



MURAL APPRECIATED

Brightening Unity Park
Page 4



NEW PRINCIPAL

At the New Sheffield School
Page 11

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 45

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Kosuda in Contempt of Court



DETMOLD PHOTO

DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Judge Edith Fine of the Massachusetts Housing Court found Gary Kosuda, of Fort Lauderdale, FL in contempt of court on Friday, September 12th, for failing to be responsive to order given in April of 2007 and forward to secure and stabilize or demolish the property he owns on Power Street in the Patch, commonly known as the Railroad Salvage building.

On May 27th, 2006, part of the roof and the northwest wall of the building collapsed into Power Street, forcing the town to barricade off that entrance to the Patch. The neighborhood has been forced to rely entirely on the 11th Street bridge for access for the two and a half years since.

Fine ordered Kosuda to remain in the state until this Friday, September 19th, when he is due to appear in her Springfield courtroom again at 2:00

p.m.

"He was ordered to provide 24 hour surveillance of the site, which he has done," said Montague building inspector David Jensen. Kosuda has hired former Strathmore owner James Bent as his security guard. "He was ordered to purchase liability insurance," Jensen said.

Kosuda has hired a structural engineer, and is "working frantically" to prepare an environmental assessment of the site by

Friday, Jensen said. Apparently, Kosuda, who was not available by phone, is interested in saving some parts of the structure, although the main body of the building appears to be beyond repair, Jensen said.

The town has asked the Housing Court to place the property into receivership, and to order Kosuda to put up \$90,000 towards the cost of demolishing the property.

Towns and School at an Impasse

No Budget Passed at Special School District Meeting

BY JOANNA FRANKEL - Citizens of Montague and Gill gathered last night at the Turners Falls High School auditorium for what turned out to be a lengthy - and inconclusive - debate on the regional school district budget.

The special meeting was called after a budget making stalemate between the school committee and the towns left the Gill Montague schools without an operating budget for the current school year. The evening saw a volley of passionate statements from school committee members, town officials, and residents of the towns of Gill and Montague. Tensions grew heated at times, despite pleas from many that working together would be the only path to resolution.

On Tuesday evening, the GMRSD school committee voted informally to alter its

budget to lower the assessments faced by the towns of Montague and Gill to a total increase of 4%. The schools offered to spend \$450,923 of their estimated reserves to reduce the towns' assessments, though they stuck to a bottom line budget figure for the present school year of \$16,820,004.

The last minute offer of school reserves to reduce town assessments did not change the stance of the town selectboards and finance committees, who maintained that this would be, as Montague finance committee member Jeff Singleton said, "a recipe for disaster just around the corner," by building one time money into the budget base for next year. The town boards supported a lower school budget of \$16,081,257.

The night began with a see **BUDGET** page 9

Vermont Yankee Hearing Draws Mixed Response



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Ellen Kaye and daughter Sophie, of Brattleboro, testify at the Vermont Public Service Board's public hearing on relicensing Vermont Yankee

ELLEN BLANCHETTE
VERNON, VT - The gymnasium at Vernon Elementary School in Vermont was filled almost to capacity Monday night, September 15th, as speakers got up in turn to speak for and against the relicensing of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, a few hundred yards down the road. The occasion was the rescheduled hearing before the Vermont Public Service Board on Entergy Vermont Yankee's petition for a

Certificate of Public Good to extend its operating license beyond the planned expiration date of 2012.

Vernon residents expressed considerable good will towards Entergy, the corporation that runs the 36-year old power plant. Locals spoke in terms of generosity and good neighbors, how VY employees came and helped when problems arose.

Balancing the praise of corporate largesse, and the see **YANKEE** page 10

BASCOM BRIDGE REPAIR UNDERWAY



DETMOLD PHOTO

The crew from Davenport Construction in Greenfield at work on the Bascom Bridge earlier this week. The concrete decking and steel I-beams are supported on 8x8 cribbing while the abutment on the Gill side is being replaced.

DAVID DETMOLD
GILL - Down at the end of Bascom Road, the two-lane bridge connecting to Lampblack Road and the northern part of

Greenfield has been closed for the last three years, since flooding in October of 2005 damaged the abutment on the Gill side of the Fall River. Now, with per-

mitting finally complete and most of the funding in place from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Federal

Emergency Management Agency, the town of Greenfield is overseeing repairs to the 26-foot wide bridge. This week, Davenport see **BRIDGE** pg 5

PET OF THE WEEK

Free for Seniors



Charlie

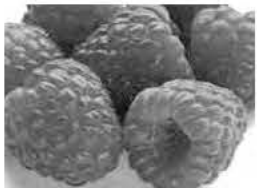
Yo! My name is Charlie and I'm a friendly 7-year-old male orange tabby cat in need of a good home. I'm in the Seniors for Seniors program, so if you are over 60, you may adopt me at no charge! For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email leverett@dpvhs.org.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Recycled Supplies Wish List

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Planning is already underway for fall and winter programs, and donations of recycled materials would be very helpful. Clear plastic liquid dish soap bottles and small jars are needed for fun craft projects. The glass jars can range in size from large baby food jars, up to approximately three inches in diameter. All of the bottles and

jars need their lids or caps, should be clean, and ideally the labels should be removed.

The materials can be dropped off inside the Carnegie Library. The library is open Monday - Wednesday 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, call 863-3214, and ask for Ruth or Linda.

Teddy Bears at Carnegie



HICKMAN PHOTO

TURNERS FALLS - Lydia of Montague brought her teddy bear to the Preschool Story Hour at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, September 16th.

The weekly theme was "Teddy Bears."

Preschool Story Hour meets every Wednesday morning at the Carnegie Library at 10:15 a.m.

For more information, call 863-3214.

10th Annual Garlic and Arts Festival

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www.garlicandarts.org

Psychic Fair

The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair on Saturday, September 27th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Thompson Temple, across from the post office in Lake Pleasant. Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, palm reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice. Reiki and spiritual healing services will be available. TNSA is a deistic, reincarnationist Spiritualist organization. Principles include belief

in an infinite and eternal creating and sustaining force, the interconnectedness of everything, the siblinghood of humanity, personal responsibility for thoughts, words, and deeds, non-judgmentalism, continuity of the life of the soul, communication between the worlds of physical form and spirit form, and reincarnation as the method of progression toward perfection.

For more information, contact the TNSA at thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org. Or just concentrate deeply on the interconnectedness of everything.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Sept 22nd - Sept. 26th

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

Monday, 22nd

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 23rd
9 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Canasta
1 p.m. Fall Painting Class. David Sund will be teaching six sessions. \$10.00 registration for Gill and Montague residents and \$15.00 registration fee for all others.

Wednesday, 24th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
Blood Sugar screenings
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 25th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 26th
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

Trips: Call the Senior Center 863-9357 or 863-4500.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director



DETMOLD PHOTO

A contrarian opinion on the Democratic ticket is proudly displayed on West Gill Road, right before a sign warning of Horses Ahead. Or is that a warning sign for Donkeys Ahead?

CORRECTION

Last week, in a Montague Business Association press release ran as an article entitled "Montague Business Association Third Thursday Networking Meetings at Area Establishments Begin September 18th." In that release, the MBA named Northeast Utilities as their first founding donor. Actually, it was Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO) that provided the Montague Business Association with \$1000 of start-up funding. WMECO is a subsidiary of Northeast Utilities, but the donation came from WMECO.

Grant Proposals Sought

The Montague Cultural Council is seeking grant proposals for community oriented arts, humanities, and interpretive science projects. Proposals are due by October 15th. The priorities for applicants include: community-wide events such as concerts, festivals, and plays; projects led by local artists; environment, nature, and science education programs; as well as support for community arts and cultural organizations, and activities in schools.

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

Monday, 22nd

9:00 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 23rd
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 24th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 25th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool

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

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Recover Jam: Saturday, Sept. 27th

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK GREENFIELD - The Recover Project, a peer to peer volunteer resource center on Federal Street in Greenfield, is in the process of planning its fifth annual "Recover Jam" sober music festival. The Recover Project is a volunteer organization for those in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Run through a participatory process, the project is shaped not simply by the staff who work there but mainly through the volunteers and members who participate in its day to day operation.

Planning a seven hour music fest has been challenging but worthwhile for those at the project. "Our volunteers, members and staff have been working hard on all

aspects of [this event] from food to contacting media outlets and publicity to soliciting donations from local businesses. I think we've all learned a lot in the process and are finally looking forward to the event itself, and to spending time together as a community," said Lindsey Whitmore. Whitmore, a Hadley native, works as a community engagement specialist for the Recover Project.

The Recover Jam, which will be held on September 27th at the Polish Picnic Grounds on 249 Plain Road, Greenfield, is a drug and alcohol free event. Singer, songwriter and author Don White of Lynn will headline. Other performers include the groups Humble Streak, One Night Stand and Black Top Kenny

(from Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin counties respectively) and Laurie B. from Greenfield.

"It's going to be a great way for people in recovery and their allies to get together and celebrate the struggles they have overcome," said Yinia Arce, the Recover Project's administrative assistant. "It's tons of fun."

In addition to music, there will be food for all, which comes free with the ticket price, as well as a bouncy house and face painting for children. Tickets are \$6.00 before the event and \$10.00 the day of the show. For further information, please contact the Recover Project, 68 Federal Street, Greenfield; call (413) 774-5489 or go to www.recoverproject.org.

Sidewalk Work Begins

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - On Monday, September 22nd, work will begin on reconstruction of the Third Street - Unity Street sidewalk in Turners Falls. Department of Public Works superintendent Tom Bergeron said Caracas Construction will be starting work either at the Scotty's end of Unity Street or at the former Chick's Garage on 3rd Street, and proceeding over the coming weeks.

"Police officers will be on hand to escort pedestrians around the area under construction," said Bergeron, "and hopefully Caracas will leave the sidewalks passable at the end of each construction day."

Two police officers will be assigned to traffic detail on the job, said Montague police chief Ray Zukowski, and drivers

should expect short delays. "We urge people to avoid Unity Street for the next five weeks, if possible," said Zukowski, who suggested alternate routes between downtown and the Hill like First Street or Seventh Street.

In addition to sidewalk repair, "They're going to be constructing an entirely new intersection in front of Scotty's," Zukowski said, which will include an island to separate parking in front of the convenience store from the traveling lanes.

After the work is completed on Unity Street, other sidewalks scheduled for reconstruction include the walks on Seventh Street, Spring Street, Second Street, and Stevens Street in Turners Falls, as well as Center Street and Union Street in Montague Center.

