



**2nd STREET BAKING Co.**  
Opening soon in Turners Falls  
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**BOOSTER DAY**  
High School Highlights  
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 45

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

## Montague Acquiring Strathmore Mill

BY DAVID DETMOLD

"I just talked to my attorney today," said Montague tax collector Patti Dion on Wednesday. "He told me the

on the power canal for unpaid taxes, after current owner Jerry Jones allowed the property to fall into arrears for \$179,708 in back taxes, interest and

town will have to spend upwards of \$165,000 to make repairs to the roofs of those two buildings before winter, and to modify the sprinkler system to



Building #1 at the Strathmore Mill, showing gaping holes in the roofline, following the May 26th fire. The town is in the process of taking the mill for back taxes.

Strathmore is scheduled for a land court hearing on October 2nd. If all goes well, it will be a couple of weeks, and we will own the property."

The town is acquiring the 244,482-square-foot, 136-year-old mill complex

fees. The mill suffered a serious fire on May 26th of this year, which destroyed building #10 (19,000 square feet on four floors) entirely, and severely damaged buildings #11 and #1.

Building inspector David Jensen said the

operate as a dry system, and to reactivate the fire alarm, and to hire a watchman to guard the building, until a new owner can be found. Money to pay for those repairs and maintenance will be a subject of

STRATHMORE pg 11

## Turmoil at Community Health Center

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

MONTAGUE CITY -

Since its founding in 1997, the Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC) has been widely recognized as a rural community health clinic that truly serves the county's uninsured or underinsured patients. The driving force behind the center is Dr. Sarah Kemble, founder and executive director, who over the last decade has built an impressive clinic system that serves over 7000 Franklin County patients a year. Her mission is the same now as when she started: to serve those most in need, including migrant workers and their families, undocumented immigrants, the poor, the elderly and the disenfranchised. Unlike many clinics, where the first question posed to a prospective patient is whether they have health insurance, at the CHCFC the first question is how

can the clinic help. And also unlike many medical centers where the administrator only administrates, Kemble still spends at least half of her time treating patients.

But Kemble not only wears the hat of a caring physician. As executive director, Kemble has also been an avid and successful fundraiser, managing to pull in cash from government and private donors. Indeed, Representative John Olver worked hard on her behalf, securing in 1999 a \$200,000 grant from the Bureau of Primary Health Care of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant was used to establish the Dental Education, Network, Training and Service (DENTAS) Project that enables the CHCFC to provide free and low-cost dentistry to thousands of Franklin County residents. Since then, other money has flowed into the organization, allowing for the

expansion of services. Indeed, under Kemble's able and ambitious leadership, the health center expanded from its original Turners Falls location to satellite facilities in Buckland and Northfield, and in February 2006 opened the Desmond Callan Community Health Center in Orange.

So what's not to like? Plenty, according to 13 ex-employees of CHCFC who, on August 10th, sent a four-page letter to the clinic's board of directors requesting that the board "fulfill its duty and help ensure the Health Center's long-term survival by replacing Dr. Sarah Kemble as executive director." Among the signatories were two former physicians, four nurses, one physician's assistant and two nurse practitioners. The major concern expressed in the letter was that the centers in both Orange and Turners Falls

see HEALTH pg 14

- OPINION -

## Q & A at the Power Canal

JOSEPH PARZYCH  
TURNERS FALLS -

FirstLight Power took the opportunity during the annual Turners Falls canal drawdown to construct another larger path for migrating fish. FirstLight is the company that purchased the Turners Falls dam and power canal, Cabot Station generating facility and the Northfield pumped storage generating facility last year from Northeast Utilities.

Fish have a choice of swimming upstream via a path through the water turbines at Cabot Station generating plant, where many of them become fish chowder, swimming through a spillway



Last week, a shad-friendly galvanized steel box is lowered into place for improved passage beneath the Gill-Montague bridge

bypassing the turbines, or taking the low road up the river to the zig-zagging fish ladder, which is difficult to navigate for the weak swimming shad. The majority of spawning fish come up the canal.

"When people think fish ladder, they think

'salmon'. Re-inventing a practically extinct salmon species is a lost cause; the fish passage improvements we are making are primarily for shad," designer David Robinson said. "These improvements are not for salmon. If trying to see CANAL pg 10

## Clams Gather in Wendell



Members of the Clamshell Alliance march to the Seabrook Nuclear Plant site in August of 1977

BY NANCY REIBSCHLAEGER - Twenty-two people gathered at the Wendell town hall on Wednesday, September 12th, to hear about the Clamshell

Alliance's To The Village Square initiative. The name of this new book project, based around the definitive documentary images of movement photojournalist Lionel

Delevingne, comes from an Albert Einstein quote: "To the village square we must carry the facts of atomic energy. From there must come see CLAMS pg 3

**PET OF THE WEEK**

**Full of Fun**



**TJ**

TJ is the cutest little Beagle mix you will ever see – possibly mixed with Chihuahua! He is a tiny guy and full of spunk. He is a nine-year-old boy and is happiest when sitting in your lap. Because he is older, he does *not* require tons of exercise and would be happiest in a home with older people where he could relax and be a lapdog. In true beagle nature he does bark to report when visitors arrive, with a few barks. We hope he can find a forever home soon, so he can happily enjoy his senior years. He is fine with cats and dogs. He would be fine in a home with children over the age of 15.

For more information on adopting TJ, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at lev-erett@dpvhs.org.

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**TURNERS FALLS LIBRARY NEWS**

**Preschool Story Hour**

BY LINDA HICKMAN  
**MONTAGUE CENTER-** Evening sing-alongs are held at the Montague Center Library every Monday evening around 6:30 p.m. The Children's Librarian, Linda Hickman, plays guitar and banjo and per-

forms a variety of children's music. The program is designed for children of any age and their families. For more information, call the Carnegie Library 863-3214 during the week, or the Montague Center Library, 367-2852, on Monday evenings.

**Used Book Sale Benefits Libraries**

The Friends of the Montague Libraries will be holding a used book sale on Saturday, September 29th from noon until 3:00 p.m. at the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, in

Turners Falls. All proceeds benefit programs and services of the Montague Public Libraries. (No additional book donations for this sale are being accepted.)

**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**

**Mindfulness Meditation Class**

Mindfulness Meditation Class will be held at the Wendell Library on Tuesday evenings: October 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 30th, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. The library is located at 7 Wendell Depot Road.

Research studies show that learning mindfulness meditation can reduce stress, increase concentration, and improve overall well-being.

What is mindfulness meditation and how do you practice it? In this four-part class series you will receive mindfulness meditation instruction, learn to practice

meditation, and discover how to apply mindfulness in daily life.

These classes are open to both beginners and experienced meditators. Beginners will develop a foundation in mindfulness, and advanced practitioners will be able to refine their meditation skills and utilize teacher support.

Classes are free of charge and start promptly at 7p.m.

This program is supported, in part, by the Wendell Cultural Council, a local agency, The MA Cultural Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**'Explore Going Into Business' Workshop**

BY AMY SHAPIRO  
**GREENFIELD** - The Franklin County CDC will offer a class entitled "Explore Going Into Business," designed to address critical issues for people considering starting a business, including: determining the right time to start a business; how to know if you can afford to start a business; how to conduct a personal financial assessment; how to develop an idea; developing a feasible business plan; and developing an action plan.

The first session of the course will be held at the Franklin County CDC on October 2nd, from 6-9 p.m., and will continue for the following four Tuesdays ending on October 30th. The \$75 class fee includes 15 hours of class time, textbook and individual assistance from the instructor. Scholarships are available. Call 413-774-7204 x117 or email amys@fccdc.org for more information and to reserve spots in the class.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Sept. 24th - 28th**

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

**Monday, 24th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 25th**  
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi  
**Wednesday, 26th**  
9:30 a.m. Blood Sugar and

Cholesterol screening. Fasting recommended.  
10:30 a.m. Blood pressure screening 10:30 a.m.  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Friends of the Gill/Montague mealsite meeting  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 27th**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 28st**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

**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 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 pro-

**FACES & PLACES**

Marionette Madison Cripps wows 'em at the Block Party in Turners on August 11th. Catch his act at 151 3rd Street during next weekend's Arts & Leaves.

DAVOL PHOTO

**Volunteer Water Monitors Sought**

The Millers River Watershed Council will hold volunteer water quality monitoring on September 29th-30th. Volunteers must attend a training session on Saturday the 29th at 9 a.m. On Saturday afternoon and Sunday, volunteers will work in teams sampling at various locations. To register, contact the MRWC at council@millersriver.net or 978-248-9491.

**Grange Tag & Bake Sale**

A tag and bake sale will be held at the Montague Grange, on Main Street in Montague Center (across from the town common. The Congregational Church Auction will be held on the same day) on Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine.

Donations of items are welcome - call 367-9304 to arrange drop-off. Join us! Community members are welcome to set up and manage their own tag sale tables.

Proceeds from the Grange's sales will go to our building fund, and support our community service projects and sponsorship of cultural events.

**Gill's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts & Crafts Festival**

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**ERVING Correspondent Needed**  
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**GFMS Students of the Week**

**Grade 6**  
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**Grade 7**  
Tim Meyer  
Hailey Peterson  
**Grade 8**  
Carlos Naranjo

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# TURNERS FALLS OPEN STUDIO & DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

BY KAREN STINCHFIELD

The "Arts and Leaves Turners Falls Open Studio & Downtown Walking Tour," featuring twelve downtown Turners Falls studios, galleries, cultural centers, eateries, and more will be taking place next weekend, Saturday, September 29th and Sunday, September 30th.

Along with tour favorites Jack Nelson, Great Lighting, and Peterman's Baskets and Bowls, this season's tour is offering some new attractions, including two Turners Falls artists who will be borrowing downtown space, lampwork glass bead maker Ericka Almeida and knitted rug designer Jessica Fafnir Adamites. If the weather permits, Almeida will be demonstrating her craft on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography will be ushering in a new exhibit, of *National Geographic* photog-



*This photograph - of the Marsh Arabs' Reed House in Iraq - is among the works of Michael Yamashita on display at the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography during Arts & Leaves.*

rapher Michael Yamashita's work, and puppeteer Madison Cripps will be offering puppet making workshops for all ages. The Brick House Community Resource Center will again be

offering the public the opportunity to purchase locally made, quality art and craft work through its Silent Art Auction. An eclectic mix of donated artwork will be available for viewing and

bidding throughout the weekend, with half of the more than fifty items being auctioned off at the end of the weekend, and the other half remaining available for bidding until the end of the Gill Art Fest, where the remaining items will be on display October 13th and 14th. Walkers can also view the progress at the site of the future 3-D Collaborative Sculpture Park, where young people will have the opportunity to display their sculptural work. Visitors are encouraged to wander from the Great Falls Discovery Center all the way down to Couture Brothers and to enjoy the four public art installations and wandering musicians as they do.

