport is now under reconstruction, and therefore archeological "clearing" of sites is currently being undertaken. Representatives of the only federally-recognized and sovereign tribes in our region, the Narragansetts, the Wampanoag (Mashpee), and the Wampanoag of Gayhead (Aquinnah) have been on site daily for the last two months, and intermittently over the past five years, working to identify

and protect sensitive cultural areas of the earlier tribal populations. Cairn sites have been located, most likely spiritual locations to which stones were carried by individuals over thousands of years, perhaps as a memorial, an offering, or a prayer. Another example is the ceremonial hill on the Plains now under the protection of the tribes and the National Register of Historical Places, as are other sites nearby, such as the Riverside Historical District in Gill.

The convergence of aviation interests and tribal mandates provide challenges for the current and future development of the airport. A third overlay is the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, which designates the airport lands as priority habitat for several threatened species. This agency identified one rare bird species that depends on the disappearing grasslands environment like that of the airport, and an additional 11 rare species that occur on or near the property.

So, also laying claim to coexist on airport lands are the fading species protected by the Massachusetts NHES Program.

For the record, Natural Heritage has identified the following species of concern at the airport:

1. Wild Lupine habitat, which hosts the rare Frosted Elfin butterfly
 2. New Jersey Tea habitat necessary for the endangered New Jersey Tea Inchworm
 3. Heath/Blueberry habitat vital for three moth species of special concern
 4. Pitch Pine habitat which harbors moth species of special concern
 5. Grasslands and mown areas where the threatened Grasshopper Sparrow breeds
- We are fortunate to have within our town lines a gem of a country airport, much appreciated by pilots and passing visitors alike. But with it come responsibilities to protect the 11,000 years of tribal history on the site, as well as the unique habitat afforded creatures in danger of disappearing from the planet. These multiple perspectives on this unique patch of land were not evident to me or my boyhood pal of long ago.
- With time, comes knowledge. And nowadays, if you time it just right, you can still see young and old watching the planes, and the birds too, but now they may also be thinking of their own Native American roots or imagining mastodons in the distance, moving slowly across the tundra, heading for the river.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Another Copper Theft

Friday, 9/4

7:40 a.m. Fire alarm at a Lillian's Way address. Fire department on scene, false alarm.

10:30 a.m. Fire alarm at an Old State Road address. Fire department on scene, false alarm.

1:30 p.m. Report of past larceny of copper wire from a location behind the Copper Angel Restaurant on Route 2A.

Saturday, 9/5

8:50 a.m. Report of vandalism at an Old Dorsey Road address. Found to be in Northfield at Pine Meadow and Ferry Roads. Report taken for Northfield police.

9:30 a.m. Report of loose Great Dane on

Forest Street. Unable to locate.

12:25 p.m. Report of harassing phone calls, advised reporting party.

3:00 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating an uninsured and unregistered vehicle and operating a motor vehicle to endanger.

3:59 p.m. Officer to a Mountain Road address to assist in a retrieval of property.

7:50 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Copper Angel restaurant parking lot. Investigated.

10:46 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] on a

straight warrant and cited him for failure to wear a seatbelt.

Sunday, 9/6

1:00 p.m. Report of past loose dogs on North Street.

4:45 p.m. Assistance to Gill police with traffic stop.

11:15 p.m. Report of car vs. deer accident on Route 2 along Farley Flats.

Monday, 9/7

12:50 p.m. Report that three male persons threw a white object from the French King Bridge. Located subjects but could not locate object. Subjects denied throwing anything.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Statins and Cholesterol

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q: *I've heard statins referred to as wonder drugs that we should put in our drinking water. Do they deserve this reputation?*

(Statins are worth two columns because so many seniors take them. This is the first installment. We'll begin with background on cholesterol.)

Cholesterol is a fat-like substance in blood. You need it to produce cell membranes, protect nerves, and make hormones.

The body can make all the cholesterol it needs. Most cholesterol is made by your liver. You also get cholesterol from foods such as meat, eggs and dairy products. Too much cholesterol is dangerous, because

cholesterol can lead to blockages in your blood vessels.