Volunteers Needed for Watershed Cleanup

GREAT FALLS - Each fall, volunteers from around Franklin County haul tons of trash -- garbage, tires, furniture, appliances, you name it -- from the Connecticut River and its tributaries and the Montague Plains as part of the annual Source to Sea Cleanup. Under the sponsorship of the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), a group of dedicated citizens are once again organizing this year's event, to be held on Saturday, October 4th from 9 a.m. to noon. To register for this 12th Annual Cleanup in the eastern

Franklin County area, call Northfield Mt. Recreation and Environmental Center, 413-659-3714.

Individuals, families, organizations and people with trucks are all needed. Join local groups like the Franklin County Technical School, Northfield Mount Hermon School, Smith & Wesson and the Mohawk Ramblers motorcycle club members.

The eastern Franklin County committee is seeking 200 volunteers or more to help with the effort in Erving, Gill and Montague. The event will kick off with a morning continental

breakfast celebration provided by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Up to 30 sites along the river have been identified and assessed for safety; and disposal sites for tires, hazardous waste, appliances and litter have been secured. The town of Montague will accept trash from the Montague Plains at its transfer station. Others help out by donating gloves, bags, first aid equipment, and drinking water.

Please contact Beth Bazler at Northfield Mountain at 413-659-4461 for more information.

Harvest Supper at the Brick House

TURNERS FALLS - The Brick House Community Resource Center, at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, will host a free Harvest Supper and Cookout on Monday, September 22nd at 6 p.m. The meal is sponsored by the Communities that Care Coalition.

The Brick House received a grant of \$200 from CTC through the Northwestern District Attorney's Office to help defray the costs of hosting the meal, which will be prepared by the farmers of Undergrowth Farm and staff of The Brick House. The meal will include burgers, veggie burgers, barramundi fish (donated by Australis Barramundi), potato salad, coleslaw, tomato-garlic soup, corn on the cob, collard greens, bread, pumpkin and

apple pies, and cider that will be pressed on site.

The meal will feature organic vegetables from Undergrowth Farm in Gill, as well as produce from other local farms.

Following dinner "Bee Movie", the story of a bee's desire to make a difference in the world will be screened at 7 p.m.

The dinner will be first come, first served. Volunteers are welcome to come ahead of time to help with cooking, setup, and cider pressing.

Monetary donations toward the meal would be welcome. For more information about this gathering, please call Jared or Ruth at the Brick House Teen Center, 863-9559, or e-mail jlibby@thebrickhouseinc.org

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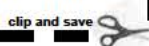
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August, 2002

Arthur Evans

Trimming the Budget for the Town Nurse

ART GILMORE

MILLERS FALLS - At the Montague town meeting of September 11th, I was involved in a debate over the hiring of a part time town nurse for 20 hours a week, at a pay scale of \$21,500. The debate ended with a revision to spend \$9,500 instead on *per diem* nursing to replace the town nurse position at the board of health.

I bring up the above to show just how sorrowful it is to have to shortchange the health and welfare of the elderly citizens of Montague, when I read of the following in a local paper:

Big Check Delivered at the Big E: "U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer handed over symbolic oversized checks for \$277,336 to Roberts Brothers Lumber Co. of Ashfield and \$1.35 million to Growers Direct Farms. The money comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"We're excited to turn over this check on behalf of the American taxpayers," Schafer said in turning over the check, which is a grant to Roberts Brothers Lumber..."

On September 13th, I read

the following in another local newspaper:

"A former state agricultural commissioner who owns the Hall Tavern Farm in East Charlemont will receive a \$43,000 rural development grant for solar equipment to reduce his electrical costs."

I then read further in another newspaper that the U.S. government is giving 60 countries \$4.5 billion in military aid.

I bring out all of the above to show just how far out of touch we taxpayers have become when it comes to spending our money. No one asked me to support a lumber company, or a nursery, and no one asked me if I would buy solar panels for a tree farm, and above all no one asked to spend part of my tax money to provide military aid to some 60 countries. I don't even know which ones they are.

All I want is enough money to help my town pay for its schools and public services. I and my fellow property owners in Montague could use some of the money that is going to private firms and individuals and foreign countries to support our town. And to help our senior citizens when they get too old to trim their own toenails, or manage their own medications.

I hope that never happens to you, and if it does, good luck finding a *per diem* nurse to help you at town hall.

God Bless America.

We Welcome Your Letters!

Montague Reporter

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THE ECONOMY

Becomes An Issue in the National Personality Contest



McGain/Palin - Any Change You Can Spare!

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Park Mural Appreciation

Every morning when I arrive at my office at Unity Park, I am greeted by the presence of a bald eagle, owl, wolf, black bear, and numerous other animals. No, the park hasn't become a sanctuary for wayward creatures. What it has become, however, is the home of an extraordinary mural created through the vision of local artist Kerry Kazokas and numerous community members.

Over the course of several weeks this past summer, Kerry and her helpers worked tirelessly to paint locally inspired, natural scenes on the exterior of our field house. It's hard to miss the mighty Connecticut flowing by the birds on our water fountain, the raccoon trying to come in through a door, or the wolf peeking from behind a tree.

This project would not have been possible without the leadership of Karen Stinchfield and the Brick House Community



DETMOLD PHOTO

Resource Center, who spearheaded the effort and obtained the necessary grant funds from Art Angels.

We are extremely thankful to those who utilized Unity Park as a canvas for their inspiration, and encourage everyone to come down to the park and view this local masterpiece.

- Jon Dobosz, Director
Montague Parks and Rec

American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 9/17/08



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

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On Sept. 14th at approximately 10:59 p.m. a residence located at 22 Avenue C was broken into and a fire was set causing extensive damage. A person of interest was seen leaving the area described as skinny, with a light mustache, wearing black shorts and no shirt.

The subject was chased from the scene by a Good Samaritan running on Avenue C towards Crocker Avenue to

High Street to an area known as the Sand Pit where the Good Samaritan lost sight of the subject.

A reward is offered up to \$5,000 for information that may lead to an arrest and conviction.

For any information please call the State Police Arson Hotline at 1-800-682-9229, or the Montague Police Department at 863-8911.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Small Erratic Driver

Wednesday, 9/10

2:00 p.m. Report from motorist of small child riding a motorcycle without a helmet, crossing Route 2 and nearly struck by a vehicle. Located 10-year-old boy riding Pocket Rocket. Advised to stop.

Thursday, 9/11

2:30 p.m. Tractor trailer ran into guard rail at the French King Bridge.

Saturday, 9/13

3:40 p.m. Citation issued to _____

_____ for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

Sunday, 9/14

2:45 a.m. Officer report of several people drinking at the bar at French King Restaurant.

11:30 a.m. Citation issued to _____

_____ for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license and operation without insurance. Citation issued to _____

_____ for possession of a class D drug; failure to wear a seat belt. 5:33 p.m. Report of Church Street Park structure vandalism. Located juveniles. Parents advised of same.

7:48 p.m. Arrested _____

_____ for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

GUEST EDITORIAL



Emergency Public Health Planning for Four Town Area

BY JAY DIPUCCHIO

MONTAGUE - Imagine that headlines are warning of a flu pandemic that has broken out on the West Coast and is rolling our way. Imagine how the typical resources of doctors' offices or a hospital could be overwhelmed by demand for vaccine by the entire population of a region. Imagine that every community is left to fend for itself until state or federal assistance reaches them. If we had a plan that had been tested and proven, we would be better prepared to meet that sort of challenge.

The Montague board of health has been working with the towns of Gill, Wendell and Erving to plan for responding to just such an event. We are going to test part of our plan on Saturday morning, November 22nd, at the Turners Falls High School by offering free flu

shots to any resident of the four towns. Watch for more details as the date approaches.

Public health leaders from across the county, with direction from state and federal health and emergency response agencies, together determined a strategy that would work for dispensing vaccine or other medication in our rural region. Critical to planning were facilities capable of accommodating large numbers of people needing medical treatment during a short period. The county group decided that the regional high schools were the best locations, along with the towns that were typically associated with them. Our four town group started working in 2005 on a response plan using the Turners Falls High School as our "Emergency Dispensing Site," or EDS.

Usually, opening an EDS is a

reaction to something like meningitis in a school or a hepatitis A scare at a restaurant. A small number of people who were exposed would be identified and treated. But in the event of a broader exposure to health risks like a flu pandemic, or even a biological attack, our group of towns has to be prepared to vaccinate or dispense medication to 80% of the population in 48 hours, and the rest soon thereafter. The only promise the federal government can make to us is to "push" medication to our EDS through their delivery system. We have to be ready to execute our plan for getting people to the EDS and processing nearly 12,500 people in our group of towns. So we need to practice and improve our plan by conducting a "live" test.

Our planning group is composed of members of the boards

of health, selectboards, fire and police chiefs, emergency management directors and health professionals from the four towns. One of the critical parts of our approach to planning for an event like this is to use only volunteers from our four towns, as most people would be staying in or helping out their own communities if there were a real emergency.

We are still looking for clinical and general volunteers from the four towns to staff the test clinic on November 22nd, and we invite volunteers to contact the Montague board of health at 863-3200 ext. 205 for information.

Most important though, is participation by the citizens of our towns in testing our EDS set up and procedures. We hope that many seniors and others who prefer to get their flu shots early in October and early

November will wait and come to the November 22nd drill. The National Centers for Disease Control reports that there will be as much as 146 million doses of flu vaccine available for the 2008-2009 flu season. This is an all time high supply of vaccine, which means individuals do not have to worry about vaccine shortages this year. Flu season peaks in January, February or even later, so getting the vaccine in November is safe.

Every group of people will be affected by a widespread emergency. It's really important that the system we've worked out is tested hard by a lot of participation, since a real event could strain us even more. We all want to know that we have a plan to help ourselves, and that it works. Imagine that.

Jay DiPucchio is a member of the Montague board of health.

BRIDGE from page 1

Construction has the concrete deck and its steel I-beams propped up on 8' x 8' cribbing, with a 20-foot gap between the end of the bridge and Bascom Road where the damaged abutment used to stand.

At night the sound of the pump generator echoes in the Hollow. By day, Richard Parks hays the sheltered fields owned by Tom Chalmers, his wife Joan Meyer, Brian Donahue and his wife Faith Rand.

For the last three years, Parks has been driving three miles around from his home on Lampblack Road through Bernardston and down Hoe Shop Road - named after a hoe shop once located on the Bernardston line, on the site of an old ironworks - to reach the hayfields on the Gill side. With the price of gas, he'll be glad

to see that bridge reopened.

"We should be out of the water by October 1st," said Greenfield DPW engineering superintendent Laurence Petrin. "The job should be all complete by October 30th."

The main flow of the Fall River is channeled with a porta-dam (pictured in blue in the front page photo) toward the western bank, where riprap has already been installed to armor the abutment on the Greenfield side. Fiber logs and geo-textiles have been installed upstream to counteract the erosion and scouring of the banks that came with the flood in 2005.