There's new food in town too! The 2nd Street Bakery will be opening its doors just in time for this event. While sampling fabulous homemade treats, walkers can enjoy the work of local artists

Derrick Zellmann and Bridget Bresnahan, which will be adorning the bakery's freshly-painted walls. One block down, the Rendezvous, which just opened its doors a few weeks ago, will be serving up its full delectable menu after 3:00 p.m., but visitors can stop in for a gander at this destination's new look throughout the two days. Even the bathrooms are works of art! Another rejuvenated eatery is Avenue A Cafe, formerly Cup O' Joe, which offers art on the walls, breakfast all day long, as well as fabulous sandwiches and wraps.

For more information regarding the walk or its participants, please feel free to call Karen at the Brick House (863-9576) or Eileen at Carriage House Designs (863-9499), or visit [www.thebrickhouseinc.org](http://www.thebrickhouseinc.org) and download the brochure. There's something to satisfy everyone's palette, and their palates, too!

## CLAMS

continued from pg 1

America's voice." The goals of the initiative are to tell the story of the Clamshell Alliance, with a focus on its democratic strategies of active nonviolence, and to renew grassroots resistance to nuclear power.

The Clamshell Alliance was formed to protest the construction of twin nuclear reactors in Seabrook, NH in 1976, following Sam Lovejoy's toppling of a weather tower at the site of planned nuclear reactors on the Montague Plains in Massachusetts in 1974. Delevingne's book will include stories of many of the people who occupied the Seabrook site 30 years ago, along with his powerful photos of the protests against the nuclear industry there and elsewhere. As well, Rob Cox, head of special collections at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, is designing an archival file of Clamshell Alliance stories and pictures to be available over the internet. More information on

the *To the Village Square* project may be found at [www.clamshell-tvs.org](http://www.clamshell-tvs.org).

In Wendell, a slideshow of clips from the book was shown. Many in audience had participated in the Clamshell Alliance protests at Seabrook. They gathered in a circle, and their comments showed that their feelings about the risks inherent in nuclear power have not mel-

lowed with age. The recent collapse of a cooling tower and subsequent emergency shutdown at the nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon, VT was the focus of much of the discussion, along with the intention of the owners of that plant to seek a 20-year extension on the 35-year-old nuke's operating license.

The group also discussed

ways to disseminate information about nuclear power to younger generations.

Wendell filmmaker Robbie Leppzer's first video, *Seabrook 1977*, made when he was 18, was also shown. The film documented how a large group of people can work together democratically to stage a nonviolent

demonstration. On April 30th, 1977, more than 1800 people from 30 states walked onto the nuclear plant construction site in Seabrook; 1414 were arrested and held for 13 days in six New Hampshire national guard armories. For more information on Leppzer's video see [www.turningtide.com](http://www.turningtide.com).

## CALLING ALL GLAMS

Folks interested in the Clamshell Alliance - To the Village Square project will reconvene on Saturday, September 29th, at 1 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. All are welcome.

Personal stories of Clamshell history will be videotaped, and strategies for future activity discussed.

Come join us in working for a green, renewable energy future for our region.

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## Blueprint for the New Massachusetts Miracle



BY GOV. DEVAL PATRICK

For weeks I have carefully considered whether we should expand gaming in Massachusetts. After thoroughly reviewing the arguments and the analysis on both sides of the issue, I believe authorizing three resort casinos will have significant economic benefits to Massachusetts. Done the right way, resort casinos can play a useful part, along with other initiatives in life sciences, renewable energy and education reform, in providing our Commonwealth with sustainable, long-term economic growth.

Three high-quality, resort casinos would generate over \$2 billion annually in new economic activity, bolster tourism to the Bay State, create over 20,000 permanent new jobs at good wages and benefits, and engage the services of over 30,000 construction workers. That kind of economic activity spurs the sale of other goods and services, creating a jobs multiplier effect within our local economy.

Economic growth is critical in order for us to deal honestly and responsibly with the neglect of the past 16 years. Our roads and bridges need billions of dollars of repairs and ongoing maintenance. We must reform

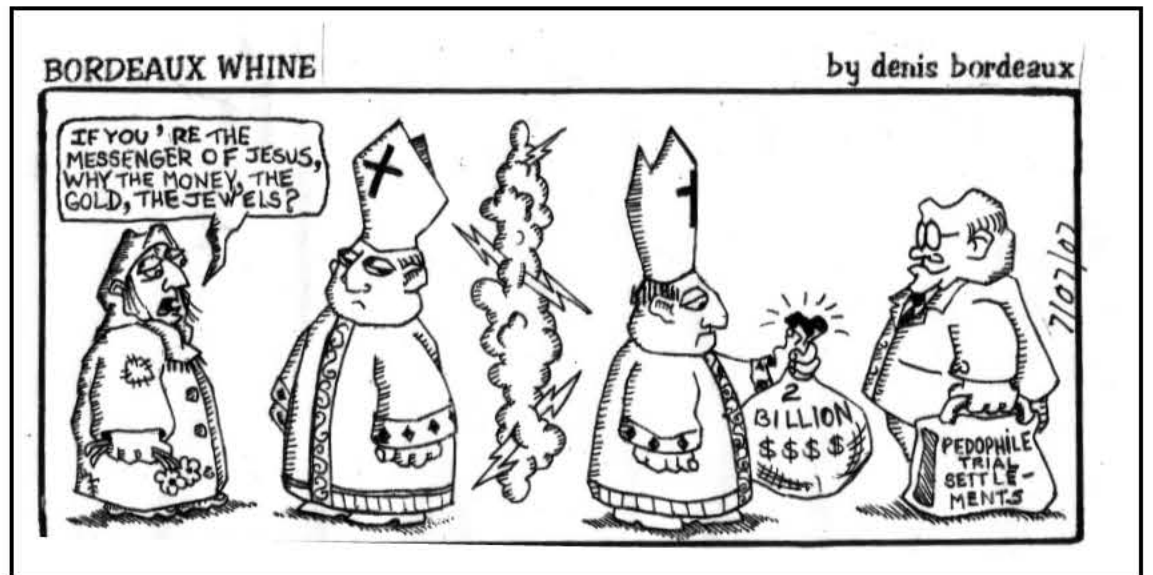
our education system to prepare young people for the competitive challenges of our global economy, and continue to position Massachusetts for the jobs of the 21st century. And we must accomplish all this without putting an unfair burden on those in our community who have been hit hard by rising property taxes over the past few years. The only way to meet these responsibilities fairly and equitably is to advance initiatives that will provide long-term, sustainable economic growth. Destination resort casinos can serve a useful role in our overall economic development plan.

I did not come to this decision lightly. If we proceed down this path, we must ensure that we adhere to sound economic, public safety and public health principles, as well as develop a strong oversight and enforcement mechanism for casinos.

To that end, we will limit the number of casinos to three, and ensure that they are destination resort casinos and not "racinos." The fewer the number, the more likely we are to maximize their economic benefits and tax revenues. At the same time, it is important to allocate these opportunities equitably around the Commonwealth in order to attract tourists and residents from different regions of New England and beyond.

We will also regulate resort casinos professionally and independent of politics. The auctioning of the casino licenses must be an open and transparent process, overseen by financial experts and free from any political interference. Oversight and regulation of resort casinos should be entrusted to an independent authority, while enforcement should be the responsibility of a new division within the Attorney General's office. All costs related to regulation and enforcement will be born by an assessment on the casinos themselves.

see BLUEPRINT page 5



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dear George and Dick

Just a loving note to say congratulations on fooling the people into thinking that you were Christians on your last election. The people you fooled were in a coma, but that's all right.

Thanks for spending half a trillion dollars in Iraq. The sick, homeless and hungry people in this country didn't need the money; your war needed it more.

Pay no attention to that lady with cancer; she's just a complainer. The government changed the standard, so now she can't receive her Procript and her bill for injections are

\$660 each. The infusions were \$289 each, and Neulasta were \$2837.

Big oil and the pharmaceutical companies love you. You are to be congratulated for not starting the war on drugs. Why waste taxpayers' money?

And, last but not least, thank the corrupt Congress and Senate. Their greed is a true sign that someday you all will be down to see me.

Your friend,

Beelzebub

Forwarded by

-Ted Graveline

Gill



### Whom Remembers the Old Montague Center School

Recently there has been considerable discussion about whether or not to close the school in Montague Center. This has made me think about attending school in Montague Center when I was growing up. However, the school I attended is not the one being debated presently, but the building that stood on the site previously. That school was built in 1873. Originally, it was the high school for the town of Montague and later became the elementary school for Montague Center.

It was a stately Victorian style brick building. There were three entrances to the school, a front entrance with a portico and two side entrances. When I attended school one side entrance was for boys and the other for girls. The boys and girls played on opposite sides of the playground, and "never the twain shall meet." At the end of the day the girls and boys lined up outside their separate entrances and proceeded to come around to the front entrance. A teacher stood

on the porch and waited until both lines were silent. Only then could we proceed down the center sidewalk, two by two, and be free for the day.

When I was in eighth grade we had a set of green textbooks entitled *Vital English Grammar*. They consisted of pages and pages of drills on such topics as whether to use 'who' or 'whom.' Our eighth grade teacher found these books to be a useful disciplinary tool, and the slightest infraction could result in having to do several pages of exercises from the text.

During the Christmas break of 1945, the school burned down. The next day several of my classmates gathered to look at the ruins. At this point the firemen were able to go into the building and see what could be salvaged. Imagine our surprise when they brought out a bookcase containing *Vital English Grammar* quite unscathed.

-Dorothy Hmieleski  
South Deerfield

### Thanks for the Memories

Thank you so much for your wonderful article "Working on Tobacco" of June 21st (MR V#37) by David Brule. What a delightful flashback to a carefree time in our youth. Not only did it bring back memories of that time for many of us, but the treasured memory of your time on the river with my brother Bill brought tears to my eyes. The reflection of a time when the future was unknown and our thoughts were carefree and joyful, you certainly captured in your writing. Thank you again for that treat!

- Marcia Beaubien Schuhle  
Greenfield

### The Cost of War

Your editorial "The Surge of Grief" (MR V#44) was poignant with tones of bitterness, which is so easy to understand.

I have tears in my eyes and a big lump in my throat as I read it, coupled with the anger you felt, as I did, over the senselessness of this greediness to make rich people richer whatever the cost. For so many families that cost is too damn high. Thank you for expressing, for many of us, how we all truly feel.

- Peg Bridges  
Montague Center

### American Dead in Iraq as of 9/19/07



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**BLUEPRINT** from pg 4

We will also provide significant resources to mitigate any anticipated social costs. Specifically, we will set aside a portion of the casino revenue in a separate trust account for programs to prevent and treat compulsive gambling, drug and alcohol abuse and other related public health concerns, so that we can address and monitor the impact on people for whom gambling is more than harmless entertainment. I have asked my Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Public Safety to design best-in-the-nation programs to address these issues, and the percentage of gaming revenues dedicated to supporting these programs will be among the highest of any in the country. In addition, we will also set aside a portion of monies for host and surrounding communities who bear the burden associated with any significant increase in people and traffic.

Finally, we will dedicate the revenue from resort casinos toward repairing our roads, rails and bridges, as well as toward a significant property tax credit program for homeowners.