Cholesterol is transported through the bloodstream in packages called lipoproteins. Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) deliver cholesterol to the body. High-density lipoproteins (HDL) remove cholesterol from the bloodstream. LDLs are often described as "bad" cholesterol; HDLs are called "good" cholesterol.

If there are too many LDLs in the blood, they will combine with other material in your bloodstream to manufacture plaque, a waxy crud that builds up on the inner walls of the blood vessels that feed your brain and heart. When this build-up occurs, you have a condition called "atherosclerosis," which is commonly referred to as "hardening of the arteries."

If a clot forms in blood vessels narrowed by plaque, it can block blood flow, which can

cause a heart attack or a stroke.

The recommended levels of cholesterol are as follows:

Total cholesterol level should be less than 200 mg/dL. ("Mg/dL" stands for milligram per deciliter.) "Borderline high" is defined as between 200 and 239 mg/dL. You're risking heart disease if your reading is 240 mg/dL or more.

LDL cholesterol level should be less than 130 mg/dL. "Borderline high" is between 130 and 159 mg/dL. There's heart-disease risk if your reading is 160 mg/dL or more.

HDL cholesterol levels should be at 60 mg/dL or higher to cut the risk of heart disease. You're at high risk for heart disease if you have a reading less than 40 mg/dL.

If your total cholesterol level is high because of high LDLs, you may be at higher risk of heart disease or stroke. If your total level is high only because of a high HDLs, you're probably not

at higher risk.

Some physicians use the ratio of total cholesterol to HDLs. The ratio is obtained by dividing the HDLs into the total cholesterol. The goal is to keep the ratio below 5 to 1.

Statins, which are also known as HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, are drugs that reduce cholesterol by blocking the liver substance responsible for making cholesterol. Statins may also help your body reabsorb cholesterol that has accumulated on your artery walls. Statins are relatively safe for most people.

Some of the best-known statins include simvastatin (Zocor), atorvastatin (Lipitor), lovastatin (Mevacor), pravastatin (Pravachol), rosuvastatin (Crestor), and fluvastatin (Lescol).

Your cholesterol level is just

one number doctors consider before prescribing a statin. If your only risk for heart attack or stroke is high cholesterol, you may not need medication. Other risk factors are: lifestyle, age, family history of heart attack and stroke, smoking, weight, blood pressure, diabetes, narrowing of arteries in your neck and extremities, and overall health.

Changes to your lifestyle such as quitting smoking and exercising may have a greater impact on reducing risk of heart disease and stroke than medication alone.

Statins can have potential side effects such as liver damage, pain in muscles and joints, constipation, nausea and diarrhea. Those who take statins have their liver function tested periodically.

(In our next column, we'll discuss additional benefits from taking statins.)

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

AIRPORT from page 7

"a bunch of rocks on top of a hill." at one town meeting.

In his public presentations, Sweeney took a moderate role in that debate, stressing the commission's responsibility to ensure the protection of sites determined to be of cultural significance to Native tribes and waiting for the FAA and the National Register of Historic Places to rule on the significance of the airport hill.

That decision came down last December, when the National Register ruled that the "Ceremonial Hill" at the Turners Falls airport was eligible for inclusion in the Register of Historic Places, the first time a Native ceremonial site had been so designated east of the Mississippi River.

By all accounts, that decision led to the shortened runway replacement project now underway, following the two year delay caused by the deliberations in Washington over the significance of the airport hill.

Now, Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe, along with senior cultural resource monitor for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah) Jonathan Perry and his sister Elizabeth, have been on site daily and plan to be for the first five weeks of construction at the airport, "monitoring areas where digging is occurring or will occur to confirm the absence of cultural resources," according to Harris.

Harris said that so far, "The FAA and the airport commission and Gale Associates have all been very responsive to our concerns regarding the protection of sensitive sites. We expect the cooperation and mutual support we have built will continue."

An attempt to reach airport commission chair Peter Golrick prior to publication was unsuccessful, but commission member Rod Herzig, reached for comment, said, "We're going to start on Monday with the process of

choosing a new manager." He added, "I don't think we'll be hasty in choosing a new manager. We'll be very choosy."

