



LAKE PLEASANT

From the eyes of an outsider
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USHER MILL COMING DOWN

After the midnight blaze
Page 13

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 43

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

Gill-Montague Schools Accept District Budget

BOTH TOWNS WILL SEEK \$150,000 OVERRIDES TO MEET ASSESSMENTS

BY DAVID DETMOLD

At their August 28th meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee accepted a \$176,000 cut to the GMRSD's operating budget for the current school year, approving the new budget figure of \$16,180,901 passed by a special two-town district meeting on July 31st. In recommending the final cut to a budget that had already been reduced by \$1.2 million since March, G-M interim superintendent Ken Rocke said, "We feel we got a very clear message from the towns about what they could and could not afford."

At the district meeting, the finance committee of the town of Montague proposed spending approximately \$300,000 more on the schools this

year than voters had approved at Montague's annual town meeting in June, and voters of the district approved that recommendation by a two-vote margin. Now, in order to meet the town's assessment, Montague is planning to take half the additional amount from reserves, and to seek a Proposition 2½ override for the remaining \$150,000 sometime this fall, said finance committee chair Jeff Singleton.

An article for an override request for approximately \$150,000 will be presented to a special town meeting in Montague on Thursday, October 11th. If passed there, the override will then go to the voters of the town. If the override fails, or if town meeting does not approve the see **SCHOOLS** pg 13

The Rendezvous Opens its Doors in Turners Falls

BY CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO - Turners Falls can now boast of yet another place to get a drink and a bite to eat. I hesitate to use the term "bar" in describing the new drinking and eating establishment at 78 Third Street in downtown Turners, because the atmosphere is more that of a somewhat upscale café than a traditional bar. Indeed, the transformation of what was most recently Yesterday's is rather astonishing. Inside the elegant doorway that opens off the comfortable outdoor seating area, the formerly gloomy interior is now awash in light, revealing the refurbished yellow pine floors, eye-catching art nicely displayed on the pumpkin walls, original tin ceiling, long bar and cozy seating areas.

Over the Labor Day weekend the owners of The Rendezvous, Chris

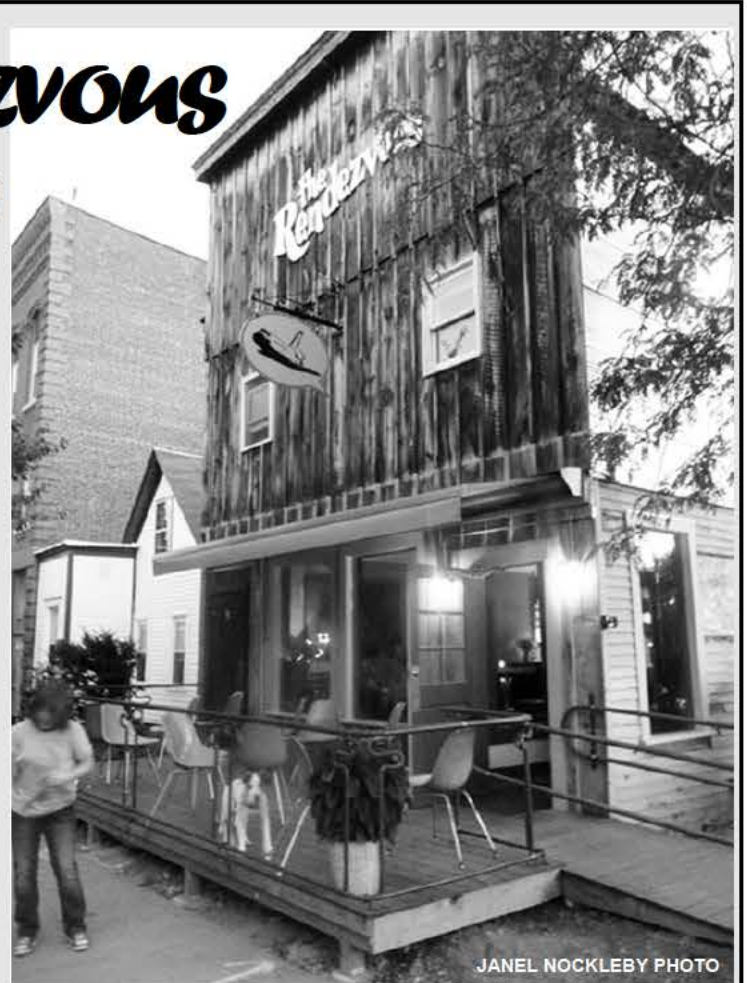
Janke, Emily Brewster, Jamie Berger and Mark Wisniewski, made it obvious to those whom they warmly welcomed that this new addition to Turners was as much or more about creating a place for the community to gather as it was about having an extensive liquor cabinet (though they do have that, also). Indeed, Janke noted that a major impetus for him in acquiring the bar was to create an inexpensive, fun and creative place where everyone in the neighborhood would feel at home.