Our roads, rails, buses and bridges are showing the effects and results of over 16 years of neglect by previous administrations. Without better and safer roads and bridges we compromise our economic future and our quality of life. By investing a significant portion of the resort casino revenue toward improving roads we accelerate the growth in economic opportunities in every region, ensure the safety of our public roads and bridges, and address effectively one of the greatest fiscal challenges we face - without an increase in the gas tax.

The remaining resort casino revenue will be distributed to homeowners across the state in the form of an income tax credit to offset property tax bills. Families, seniors and young people trying to settle in our state face rapidly escalating property taxes. Indeed, these new resources provide us the opportunity to deliver property

tax credits directly to homeowners and thereby help to lessen the burden of property taxes on working families in the Commonwealth.

Needless to say, our way forward does not and should not depend on the governor's views alone. The legislature will have to enact new laws to make this vision a reality. The needs and wishes of affected communities must be heard. No resort casino should be sited before receiving a transparent, engaged public review.

If we proceed under these conditions, with care and transparency, I believe destination resort casinos can bring significant economic benefits to the Commonwealth, and become a part of our overall plan for long-term, sustainable economic growth. Done the right way, resort casinos can join the many other reasons why Massachusetts is an international destination for travelers and tourists and a wonderful place to live.

*Editor's note: Nowhere in his editorial does the governor detail how many Massachusetts residents will have to lose their shirts at the proposed resort casinos in order to generate \$2 billion in annual revenue.*

# New Bakery Coming to 2nd Street

**SHAWN WOOLSEY TURNERS FALLS**

The aroma of fresh baked bread and pastries will soon be rising from the vents at 69 2nd Street in Turners Falls, as the 2nd Street Baking Co. opens its doors in the next few weeks. The bakery will specialize in custom decorated cakes and homemade breads.

The storefront is in the midst of renovation from a former liquor store and used clothing shop into a brightly painted kitchen and seating area where local artists will be able to display their work. Light lunch fare will also be available at the new bakery.

In their store, proprietors Christa Snyder and Laura Puchalski will be incorporating baking experience born from years of sampling their mothers' and grandmothers' fare, with a nouveau twist they call "evolving the art of baking." According to Puchalski, "We



Christa Snyder, left, and Laura Puchalski stand in front of their new business.

are telling us what they are interested in and we are listening. Our bakery will be a full service shop. Along with retail service, we will be providing wholesale service as well."

The bakery renovation is nearing completion, as Snyder spent part of a recent afternoon cleaning the plate glass windows and calling Ansul system installers and contractors to hook up the oven in advance of their September 29th opening. She's also been decorating the walls and adding an artistic touch with murals and handmade

glass and copper wire chandeliers. Opening day, September 29th, coincides with Arts and Leaves, a walking tour of Turners Falls artist studios and downtown eateries. The artwork of Derrick Zellman and Bridget Bresnahan will be featured on the bakery walls.

The 2nd Street Bakery promises to be a toothsome addition to the downtown scene. As far as a menu is concerned, the duo says theirs is being assembled along the way. Puchalski said, "The menu is ever evolving, every day. A lot of people are coming by who

are taking traditional family recipes and things you would remember from childhood that your Grandma made, and updating them. We might make the same product, but in a new flavor."

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

## Laptop Stolen from Vehicle

**Thursday 9-13**

7:23 a.m. Animal complaint from Silvio Conte Fish Lab on Migratory Way. A dog was running loose. Referred to Animal Control Officer.

11:15 a.m. Report of a larceny at Exxon on 3rd Street. A fake \$100 bill used for purchases. Under investigation.

6:34 p.m. Report of an assault at a Griswold Street address. Found to be ongoing dispute between 2 neighborhood children.

**Friday 9-14**

3:39 a.m. Report of suspicious activity at the town yard. A town truck had its lights on.

8:57 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Turnpike Road near the high school, [redacted] was arrested

and charged with a stop sign violation, operating under the influence of liquor (2nd offense), and failure to wear a seatbelt.

**Saturday 9-15**

6:02 p.m. While on patrol, officer found fight in progress at Unity Park. Fight between two teenage girls. No one wished to press charges. All advised of options. Crowd dispersed.

**Sunday 9-16**

1:05 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with speeding, red light violation, not having registration in possession, and operating under the influence of liquor.

1:53 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident in Brooks parking

lot. car rolled into the building. No damage. Report taken.

**Monday 9-17**

9:45 a.m. Report of an environmental incident on Millers Falls Road at Turnpike Road. A Fed Ex truck struck a tree branch that fell into the roadway. DPW notified.

10:04 a.m. Walk in to station reported a neighbor dispute on Turners Falls Road. Subject was requesting information about obtaining a stay away order. Subject was advised.

**Wednesday 9-19**

12:31 a.m. Report of a larceny at a 2nd Street address. Caller states a laptop was stolen from a vehicle. Under investigation.

1:10 a.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance at an Avenue A address. Resident states he wasn't doing anything wrong. Asked to be quiet.

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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Gill Weighs GIC Health Plan; Override Delayed

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The town of Gill is weighing the advantages of the Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission (GIC) health plan for its employees, with an eye on the October 1st deadline for enrolling in the program for next fiscal year (July 1st, '08). "There are definite cost savings," said board member Ann Banash, and her colleagues concurred. But the board is worried about the possible impacts of switching providers for the town's two retirees who currently receive benefits under Gill's present provider, the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. The board hopes to meet with the two

retirees in time to make a decision on enrolling in the GIC before the end of the month.

"It's easier for us," commented Tracy Rogers, Gill's administrative assistant, "because we don't have a union." Rogers said she would research how long a cancellation notice the town's current provider would require, prior to the board taking action. [Montague's town administrator, researching the same question, said a 90-day notice is all that is required.]

The board delegated Lee Stevens to meet on Tuesday with the Flaggs, who own property along Main Road, following an appearance at the September 17th

board meeting by Daniel Flagg. Flagg had not been scheduled to appear, but neither had a 74-foot, 40 inch deep trench that unexpectedly showed up on his property Monday morning, the result of unauthorized drainage work by F&J Construction, the Ludlow-based contractor that has been renovating the northern section of Main Road for the last two years. Stevens said F&J did not have an easement to excavate on the Flagg's land.

Across Main Road, Upinngil Farm owner Cliff Hatch said his cows got loose by traveling through the oversized 'turtle culvert' that was installed earlier this year as part of the reconstruction of Main Road, to ease the passage of wood turtles, a species of concern in Massachusetts. "Environmentalists have kind of a narrow world view," said Hatch, reached by phone. "When they build a big culvert, big animals can walk through them."

Hatch called the incident, "just another of the unintended consequences of this project." He said the town's highway crew has been out working on a concrete block retaining wall to shore up what's left of his farmstand parking lot on Tuesday. "They've been doing a great job."

Part of the embankment and driveway to Upinngil was sacrificed to the road widening and turtle culvert installation, and the farm lost a screen of arbor vitae, an old oak tree, and other trees as well. "It's pretty hard to take," said Hatch. "It's all so people can drive faster and degrade our neighborhood."

Like the Gill Store, which closed for business earlier this summer, the Upinngil farmstand has been adversely impacted by the ongoing interruption to through traffic on Main Road, according to Hatch, who said his business has lost thousands of dollars. "It'll take us a long time to recover."

Meanwhile, Rogers said F&J was scheduled to begin laying

down a base coat of pavement starting from the Northfield line and working south, sometime this week. She said motorists not heading to a specific residence or business on the northern stretch of Main Road were advised to seek an alternate route until that paving work is completed.

One of the institutions along that stretch - Northfield Mount Hermon School - has begun using a new address: 1 Lamplighter Way, Mount Hermon, MA 01354. NMH spokesperson Rick Wood came to the September 17th meeting at the board's request to discuss the address change, which the school has begun using on their mailings.

In former years, the Mount Hermon campus maintained a federal post office with its own zip code, separate from Turners Falls, the town was given the old 01354 number. Now that NMH has closed its Northfield campus and consolidated in Gill, the school has begun using its old place name - Mount Hermon - in its mailings, and would like the town to formally designate the main entrance off Route 10 as Lamplighter Way.

Rogers said she would research how the town would go about legally naming a new street. In the meanwhile, the town wanted to be sure 911 calls to Lamplighter Way would be responded to correctly, and to find out how to ensure "the GPS folks" would recognize the new designation, Rogers said.

In other news, town treasurer Ronnie LaChance received the board's approval to switch the town's checking account to a 'Sweep account,' which leaves the daily balance in an interest bearing account and 'sweeps' only the amount needed for

checks written each day into an account for checking. 'Now accounts are so yesterday.'

Board member Nancy Griswold, who also serves on the town's board of assessors, said it may take longer than previously reported for the state Department of Revenue to certify Gill's property values on completion of the recent triennial revaluation and collection of data. She said once the Gill assessors complete their review of data compiled by the town's contractor for the reval, Mayflower Associates, the DOR could take up to 10 weeks to certify the new values.

Since the board intends to wait until the new property values are certified and the tax rate set before holding an override vote to cover the gap in this year's operating budget - caused largely by the higher assessment for the Gill-Montague schools - this probable delay will cause added difficulty if voters do not approve an override. "Once you are five or six months into an operating budget, it is that much more difficult to make cuts," Rogers said. Still, the board believes an override would fail if they cannot tell voters exactly what the impact would be on the tax rate.

The town intends to seek a Proposition 2½ override for \$150,000; approximately 80% of which will be needed to meet the school assessment, with 20% going to meet town departments' '08 budgets.

Another side effect of the delay in setting the tax rate, Rogers said, is that the town cannot send out tax bills yet, causing a cash flow crunch. In the interim, the town is asking residents to pay the first half of their '08 bills based on last year's values, Rogers said. The town will contact representative Chris Donelan and senator Stan Rosenberg to see if anything can be done to speed up the DOR review, once the assessors finalize their figures, a milestone expected by the end of this week.