Russell West, of Davenport Construction, said that Richard Henderson, a FEMA inspector, was at the bridge on Tuesday, and ordered the back wall of the Gill side abutment removed, due to more cracking

in the concrete. "We had to replace more of the old structure," West said, as his excavator balanced precariously at the edge of the gap, removing more material.

Petrin said the bill for the bridge repair had increased from the \$162,500 quoted last winter to \$224,000 today, with the bank remediation work and riprap added on. He said, "We're asking for additional funding from FEMA," to cover the added cost of the abutment work.

Greenfield is repairing the damage to the Gill side of the bridge pursuant to a 1798 agreement between the two towns, approved by the state legislature. According to the agreement, "the bridge over Fall River, so called, between Stevens' Mills, shall in future be built, supported, and maintained wholly (*sic*) by the

Town of Greenfield so long as the Road over the same shall be continued." In return, Gill agreed to maintain the bridge across the Fall River to Greenfield at Factory Hollow. But that bridge was demolished in 1937, after the French King Highway opened and the

Factory Hollow Bridge had outlived its usefulness.

Regardless of what the old agreement states, Petrin stated, "We are repairing the bridge because it's an important link in Greenfield's transportation network." Just ask Richard Parks.



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Community Development Block Grant Ideas Solicited

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, September 15th, Montague held a public hearing to solicit ideas for the town's 2009 Community Development Block Grant to the federal Department of Housing and Community Development.

Each year, the CDBG funds, which can range upwards of a million dollars, represent the largest infusion of discretionary funds the town has at its disposal. The grants are typically awarded for projects that address blighted neighborhoods or improve conditions for low or moderate income residents.

Last year, the town applied for \$700,000 in CDBG funds to help defray the cost of the new \$5.6 million police station on Turnpike Road, and smaller amounts were requested for two downtown social service agencies, along with housing rehab money to be administered by the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

On Monday night, as for many years previous, those were the three organizations that came forward to seek funding for new

projects.

Speaking for the FCHRA, Brian McCue noted that a waiting list of 25 low and moderate income residents of Montague are seeking zero interest deferred payment loans from his organization to rehabilitate their owner occupied single- or multi-family homes, to bring them up to code. Four of these are residents of Turners Falls, nine are residents of Montague Center, three from Lake Pleasant, and nine from Millers Falls.

"We do needed repairs, replace substandard heating systems, eliminate lead based paint, weatherization, roofs, septic systems, windows and doors," said McCue.

Prakash Laufer, director of the Brick House, said his organization would seek funds to establish a collaborative Green Jobs Program, to train youth and other interested residents and give them entrepreneurial skills to start their own businesses, or work with local contractors to do energy audits, weatherization, and alternative energy installations.

Sharon Denman, director of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, said her organization would seek funding for a Bridge to Success networking program, to provide job skills to low income women who are heads of households, to help lift them out of poverty with such basics as computer training, web design skills, and networking with other resource people.

Bruce Hunter also spoke for the FRCHA, saying his organization needed room to grow, and would like to access CDBG funds to connect the building at 80 Canal Street to the town's sewer line, so that the unoccupied side of the building, formerly a warehouse, could be redeveloped for office space. He estimated the cost of that renovation at \$1.5 million, and

said the cost of the sewer connection under the Fifth Street bridge would run to \$238,000.

Hunter said the FRCHA was seeking help with the sewer connection, and asked for \$30,000 in design costs from this year's CDBG grant. He said low and moderate income residents would benefit, since this was the population the agency served.

More public hearings will be held on the '09 CDBG grant application before it is filed in January.

In other news, the board approved a request by Paul Gilbert of Camp Dresser McKee for a change order for \$75,000 on the second phase of the combined sewer overflow and sewer treatment plant upgrades. The \$75,000 will pay for CDM's support design services to address code issues in the operations room of the sewer treatment plant. The money comes in addition to \$68,000

approved last month to pay for resident engineering and design work on the second phase of the \$5.7 million sewer upgrade.

The selectboard had expressed surprise at the subsequent request, but Gilbert and treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley assured them it was warranted as an actual cost saving measure, to prevent the town from having to go out to bid for the code compliance work at the treatment plant as a separate project, which they estimated would cost the town \$50,000 more than if they addressed the code issues as change orders for the job currently in progress.

"Cost control is an absolute mandate for us," said selectboard chair, Allen Ross, warning Trombley and Gilbert not to exceed the allocated \$5.7 million for the total project cost.

Trombley said the town would have to spend nearly to that limit to access all the USDA

grants that were available to defray the town's share of the sewer work.

The board approved the '08 contract with RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol, who has completed fundraising to meet the local match for the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) grant for downtown arts and economic project for the year.

"The project has been very successful," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, to the board's concurrence. MCC grant funding for next year has already been approved for the River Culture project.

The board agreed to support a 6th grade essay contest at the Great Falls Middle School on the theme of community leadership, and looked forward to participating in the project as it developed.

Turners Falls RiverCulture Receives \$10,000 WMECO Grant

In August, Turners Falls RiverCulture received word of a \$10,000 grant from Western Massachusetts Electric Company's Community Investment grant program to stimulate economic development in Turners Falls. WMECO supports communities by partnering with local organizations engaged in economic and community development, workforce development and education, and environmental leadership and stewardship.

WMECO's Ken Garber, who presented the grant, said, "based on RiverCulture achieving important goals and objectives linked to previous grants from Western Massachusetts Electric Company, WMECO is pleased to award a new grant

to continue the organization's momentum and progress. Through the efforts of RiverCulture's force of energetic people, it is making a positive, valuable impact on Turners Falls' village economy through arts and culture-related activities. Our grant will support the village's continued evolution to a strong, self-sustaining economy."

Lisa Davol, the coordinator of the RiverCulture project, said, "We would not have been able to accomplish all that we have without the support of WMECO. They were a significant funder of the initial year of the project and have continued major support each year to make our programming possible. They are very dedicated to the Turners Falls community."

The funding will support cultural programming, organizational sustainability, cultural and business collaborations, economic impact analyses, and refined marketing efforts through strategic partnerships in the region.

Turners Falls RiverCulture encourages the development of creative and cultural industries in the Turners Falls area by hosting and promoting cultural events, nurturing local artists and establishing an environment that attracts businesses, residents and visitors. "By highlighting our heritage and indigenous assets as we cultivate creative endeavors, we intend to engender a strong sense of community," Davol said.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Fire Department to Selectboard: "We Have to Train."

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Gill selectboard met with fire chief Gene Beaubien, and three members of the town's call fire department, as part of the board's ongoing meetings with town departments. The meetings are an effort to inform the board of the ongoing activities of the departments, and to improve overall communication among the different branches of town government. In this case, it provided an opportunity to clear the air about a misunderstanding that had led to a sharply worded email from selectboard chair

Nancy Griswold to Beaubien and his crew.

The misunderstanding occurred over the details of a spending freeze instituted by the board two months ago, in an attempt to address the town's widening budget gap in the current operating year, estimated at \$104,000 for town departments, and \$175,000 more for the schools, if the Gill-Montague Regional School District's 1/12th budget remains in place.

On July 21st, the selectboard instituted a spending freeze on

August 4th, calling on all departments to limit purchases to \$50 or less without prior approval from the selectboard, and to limit non-essential driving.

In the days leading up to the Franklin County Fair parade on September 4th, Chief Beaubien inquired about whether his department could bring one of their fire trucks to the parade, as is traditional, and whether they could pay for the gas out of the department's funds. Beaubien received conflicting replies, including an email from Griswold that led to apologies at

the meeting on September 15th. As it turned out, Beaubien said, "An anonymous donor paid the \$24.23 bill," for the gas used on the way to the parade. Then, the fire truck was called into service for an alarm at Northfield Mount Hermon on the way back from the parade, and did not stop at the gas station to refill until after checking out that call.

In general, Beaubien said, "We still need to train. We respect your decisions, but we have to train. We'll take one truck out, pump it for a few minutes, and then come back."

\$450,000 fire truck.

"No one has heard officially," about that request, said board member Ann Banash, "but they're asking all the right questions."

Preparing for the board's presentation at the budget setting Gill-Montague school district meeting on Wednesday, September 17th, town administrative coordinator Tracy Rogers said the town had already committed all available free cash reserves in the '09 budget, and had only \$34,000 available in stabilization (later revised upward to \$92,973). She said the \$78,000 which appeared on the town's balance sheet last year as new growth, just in time to settle the budget gap resulting from the last district meeting for the schools, was due to the discovery that the town had not previously assessed taxes for their side of the Connecticut River dam. But that money has now been built into the base for this year's budget, and no similar windfalls have appeared on the horizon.

Griswold urged him to use his common sense about how to run the department under fiscal circumstances and the spending freeze the town has instituted. She asked that the department keep the thermostat down at the station, and Beaubien said it would be kept at 50 degrees or lower.

Griswold assured the fire department members present that their work was "a vital part of the community, something we can't do without." The chief answered the board's concerns about one of the pumpers, which has a worn impeller and can no longer pump water at the rated 1500 gallons a minute. "It won't meet that standard," admitted Beaubien. "But it can still be used as a tanker. It holds 1000 gallons." And, for now, it is still pumping water, just not as fast as it used to.

The town will not be able to spend the estimated \$15,000 it will cost to repair that fire engine until the budget impasse is resolved. In the meantime, Gill is hopeful that full funding will come through from Northfield Mount Hermon to pay for the cost of replacing the town's oldest pumper tanker with a new

As the town moves towards formalizing the role of the ad hoc building committee, and changing it into a capital planning committee to oversee the maintenance needs of the town's buildings, real property and equipment, the selectboard decided to wait until after the budget process for the year is settled, and then appoint a committee "made up of a wide variety of people with a range of expertise." The board favored making those appointments to a capital advisory committee, to offer advice directly to the selectboard for a year trial period, before going to town meeting to formally create and appoint a capital improvements committee.

Regarding the heating bills at one of those town buildings, the Riverside municipal building, the board approved a request by Steve Hussey, director of the Four Winds School, which leases part of that building to install plastic sheeting on the exterior of the windows to help reduce heat loss. They cautioned him to be as gentle with the exterior trim as possible.

The selectboard agreed to change the meeting time for future selectboard meeting to 4:30 p.m., instead of 5:00 p.m. The selectboard meets every other week, on Monday afternoons.

TFHS After School Program Canceled

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS - These are hard times for Jen Lambert and her after school dropout prevention program at Turners Falls High. Funded as a startup program for the 2007-08 school year, the Life Skills class came to a halt this fall when funds ran out, a situation that troubles both Lambert and her students.

"We're not in the classroom right now," Lambert said, "and it's particularly distressing to remember that last year at this time we were up and running. We are currently desperately trying to find funding for this school year. We need about \$10,000 to keep the program going."