Berger echoed Janke: "I wanted the bar to be

snazzy but affordable and comfortable, the kind of place where somebody in flip flops and a t-shirt would feel as welcome as somebody wearing fancier threads. I want this to be a place where hipsters and plumbers, 65 year-olds and 25 year-olds, can all feel at home."

Brewster, who lives next door to the bar, said that for her The Rendezvous is an extension of her appreciation of downtown Turners. "I love Turners and have a commitment to the downtown. What I'm hoping is that this bar

see **DOORS** pg 12



JANEL NOCKLEBY PHOTO

Opening Day at the Rendezvous

Community Meals Feed Body and Soul

BY MARVIN SHEDD

TURNERS FALLS - As an active member of one of the local theater companies based at the Shea Theater, I've spent plenty of time in Turners Falls over the last few years. In addition, I've enjoyed many evenings watching my wife and oldest son play concerts with the Montague Community



DETMOLD PHOTO

Community Meal at Our Lady of Peace

Band at Peskeomskut town to participate in the Montague Community Park. Recently, I came to see **MEALS** pg 10

Finder of Lost Objects in Turners Falls

BY DAVID JAMES

- Almost a quarter-century ago, ABC presented a prime time television series entitled "Finder of Lost Loves," starring the late Tony Franciosa as a private detective who specialized in locating someone gone from the life, yet held in the heart, of another human being. If see **LOST** pg 11



PHOTO BY DAVID JAMES


The display case on the left is filled with rings which Chet Chin has found while metal detecting. The display case on the right contains coins and other metal objects.

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MONTAGUE CENTER LIBRARY NEWS**Music and Movement**

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE CENTER - The weekly Music and Movement series with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will be held at the Montague Center Library on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. during September - January. Young children of all

ages and their families or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is not required. The program is cosponsored by the Gill-Montague Council of the Family Network. For more information, please call 863-3214.

Grant Proposals Sought

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

of each grant application, typed and signed, plus one copy of relevant support materials, though multiple copies are appreciated, must be postmarked by Monday, October 15th, 2007. Send completed application packets to Montague Cultural Council, Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Montague, MA 01351-9558. Forms and detailed guidelines are available at www.mass-culture.org. Contact Lisa Enzer, Chair, 413-367-2658.

9th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival Sept 15th-16th

The 9th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 15th and 16th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days (shine or rain) at Forster's Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange. (Info and directions: www.garlicandarts.org) Admission: \$5 per day for adults, \$8 for a weekend pass; kids 12 and under free. The festival features wheelchair accessible parking and facilities and an on-site vehicle to transport those with limited mobility.

Come find out what brings over 10,000 people to this scentational event for the whole family, the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival. Wander among 80 art and agriculture booths and chat with the craftspeople. Everything is made by hand or locally grown. Support your local artists and

farmers and strengthen the regional economy, shopping locally on a gorgeous farm illuminated by fall foliage. You will find inspiring community organizations, healing arts, and renewable energy vendors too. Enjoy on-going workshops all weekend long. Learn to grow garlic, press cider, spin and weave, fuel a car on vegetable oil. Family-friendly admission with something for everyone: Mom gets the 10-minute healing arts massage, Grandpa checks out the portable sawmill and timber framing, the kids love the horse-drawn hayrides, garlic and egg tosses, puppet making, and garlic limbo. Two solar powered stages come alive with jazz and juggling, belly dancing and bluegrass, storytelling and soul, African and Middle Eastern rhythms and acoustic rock. Definitely come

hungry; it's a culinary feast. No Trash? Last year there were only two bags for over 10,000 folks; everything gets composted or recycled.