## MCTV Schedule Channel 17: Sept. 21st - 27th

### Friday, September 21

8:00 am Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription  
9:00 am Montague Select Board (9/17/07)  
10:30 am The Changing Face of Turners Falls  
12:30 pm Block Party Part 4  
2:00 pm Senior Center: Self Defense Part 1 & 2  
6:30 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Technical Knockout  
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (9/11/07)  
9:30 pm On The Ridge: Jennifer Broome  
10:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-Ness"  
11:00 pm Independent Voices #36

### Tuesday, September 25

11:00 am Birds of Prey  
12:30 pm Over The Falls: "Beyond The Wall"  
6:00 pm Senior Center: Elder Law  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)  
9:00 pm Gladwood Studios: Preachin The Blues  
10:00 pm On The Ridge: Jennifer Broome  
8:00 am Senior Center: Elder Law  
9:00 am Gladwood Studios: Preachin The Blues  
10:00 am On The Ridge: Jennifer Broome  
6:30 pm The GED Connection #19: Economics  
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (Live)  
9:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-Ness"  
10:30pm Montague Grange Variety Show

### Wednesday, September 26

8:00 am GED Connection #19: Economics  
8:30 am Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-Ness"  
9:30 am Montague Grange: Variety Show  
6:30 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Technical Knockout  
7:00 pm GED Connection #20: Civics & Government  
7:30 pm Discovery Center: Woodpeckers  
8:30 pm The Well Being: "HIV/AIDS Today"  
9:30 pm Peske Park Dedication and Ceremony

### Thursday, September 27

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Technical Knockout  
8:30 am GED Connection #20: Civics & Government  
9:00 am Discovery Center: Woodpeckers  
10:00 am The Well Being: "HIV/AIDS Today"  
11:00 am Peske Park Dedication and Ceremony  
6:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Eric Goodchild  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 9/24/07  
9:00 pm On The Ridge: Jennifer Broome  
9:30 pm Seabrook 1977  
11:00 pm Montague Music Train (1/30/07)

### Saturday, September 22

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Technical Knockout  
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (9/11/07)  
11:00 am On The Ridge: Jennifer Broome  
11:30 am Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-Ness"  
12:30 pm Independent Voices #36  
6:30 pm The Well Being: "HIV/AIDS Today"  
7:30 pm GED Connection #19: Social Studies: Economics  
8:00 pm Discovery Center: Woodpeckers  
9:00 pm Windchanger: Dark Water Pirates  
9:30 pm There and Back Karen Adams  
10:30 pm Montague Music Train (1/30/07)

### Sunday, September 23

8:00 am The Well Being: "HIV/AIDS Today"  
9:00 am GED Connection #19: Social Studies: Economics  
9:30 am Discovery Center: Woodpeckers  
10:30 am Windchanger: Dark Water Pirates  
11:00 am There and Back Karen Adams  
12:00 pm Montague Music Train (1/30/07)  
6:30 pm Gill Concert: Eric Goodchild  
7:30 pm Block Party Part Four  
9:00 pm Independent Voices #36  
9:30 pm Birds of Prey  
11:00 pm Over The Falls: "Beyond The Wall"

### Monday, September 24

8:00 am Gill Concert: Eric Goodchild  
9:00 am Block Party Part Four  
10:30 am Independent Voices #36

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# Booster Week a Boost to School Unity

BY ALI URBAN

Turners Falls High School has a unique tradition that brings students and community members together, provides support for athletes and fosters a sense of school spirit. Booster Week has been a tradition at TFHS for decades, and continues to be a fall highlight for many students.

"Booster Week really gives kids something to look forward to," said Lara Ames, TFHS Student Council president. "It encourages school spirit, and if you have school spirit you look forward to being in school and can take advantage of what school has to offer."

Booster Week activities began with float making last week, after each class chose its subject for the Booster Day Parade, which takes place Saturday, September 21st, stepping off at 10:30 a.m. from Unity Park.

The TFHS Student Council designated breakfast cereals for

the leprechaun 'Lucky' for their Lucky Charms float, while juniors challenge them with the nautical theme of Cap'n Crunch. Sophomores will try to win the float-making competition with Rice Krispies, and freshmen will have their first float-making experience with their choice of Frosted Flakes.

How does it work? "You get a bunch of high-schoolers together with power tools and let them build something they designed," Ames explained. "Everyone's ideas are put together on the float with chicken wire, duct tape and a staple gun and it actually looks really good."

Classes must follow strict guidelines associated with float making. They have the opportunity to make their floats, generally at students' houses, no more than three times a week for two weeks, not to exceed three hours

## HIGH SCHOOL LIGHTS



Jen Jason paints leprechaun 'Lucky' for the senior class Booster Day float

for each session. "Friday night is special because we can stay as late as we need to," Ames said. "It's really a time to share memories, have some snacks and work together to get the float just the way we want it."

Faculty judges were chosen and will be evaluating each class float based on construction, theme and visual impression as the floats make their way along the route from Unity Park to TFHS. Leading the parade will be this year's grand marshal, Bob Avery. Each year, students select a community or faculty member for his or her service and dedication to the school to be grand marshal.

Ames said Booster Day is especially important because it brings people together beyond the school itself. "It allows us to include the community and to thank the community for what it does for our school," she said.

The Booster Day football game will follow at 1:30 p.m. at TFHS against Springfield Sci-Tech.

To increase school spirit and to prepare for Booster Day, students participated in other activities throughout the week. A coronation ceremony was scheduled to honor a boy and a girl from each class for their work at float making as part of the 2007 Booster Day Court. Students were encouraged to participate in themed dress days including hat and tie day, dress to impress and class color day.

"Booster Week isn't just about football," Ames explained. "We honor all of the fall sports." She noted the importance of unifying the teams and encouraging the efforts of all the student athletes.

"One way we do this is to hold a sports rally," she said. The rally will take place tonight, Thursday. This gives team captains an opportunity to address the student body about the start of their seasons and to honor athletes for their accomplishments. Also featured at the rally are the members of the court, cheerleaders and marching band.

"We're beginning a new school year, and Booster Week gives us an opportunity to unify our school right from the beginning," Ames said.



Seniors Gina Varuzzo, Alex Ackerman and Sam Johnson design the Class of 2008's float backdrop

the 2007 theme. Seniors are working to recreate the "magically delicious" world of

### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## A Quilt & A Special Town Meeting

**FROM STAFF REPORTS** - This year's Harvest Bazaar on October 13th will feature an event which has become an Erving tradition: the Senior Center quilt. The 2007 edition has been named "Ups and Downs." The quilt was made the old-fashioned way, by

many hands from the Erving senior center, and will be raffled off at the bazaar. Chances for the quilt are on sale for one dollar. The quilt will be on display during the bazaar in Erving at the center, and proceeds will benefit programs there.

In other news, the selectboard have called a 15-article special town meeting on Monday, September 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall. The warrant is posted in the town hall and is available upon request by calling 422-2800 x100.

On the 24th, Erving residents will be asked to vote on a variety of articles including re-allocating \$30,000 of state aid to cover costs relating to health care litigation, new dog bylaws, and

see ERVING pg 11



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**Nov. 13th • 5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
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# the poetry page

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

design by Boysen Hodgson

## Learning to Dance

1-2-3 and 4-5-6

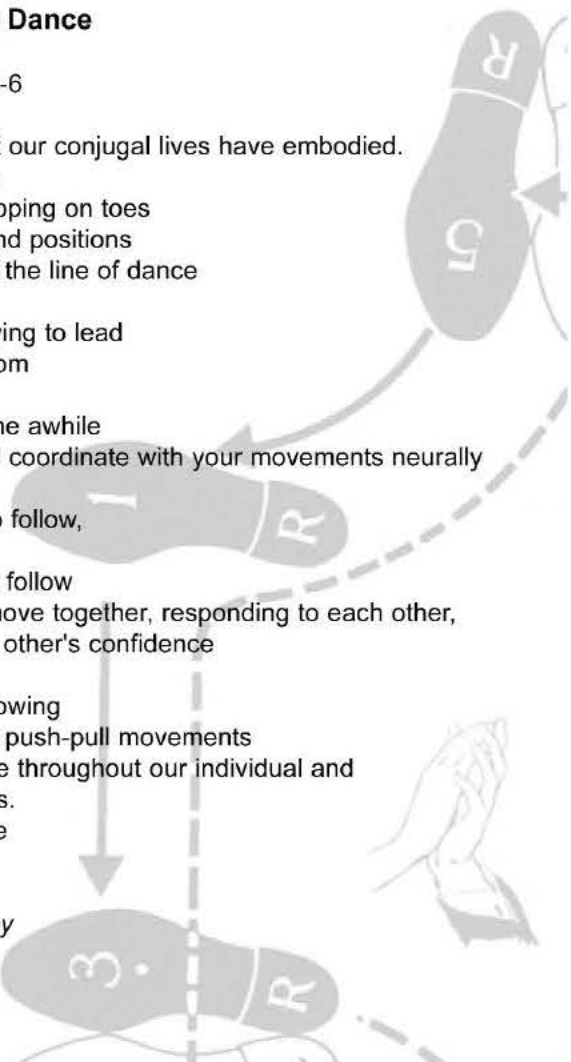
The spirit that our conjugal lives have embodied. There we are with lotsa stepping on toes correcting hand positions going against the line of dance

each other trying to lead Strictly Ballroom

it has taken me awhile to imprint and coordinate with your movements neurally emotionally to trust and to follow, no, it's more than follow to trust and move together, responding to each other, building each other's confidence

as partners flowing despite those push-pull movements that are innate throughout our individual and collective lives. time after time

--Kasia Hadley Northampton



## Russian Wood

All happy families are like one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

Anna Karenina Leo Tolstoy

So much isn't written because it's almost winter, bare trees in the foreground, scrape of light, slant of wind.

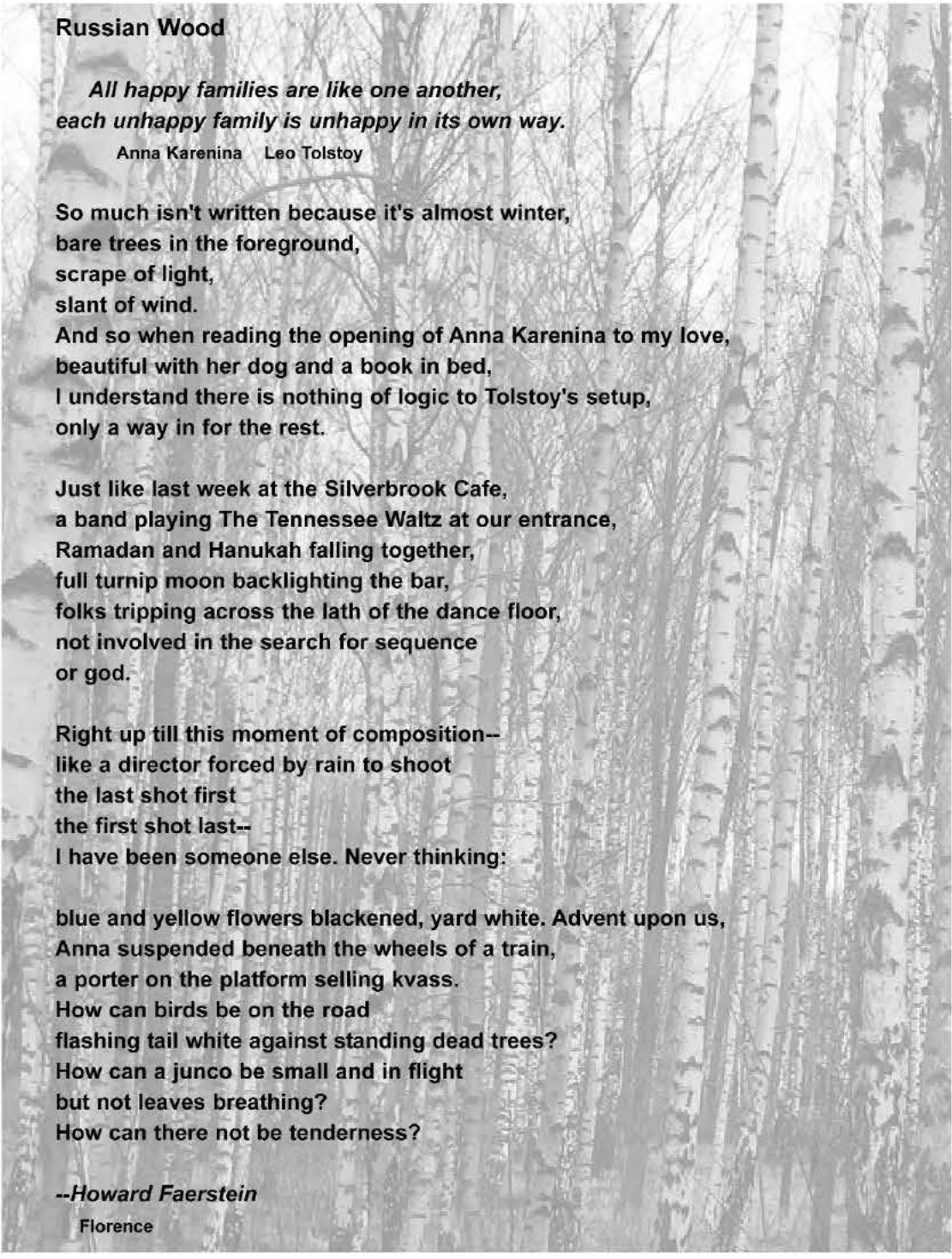
And so when reading the opening of Anna Karenina to my love, beautiful with her dog and a book in bed, I understand there is nothing of logic to Tolstoy's setup, only a way in for the rest.