Turners Falls High had a dropout rate of 22.9% for the class that graduated in 2007, the most recent year for which numbers are available, one of the highest dropout rates in the state.

Lambert's after school class focused on jobs and life skills. It was financed by a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts through the Brick House Community Resource Center.

The students worked on a long list of basic and advanced life skills. Topics included practical strategies for gaining employment, opening bank accounts, learning budgeting skills, acquiring coping abilities, locating financial aid, using resources in the community, and becoming familiar with the far-reaching negative impact of involvement in the criminal justice system.

"The class was such an important endeavor," said Lambert. "I taught it in a student-centered learning environment that encouraged bonding. We would sit

around a table in a relaxed way to get students communicating. At the start of each semester, I asked a lot of questions to help me tailor the



Corey Hescock, a junior at TFHS who took the Life Skills program last year said, "Before I took the course, I wasn't planning on college. Now I'm thinking of going to G.C.C. A lot of my friends wanted to get into (the course)."

class specifically to the students' needs and interests."

The impact of the program is brought into bold relief by a chat with two of Jen's former after school students, Jasmine Ward, a senior, and Corey Hescock, a junior. Articulate and engaging, both students are excellent spokespersons for the Life Skills program, according to TFHS principal Jeff Kenney, and guidance counselor Tony Hanna.

"Every student at our school should take this course," said Ward. "It was that good. It's just a shame that the class has been discontinued. I wish I had taken it sooner."

She added, "I feel really bad for students who aren't taking advantage of the program this fall. I feel really lucky I had the chance to be a part of the course last year."

Hescock stressed the practical nature of the curriculum. "It's so difficult for kids our age to get a job," Corey said. "We worked hard

on how to put together a resume and what to expect at an interview. Also, we learned about banking. Some of us didn't have bank accounts when we started, but by the end of the class, we all did."

Another positive effect of the after school Life Skills curriculum was its potential for helping the students make positive life changes. "Before I took the course," Hescock said, "I wasn't planning on college. Now I'm thinking of going to Greenfield Community College."

Ward added, "The whole course was an eye-opener. Jen Lambert had us even thinking about scholarships. We learned that there are a lot of opportunities for different kinds of help, even if you're not the very best student. I didn't know that before taking the class."

Hescock said, "We had open discussions about so many important things. Jen encouraged everyone to participate. A lot of my friends, who didn't sign up for the program, wanted to get into it."

The class met twice a week after school for two hours per session. Twelve students were enrolled in the program for its first two semesters, most of them juniors and seniors.

"The class met a great need," said instructor Lambert. "There are many students who have more barriers to success than others, due to different circumstances. Among the problems at-risk students face are serious family issues, learning disabilities, disciplinary difficulties, poverty, and the pressures of passing not only regular classes but also MCAS."

For more information about, and to offer any ideas for reviving the program, contact Prakash Laufer, director of the Brick House, at 413-863-9576.

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Town Meeting Accepts 3% Pay Hike for Town Staff

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - At the special town meeting on Thursday, September 11th, town meeting members agreed to fund a 3% salary increase for town employees, despite a stand taken at the annual town meeting in May, when members voted to level fund personnel costs for the 63 employees at town hall, the highway department, police station, and wastewater treatment plant.

However, no new appropriations were required to fund the salary increases, which were paid for from reductions in other aspects of the departmental budgets, or from one-time transfers from inactive accounts.

Montague entered the budget making process this year eyeing a one and a half million dollar budget deficit. Through cost cutting measures such as attempting to hold the line on pay hikes and reducing the town's share of employee health care costs, town meeting sought to reduce that gap.

"We were given our marching orders by annual town meeting," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio on the 11th, as he explained the settlement with employee unions. "There was a desire to bring health care costs down from 90% - 10% to 80% - 20%." Additionally, he noted, "We were given clear instructions to level fund the salary rates. But we had to buy out the reduction in health insurance."

In bargaining the rate down to 85% - 15% for this year, Abbondanzio said the town agreed to pay a "health insurance offset" of 1% of an employee's salary. Next year, when the rate for health care plans will go down to 80% paid by the town, 20% paid by the employees, the town will pay employees a 1.3% health insurance offset.

Additionally, Abbondanzio said the town had already been contractually obligated to provide a 2% step increase for employees this year. Consequently, the total salary increase this year will equal 3%.

Abbondanzio said the departmental cuts that produced the money necessary to fund the step increases were, "severe and may be difficult to live with."

For one example, town treasurer Patti Dion said she had to eliminate more than \$10,000 from her department's budget this year, including a "significant

cut" from the account set aside to handle tax title proceedings for delinquent taxpayers.

Precinct 1's Robin Sherman, commenting on the health insurance offset funded at a percentage of employees' salaries said, "The health insurance cut hurts people most at the bottom of the pay scale. The solution helps people most at the top of the pay scale rather than the bottom of the pay scale."

Abbondanzio said a lump sum buyout had been considered for that reason, but the unions made

longterm GIC savings will be considerably more than what town meeting achieved by changing the 'split' to 80%-20%. I think the leadership should be doing more to clarify this (which did not happen at the town meeting.) Typically, the selectboard said nothing."]

Finance committee chair John Hanold called the negotiated health insurance offset and 3% salary increase for town workers, "a very positive solution to a very difficult problem presented to the selectboard."

the long term, but for now, "We'd like to get that building occupied for the short term."

Jonathan Parrott, of Precinct 2, advised the town to hang onto the building. "This is a nice little school. It'll be a devil to buy back if we ever have to."

Selectboard member Pat Allen said a sale this year was unlikely, according to realtors the town had consulted. Abbondanzio said "conversion costs would be the big cost for most buyers, therefore the value is not going to be as great as you might hope."

building in terms of sale or lease as soon as possible," Valley concluded.

Precinct 5's Chris Sawyer-Laucanno said, "I'm struck by the numbers coming forward that weren't given to us before. Everybody was in favor of closing Montague Center School because it would save us so much money. I hope a solution can be found as soon as possible."

Town meeting considered a petitioned article, brought forward with more than 200 signatures, seeking the restoration of \$21,500 in funding for the board of health, to reinstate the position of public health nurse. The selectboard unanimously opposed the article, while the finance committee, by a vote of two in favor, two opposed, with one abstention, failed to recommend it.

The town nurse historically ministered to the needs of senior citizens in particular, with flu shots, blood pressure clinics, help with medications, diabetes screening, home visits for shut-ins, and the like. The \$21,500 would have come from free cash; the sum was equal to the unexpended salary of the former town nurse, who resigned in August of 2007.

The motion was undercut by a proposal brought forward by a member of the board health, Precinct 5's Jay DiPucchio, calling for a less than half as much money to pay for five hours a week of *per diem* nursing, instead of the 20 hours previously funded for the town nurse position. The amended petitioned article passed by majority.

The meeting started late, at 7:25 p.m., when a quorum was finally reached (64 members). Town moderator Ray Godin said he would have cancelled the meeting if a quorum had not been reached by 7:30 p.m. Thirty-eight elected town meeting members excused themselves before the meeting; twelve were no-shows.

According to the town clerk's office, the no-shows were: Ericka Almeida, Precinct 5; Gary Billings; Precinct 1; Julia Bowden-Smith, Precinct 5; Daniel Chevalier, Precinct 6; Nancy Dlugoenski, Precinct 2; Robert Fritz, Precinct 3; Ellie Kastanopolous, Precinct 5; Tom Kurtyka, Precinct 1; Don MacPhail, Precinct 3; Robert Quinn-O'Conner, Precinct 6; Suzette Snow-Cobb, Precinct 5; and Ed Voudren, Precinct 4.

Clearing the Way for the New Police Station



This was the scene on Turnpike Road on Monday, as T&M Equipment of Springfield felled trees and pulled stumps in preparation for construction of the new \$5.6 million police station adjacent to the firehouse. Most of the wood was hauled away for chipping; some may end up as wood pellet; some of the hardwood will be used for firewood.

the call.

In response to a question for Precinct 4's Roberta Potter as to the progress of getting the town unions to join the state's cost saving Group Insurance Commission health plan, Abbondanzio said the town would continue to look into the GIC, "year by year." He said savings would not be as substantial if the town unions joined the state plan as they were for the Gill Montague schools when they joined, since the town's insurance rates had been rising less rapidly (7.5% on average over the last three years) than the schools'.

[For an alternative view on this subject, see recent posts by finance committee member Jeff Singleton on www.montaguema.net, where he claims: "GIC's annual increases are significantly less than local groups, including Montague's. It is the annual increases that matter, not the first year savings when you join. As a matter of fact, I think it is pretty clear that

Hanold also said, "I think the settlement meets the spirit, and in some cases the letter of the instructions," given to the selectboard by town meeting on May 3rd.

In other business, town meeting approved the use of \$180,000 from retained sewer earnings to reduce the impact on sewer rates from recent construction work on the sewer system. Even with the use of \$180,000 to reduce rates, the average sewer user's bill will still increase by almost \$40 this year.

Town meeting gave the selectboard the power to sell or lease the Montague Center School, and set aside \$40,000 from the stabilization fund to pay for heating and securing that building over the winter. Abbondanzio said any change in the long term use of the property would require a zoning change, which would necessarily come before town meeting for final approval. He said the planning board would undertake a study of the best use of the property over

For the capital improvements committee, Don Valley said, "It's quite a nice structure... It's probably best to heat the building," (rather than drain the pipes and mothball it over the winter). "The plaster interior can be damaged by adjustment to cold and hot temperatures."

An exact estimate of what it will cost to heat the building for the winter was hard to arrive at, but the cost will be "substantial," Valley said, even to heat it to fifty degrees.

The windows on the Montague Center School would be difficult to board up, since they are masonry construction with vinyl sashes. Besides, boarded windows "invites a look inside," Valley opined. He advised the town to keep the four entrances lit, and to maintain a phone line and electricity to the building, for a fire alarm system. The cost of insuring an empty building is an added cost the town will bear.

"It behooves us all that something happen with this

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BUDGET from pg 1
presentation by superintendent Ken Roche and school committee chair Mary Kociela. Roche said the budget compromise represented a big stretch for the schools, one nearly "outside my comfort zone," but one he believed to be within the reach of the towns.

Kociela worried, "The towns' proposed budget will send the wrong message to the state, a message that says we do not value our schools."

A number of town officials presented arguments against the schools' proposal and in favor of the lower budget number offered jointly by Montague and Gill. They offered warnings regarding the use of reserve funds to patch operating budgetary gaps. Gill officials in particular talked about the dire straits their town would be in if the school's proposed budget were to pass. That would cause Gill's assessment to rise by 7.9%, due to a change in student population relative to Montague. The town has \$92,973 remaining in reserves, said administrative assistant Tracy Rogers, and would need an override of nearly \$190,000 range to close the gap in funding town and school departments this year. That would equal an extra \$255 for the average tax bill.