Herzig, who was a member of the Save the Turners Falls Airport Committee prior to his appointment as commissioner, said the Turners airport is "slowly becoming a more user-friendly airport. It's moving in the right direction."

As Sweeney takes his leave, he thanked former commissioner Mark Fairbrother, along with Golrick, Carroll, Michael Sokoloski, Gary Collins, and new commission members David Brule, Rod Herzig, and Keith LaRiviere, for their hard work over the last six years.

"Without all seven, and their contributions, the airport would be substantially less than what it is today. That commission is extraordinary. They deserve the town's thanks and appreciation. They've done a great job with limited resources," Sweeney said.

Health Commissioner Dispels H1N1 Rumor

GREENFIELD - According to a letter sent to all local and municipal officials on September 2nd by Massachusetts commissioner of public health John Auerbach, the Department of Public Health will not call for or authorize mandatory vaccination against the pandemic flu.

Auerbach wrote in response to rumors that have been spreading quickly through blogs, chat rooms and other media. Carolyn Ness, Deerfield selectboard

member, said his timing was great.

"We are trying to deliver the information people need in a timely manner and to answer questions as they arise. It is disappointing when rumors such as this create fear and distract people from the real business at hand," she said.

Mandatory vaccination is not and has never been part of the plan or discussion in Massachusetts' pandemic response, Auerbach said.

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JOE GRAVELINE

300th Series



300th Combat Engineer Battalion repairing the under piling of a bridge destroyed by enemy fire along the Carentan - Cherbourg Road in France - June 30, 1944.

Dispatches from Belgium, September, 1944

Modave, Belgium. The depot would become a massive engineer dump with bridging equipment, mainly, stretching for almost a mile. Headquarters for the battalion was established in the Chateau de Modave, a building dating from the 1200s.

300th Engineer Randy Hanes talked about the mud at Modave. "We were bivouacked there in a sixty or seventy acre area. It rained almost without stopping

in the rain! We always referred to it as Mud Hill. My squad truck did not have a tarp at that time or I would have slept in the truck bed out of the rain and sloop.

"One night I decided to sleep under the truck. I put my shelter-half down, crawled under the truck and went to sleep. A dumb-ass thing to do! When I awoke in the morning, the truck was about four inches from my body and mired down in all that sloop. There was no way I could extricate myself.

"I started hollering for help to some of my men nearby. I told them to get shovels, dig a trench to me and pull me out. I pulled my blanket and shelter-half with me as they pulled me out. Needless to say, I was a real muddy old engineer and embarrassed by my stupidity and near demise. I came close to being buried - before I died!"

300th Engineer Kenneth "Cowboy" Morris talked about popcorn in Belgium. "One boy got a package from home and it had a package of popcorn. We were in this lady's house. There were two women, an old man and a young boy that lived in this house in Belgium. We got this popcorn out and put it in a pan. The women said, 'If you're hungry I will fix you some food.



300th Engineers building a corduroy road of logs in the mud in Belgium.

We feed corn to the chickens and hogs.' It was mostly in French but we could understand enough of it. So we put a lid on that pan of popcorn and it started to pop. We told her to look and took off the lid and it popped right out. She jumped back, they had never seen popcorn. They didn't know what it was."

300th Engineer Chuck Bice recalled the people of Belgium. "There was a bar just three or four blocks from where we were staying in Belgium. The town was small and of course it was cold there then. They had a fire in the bar so we would go down and stay as long as we could, as long as they wanted us to. There was an old man about 80. He looked even older, and he smoked a big old crooked pipe. I enjoyed talking to him. You know we would hit a word now

and then to get the meaning. We got ready to leave and he gave me a pipe, an old pipe. I gave it to my son. Some of it was handmade. We had a lot of fun and when we got ready to leave that little town, those women and some of the kids cried, like family was leaving."



300th Engineer Randy Hanes



300th Engineer Chuck Bice

BRAD PETERS & JAN ROSS ERVING - In recognition of the 65th anniversary of the U.S. campaign in Europe in WWII, the Montague Reporter will follow the men of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion as they moved through France, Belgium and Germany from their landing in Normandy in June 1944 to VE Day on May 8th, 1945. Donald Ross, father of Jan Ross of Erving served with the 300th.