Just like last week at the Silverbrook Cafe, a band playing The Tennessee Waltz at our entrance, Ramadan and Hanukah falling together, full turnip moon backlighting the bar, folks tripping across the lath of the dance floor, not involved in the search for sequence or god.

Right up till this moment of composition-- like a director forced by rain to shoot the last shot first the first shot last-- I have been someone else. Never thinking:

blue and yellow flowers blackened, yard white. Advent upon us, Anna suspended beneath the wheels of a train, a porter on the platform selling kvass. How can birds be on the road flashing tail white against standing dead trees? How can a junco be small and in flight but not leaves breathing? How can there not be tenderness?

--Howard Faerstein Florence



### Scarecrow

Inside my chest an apple darkens.  
 Inside the apple a wind barely sleeps.  
 Inside the wind hayforks pitch.  
 I burn with songs of the beginning,  
 Before birds.  
 Go back to your life beyond the cornfield,  
 Back to the farmer's wife and her faraway heart,  
 To the garden clouded with flowers--  
 You'll make no friend here.

--Kristin Bock  
 Montague Center

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Fall 2007 Schedule 3rd Season  
 September 24 *Howie Faerstein & Doris Abramson*  
 October 29 *Andrew Hughes, Dustin Williamson, Dina Stander*  
 November 26 *Brenda Iijima*

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**CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:**

Howard Faerstein is a Brooklynite in self-imposed exile, I reside in Florence, Massachusetts and work as an adjunct professor of American literature at Westfield State College. Previously, I somehow was employed by NYC Off-Track Betting. Over the past decade I've worked as itinerant poet and teacher, stopping for a time in the Southern Berkshires, Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the outskirts of Durango, Colorado. My poems have been published in Nimrod, Cut Throat, 5AM, Mudfish and other magazines.

Kristin Bock lives in Montague Center and her book Cloisters will be published by Tupulo Press in 2008. She teaches writing for the School of Management at UMASS.

Kasia Hadley writes: "As a child, I was frequently admonished with the phrase, "Children should be seen, but not heard." So, informed by all my senses, I listened. I thought, I felt. I am no longer a child; however, I am still learning to find my voice."

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:  
 Klondike Sound, Carlin Barton, Harry Brandt, Ron Bosch and Mary Drew, Michael Farrick, and Michael Muller.

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that beckons, burning bright,  
that quick spark,  
Fleeting-Transitory

The temporal nature of romance is just that;  
Giving water to a famished person  
Yes, it tastes good  
feels quite sensual in the mouth  
down the throat.  
Momentary Satisfaction

This artificial nature of enjoyment deludes

Takes from that effort and patience  
for the preparation of food  
Nourishing Sustenance

I need to eat  
You need to eat

Together  
Enriching Sensuality

I am that starlight  
That stone in the sky  
Enduring-Lighting

So, nighty-night oh bright one

Remember,  
I have saved some sunlight  
should you ever need a place from darkness

--Kasia Hadley  
Northampton

Missionary Ridge

On October Saturdays  
when we lived in Colorado  
we'd drive to watch the osprey

in Vallecito,  
to see if they'd left.  
We'd pass the ridge

burned 2 years before.  
Buffalo & gramma grass  
rising toward somber foothills.

Under a Neanderthal moon  
blackened pine lined the lake's rim  
& the raptors flew

on both sides of the darkening road.  
We weren't there for the fire,  
we were in New Mexico

with its orange-furred bumblebees  
& ring-tailed cats  
in the ruthless Sandias.

It was a roaming time, my late 50's,  
I was always thinking of other towns--  
of Roanoke, its crepe myrtles

& I'd begun dreaming of the rain in Brooklyn  
& the Italians  
wrapping their fig trees in burlap

& a doctor at my daughter's birth  
diagnosing an enzyme deficiency  
he said would lead to retardation.

He was wrong,  
but we spent a day in Bellevue  
finding that out in a closet-sized room

filled with broken parents.  
Months before Vallecito  
in the dining hall

by the Contoocook,  
a phoebe flapped in panic  
below the ceiling.

Its mate in a willow outside a window.  
In the wildfire  
the ospreys stayed with their chicks

as flames slapped at their tree.  
I saw the charred  
wingtips. Then

talons-first  
they plunged  
into water.

--Howard Faerstein  
Florence

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**CANAL** from pg 1

regenerate the salmon species didn't work in the Pacific Northwest where conditions are ideal, it's doubtful it will ever succeed here. The emphasis with this new larger opening is on the weaker swimming shad to repopulate the river upstream of the dam."

The purpose of the improvements is not to enable shad

spawning. Shad do not need to swim up the Connecticut River past the Turners Falls dam in order to spawn.

"Shad do not spawn in small tributaries like salmon," Robinson explained. "They prefer low waters, in places like the Oxbow in Northampton, where the majority of Connecticut River shad spawn. The main reason for the increased opening at the gatehouse is to get more shad

up above the dam for sport fishing."

"How much is this project costing?" I asked.

"\$700,000."

"How much is that per fish?"

Broad smile. "Yeah, I know."

"Wouldn't it be cheaper to buy fish for the fishermen at Stop & Shop?"

"(Laughs)"

In data provided by Don Pugh and Mike Briggs, of the Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the number of shad recorded going upstream at the gatehouse in Turners Falls in 1980 was 298. The numbers rise and fall. In 1982 the count fell to just 11 lonely shad. The highest number passing through the gatehouse occurred in 1992 when 60,089 shad made it. Numbers dwindled to 9,216 shad in 1997.


The new larger opening at the gatehouse consists of a galvanized steel box. Davenport Trucking furnished a Manitowac 10000, with a 100-ton capacity, operated by Anthony Davenport, set the steel box, and hoisted concrete, forms and various other materials to the drained canal bottom. Robert Smart was

the consulting engineer for FirstLight. A native of Michigan, he agreed that getting salmon to spawn up the river is a lost cause.

"Landlocked salmon stocked in the Great Lakes are thriving," Smart said. "They would probably do well, here, too."

When asked if spending \$700,000 on an easier access for shad made sense when the bridge overhead was so shaky, Robinson replied, "This bridge is an accident waiting to happen."

Equipment furnished by Davenport Trucking cleaned trees and other debris out of the drained canal, primarily at the Cabot Station where screens keep material from passing through to the water turbines. By Monday, the canal was clear, the new fish passage in place and the canal boiled with water.

Questions to ponder: Will more shad swim beyond the Turners Falls dam? What is the cost per fish? Can you buy shad at Stop & Shop? If you catch a shad in the Connecticut River, is it safe to eat it? How much will your electricity bill go up? Will the shad still be able to swim through the gatehouse opening if the bridge falls? 

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

**Loose Horses**

Thursday 9-13

6:20 a.m. Loose horses in the area of West Gill road - horses rounded up before police response.

Friday 9-14

6:03 p.m. Officer assisted Erving Police with a traffic accident on Route 2 in Erving.

9:04 p.m. Officer advised there was an accident on Center road. Officer checked the area,

the vehicle was gone on arrival.

Saturday 9-15

12:30 p.m. Officer assisted Northfield Police with a traffic accident on Bennett Road.

Monday 9-17

6:05 a.m. Officer assisted Winchester Police with a pursuit into Northfield.

7:10 a.m. Officer assisted suicidal subject in the North Cross Road area.

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## STRATHMORE

continued from pg 1

debate at a special town meeting, scheduled for October 11th.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, reached by phone on Wednesday afternoon as he was in the process of drawing up the warrant for that meeting article, said the town was planning to move quickly on "flipping the property," by asking town meeting to grant the selectboard the authority to put out a request for proposals (RFP) on the mill and "find a developer who would develop the Strathmore to our terms and conditions."

John Anctil, who had been trying to close a deal on the Strathmore with Jones during the week of the fire, has since moved to Turners Falls and is reportedly still pursuing his plan to buy the mill complex to set up a film and video production studio and school. Once the town acquires the mill, all existing liens on the property will be removed, including the million dollar lien filed on behalf of Jonathan Tanzer, an employee who was badly injured in an electrical accident at the Strathmore while salvaging copper wire with Jones on May 6th, and who is now in the Franklin County jail awaiting trial on charges of setting the arson fire

on May 26th.

Jensen said it would cost \$50,000 to repair the roof on Building #1 (on the river side of the property) where gaping holes were burned in the upper story, and a similar sum to repair the roof of Building #11 (near the Southworth paper mill, on the canal side of the property). He said it would cost \$65,000 to convert the sprinkler system to a dry system, so it would not freeze this winter. He estimated it would take \$5,000 to reactivate the alarm system. And Jensen said a deal might be worked out with Turners Falls Hydro, owners of the power generation plant on the ground floor of the Strathmore, to share night watchmen duties, for an undetermined sum.

The town may acquire an additional liability at the Strathmore in the form of 20 to 40 tractor trailer loads of paper Jones has warehoused on various floors of the mill buildings for his recycling business. Jones, who is still in residence at the mill, has shipped a few truckloads of paper out of the mill recently, and has plans to remove several more truckloads soon, Jensen said.

Abbondanzio said the selectboard will have to use their best judgment in structuring an RFP in such a way that the town can recover its costs in repairing the

building, maintaining it until a buyer can be found, and dealing with other costs associated with owning the mill in the interim. He likened the potential redevelopment of the mill to the more modest commercial homesteading program the town used to turn over a brick building on the 2nd Street alley to the Northeast Foundation for Children, which invested heavily in its renovation and now uses it for workshop space, and the former Powertown Creemee building on Avenue A, now home to Ristorante DiPaolo, a popular destination for fine dining in town. Both those properties were sold for one dollar to bidders the town determined would be best positioned to invest in them, put them back on the tax rolls, and bring jobs to town.