When the floor was opened for comment, people from both towns spoke fervently for and against the schools' proposed budget. When the question was finally moved, the schools' compromise amendment was crushed by a vote of 196 - 44.

Superintendent Roche had already expressed an opinion that the towns' budget proposal, if passed by the voters, would likely fail to gain approval by the school committee.

Next, the towns' budget proposal, which called for a total increase in town assessments equal to .9% - mirroring the state's .9% increase in Chapter 70 aid for the schools - came to the floor. With school supporters who felt the motion did not provide adequate funds joining opponents of the amendment who felt the compromise was too generous to the schools, the

motion was rejected by a vote of 114 - 113, an outcome that seemed to take the meeting by surprise. In a reflection of the narrow margin, moderator Ray Godin revealed that one ballot had been rejected because it had been marked both Yes and No!

Three hours into the meeting, voters considered one last proposal, this one put forth by Montague finance committee member Mike Naughton. His proposal would slash the school budget by an additional million dollars in order to avoid all use of town reserves or overrides, producing a \$15,073,840 budget. Naughton called this a budget the towns could truly afford.

Steve Ellis of Turners Falls argued against Naughton's amendment, asking, "\$15,000,000 - is that the message you want to send? Is that the headline you want in the [paper] tomorrow? We can't afford to send this message in a time of school choice."

David Jensen, who earlier criticized the schools' \$16.8 million proposal, called Naughton's plan "morally and financially wrong in so many ways." Voters agreed, voting down the amendment 158 - 48.

Now it's back to the drawing board for the school committee and the towns, to see if a compromise can be arrived at before the December 1st deadline, at which time the state - by statute - will have to step in and enforce a budget solution, or attempt to. (The statute as written says the state can enforce a school budget on the member towns by deducting the towns' assessments directly from state aid, but Naughton pointed out that the town of Montague receives around \$2 million in state aid, far less than the \$7,357,284 called for from Montague in the 1/12th budget.)

Another district meeting is likely in the weeks ahead, after the school committee votes a new budget, and state Pothole funding for the district is determined.

Montague selectboard chair Allen Ross summed up his sentiments at the beginning of the meeting by quoting Keith Richards and Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones. "You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes, you get what you need." Clearly it will take more time at the table for the school and the towns, either way.



Brick House Fire Sale

The Brick House Community Resource Center, which purchased the original Turners Falls Fire Department building at 24 Third Street in September 2003, will be removing and selling the building's large folding front doors this month.

Silent purchase bids will be accepted until September 25th, in person, via e-mail, and by telephone. Interested persons may inspect the doors at the

Brick House weekdays between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., by making an appointment, or by just dropping by.

The bays where fire engines once parked are undergoing renovations to make a more energy efficient and useful gathering and performance space for the community.

For more information, please contact the Brick House at 413-863-9576, or via email at www.thebrickhouseinc.org.



JARED LIBBY PHOTO

88% of us have family dinners with our teens most nights of the week.

From the 2008 survey of Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School parents.



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YANKEE from page 1

statements of members of the business community supporting good jobs with good pay, and low electric rates for the residents of Vermont, were others who spoke about their concerns of living near an aging nuclear power plant, running at 120% of its original design capacity and seeking a 20-year extension on its operating license.

Wendell resident Laurel Facey talked about her concern that there is no clear evacuation plan for Wendell, and other

towns in the area surrounding Vermont Yankee in the case of an accident. Facey read part of a letter written by Mary McClintock of Greenfield, which reflected on the evacuations in the Gulf Coast ahead of Hurricane Gustav, which, McClintock points out, were only temporary evacuations rather than what would be much longer term or permanent evacuations in the event of a nuclear accident. "When I see images of traffic jams, overheated cars, people without shelter and the lack of places to go and food to eat, I



Laurel Facey of Wendell raised concerns about evacuation plans. "I wonder about life," she said, "if my world is contaminated by nuclear radioactivity."

running, so it can give us that power that we need?"

Ellen Kaye stood with her daughter, Sophie, and bluntly told those who spoke of all the good work and contributions to the community by Entergy, "If a corporation gives you a lot of money and you get up and say nice things about them, you've been bought."

"It's time to stop," Kaye added. "It's time to listen to people who

are talking about renewables and alternatives and moving into the future, not the past."

Sophie Bady-Kaye, talking about a recent bike trip she took to promote alternatives to nuclear power in Vermont, said, "I did 40 miles in two days. If an 11-year-old girl can do 40 miles in two days then we can use other kinds of power; we can find ways to do that."

Karl Meyer of Greenfield said, "If you go down the Connecticut River there's a bank of cooling towers that sit by the river. They were put there to protect the river." He said Entergy has stepped back from that commitment, allowing hotter water to flow into the Connecticut. Talking about the shad that used to fill the river, he pointed out, "In 1992, 720,000 shad passed through Holyoke. This year, 270 shad came through Vernon, and most of them came by truck." He explained that the heating up of the Connecticut River stops the shad from continuing upstream to spawn.

Meyer went on to say, "We need to have conservation at work here, we need to have a better way to make power, and we need to have corporations that have a commitment to the Connecticut River, and that is certainly not the scenario we have. It's time to shut down Vermont Yankee."

MB

MCTV Program (Ch. 17) Schedule: Sept 19th - 25th

Eagle Cam: Not airing until further notice.

Friday, September 19

8:00 am Block Party 2008
10:00 am Carlos W. Anderson: In the world not of it
10:30 am Special Town Meeting (9/11/08)

12:30 pm Sum Mono Giri
6:00 pm Over the Falls: Side Hill Farm
7:00 pm GMRSD (9/16/08)
9:30 pm Richard Heinberg: The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion

Saturday, September 20

8:00 am Ovarian Cancer
9:00 am Peoples Harvest
10:30 am On the Ridge: Fins, Feathers and Fur
11:30 am Physician Focus: Eyes
12:30 pm Montague Update: Susan Shilliday

1:00 pm Montague Grange Variety Show

6:00 pm Journey to Wissatinnewag
6:30 pm Into The Way of Peace
7:30 pm Honky Thumbelina
8:30 pm Discovery Center: Root Cellar
10:00 pm Common People Concerts: Tim Van Egmond
11:30 pm Changing Face of Turners Falls

Sunday, September 21

8:00 am Common People Concerts: Fall Town String Band
9:30 am Carlos W. Anderson: Living the Truth
10:30 am Discovery Center: Fossil Tracks
11:30 am Women Girls & HIV
12:30 pm White House Chronicle
6:00 pm The Well Being: Sky Awareness

7:00 pm White House Chronicle
8:00 pm Underground Railway Concert
9:30 pm Richard Heinberg: The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion

Monday, September 22

8:00 am Special Town Meeting (9/11/08)

10:00 am Silly Wizard
11:00 am Seabrook 1977
12:30 pm Extending Treatment to Everyone
6:00 pm Over the Falls: View from Wilder Hill Farm
7:00 pm Select Board (Live)
10:00 pm Poetry Music Jam for Montague Reporter
11:00 pm Power Canal Draw Down

Tuesday, September 23

8:00 am Positive Profiles in Courage
9:00 am Preachin the Blues
10:00 am 9-1-1 People, Facts and Stories

10:30 am Amandla
12:00 pm Block Party 2008

6:00 pm Bech Interview

7:00 pm GMRSD (9/16/08)

9:30 pm Girls Softball

12:00 am Honky Thumbelina

Wednesday, September 24

8:00 am Silly Wizard
9:00 am Mighty Minds
10:00 am Songs for Wee People
11:00 am Special Town Meeting (9/8/08)

1:00 pm Surviving the Vernon Reactor
6:00 pm Over the Falls: Side Hill Farm
7:00 pm Physician Focus: Atrial Fibrillation

8:00 pm Poetry Music Jam for the Montague Reporter

9:00 pm Montague Grange Variety Show

10:30 pm Mind Control

11:00 pm Independent Voices

Thursday, September 25

8:00 am The Spirit of Lake Pleasant
10:00 am Richard Heinberg: The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion
12:00 pm Safe and Green Campaign Forum

6:00 pm Discovery Center: Fossil Tracks

7:00 pm Select Board (9/22/08)

10:00 pm Richard Heinberg: The Looming Crisis in Oil Depletion

can't help but imagine if there were a need for a speedy evacuation of the area around Vermont Yankee," what that would be like. "Once evacuated, where would we all stay; how would we be settled?"

Facey concluded, "I need answers about evacuation. Mary McClintock wondered about resettlement. I wonder about life. If staying is the correct course of action. What would life really be like if my world is contaminated by a plume of nuclear radioactivity?"

A young woman who had lived in Vernon all her life and was raising her children there got up to say, "I've never been afraid living here."

Tony Mathews of Gill told the assembled crowd, "At the annual town meeting, the town of Gill voted unanimously to oppose relicensing of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Perhaps because we face the risks without sharing any of the tax benefits, we're more clear-eyed." He added that Gill residents feel their property would be completely uninsured against damages in the event of a nuclear accident, according to the special terms granted by Congress to the domestic nuclear power industry under the Price Anderson Act.

Mathews, the chair of the Gill conservation committee, concluded his remarks by pointing out that the

Connecticut River no longer freezes in winter south of Vermont Yankee.

Richard January said he'd worked at Vermont Yankee since 1980. He's now 61 years old, and stated by 2012 he'll probably be thinking of doing something else, making the point that his views are not about self-interest. For those who expressed concerns about the plant's equipment wearing out, he assured people that the reactor is well maintained. January then added a personal note. He said his family goes back in Vermont into the 1700s.

"When my father reached the age of needing to support himself and his family," said January, "he had to leave Vermont because there was no work for him, so I grew up elsewhere. I've been fortunate to be able to come back and work in Vermont, and I hope you make a decision that prevents other people like my father from having to leave the state because they cannot support themselves here. I believe we should relicense the plant, and I believe it's good for Vermont."

Vermont resident Brian Patel suggested, "Instead of saying get rid of Vermont Yankee now in 2012, because then we can start thinking about Green energy, why not start thinking about Green energy now and get that in place, and keep VY

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New Principal at New Sheffield School

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - "I'm very happy to be here," said Elizabeth Musgrave, the new principal of the newly reconfigured Sheffield Elementary School, two weeks into the new school year. "This is just exactly the community and population I want to work with."

Musgrave comes to the \$80,000 a year position at the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) from a two-year stint as the principal of the Federal Street School in Greenfield. At Sheffield she will be supervising a staff of 50 at a time of transition for the school, which last year saw its sixth grade move to the Great Falls Middle School, and this year welcomed first and second graders from Hillcrest and Montague Center to its classrooms. Musgrave will look over 280 students now, and plans are still under review to bring Montague's pre-K and kindergarten school students now housed at Hillcrest to Sheffield, perhaps as soon as next year.