New this year: Garlic roasting in a masonry oven will infuse the grounds with the aroma of "stinking rose." Visit the emus and angoras in the new farm animal plaza. And, we have applied to the *Guinness Book of World Records* for our raw garlic eating contest — 1,000 people eating the most garlic ever ingested in 5 minutes. Even if we don't get accepted, we're going for it! Come be among the outrageously aromatic. Make Al Gore and Willie Nelson proud! Bike, hike, parachute or ride the Magic Bus — the free biodiesel shuttle from nearby lots. Car free and carpoolers get a free raffle entry for great prizes.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Sept. 10th - 14th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 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, 10th
9-11 a.m. Foot Screening. Nail trim and soak. Donation requested. Gill and Montague seniors.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics
Tuesday, 11th
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday, 12th
9-11 a.m. Foot Screening. Nail trim and soak. Donation request-

ed. Gill and Montague seniors.
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends of the Gill/Montague mealsite meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 13th
10 a.m. Coffee and Conversation; at 10:30 a speaker from Harborside Healthcare will present discussion on "Grandparents and Grandchildren." Join us for a lively discussion which will address ways to interact with your grand children of all ages and fun games you can play together.
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 14th
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 provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

Monday, 10th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 11th
9 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 12th
9:00 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group
12 Noon Bingo
Thursday, 13th
9 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Pool
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

FACES & PLACES

SUBMITTED PHOTO

One of the 22 cooling towers at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon, Vermont collapsed on Monday, August 20th, with a pipe break spilling cooling water to the ground for 90 minutes. Plant workers had noticed a "strange noise" coming from the cooling tower the day before. Prior to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission allowing the 35-year-old plant to increase its operating capacity to 120% last year, Vermont Yankee's owner, Entergy, VY inspected the cooling towers and assured federal regulators they were in shape to handle the extra workload. An Entergy spokesman said no radiation was released in the accident.

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Seniors Learn Safety from Montague Police

BY BRIDGET SWEET
TURNERS FALLS - Detective Lee Laster of the Montague police led a two-part workshop on Self Defense for Seniors at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on July 25th and August 8th. Bunny Caldwell, GMSC director, warmly welcomed him. MCTV cameraman Don Clegg, assisted by John Donahue, taped the proceedings, and approximately twenty people attended each day.

The first forty-minute session was held classroom-style with a PowerPoint presentation and handouts. The handouts were *Help Prevent Elder Abuse, Neglect, Financial Exploitation and Self-Neglect* by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and *How Senior Citizens Can Prevent Crime*, a pamphlet published by the Channing L. Bete Company. Detective Laster spoke about self-defense and how not to become a victim.

The crowd murmured or grew silent listening to the seriousness of the subject matter. Detective Laster employed humor and personal experience to break the tension. "Mike Tyson wasn't the only one to bite in a fight," he said.



Renee Randall gives Montague police detective Lee Laster her best shot in the Senior Self Defense workshop at the Gill-Montague Senior Center

Many of the seniors nodded and smiled as he gave examples. Participants commented, "Wow, I'm glad I came. I never thought of that," or "He was good. He told it like it is." Many left energized for the upcoming hands-on training.

In the second session, Laster showed simple knee, elbow, and hand strikes. He stressed that the moves would not provide total protection, but could be used for stunning the attacker, allowing the person under attack to get away. He said, "We want people smart, safe, not to be a victim."

Officer Christopher

Lapoint wore a protective body suit. Six people tried their newly acquired moves on him. Renee Randall was first to try her hand, with Laster cheering her on.