Abbondanzio said the town would have to weigh the upfront costs of repairing and securing the Strathmore against the likelihood that - if a developer is not found to take it off the town's hands - Montague would end up spending "millions of dollars" to eventually demolish the mill.

In other selectboard news, the board heard from police chief Ray Zukowski at their September 17th meeting that he was planning to add a fifth public meeting on the plans for a new \$5.3 million police station, pro-

posed for Turnpike Road. The police station building committee is tentatively adding a public meeting downtown, at the Senior Center on 5th Street, on October 3rd. In addition to the meeting that took place Tuesday at the Montague Center fire station, the schedule includes three more public meetings: September 25th at Hillcrest School; September 27th at the Millers Falls library; and October 4th at the Masonic Hall in Montague City. All the meetings will take place at 7 p.m. Members of the building committee will be on hand to answer the public's concerns and questions, and to go over the design and site plan for the proposed police station.

At the October 11th special town meeting, members will be asked to approve a townwide debt exclusion vote - planned for

November 6th - to pay for the \$5.3 million project. Zukowski said, "I encourage the residents of Montague to come out and vote on the debt exclusion November 6th. Our agency deserves, and the townspeople of Montague deserve, a modern police facility."

A \$150,000 override for the school budget will also be on the special town meeting warrant.

Zukowski also told the board his department was in the process of purchasing a John Deere "Gator" all terrain vehicle from Sirum Equipment, at a discounted price, to enable the police to better patrol the bike path. The vehicle can travel 35 miles per hour. Zukowski said the police were also purchasing a Segway personal transporter (an electric two-wheeled upright scooter) to

see MONTAGUE pg 14

## ERVING from pg 7

and new cemetery regulations and fees. A theme running through the warrant articles seems to be the reallocating of funds received from various sources. The school committee is asking voters to free up \$50,000 in the stabilization fund to be used to repair, replace and upgrade computers in the elementary school. Similarly, the state School Building Authority is set to reimburse its share of the Erving Elementary School expansion. The town will be receiving \$578,364 annually for the next eight years. The selectboard is seeking to use \$1,150,728 of this money to reduce the debt the town will incur repairing and upgrading the

town's three wastewater treatment plants. Many of the other articles relate to changes in the zoning bylaws.

Otherwise, environmental issues and tax concerns have continued to top the selectboard's agenda over the past month.

•Erving's success in recycling efforts has resulted in the sum of \$4043 coming back to the town from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

•The selectboard has accepted the bid of Mainstream Associates to perform the triennial revaluation of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage facility. The utility contributes the lion's share of the town's tax levy; a recent decrease in valuation of the facility caused ripple effects on property taxes throughout town.

Mainstream will do the assessment for a cost of \$30,950.

•The selectboard visited the problematic wastewater treatment plant in Erving to view and evaluate operations there. Town administrator Tom Sharp said the visit was related to the town's effort to hire an environmental supervisor for all three treatment plants; the final four candidates for that post will be interviewed on September 26th. The new supervisor will have responsibilities for oversight of the plants and the landfills located in town, and work with the conservation commission when needed.

•In other action, the selectboard appointed Jim Hackett and Stephen Bushay as part-time police officers.



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## THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOXICOLOGIST

# Recycled E-Waste - DESTINATION: ELSEWHERE Part II of II

BY EMILY MONOSSON  
MONTAGUE CENTER - "Great question," said Jan Ameen, the executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. I had asked her where all the electronic waste - the Ipods, computers, monitors and all the other electronic gadgetry we have rapidly come to regard as indispensable to our modern lives - winds up when we dispense with our worn-out units at a recycling site or transfer station. "The company most towns use had been processing everything in the U.S. They got bought out a couple of years ago, and I just thought to ask about their markets. A bunch of end product goes overseas. The company Montague uses was sending things on a boxcar to China. I heard they don't do that anymore. We are looking into different companies that appear to have a better market."

My heart sank. Our little town of Montague tends towards the progressive. We've got great recycling. Priuses zip through town, and biodiesels abound. Solar panels glint from rooftops and good luck to the Nestle Corporation, currently considering sucking spring water from the Montague Plains. After a few more email exchanges with Ameen, I began to wonder if it was even possible to ensure that our e-waste did not sicken workers or contaminate their local environment.

I was on a mission. Ameen gave me the names of a few local companies that collect e-waste, and after Googling e-waste and recycling, I sent a raft of emails to various companies around the country. "I am interested in learning about e-waste recycling and dismantling," I wrote, and attached a list of questions I hoped would get some answers. Perhaps I shouldn't have included a note saying I was a toxicologist and a writer. I received just one response.

"Almost any electronic waste

can be recycled," wrote Andrew McManus, Environmental Engineer at Metech International, a large precious metal and electronic waste recycler with facilities in Worcester, MA and Gilroy, CA, which serves commercial businesses and equipment manufacturers. In response to the questions I'd sent, he provided a detailed narrative of what happens to the plastics, metals, and batteries once they leave our homes and enter their facility.

"Current historic high prices for base and precious metals, rapid changeover of technology, data security systems, and high labor costs," explained McManus, "favor shredding domestically."

"Current standard shredding process is as follows: desktop computers usually have one small 'button-cell' lithium metal battery inside which functions as the computer memory clock. Typically the case is opened, the main circuit board is pulled out, and the battery is removed. The entire central processing unit frame is placed on a conveyor and shredded. A magnetic belt removes the steel after shredding, sometimes followed by an Eddy Current separator to remove non-ferrous metals like aluminum and copper materials. The remaining mixed material contains circuit boards, some mixed metals, and plastic."

This was all very interesting, and positive, until I got to the following.

"This is sent overseas to a smelter for recovery of the copper, precious metals, and other base metals while the remaining plastic and circuit board is con-

sumed as fuel in the process. There are no facilities in the U.S. that can take circuit boards and effectively recover metals."

"Overseas," I responded, "as in Asia? Why are there no facilities in the U.S.?" I thought about the box of circuit boards at Veronica's, and imagined them waiting to be roasted in Guiyu, China. Knowing that the conditions in China and elsewhere

cooperate with business, and our legal system makes lawsuits by almost any party a constant risk. The complexity of materials would require an enormous capital investment. The German smelter, Norddeutsche Affinerie, recently announced they plan to build a secondary copper smelter to recover electronic waste in Louisiana."

His comments about difficulties with recycling in our own country, where we've got electronic gadgets galore, made me wonder about who ought to be responsible for recycling, aside from consumers, many of whom would like to do the

right thing but just don't have the time to investigate what happens to their cast-offs once they've deposited them at the town transfer station.

Turns out this is a question that states across the country have been asking in recent years, with California, of course, leading the way. Recently, California enacted "The Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003" requiring retailers to collect e-waste recycling fees from consumers, which then cover the cost of collection and recycling of unwanted electronics. This is one approach. Another is to hold the producer responsible.

According to Dennis Brown, vice president of State Government Relations for the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association, eight states so far have passed electronic recycling legislation, with seven of the eight enacting producer responsibility legislation. It looks like Massachusetts may follow suit.

"Massachusetts is all the more unlikely to do what California did if it results in a ten dollar tax. New Hampshire would throw a party for the legislature if they did," said Brown. He added, "Producer responsibility to develop programs for recycling also spurs development of more green products."

And some producers are already reclaiming their own materials. Most recently, Sony announced a take-back program for any Sony product, joining computer companies Dell, Hewlett-Packard and Apple, all of which now have some version of recycling (Dell, for example, will take back any brand of computer upon purchase of a new Dell.)

This all seems like great news, but none of it answers the "Then What?" question. Most companies refer to their "environmentally responsible practices," but it would take some digging to learn specifics. What would Massachusetts do if they enacted legislation requiring some sort of recycling?

According to Greg Cooper of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, "The legislation would hopefully build on the existing collection and processing infrastructure that Massachusetts has built since its first in the nation ban on the disposal of televisions and computer monitors, and ensure that e-waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner."

Thankfully, I don't need to think about recycling the old IBM just yet - Veronica and Kathy at About Face Computer Solutions fixed it up just fine. But hopefully when the day comes for the blue screen of death to rear its ugly head I'll be able to send it off for disassembly and recycling without contaminating workers and their families halfway around the world.



was likely a sensitive topic, thanks in part to the Basal Action Network, a nonprofit toxic-trade watchdog group responsible for the documentary, *Exporting Harm: the High-Tech Trashing of Asia*, and more recently *The Digital Dump: Exporting Re-use and Abuse to Africa*, I wondered if McManus would answer.

The response was swift. Maybe for the reasons above, he was quick to point out Metech does not ship circuit boards to Asia.

"We send our circuit boards to Germany, Sweden, or Belgium. There are also large smelters in Canada and Japan."

In response to my question about why no U.S. facilities, McManus wrote, "In my opinion there are none in the U.S. because our government is unwilling to establish conditions favorable to operate. Regulations are no stricter than other places in the world. Our environmental agencies do not

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

## DEAL OF A LIFETIME

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**GILL** - Pa was beside himself. He was now without a wife, without a mother for his children, without his children, without his truck, without a business, and soon to be without a home. Friends introduced him to Ma.

With no welfare or social security programs, Ma was desperate, struggling to survive. Trying to work and care for her two children and the new baby, she welcomed meeting a young man in a similar predicament. Pa proposed marriage on the first date and she accepted almost before he finished asking. It was not so much a marriage of convenience as one born of desperation. Little did she know that, ironically, one day she would have to support him and seven more children.

After their marriage, Pa round-

ed up his kids on the ruse of a final farewell. The boys were happy to go with him, but Helen had grown attached to the woman who wanted to adopt her and went with some reluctance.

"When I asked her if she wanted to go back where she'd been living," Pa said, "or stay with us, she said, 'I didn't want to come, but now that I'm here with my brothers, I'll stay.'"

Pa piled them into the Maxwell and fled in the dead of night. They stayed with friends of Ma in Housatonic. After the couple married, the newly joined family came to Turners Falls, where Pa went to work for the Keith Paper Company.

Soon, Pa got the deal of a lifetime. Fred Field, who operated Cold Brook Farm, was looking for someone to sign on as a sharecropper to grow onions. In the sharecropping deal, Field provided the

family with a house, a pail of milk a day, and garden space. The family arrived at Cold Brook with what little they could carry in the Maxwell touring car. The Field family's 120-acre Cold Brook Farm was more plantation, or small village, than farm, with endless fields of produce, a dairy, beef cattle operation, steamboat landing, water powered sawmill and cider mill. The farm even sported its own hydroelectric plant, long before electricity blessed the surrounding area.

Cold Brook Farm swarmed with the activity of an ant colony. Several barns housed dairy cattle, hogs, beef cattle and horses. Long tobacco barns served to dry and process the lucrative money crop. Forty acres of asparagus and endless onion fields brought in money for both the farm owner and sharecroppers, alike.

Twenty-six rooms in the farm-

house accommodated city folks taking summer vacations in the country. There were cottages for hired help, including a Negro couple. Constant activity was the norm, raising produce, tobacco, beef, hogs, chickens, and dairy cattle. The labor force raised and processed commodities for market, shipping produce, cider, and vinegar to Boston markets by the train carload, and delivering milk on a local home delivery route. The Fields urged their farm help to cater to the whims of the vacationing city folks, for fear they'd get bored by idleness and not return. While the rich city folks lounged about, waiting to be served and entertained, Ma and the kids slaved in the onion fields under the hot sun.