Musgrave said the transition for returning and incoming students has gone very smoothly. "Children are children. They come here, most of them, with open hearts and eager minds. I'm very intentional with children, in the ways we talk with them to create a sense of community, so they can find their sense of place. Most of the children from Hillcrest and Montague Center are new to the school, and so am I.

"I haven't perceived any problems whatsoever, at all. We'll be building our community all year. And next year, we'll be building community again."

One key marker in the progress towards building the new school community at

Sheffield will occur on Thursday, September 25th, when the school holds the first open house for the families of students returning to the school or

them.

"If we say we want children to treat everyone with respect, and they see adults say something sarcastic," the youngsters will notice the contradiction. "When we say, 'We're going to be kind here, we really are.'"

In practical terms, Musgrave said, "We want to create rules for the classrooms, but not a lot of rules - three or four - from a process called 'Hopes and Dreams.' What is it you hope to learn?" The children may say, 'I want to learn my multiplication tables. I want to learn to read chapter

books. I want to make new friends.' And the teachers ask in return, 'What do we need in our classroom so we can realize our dreams?' Treating everyone with respect is a keystone of the educational formula in the Responsive Classroom."

Before she served as principal at the Federal Street School in Greenfield, Musgrave worked as the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator for the Pioneer Valley Regional School District, after completing graduate work at UMass Amherst in Elementary Administration. Before that, she served for 20 years as the head of the dance department at the Walnut Hill School in Natick, a prestigious performing arts residential school where students received pre-professional training, after passing an audition to gain admission.

Musgrave, who speaks with a light English lilt, spent a number of years in England in her middle school, high school and college years. That's where her love of dance began to merge with her subsequent career in educational administration.

"My parents were both

professors," said Musgrave. "Growing up, the thing I didn't want to be in the whole world was a teacher." But taking a three year course of study in ballet at the Art Educational School northwest of London, she was required to teach during her final year. "I had to admit one of the hours in the week I looked forward to most was spent with eight year olds, including some boys who were little hellions. I loved it."

Again, at Walnut Hill, preparing students for the Boston Ballet and other dance companies around the country, Musgrave found herself gravitating toward the after school program where she taught dance for local children from the public schools. "They were very talented, very intense, very ambitious. It was a thrill to work with them. I thought, 'This is

more fun than a person really should have.' And they had the joy of dancing."

This experience led to "a bit of a tussle" for Musgrave, since the Walnut Hill administration wanted her to devote her time more exclusively to the most advanced students. She finally made the break, and returned to Western Massachusetts, her childhood home, to get the advanced degree she would need to become an elementary school principal.

Musgrave, the daughter of Edward Rising, a UMass professor of industrial engineering and Joan Rising, a longtime art history professor at Greenfield Community College, lives in Amherst with her husband, Alan, a lawyer. They have two children.

"We're delighted by see **SCHOOL** pg 13



Elizabeth Musgrave, new principal of Sheffield School

attending it for the first time this year. The open house will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and will include a dedication of works of art brought to Sheffield from Hillcrest and Montague Center schools. The open house will also see the election of a new community council for Sheffield, sign-ups for the Parent-Teacher Organization, along with classroom tours and meet and greets with faculty and staff.

Musgrave, following the five year tenure of Chip Wood at Sheffield, said she is well-versed in the Responsive Classroom techniques Wood pioneered with the Northeast Foundation for Children, and subsequently brought to Sheffield.

"I believe in Responsive Classroom wholeheartedly. It is, for me, the vessel that holds learning. It is a way of being with children that emphasizes shared responsibility, clear expectations that we teach children what to do and what we expect. We don't expect they already know how to behave in the playground and cafeteria, or how to walk through the halls. We model that behavior for

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VILLAGE SKETCHBOOK

CLOSING UP THE OLD CAMP

BY DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS - One of those first September mornings right after Labor Day, the broad Connecticut was calm, like the first days after creation, with mist rising in wreaths from the flat surface. I put in at the Deep Hole, intending to paddle upstream along the stretch the old timers used to call the Horse Race, up to the old camp on the river. Putting the boat in the water, I was greeted by a wildly enthusiastic four month old Chesapeake retriever. Quivering and soaking wet from his early swim, he angled and wiggled around my legs all delighted with the feel of the water and wanting to share his joy of being alive and a puppy on this morning.

His owner came up the bank behind him, a retired gent who liked this part of the river as much as I. We talked about the river, the ducks, and his new pup of a dog while he lit a cigarette. "Won't hunt him this year. Too young."

I figured that would be a good idea. I couldn't picture this dog holding still for very long in any boat. The dog wiggled with delight, full of adoration for his owner.

A good friendly chat, a little soaking from the dog, and I was off across the water, skimming the flat surface like a water-beetle Volga boatman. I made good time going up river, the summer weekenders with their boats the size of Coup de Villes and the yahoos on jet skis all gone to their homes and jobs elsewhere, far from my river. Maybe gone for the season, and even better, for the rest of the year. Labor Day marks a turning point in the river year, and soon it will be the haunt of a few lone fishermen, a couple of hunters now and then, the water fowl and then the ice.

Up the river a ways, the shore gliding by, and the old

camp came into sight. It had belonged to my grandfather, old Joe Brule, who had sought out a place to get away from it all back in the 30s.

His family, a houseful of kids born in different cities all up and down the East Coast from New York City to Maine, followed him from job to job during the Depression.

When they finally entered Turners Falls at the height of the 1936 flood, with all the bridges washed out but one left to lead in and out of town, my grandmother, Mimi, was famously heard to tell Joe, "Don't unpack the bags, we're not staying!"

That was over 70 years ago and guess what, we're still here. For a French Canadian, with a big joyful family and a wife who thrived on life, laughter and family gatherings, Joe was odd. He was quiet, something of a grouch, didn't really like kids, and a loner. I guess that's why he bought this camp.

His neighborhood on L Street was friendly enough, as I recall, populated by families with names like Prunier, Reipold, Brunelle, Galvis, and Sokoloski, but as soon as he could, Joe would light out for the camp with his dog. And although he complained that nobody went to the camp with him (if he could help it), when we did show up he fussed all around us and didn't want us kids to touch anything, didn't

want us to use the scary dank latrine. It was easier to slip off into the woods than to deal with his complaining anyway, or to

later, the phoebe and wood peewee, called in plaintive tones all day long. The bare wood walls inside were decorated with typical north woods camp scenes: fishing and hunting calendars from *Freddy Macker's* package store on L Street, artists' renditions of bears intruding on hunters' camps, an Indian and his frightened maiden girlfriend facing down a grizzly bear with a drawn knife.

Other walls had pictures of movie stars like Charles Bickford and Vivien Leigh. Joe was a projectionist from the early

to make the decision to close it down, and sell it. It was a relic of family history, but had finally lost its relation to our family life. So over a period of months, I began the solitary task of removing its insides.

The door creaked and slammed shut in its familiar way with each armful or bagful of valuable junk that I hauled out and up the steep hill. Bit by bit the years peeled away, as the stuff picked up at tag sales and auctions was removed. Some of you well know that when you do that kind of job, emptying a house after an elderly relative has left, your mind gets to working and you remember all sorts of things.

Things crowded in on me: like the creak and yaw of the swinging couch on the screened in front porch, the thwack of a snapping forefinger on the screens that sent the gypsy moth caterpillars whipping out into the woods, the voice of Curt Gowdy on the old transistor, the memory of rowing back in the dark from a late evening of half-hearted fishing and seeing the pale light of the camp kerosene lamp up there in the kitchen, the smell of crackling bacon and eggs in the skillet on the top of the pot-bellied stove, the full moon shining down on the water.

Old Joe, ever the recluse, was over in his widower's house on Second Street by then, and past caring about who was going through his stuff, while we closed up the old camp that September, years ago. But now this September, just a few days ago, after my chat with the Chesapeake and his old gent of an owner, the trip up the river brought me within shouting distance of the camp. I called out "Hallo up there!" But no one answered.

Even so, there was a nice new roof on the place, new stairs leading up the steep hill, some 30 feet having eroded from the bank where the horseshoes used to ring out as we passed the time in a friendly game years ago. The old camp once closed, is open again, with a new lease on life. And even though old Joe's grumpy ghost is probably lurking around somewhere, the new people will probably never notice. Unless of course, they read this!



Raymond "Butch" Brule at the camp near Barton Cove, circa 1949

wait until we got home!

In spite of his crankiness, most of his family and grandchildren spent time up there once or twice a year. For my cousins and me, it was an adventure: no running water, no electricity. Kerosene lamps, breakfast and supper cooked on the old woodstove or outside over the campfire.

In spite of all, we spent enjoyable long summer days, sometimes playing 78 rpm records of WW II vintage on the hand cranked Victrola, songs by Arthur Godfrey, Gene Autry or the Andrews Sisters. Sometimes we scaled the 78s over the bank, sometimes used them for target practice with the .22.

Birds whose names I learned

days, having held jobs at the old Howard on Scollay Square in Boston and later at the Shea Theater in the 50s. Faded black and white snapshots of the family at Revere Beach or Hampton Beach, others of the frozen river in front of the camp and the uncles, Butch and Toots, holding the family dog Sandy. That dog, by the way, some sort of Spitz, was just as cranky and ornery as her owner: She would just as soon snap at you and snarl rather than to let herself be petted.

Old Joe lived almost to be a hundred years old, but by his late 80s, he stopped going up to the camp. It came down through the family to my father, then me. And a few years ago we had



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *Is it possible for bipolar disorder to first appear when you're older?*

Bipolar disorder can strike anyone at any age, but it isn't likely to start when you are old. However, it is possible that a person could suffer from bipolar disorder for many years and not be diagnosed until late in life.

It is not known what causes bipolar disorder, but a variety of biochemical, genetic and envi-

ronmental factors seem to be involved in causing and triggering bipolar episodes.

Bipolar disorder - also called manic-depressive illness - causes extreme mood swings. When people with bipolar disorder are happy and energetic, they are in the manic phase of the illness. When they are sad and listless, they are in the depression phase.

The shifts from mania to depression and back again can occur quickly. The deep mood swings of bipolar disorder may last for weeks or months, with periods of normalcy between.

Sometimes, severe episodes of mania or depression include symptoms of psychosis such as hallucinations. Some people with

bipolar disorder become suicidal.

The cause of bipolar disorder is not known. Some studies indicate that people with bipolar disorder have physical changes in their brains. And researchers are trying to find genes that may be involved in the condition.

As people get older, symptoms of bipolar disorder may change in nature and severity. Because of this, treatments may need to be adjusted.

Bipolar disorder is treated with medicines to stop the mood swings. Mood stabilizers are used to even out highs and lows. Antidepressant medicine can help reduce the symptoms of depression. Counseling is an important adjunct to drug treat-

ment of bipolar disorder.