After passing through Paris, the 300th continued on and bivouacked in Crecy, France. They continued north to La Capelle on September 5th, and operated the transportation control office there.

In mid-September, the battalion traveled northeast across the Belgian border, establishing Engineer Depot E6 near

for six or seven days. The entire area was a quagmire, necessitating snaking the trucks out with a D-8 bulldozer.

"The water ran into our pup tents even though we ditched around them. We ate in the rain trying to keep our mess kits from flooding. Everything we did was

MCTV Channel 17 Afternoon/Evening Schedule 9/11 - 9/17

visit www.montaguema.net for complete schedule

Friday, September 11

- 12:00 p.m. An Afternoon of Music with Daniel Clarke
- 2:00 p.m. Be Red Cross Ready
- 3:00 p.m. Coffee House: 7 Mile Line
- 4:30 p.m. Two Gentlemen of Verona
- 6:30 p.m. Baystate Healthbeat September 2009
- 7:00 p.m. GMRSD 9/8/09
- 11:00 p.m. Beneath the 12 Mile Reef

Saturday, September 12

- 12:00 p.m. TF Block Party 2009 #5
- 12:30 p.m. TF Block Party 2009 #6
- 1:30 p.m. The Secret Government
- 3:30 p.m. The Western Mass Democrat Thomas Merrigan
- 4:30 p.m. They Are Still There
- 5:30 p.m. White House Chronicle #1030-1031

- 6:30 p.m. The HIV Test
- 7:30 p.m. Zeitgeist The Movie
- 9:30 p.m. Preachin the Blues
- 10:30 p.m. Physician Focus September 2009

Sunday, September 13

- 1:00 p.m. Michael Nix
- 2:30 p.m. Mercy Medical Airlift
- 3:30 p.m. Masters of the Universe
- 4:30 p.m. Mark Beaubian: Biomass Plant
- 5:30 p.m. Martha Coakley 09
- 6:00 p.m. MCTV Video Camp 2007
- 6:30 p.m. Living Along The River
- 8:30 p.m. Journey to Wissatinnewag
- 9:00 p.m. Inside The Artists Studio: Ted Graveline
- 9:30 p.m. Independent Voices #47
- 10:00 p.m. Independent Voices #50

Monday, September 14

- 12:00 p.m. Farmer's Market 09
- 12:30 p.m. Falls Table Margaret Fitzpatrick
- 1:00 p.m. Exploring New Worlds in New England
- 1:30 p.m. TWB Growing a Green Community
- 2:30 p.m. Baystate Healthbeat September 2009
- 3:00 p.m. Montague Machine
- 4:00 p.m. Over The Falls: Maintaining The Strength
- 4:30 p.m. Power Canal Draw Down
- 5:00 p.m. Reconciliation Ceremony
- 5:30 p.m. Senior Center: Ruth Harcovitz
- 6:30 p.m. Women Girls & HIV: Role

- Models
- 7:00 p.m. Select Board (Live)
- 9:00 p.m. Two Gentlemen of Verona
- 11:00 p.m. Zero

Tuesday, September 15

- 1:30 p.m. TWB Growing a Green Community
- 2:30 p.m. The Last Man on Earth
- 4:00 p.m. Mercy Medical Airlift
- 5:00 p.m. Mark Beaubian: Biomass Plant
- 6:00 p.m. White House Chronicle #1030-1031
- 7:00 p.m. GMRSD 9/8/09

Wednesday, September 16

- 12:30 p.m. Baystate Healthbeat September 2009
- 1:00 p.m. Both Sides of the Bridge
- 2:00 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson "Get a Clue"
- 3:00 p.m. Chainsaw Massacre
- 4:00 p.m. Chemtrails the Movie

- 6:30 p.m. Independent Voices #50
- 7:00 p.m. Inside The Artists Studio: Ted Graveline
- 7:30 p.m. Coffee House: Katie Clarke 09

- 8:30 p.m. Two Gentlemen of Verona
- 10:30 p.m. White House Chronicle #1030-1031

Thursday, September 17

- 1:30 p.m. TF Block Party 2009 #3
- 2:30 p.m. TF Block party 2009 #4
- 3:30 p.m. Baystate Healthbeat September 2009
- 4:00 p.m. Physician Focus September 2009
- 5:00 p.m. Power Canal Draw Down
- 5:30 p.m. Discovery Center: Northern Bats
- 6:30 p.m. Independent Voices #47
- 7:00 p.m. Select Board 9/14/09
- 9:00 p.m. Coffee House: 7 Mile Line
- 10:30 p.m. Downtown on Ice

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – The second week of August brought us true summer weather: sun and heat with little rain. This pattern has continued and the garden crops are burgeoning.