Ma was grateful the family had chanced upon such a wonderful situation; the family had plenty to eat all summer, with surplus to

store for the winter. The potato bin was filled each fall. They prepared a barrel of sauerkraut from cabbage raised on their garden plot. Miscellaneous root vegetables crowded the cellar. A small flock of chickens supplied eggs and chicken for Sunday dinner.

Coal for winter heat could be picked up along the railroad track when it fell from coal trains passing through. If a train happened to pass by while the kids were out picking up coal, the fireman on the locomotive would sometimes shovel coal out for them. Rows of canned preserves crowded shelves in the cellar. On top of all that, at harvest time when onions were sent to the Boston market, Field presented them with their share of the profit. In short, they had found their Promised Land.

- Continued Next Week



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - [In the last column, I wrote about heart attack symptoms and what to do when you feel them. Today, we'll discuss the causes of heart attack.]

A blood clot in a narrowed coronary artery is the usual cause of a heart attack. The clogged artery prevents oxygenated blood from nourishing the heart. This can lead to pain, the death of heart cells, scar tissue and fatal arrhythmias.

There is a variety of causes that lead to the narrowing of arteries, which is called atherosclerosis. This, in turn, increases the likelihood of a heart attack.

The following are some of the leading causes of heart attacks:

- Genetics. If early heart attacks run in your family, you may be at risk to have one. You

may have inherited the tendencies to have high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure.

- Cholesterol and triglycerides. These can lead to deposit build-up in the arteries, which constricts the flow of blood. High levels of these substances are dangerous to the heart.

- Smoking. This habit damages the inside walls of arteries allowing cholesterol to collect on them. And, smoking can increase the risk of clots forming. The risk of getting coronary artery disease is two to four times greater if you smoke.

- High blood pressure. Also known as hypertension, this can damage arteries and speed up atherosclerosis. High blood pressure makes the heart work harder. The added effort makes the heart thicken and become stiffer. The risk of high blood pressure increases as you age.

- A sedentary lifestyle. Insufficient exercise contributes to high blood cholesterol levels. Exercise also prevents obesity and lowers blood pressure. The

more vigorous the activity, the greater your benefits, but any exercise can benefit your health.

- Obesity. Obesity is associated with high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure and diabetes. In addition, excess weight forces the heart to work harder.

- Diabetes. This disease accelerates atherosclerosis. Diabetes strikes more often in middle age. It is also more common in people who are overweight. About three-quarters of people with diabetes die of heart or blood-vessel disease.

- Stress. This can elevate your blood pressure. It may also lead you to gain weight from overeating, and make you smoke to relieve tension.

- Alcohol. Too much drinking can raise blood pressure and triglyceride levels. However, the risk of heart disease in people who drink moderately is lower than in nondrinkers. Moderate drinking means one to two drinks a day for a man, and one drink daily for a woman. A drink is equivalent to 12 ounces of

beer, 4 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of an 80-proof liquor.

- Diet. Too much saturated fat and cholesterol in your diet can narrow the arteries to your heart.

- Age. More than eight out of ten people who die of coronary heart disease are 65 or older.

- Gender. Men are at greater risk than women of having a heart attack.

- Race. African-Americans

suffer from higher blood pressure than Caucasians and face a higher risk of heart disease. Heart-disease risk is also higher among Mexican-Americans and Native Americans.

[In our next column, we'll discuss treatment for heart attack victims.]

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

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**HEALTH** from pg 1

were chronically understaffed, and that the situation was becoming worse, thus jeopardizing the ability of practitioners to be able to care for patients.

Frustrated that they did not hear back from any board member, in mid-September the concerned group sent the letter on to Massachusetts representative John Olver, state representative Chris Donelan and senator Steven Brewer who represent Orange, and representative Stephen Kulik and senator Stan Rosenberg who represent Turners Falls. Donelan, Brewer and Rosenberg all responded, expressing concern over the situation.

Meanwhile the board, while not directly responding to the former employees' letter, did initiate action. Over the last few weeks, the directors decided to hire an outside consultant, Patricia Moore, to evaluate the situation at CHCFC and make recommendations as to how to keep the center stable and on track. Doug Stiles, president of the CHCFC, acknowledged that the ex-employees' letter did help prod the board to hire Moore, but that this was not the only catalyst. "Employee complaints are, of course, a concern," said Stiles, "and we are very aware of the need to retain providers. We are hoping that the outside consultant can help us learn how best to attract and retain providers."

The consultant interviewed a number of employees last week

and this week. Stiles said he expects a report back from the consultant by the middle of next week. "The board will carefully review the report and make some decisions," he said. After the review Stiles said he expected the report would be made public.

According to Stiles, part of the problem has to do with the basic nature of the clinic itself. The health professionals largely come from the National Health Service Corps, a sub-agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The NHSC - through a complicated ranking system - places practitioners in areas of greatest need. In exchange for forgiveness of loans, a practitioner must serve two years of service in a community designated by the government as a "Health Professional Shortage Area." While attractive to young physicians, who often emerge from medical school saddled with debt, it also means that turnover is higher, since practitioners who complete their service often move on to more lucrative practices. To complicate matters, the NHSC recently re-ranked Turners Falls and Orange, pushing these communities nearer to the bottom of the priority list. This means the NHSC is less interested in placing health professionals at either of the CHCFC clinics.

The issue of the revolving medical professional door at CHCFC is certainly real. Over the last six months, two physicians and one nurse practitioner left, and a family nurse practitioner

was fired. But the exodus of professionals leaving the health centers can hardly be attributed only to NHSC hires. In fact, a number of those from the nursing staff who left the clinic for other jobs had been employed by the CHCFC for more than a few years. And the exiting of highly qualified professionals continues. Apparently out the door near the middle of next month will be Dr. Steven Martin, at present the only physician in Orange. Martin declined any comment for this story but two of his patients, Wanda Duguay and Jane Mooney, were more than willing to talk. The two of them feel that Martin is being forced out. Both feel so strongly about his apparent departure that they are attempting to organize a petition drive to retain him. They stated they feel Martin is one of the most competent and empathetic physicians they have ever encountered. Said Mooney, "Dr. Martin is the kindest and most caring doctor, and with expertise on top. One visit and you know he really is going to help you, truly cares about you as a person."

Even without the departure of Martin from Orange, at present it is impossible for a new patient to see a doctor or nurse at that clinic. When I called the Desmond Callan Center I was told by a kind

receptionist that she would take my name and number and get back to me when she had an opening. She also informed me that if I needed urgent care I could go to the Athol Memorial Hospital emergency room. In Montague City, I was told the clinic was not taking any new patients, and likewise referred to Franklin Medical Center if I needed emergency care.

A stated objective of community health centers is to free up local emergency rooms for emergencies. And the CHCFC has managed to treat thousands of patients over the last few years who would otherwise have had to go to a hospital. It is therefore more than troubling for all concerned that the CHCFC has no recourse at present but to refer prospective patients to the emergency ward. This is not only an issue for the CHCFC, but a systemic problem afflicting health providers throughout the Valley.

Stiles, the board president, acknowledged this as an issue. When asked if the problem in having adequate staff to treat patients was because funding had been cut he was quick to state the center's funding level was adequate and had not decreased. "The issue is retention," he said.

And clearly with at least 13 CHCFC staff members leaving or being asked to leave within the last year, the clinic has a major problem.

Although several calls were placed to Kemble for her comment, she did not return *The Reporter's* phone calls. She did, however, send an email to *the Reporter* in which she wrote, "Along with our commitment to clinical quality, we are also committed to squeaky-clean management practices, and have actually won an award for our progressive personnel policies and practices."

A former board member of the CHCFC, requesting anonymity to protect the appearance of impartiality in the interview process with the consultant looking into the problems at the center, had this to say: "Sarah Kemble is a visionary who has worked tirelessly to provide essential services to a community that has had their health care needs unmet. Every organization, profit or nonprofit, will experience tension in the workplace, particularly between management and those asked to perform the daunting day to day tasks that the health center employees are asked to perform. They are underpaid and they are overworked. Sometimes, lack of communication results in tensions. It would be tragic if the center's ability to meet the unmet medical needs of this community is impaired as a result of petty misunderstandings."



Dr. Sarah Kemble, Director of the Community Health Center

**MONTAGUE** from 11

use in patrolling downtown, and potentially in all the villages, to enable police to interact more with the public on their patrols. "Instead of a guy going by in a police car waving, this will give us better communication with citizens." The Segway travels 12.5 miles per hour, has a 24-mile battery range, and would cut down on the department's gas bill, Zukowski said.

After equipping his men with tasers, and now a Segway, board chair Pat Allen recommended Zukowski look into purchasing some rocket packs for the department next, for a really futuristic force.

Peskeomskut Park is now officially open, after a long delay to fix issues related to handicapped accessibility to the new sidewalks, tot lot, and bandshell. After the

Massachusetts Architectural Access Board enjoined the town to repave the newly installed pea stone walkways, the park was closed off with barriers all summer. On Monday, Felton Paving from Millers Falls repaved the walks with black asphalt, installed an inclined ramp to the tot lot and an additional paved walk to the center of the viewing lawn in front of the new bandshell, so wheelchair users could more easily attend concerts in the park. Abbondanzio said Felton charged the town \$10,600 for the additional work needed to improve accessibility at the park, far less than the \$35,000 the town

had set aside from program income funds to handle the additional repairs. He said the town would be receiving several thousand dollars back from the original contractor, who was relieved of the responsibility of making the repairs. The park lawn will be reseeded during the fall or winter, and the town highway department is undertaking some weeding and mulching and is clearing stones from the back of the park to ease maintenance there.

On Tuesday evening, Turners Falls residents Marie Putala and Louise Sauter were seen weeding along the front of Peskeomskut Park. "Who's going to do this if

we don't?" they asked. "This park is so beautiful, I just hope someone keeps it up," said Putala.

On Tuesday, the town of Montague was the first in the state to hold a health information meeting with the cooperation of the Group Insurance Commission, which provided speakers, materials and vendors. The meeting was held at the Turners Falls high school cafeteria, and was heavily attended by town and school employees, who must decide by next week whether they approve joining the cost saving plan for their future health coverage.