People with bipolar disorder can lead healthy and productive lives when the illness is treated effectively. Without treatment, however, the natural course of bipolar disorder tends to worsen.

Bipolar disorder runs in families. If you have a parent who has bipolar disorder, you have a greater chance of having it.

Alcohol and drug abuse are very common among people with bipolar disorder. Anxiety disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder, may also appear.

Some specific symptoms of mania include: irritability, anger, rapid speech, decreased need for

sleep, difficulty concentrating, spending sprees, inflated ego, substance abuse, increased sex drive, high energy level, restlessness, poor judgment, aggression, denial that anything is wrong, increased physical activity and risky behavior.

Some specific symptoms of depression include: no interest in pleasure, anxiety, hopelessness, loss of sex drive, unprovoked crying, low energy level, feeling unworthy and guilty, thoughts about death and suicide, appetite change, insomnia or oversleeping, forgetfulness, body aches, restlessness, weight loss or gain.

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

SCHOOL from pg 11

Elizabeth's background in the arts," said Sheffield's former principal, Wood, who served on the committee that hired her this summer. "In the past, we have had Mass Cultural Council grants," to supplement arts and music at the school. "We were not funded this year. We'll be looking for other sources of funding for that now."

Taking the helm at Sheffield at a time when the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is putting pressure on the GMRSD to improve test scores, and the member towns of the regional school district are seeking reduc-

tions in the district budget due to tight finances, Musgrave said she is seeking a balanced curriculum at Sheffield.

"Time on learning is huge. At the same time, cultural learning and the arts are not frills. It's not an either/or situation: they go hand in hand."

She reflected on the push for more preparation for MCAS testing, and other hallmarks of the No Child Left Behind era, saying, "There are some children who do not shine with multiple choice tests. Some children light up through the arts. Every child has a gift. How do we help them find it?"

"Time is probably the most

precious commodity to make [education] truly meaningful." But even within the constraints of time and budget, Musgrave averred, "I think we can do it all. We're not going to stop reading and math to work on a play for three weeks. But can we study an instrument? You bet. Can we have a fourth grade chorus? You bet."

Along these lines, Musgrave said she planned to hold art openings to celebrate the students' achievements, "like in a gallery, to bring out all the art the children have been working on." Music would be a big part of such occasions, she said.

And to combat the scarcity of

time in the school day to work on projects beyond regular academic coursework, Musgrave pointed to the Full Day Program at Sheffield, run by Abbe Bryant, where a lot of culturally based learning can take place, in addition to tutorials in reading, math and other subjects. There are up to 120 openings for the Full Day Program at Sheffield, which runs until 5:15 p.m. (with another 8:00 a.m. component), and students are welcomed regardless of their ability to pay the sliding scale fee, since there are plenty of scholarships available, Musgrave said.

As the sound of hammers punctuated the conversation in the principal's office, coming from the floor above, Musgrave noted that the school library has not reopened yet. "We're redoing the library to make it more welcoming for younger readers. We're hoping for parent volunteers. It's a massive project."

Parents are also welcome to help out at the school through involvement with the PTO, helping to plan and plant a Unity Garden out front, becoming classroom parents, who volunteer to act as chaperones on field trips, set up transportation, or be there to help at festive events during the school year. Parent volunteers are also welcomed to help on straightforward tasks at the school office.

"We will have family evening once a month," promised Musgrave. After the upcoming Open House on September 25th, the next family night will feature a "Math Blast" on October 16th, where the families and students will play all different levels of math games.

Parent information sessions on "how to support your child to be ready for the MCAS tests" are also planned.

Still, with all this to coordinate, Musgrave said she has found time already to visit all the classrooms of the younger students, and looks forward to visiting the upper grades soon.


"Time with the students is really important to me." Toward this end, Musgrave holds formal sit down lunches with two or three students three times a week in the cafeteria, at the "Principal's Table." Place settings include a tablecloth, glassware and napkins folded in the students' laps, "Just like in a restaurant," as one girl gushed. At the Principal's Table, students get a chance to share whatever is on their minds with Musgrave.

At Federal Street School, one girl enjoyed the experience so much, she asked the principal if she couldn't come back and sit at the Principal's Table on her birthday. "It's tomorrow," she confided.

"Oh, that's wonderful," said Musgrave. "But tomorrow is Saturday."

"Could you meet me anyway? I'll come over."

In ways large and small, the new principal at Sheffield will work to instill a culture of learning and respect among all her students, faculty and staff.

"We're going to hold high standards," she insists. But she also wants to make sure her charges are "coming out of school feeling good about themselves, and with more skills." For Musgrave, that is all a part of the dance of public education. 

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Explosives on Fifth Street, Turners

Tuesday, 9/9

12:59 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with assault and battery, domestic.

3:15 p.m. Report of burglary, breaking and entering at a Lake Pleasant Road address, Lake Pleasant. Investigated.

Wednesday, 9/10

3:30 p.m. Report of motor vehicle theft from a Federal Street address, Millers Falls. Advised of options.

5:00 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Farren Avenue address. Peace restored.

6:47 p.m. Report of breaking and entering into a motor vehicle at Food City, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Thursday, 9/11

12:01 p.m. Report of unwanted person at a Third Street address. Investigated.

1:50 p.m. Report of hit and run accident at ExxonMobil station, Third Street, Turners Falls.

3:12 p.m. Report of unwanted person at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

4:55 p.m. Report of larceny at Food City, Avenue A, Turners Falls. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with shoplifting by asportation, disturbing the peace and disorderly conduct.

6:09 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Fourth Street address. Peace restored.

6:28 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Will for operating with a suspended license.

Friday, 9/12

9:48 a.m. Report of safety hazard at a Fifth Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested juvenile, age 11. Charged with disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, possession of an infernal machine and other explosives.

1:46 p.m. Officer wanted at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

11:04 p.m. Officer initiated arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant.

Saturday, 9/13

8:31 a.m. Vandalism at a Fifth Street address, Turners Falls. Arrested juvenile, age 11. Charged with vandalism, damage or defacement of property.

10:50 p.m. Report of larceny at a Lake Pleasant Road address, Lake Pleasant.

12:42 p.m. Report of unwanted person at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

10:18 p.m. Report of general disturbance at an H Street address, Turners Falls. Advised of options.

11:10 p.m. Officer wanted at an H Street address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Sunday, 9/14

12:20 p.m. Report of hit and run accident at a Randall Wood Drive address, Montague. Investigated.

3:48 p.m. Report of unwanted person at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.

10:59 p.m. Report of burglary, breaking and entering in the area of Avenue C and Keith Streets, Turners Falls. Investigated.

11:21 p.m. Structure fire at an Avenue C address, Turners Falls. Investigated.

Monday, 9/15

4:38 p.m. Following an attempted motor vehicle stop, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with three default warrants, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent offense, resisting arrest, operating a motor vehicle to endanger, failure to stop for police, speeding, failure to stop for a stop sign and failure to stop at a motor vehicle with in marked lanes.



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JEP'S PLACE Part XC

Prejudice

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL -- Playing with the brothers had always been fun. But the fire and the incident with the chicken sandwich changed all that. I realized I lived under different rules and more was expected of me, that I was part of a minority and subject to a degree of prejudice and ridicule.

Ma was gone when I got home from my chicken sandwich humiliation. The other kids said Mr. Lambert's nephew had driven Ma to the hospital in the

Essex. One of the Greek grocery peddlers came by. He gaped at the mounds of white powdery ashes and bits of metal that stuck up like victims reaching for help.

"Where you poppa and mama?" he asked.

When we told him Ma was visiting Pa at the hospital, he asked if we had food to eat. We said we did, but he thrust a loaf of bread at us and insisted we take it. He took another long look at the ruins before getting into his produce truck and driving off.

I had enjoyed visiting the two boys, whenever I could get away, before being humiliated with the chicken sandwich debacle. The two boys never had to work the way we did - not even hoeing or weeding in the garden, much less a big corn field. They didn't have any chores to do, either. Their hired man did all that; they just

played all summer.

On hot days when I visited, we'd cool off in the icehouse by lying on the damp sawdust covering blocks of ice, or we went swimming, or fishing in the brook. Sometimes we'd hike to the Fall River to swim in the icy water and bake on the hot girders of the iron bridge spanning it. A family lived by another iron bridge spanning that same river, several miles farther downstream.

The boys' mother invited me to go along with them for a ride to Greenfield in their nice new car. Her husband was at work. She would never have taken me along if he had been home. She handed me a shirt to wear, and said, "Come along." I guess she wanted me to look civilized, with a clean shirt, at least. On the way, the younger boy told me to watch carefully because we might see the poor kids living by the bridge.

"Look, look. There they are,"

I looked, but the kids didn't look all that different to me.

"Wow! Poor kids - you don't see that very often," their mother said with a little twinkle in her eye. I knew, right away, she meant me and I didn't feel very good about coming along.

Later, she bought ice cream cones for her boys and treated me to one, too. I could tell she realized that I knew she had made a cruel joke and she was trying to make up for it. When we got home, she cautioned her sons. "Don't tell Dad about going into town." But I knew that what she really meant was, "Don't tell Dad we took the dirty little Polish kid with us."

Usually, when I went to visit the boys, I returned home for lunch. The day before the chicken sandwich ordeal, the boy's mother called them in to eat. I told the boys I was heading

home.

"Don't go home; go eat some apples in the orchard and cow grain in the barn."

So, I went to the orchard, but the apples were green and gave me a bellyache. The cow grain from the bins in their barn wasn't that great, but checker-berry leaves and other plants growing wild weren't too bad, though I worried I would eat something poisonous. I liked to pretend I was an Indian foraging off the land, but excluding me from the house made me feel lonely.

After they had tricked me into making a fool of myself, I seldom visited them. I stuck around home, hoping to get to go to the hospital to see Pa. I loved him and didn't want him to die. There wasn't much doctors did for heart attacks in those days, except offer bed rest and a little whiskey.

- Continued next issue

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The Little No Face R&B Revue

BY AMY LAPRADE

TURNERS FALLS - The sight of that tangerine colored Fender crying melodies, along with cascading keyboards and thumping rhythms, was enough to possess me to boogie woogie on the dance floor at the Rendezvous last Thursday, September 11th.

Not your standard cover band, playing those exhausted top forty

tunes. The Little No Face R&B Revue are a new, five piece band from Brookline, VT, performing deep cut, classic R&B with funk and soul overtones and a little straight ahead rock and roll tossed in for good measure.

Performing anything from Taj Mahal to Ray Charles, Sly and the Family Stone to Otis Redding, Jimmy Hendrix to Beck, Little No Face are a tight



Jason Sperling spiced up a soulful stew with his sizzling fretwork in the Little No Face R&B Revue

band with a feel good vibe that

will make you want to get up and move.