If there is one plant which prefers consistent, regular watering, it's the tomato. This season's early monsoon, followed by a dry patch, followed by more water, produced fruit inclined to scab and cracking. The flavor has improved with the sun and heat, but the fruit is not as pretty as in some years. The gardener might not care, but since the crop seems to be coming in all at once and I am not inclined to can, I am giving away much fruit with attached apologies for its complexion.

If you can overlook or remove scars and the occasional investigative bird peck, these tomatoes taste as wonderful as those of any other season. The Pineapple, yellow and red with mild flavor, is beautiful sliced and garnished only with light oil and vinegar dressing and a bit of fresh basil. The Red Zebra is a lovely striped, mid-size fruit with mild tomato flavor.

The more acidic tomatoes, Delicious and Brandywine, are very tasty and big enough to decorate a sandwich. Best of all are the Sungold cherries, at once sweet and tart, a delight to eat right off the vine. I lost quite a few to cracking and subsequent mold, but the two plants I put in have produced huge crops. It's no trouble to pick a bowlful to bring in for salad once a day.

The teepee of Kentucky Wonder green beans is thriving despite some leaf loss to the Japanese beetles. Picked early, these are thin, long and crisp, ideal for a quick steaming

before serving with garlic butter, or as a cold salad green with a light dressing. These vegetables will also freeze well for a winter treat, requiring only a light steam or a brief dip in boiling water, followed by a quick chill in ice water. Drained and packed in zip lock bags, they will retain their color and flavor for quite a while.

The lemon cucumber vines are growing robustly and starting to put out the round, yellow fruit characteristic of their name. These are lovely thinly sliced in a salad or sandwich, or made into pickles for enjoyment later.

My winter squash has not tolerated the on-again, off-again summer season and is now succumbing to powdery mildew. There is still some fruit coming on, both Delicata and Acorn, but it's doubtful the foliage will survive long enough to support the full development of the fruit. The sweet peppers also have not enjoyed this summer season. I

will harvest a few mature, large fruits, but most plants have started to blossom so late there won't be time for them to progress to the fruit stage before the days become too short and the night temperatures too cool.

As the season winds down, it's a pleasure to eat freshly harvested fruits and vegetables. It's also equally pleasing to take a little time to preserve some of the produce to please the winter palate. Enjoy a little of both with the recipes below.

Fannie Farmer's Ripe Cucumber Pickles

(This adaptation of an old recipe still makes some of the nicest pickles)

4 large ripe cucumbers, sliced into large chunks or thin rounds; remove the peel if very tough.

Sprinkle with salt, let stand 3 hours and drain.

Mix in a saucepan:

1-1/2 cups cider vinegar

1-1/2 cups white or brown sugar

1-1/2 teaspoons mustard seed
1-1/2 teaspoons celery seed
1/2 teaspoon turmeric

Add the cucumbers and simmer until they are easily pierced with a fork but are still firm.

Pack in jars, cover with syrup, and store until ready to eat. Best served chilled. Makes two pints.

Vary the seasonings as you please but do not omit the turmeric which will preserve the color of the fresh cucumber.

Fresh Green Bean Salad

Steam freshly picked beans, stem ends removed, for 5-7 minutes.

Remove from the heat while still crispy.

Place in a bowl and dress with the vinegar and oil dressing of your choice.

Add chopped garlic and chill for several hours.

Enjoy served cold.

Happy gardening and happy eating.

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival

BY DEB HABIB

ORANGE – Mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th, 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, for the 11th Annual Garlic and Arts festival, the 'Festival that Stinks!' At the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, held at Fosters Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange, you can support and enjoy the bounty of over 100 local artists, farmers and organizations.