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**TOWN of WENDELL Planning Board**

In accordance with the provisions of Mass General Laws and Wendell Zoning Bylaws, the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices on the application of The Town of Wendell - Wendell Unified Building Committee for a Site Plan review of the change in use of the former Wendell Free Library. The new uses would be: a Senior Center on the upper floor and the Good Neighbors program site on the lower floor. The Site Plan review is conducted pursuant to Article VI of the Wendell Zoning Bylaws. The building site is at the corner of Montague Road and Lockes Village Road, on current Assessors' Map 408, Parcel 75. A copy of the application may be inspected at the Town Offices during town coordinator hours, ordinarily Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., phone (978) 544-3395 and at the Wendell Free Library.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

- Deirdre Cabral  
Wendell Planning Board Chair

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**  
At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. **Kelly Moore & Emerald Dreams.** Music For Mankind. [www.musicformankind.net](http://www.musicformankind.net) 8 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Blues Harp Blow Out** Mark Hummel, James Montgomery, James Harman, Magic Dick, Ottomatic Slim. Don't miss these guys! 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Josh Levangie**- Johnny Cash covers, 9 to 11 p.m. No cover.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND**  
*Comedy at the Shea*, with Boston professional standup comedians Juston McKinney, Dan Hirshon, Tonya Dalhaus and Dave Decker at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Partial proceeds benefit Turners Falls All Sports Booster Club. Appropriate for 17 and older. 8 p.m., Tickets \$15, [www.sheacomedy.com](http://www.sheacomedy.com), World Eye Bookshop or 863-2281.

**Pamela Means** performs at the Echo Lake Coffee House, Town Hall, Leverett, 7:30 p.m. Boston-based Out (spoken), Biracial indie folk artist whose "kamikaze guitar style" and punchy provocative songs have worn a hole in her guitar.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Love Bomb**, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

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

Free "Art of the Book" activities, experience how books were created and used back in early America at **Historic Deerfield**, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Experience trades of the past with talented artisans. Demonstrations will take at the Wilson Printing Office (27A Old Main Street, Deerfield). May also purchase "All-of-Deerfield" ticket (\$14 Adults, \$5 Youth (ages 6-21), under 6

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and members free) allowing them access to special "Print Basics" family activities from 12-4 p.m. and Open Hearth Cooking demonstrations from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Please call 775-7214 or [www.historic-deerfield.org](http://www.historic-deerfield.org).

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Adam Bergeron**- Piano, 8 to 10 p.m.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH**  
Night of Spoken Word at Deja Brew, Wendell. Open mic 7 to 8 p.m., guest readers, 8 to 10 p.m.

Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH**  
Drumming Workshop with Jana Runnalls at the Montague Grange. 7 to 9 p.m., call Kellianna to register, 367-0329. \$45.

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25TH**  
**Hymn to the Earth** photographer Ron Rosenstock, featuring landscapes of beauty and spirit from Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, South America, India and the United States at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Thurs.-Sun. 1-5 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27,**  
*Remembering Matt*, an assemblage exhibit of original, collaborative work

inspired by Matthew Leighton. Opening reception, 5:30 to 7:30 at Artspace. The exhibit has original works loaned by area collectors; collaborative works designed by Matthew and completed by friends and artists; and tributes that were made by friends and artists from Matt's stash of recycled materials. Many of the tribute works are on display in the windows of Matt's former studio at 9 Mill Street, just a few steps from Artspace. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 1 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will also be open on **Saturdays, September 30, October 6, 20 and 27** from 11- 2 p.m. Displayed until November 2nd. 772-6811.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Larry Kopp**: blues, 8 - 10 p.m. No cover.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH**  
Bouquet of Music Series features 5 o'Clock Belles, a women's a cappella chorus, from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the Ethel Lemay Healing Arts Garden, Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield. Free.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - 30TH & OCTOBER 5TH - 7TH**  
Ja'Duke presents Rodgers & Hammerstein's **The Sound of Music** at the Shea Theater, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for 12/under and 65/over. Tickets available 863-2281, and at World Eye Book Shop.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH & 29TH**  
Chaplin's **CITY LIGHTS** at Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls. \$6 or \$4 for kids under 12. For info, call 625-2896. Music before the movie, Fri. Phillippe Simon & drum students. Sat. The Ambiguities.

Turners Falls open studio & downtown walking tour: **Arts & Leaves** Begins 10 a.m., numerous sites throughout Turners Falls; brochures available at Avenue A Cafe, the Discovery Center, the Rendezvous and more! Info call Eileen 863-9499. [www.turnersfallsriverculture.com](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.com)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH**  
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography artist's reception and talk: National Geographic photographer Michael Yamashita's **Great Wall of China & The Silk Road**. On display through December 16th.

The National Spiritual Alliance: **Psychic Fair** at Thompson Temple across from the post office, Lake Pleasant. 11 - 4 p.m. Readings and healings \$25 for 20 minutes.

Elks Club, Turners Falls Veterans Benefit Spaghetti Dinner & Dance with **The King Bees**, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. to midnight, dancing. \$25/couple, \$15/single. \$10/person after dinner. Tickets call Angela 863-9920.

Pianist/composer **Adam Bergeron** solo show at Deja Brew, Wendell. Free admission for restaurant & bar patrons, 8 p.m. [www.adambergeron.com](http://www.adambergeron.com)

11th Annual Source to the Sea River Clean-up! 9 a.m. - noon. Pre-register, call 800-859-2960.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Town Hall, Wendell. **Charles Neville Jazz Quartet** (Legendary Saxophonist of the Neville Brothers): Doors open 7 p.m. Open Mic 7:30 p.m. Main Act 8 p.m. \$6-\$12. (Partial proceeds benefit Wendell Full Moon Coffee House)

North Quabbin's Center for the Performing Arts: 5th annual **Meetinghouse Musicfest**, noon - 7 p.m. On the ball field adjacent to the 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem. A spectacular show, including Linq, whose music has been described as "stirring, the words poetic" and singer/songwriter/pianist Seth Glier; alternative band *Blame it on Tina*; singer/songwriter Allison Tartalia; EthanStone's stunning live show and **The Black Rebels**. Admission to the Musicfest is \$12 adults, children under 12 years-of-age attend free. Tickets [www.1794meetinghouse.org](http://www.1794meetinghouse.org) or (978) 544-5200, and at the gate.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Catamount**, classic & southern rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH**  
Family Dance at the Montague Grange. Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages with Cindy Green. \$7-\$12 per family or \$4 per person. Simple dances with easy instruction geared for little feet. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Includes a light snack.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH**  
Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center: Colors of Autumn with Deborah Bazer. Dyeing local wool and yarn using plants from our backyards and kitchen scraps. Flowers, leaves, and roots can be

used to make beautiful colored yarn for knitting, weaving and other projects. We'll learn how to prep the wool, make the dye bath and dye the wool using a few different plants. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. For ages 6 to 9, \$10 per child. Pre-register 800-859-2960.

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MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
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DAILY 6:50 9:20 R in DTS sound  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- MR. BEANS HOLIDAY G**  
DAILY 6:50 9:20  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM**  
DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- DRAGON WARS PG13**  
DAILY 6:45 9:15  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 3:10 TO YUMA PG13**  
DAILY 6:30 9:30 in DTS sound  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- THE BRAVE ONE**  
DAILY 6:30 9:30 R in DTS sound  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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<b>SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 23RD &amp; 30TH, OCTOBER 7TH &amp; 14TH</b> Great Falls GeoWalk. Join DCR Park Interpreter and geologist Steve Winters for a leisurely 90-minute stroll back in time to rocks that formed in the Mesozoic Era about 200 million years ago—including real dinosaur fossils! About 3 miles. GeoWalk meets at 1p.m. in the Discovery Center lobby.	<b>SEPTEMBER 27TH</b> Mushrooms of New England by Naturalist John Root. Comprehensive introduction to the mysterious and magical world of mycology, including life cycles, habitats, ecological roles, and distinguishing characteristics of both edible and poisonous mushrooms. Illustrated pamphlet with descriptions of select species, wild mushroom recipes, and references for further	study for each individual, couple or family. 7 p.m. <b>TUESDAYS &amp; WEDNESDAYS, IN SEPTEMBER &amp; OCTOBER</b> Nature@8 is an early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village side-walks. Meet at the bird bath outside the main entrance at 8 a.m. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes, never	more than about 2 miles over level pavement.  <b>The Great Falls Coffeehouse</b> will begin its second year with a move from the last Wednesday of the month to the first Friday. The coffeehouses are hosted by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Sliding scale donation of \$5-\$10 benefits GFDC.
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**Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org)**

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**THE GARDENER'S COMPANION**

**Cooler Weather Brings Warmth to the Kitchen**

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - OK, uncle! It's now mid to late September and I've made tomato sauce in spite of my last column protestations regarding enjoying the fresh fruits of the vine while they were still available. So what happened?

Well, two things: the weather changed and the temperature changed. From this gardener's perspective, this season has provided a nice blend of heat and water. I've actually only set up my hose and sprinkler twice this season.

However, this August was an unusually dry one, according to the media, though my plants looked great. They had benefited from regular (and a couple of augmented) natural

waterings, and were strong and hearty. The problem kicked in when we had those four days of make-it-up rain early this month. The tomato plants responded by taking up all of that moisture, and the fruit responded by cracking. Thus the cooking to preserve the crop.

The second natural intervention which provoked the kitchen remedy was the drop in temperature we've experienced lately, especially overnight. Cool evenings move the cook from cold salads to hot meals. It's a natural progression to the winter season when we can forgive ourselves for craving carbs. It's a genetic throwback to the time our early ancestors needed to build up body fat for

cold weather protection. Now there's fleece instead.

So, willy-nilly, the garden season is winding down. I've harvested onions and garlic. Still for the picking are tomatoes, winter squash and the sweet peppers, which thanks to the declining temperatures, are turning from green to red, gold and chocolate. It's been so chilly these last few mornings, that some folks in higher elevations have experienced an early frost, prompting the harvest of fragile crops.

If you are close to or have had a frost, you need to either cover tender crops like tomatoes and peppers and herbs or harvest them. However, remember to leave root crops like carrots or parsnip in the ground, because a strong freeze will sweeten them. Then you can pull them, or you can blanket root crops with mulch like hay, newspaper or plastic, and continue harvesting them all winter. Kind of like having your own root cellar, outdoors.

Because the season is winding down, it's also time to worry less about weeds and

focus more on feeding your garden earth for the season to come. As you harvest each final crop, you can also spread the ground with natural vitamins and turn it under. You might want to spread compost if you have it, or composted manure. Any such organic matter added now will encourage the development of other organic organisms and beneficial things like worms. You can pull weeds or turn them under. Even they will contribute to the feeding of the soil. Once weeds have gone to seed, the damage has been done, and you may as well get whatever benefit can be gained from composting them. Any work done now will also save time in the spring, allowing you to plant early crops as soon as the spring season allows.

In the meantime, keep harvesting those tomatoes for eating in salads, sandwiches or right out of hand. If your garden is like mine, you may also wish to give in to some preservation by cooking. If so, the following may be useful:



**Fresh Tomato Sauce**

Six, eight or ten ripe tomatoes, depending on damage, chopped

One large onion or one small onion and two leeks, chopped

One large red, sweet pepper, chopped

Two tablespoons olive oil  
Two large cloves of garlic, squeezed

A quarter cup of fresh basil, chopped

Two tablespoons prepared tomato paste

Two teaspoons sugar  
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat the olive oil in a large pan over medium heat.

Add the onion, leek, garlic and pepper and sauté until lightly browned.

Add tomatoes, basil, tomato paste and sugar and seasonings and cook until mixture comes to a boil.

Lower the heat and simmer until thick.

Serve over pasta or vegetables or fish. This sauce can be frozen for future use.

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