Little No Face is a mix of veteran musicians: Jason Sperling on guitar, Dan Seiden, vocals and guitar, Eric Deluca on keyboards teamed with the hot young rhythm section of Pat Stevens on bass and Max Perry on drums. They're new on the scene, but they'll be back in the area before long. Do yourself a favor and check them out. For information on

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM

"Notice of License Application" pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 91. Waterways License Application Number W08-2437.

Applicant: Cinda Jones.
NOTIFICATION DATE:
September 18, 2008

Public notice is hereby given of the "Simplified License BRP WW06 Self Licensing Package" by Cinda Jones to maintain an existing residential dock at 80 French King Highway, in the municipality of Gill, in and over the waters of the Connecticut River, a Commonwealth-designated navigable, non-tidal river. The proposed project has been determined to be water-dependent.

The Department may conduct a public hearing in order to receive information to be used in its decision on whether to grant a Waterways License pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91.

The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways License Application received by close-of-business on October 18, 2008, the Public Comments Deadline. Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in

accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c).

Additional information regarding this application may be obtained by contacting the Waterways Program at 413-755-2147. Project plans and documents for this application are on file with the Waterways Program for public viewing, by appointment only, at the address below.

Written comments must be addressed to: Tony Zaharias, Waterways Program Point-of-Contact, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Waterways Program, 436 Dwight Street Springfield, MA 01103

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th
The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rusty Bell*, \$3 two sets!

At The Bookmill, Montague Center: Alex Diaz. Rolling thunder on a freight train boogie across the astral plane! Begins around 8 p.m. \$5-10

Deja Brew, Wendell: Johnny Cash tribute: *Josh Levangie*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Mark Snow Band, classic and southern rock. Come to dance, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
Montague Grange, Montague Center: Contra Dance, 4 to 10 p.m. Gender-role-free contra dance. Open to all.

Fourth Annual Northfield Summer Arts Fest, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, Northfield. Art, food booth, bands, children's activities.

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Discovery Center Bird Club*. Join the Bird Club, watch and learn all about birds by playing games, reading books, and doing science and art activities. Open to everyone, but geared towards school-aged children (young with chaperone). Info. (413) 863-3221. Free. 10 a.m.

At The Discovery Center: Trek to Dinosaur Cove. Join science history buff Sarah Doyle and geologist Steve Winters for a cultural and geological history tour of Turners Falls and Barton Cove area

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"Les Fins," photograph by Gloria Kegeles, Wendell resident. Gloria is a photographer who paints with light using the reflective surfaces of chrome and paint on vintage vehicles. Kegeles cruises car and truck shows to find her preferred "canvas" - restored automobiles of the chrome age. Gloria's work is on display through September 27th at Gallery A3 in Amherst. www.gallerya3.com

dinosaur fossils. Carpool to Barton Cove for a short hike to a historic fossil-hunting quarry. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free, register at 863-3221 www.greatfallsma.org.

Puppets & Pizza at the Copper Angel, Erving. Nicol Wander's puppet show followed by pizza, 11 a.m. Children, \$8; adults, \$10. Info (413) 422-2885.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockitqueer* dance party, \$3 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Classic 60's & 70's Rock: *The 60's Side Effect*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Tracy & Co. Rock & roll, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th & 21st
The North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival. Forster's Farm, Orange. www.garlicandarts.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st
Deja Brew, Wendell: Classical Piano Improv: *Adam Bergeron*, 7 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd
Evening Sing-A-Long at the Montague Center Library, 6:30 p.m. Linda Hickman, plays guitar and banjo and performs a variety of children's music. Info, call the Carnegie Library 863-3214 during the week, or Montague Center Library, 367-2852, Monday evening

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nature at 8*. Walk let by nature interpreter and geologist Steve Winter. Free, 8 to 9 a.m. Info call 863-3221, continues - 9/29.

LAKE PLEASANT residents and neighbors are invited to an informal

village gathering for games and refreshments at the Spiritualist Temple at 6:30 p.m. Open to all, and snacks and/or games to share are welcome. Call Joy for more info, 367-0114.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd
Gallery Talk by GCC faculty member Jen Simms. Greenfield Community College presents this opportunity to meet the faculty artists and hear the thoughts and ideas behind their art practice. Open to the public, South Gallery of GCC, 12 to 1 p.m.

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Birding for the Absolute Beginner*. Easy walking along the bike path, 8 to 9 a.m. www.greatfallsma.org.

Between the Uprights, 2nd Street Sports Bar, Turners Falls: Guitar music featuring Scott Kuzmeskus from the band *Lost in the Groove*. 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th
At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Science and Nature Brown Bags, bring your lunch to the Great Hall for a 30-minute presentation on science or nature. 12:10 to 12:45 p.m. Free.



Select Photographs: 1956 thru 2005 by photographer Paul Capinigro on display September 25th to December 14th at the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls

Great Falls Farmers Market: rain or shine on the corner or 2nd St. & Ave A, Turners Falls. Farm products, baked goods, maple, crafts, 3 - 6 p.m

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th
A Bouquet of Music Healing Arts Concert at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield. Noon-12:45 p.m. (413) 773-257

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Death Vessel with Micah Blue Smaidone*, 9 p.m. Tickets \$8 in advance at the bar, \$10 by phone and at the door.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th
Recovery Jam! Sober music festival. A seven hours of music with singer/songwriter Don White of

Lynn, MA, *Humble Streak*, *One Night Stand* and *Black Top Kenny* and *Laurie B*. In addition to music, there will be food for all, which comes free with the ticket price, as well as a bouncy house and face painting for children. Tickets \$6 ahead/\$10 at the gate. More info: The Recover Project, 68 Federal St., Greenfield, MA., (413) 774-5489 or www.recoverproject.org. Held at thye Polish Picnic Grounds, 249 Plain Road, Greenfield. Drug and alcohol free event.

Polish Supper at Montague Center Congregational Church. Golabki, pierogi, apple crisp! \$9/\$4, call for reservations 774-7256.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
Deja Brew, Wendell: country & city blues guitar with *Larry Kopp*, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th
Deja Brew, Wendell: Eclectic rock: *Nexus*, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th
Hallmark Institute of Photography public reception for Lois Greenfield, *Celestial Bodies/Internal Souls*. 1 to 5 p.m. in Gallery 85. Artist Talk in the auditorium at Hallmark Institute of Photography, 27 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments, free. www.hmcp.org.

Arcadia Players Chamber Ensemble presents: *Music of Beethoven and His Contemporaries* at Caswell Library, Deerfield Academy. Advance tickets: \$20, at the door, \$30/\$10 students. Info. (413) 534-8888 or www.arcadiaplayers.org. Pre-concert talk by performers at 7 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27th
Photography by Gloria Kegeles: *Chrome Dreams* and *Jitnapa Suthikant: Stereo Typed*. On display at Gallery A3, Amherst. Open Wed. to Sun., 1 to 7 p.m. www.gallerya3.com.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th
12th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup. Dozens of groups return for 4 - state effort. Help out on the Connecticut River Watershed Council's Cleanup. 9 a.m. to noon, meet at the Discovery Center;

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

Turners Falls, free. www.ctriver.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6th
Hope & Olive Restaurant Soup & Games Night Benefit, 5. to 8 p.m. at 44 Hope Street, Greenfield. Free soup, bread, and board games. The bar will be open to serve drinks, and there will also be entertainment provided by Arena Civic Theatre. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged. A portion of the proceeds will go to Arena Civic Theatre. Info. (413) 774-3150.

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SAT. 20 \$3
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FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. THE HOUSE BUNNY PG13
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FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. GHOST TOWN PG13
DAILY 7:00 9:30 DTS sound
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Easthampton 28



Turners Falls 12

BY MATT ROBINSON - On September 12th, Turners Falls lost their home opener to Easthampton 28 - 12, on a rainy evening football game. Last year, opening day against Easthampton was so hot several players got sick from heat exhaustion. What a difference a year makes.

Friday evening at Bourdeau field was so wet that both teams fumbled throughout the game. Neither team could get anything

going throughout most of the first half. It wasn't until less than two minutes remained in the half that Easthampton scored the first points of the game. They followed up with a two point conversion to lead 8 - 0 as the first half drew to a close.

But Turners coach John Putala had other ideas. In one of the best football series in the last two years, Turners drove down the field, passing freely and using the clock wisely to score

before the half ended. Tom Field, #21, caught the TD pass thrown by Eric Bastarache, #11. But the Indians couldn't score the extra point and hit the locker room trailing 8 - 6.

The second half began the same way, as both teams continued to lose the ball. Turners was trailing 14 - 6 in the fourth quarter when they scored their second touchdown of the night.

With less than eight minutes to go in the game, Ben Banash,

#7, scored to pull Turners to within two points, 14 - 12. But they weren't able to score the extra point.

The crowd never lost hope. "We just need to score once more!" one Turners fan yelled. "Stop 'em here!" someone else encouraged.

And the rain came down.

The marching band played their fare of rock songs from the sixties and seventies. People stomped their feet to "We Will

Rock You!" and a student ran in front of the crowd with the blue "T" flag.

Fans drank coffee and ate chili and huddled under their umbrellas. And when the game was over and Turners lost, they kept cheering. The final score didn't matter, at least not to the families. "Good job boys. Good job!" the fans cheered as the soggy players jogged off the field. Not a bad way to spend a Friday night in September.

Tibetan Monks to Visit NMH

GILL - Two monks and one musician, all exiled from Tibet, will come to Northfield Mount Hermon School September 23rd to 26th to create, and then disperse, a mandala 'painted' in sand. Sand painting is a 2,500-year-old art form that symbolizes the Buddhist concept of impermanence. The public is invited to watch the monks work and, at the end of their stay, dissolve the mandala. They are also welcome to attend a Concert for Peace, complete with traditional Tibetan monastic chanting. The event is part of a Compassionate Mandala Tour, put on to increase awareness of the need to be compassionate to oneself, fellow people, all other life forms, and the Earth. There is no admission fee.

While at NMH, the Tibetan visitors will conduct meditation workshops and Buddhist lectures as time and space permit, as well as visit classes and conduct sand art workshops.

The campus will be open to visitors on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 23rd and 24th, from 1 to 5 p.m. and on Thursday and Friday, September 25th and 26th, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The dissolution ceremony at 6:30 p.m. and the Concert for Peace at 7:30 p.m. are also open to the public.

For directions to campus, go to www.nmhschool.org or call 413-498-3000. For more information about the tour, go to compassionatemandala.org on the world wide web.



Tibetan Monks will create and then disperse a sand painting mandala at Northfield Mount Hermon next week to increase awareness of the need to be compassionate to oneself, fellow people, all other life forms, and the Earth.

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