You can learn to grow garlic, press cider, mill lumber, make paper, coil clay, grind grain, do tai chi, and go solar, or nourish yourself with chef demos, fantastic food, and bread from a wood-fired oven. You can transform trash into compost – last year, only three bags of garbage were generated for 12,000 people! And you can celebrate with friends old and new, enjoy rocking music and entertainment on two

solar powered stages, along with workshops and garlic games galore.

The music stage line-up includes: Ray Hendricks,

cal miming, and dance performances galore.

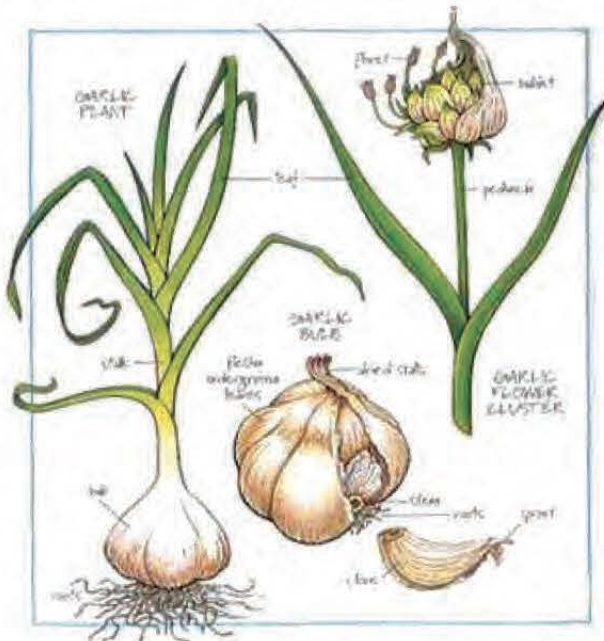
Visit www.garlicandarts.org for directions, pet policy, and past years' highlights. Ride the Magic Bus – the free biodiesel shuttle – from nearby parking lots. Wheelchair accessible parking and restroom facility provided. Multiply the fun and enjoy CISA's Eat the View and the Conway Festival of the Hills on this same glorious October weekend.

The North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival is organized by a

Planet Zydeco, Unit 7, Leah Randazzo Quartet, the Naia Kete Band, Mawwal, Tony Vacca and Friends, and Viva Quetzal. The family stage features the Inside Out Dance Co., Peter Siegel and Jay Mankita, Airborne Joel, Tim Van Egmond, puppet shows, musi-

cal miming, and dance performances galore.

Supporters include the Forster/Stewart Family, North Quabbin Woods, the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce, and 200 community volunteers!



ART JAM AT SCULPTURE PARK

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – Kirk Richardson (up a tree) and Joe Landry hung a pair of giant cement sneakers in an oak at the 3rd Street Youth Sculpture Park on Wednesday, in preparation for Art Jam 2009.

Nine local youth bands will play at the all-ages, free event at the Sculpture Park, Saturday, September 19th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (rain or shine). Visual art will also be created throughout the day, with art materials and professional artists on site to guide the process.

The 3rd Street Youth Sculpture Park was founded by a group of local sculptors and artists in 2007, with grant support from RiverCulture, the Massachusetts Arts Council and the Montague Police Department. Located at the corner of Canal and 3rd Street, the park is a community-based public art space dedicated to exhibition of art work created by local youth.

Laura and Kate Averill, of Montague, Dalila and Lily Bennett, of Leverett, Alicia Boynton, of Greenfield, and Helen Perham, of Greenfield collaborated over three weekends to sculpt the sneakers, Landry said. The installation joins a number of other works by local youth, including a set of doors being uplifted by Styrofoam balloons painted by Sheffield third graders, and a giant rock face of sculpted eyes and lips, along with a flock of prehistoric bicycle raptors.

Landry said more sneakers will be tossed into trees at the sculpture park during the Art Jam, although smaller shoe sizes will be used to add to the concrete pair raised this week. For more info, call 863-2915.



Joe Landry (l) and Kirk Richardson install a pair of giant sneakers in an oak tree at the Youth Sculpture Park on Wednesday

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