She received a round of applause. The crowd giggled as Claude, Lapoint's father, took his best shot next. Claude was proud of how he acquitted himself, while not wanting to injure his

soon-to-be married son. Lorraine Boguslawski appeared timid, yet said she had an adrenaline rush afterwards. Shirley Tirrell was happy to try the self

defense techniques. John Donahue put down the video camera to take a practice run. Caldwell also tried to deflect the attacker, and was praised for using the tip of her elbow. Clegg offered to put the camera away if shy people wanted to try their hand also.

Please contact Detective Laster at the Montague police department (413-863-8911) for more information on self defense classes, or Caldwell at the GMSC (413-863-9357).

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Editor

David Detmold

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants

Hugh Corr

David Brule

Layout & Design

Kathleen Litchfield

Boysen Hodgson

Katren Hoyden

Karen Wilkinson

Suzette Snow-Cobb

Photography

Lisa Davol

Joe Parzych

"The Voice of the Villages"

Circulation

Jean Hebden

Julia Bowden Smith

Don Clegg

Founded by

Arthur Evans

Harry Brandt

David Detmold

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Technical Administrators

Michael Muller

Michael Farnick

Bikes vs. Vermont Yankee (pt II)

BY DAVID DETMOLD The Solar Rollers took to the highways and byways of Vermont over the last three weeks of August, campaigning for a permanent shutdown of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. By the time we reached the statehouse in Montpelier, we had biked over 800 miles, handed out over 8000 flyers and lists of legislative contacts in every county of Vermont, and talked on statewide radio, to local newspapers, and to potlucks groups from Randolph to St. Johnsbury, Greensboro Bend to Burlington. We got commitments from a number of state legislators to work actively for a shutdown of

120% of its original design capacity. In the wake of the cooling tower collapse, that interview was repeated several times the following day, so as we continued on our tour people had already heard the message and seen our predictions confirmed on the front page of the major Vermont dailies, all of which ran editorial alarms about the condition of the aging nuke before the week was out.

On Wednesday, August 29th, as we talked to 30 or more people at a potluck in Burlington, who pledged to continue working together to seek a shutdown of the nuke, a call came in that VY, operating at half power, had just automatically shut down

due to a steam valve malfunction. Though the public was assured the problem was minor, people were reminded that a similar valve malfunction had led to the meltdown at Three Mile Island in 1979, resulting in widespread, unmonitored radioactive releases and subsequent court cases by thousands of residents of western Pennsylvania seeking compensation for a rash of cancer and leukemia.

Public confidence was in no way enhanced by a press release from the Vermont Yankee plant

workers, seeking a new contract, who claimed unsafe conditions at the plant were threatening "global disaster." With one million pounds of high level waste in storage in a seventh story swimming pool at VY, on the banks of New England's longest river, this claim did not strike Vermonters as mere hyperbole.

Efforts to permanently retire the nuke before it permanently retires New England are now heating up, with a regionwide petition drive to Vermont Governor Douglas, legislative lobbying, and letters to the editors of local papers mounting. To get a copy of the petition, and find out about other ways you can get involved, go to www.VYDA.org.



DAVOL PHOTO

The editor in front of Vermont Yankee, leaflets at the ready, on day one of the tour

the nuke, and to fund a clean, truly Green energy future for Vermont and the region.

Adding to the momentum of our statewide tour, as if the god of Plutonium was smiling on our efforts, the nuclear plant itself took a hand in our outreach work by arranging a collapse of one of the plant's 22 wooden cooling towers, breaking a pipe that poured cooling water in a dismaying fountain for 90 minutes on Monday, August 20th, as we were six days into our trip. At the time I was speaking on a statewide radio show about the likelihood the 35-year-old plant would experience component failures and breakdowns if Entergy continued to run it at

RUB A DUB DUB THREE OILMEN IN A TUB... THEY ALL SAILED OUT TO SEA



K. WILKINSON '07

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Making Time to Learn About the Aquifer

As a resident of Montague, I was surprised to learn that Nestle Corporation has taken steps for preliminary testing of the aquifer under the Montague Plains. I am busy farming this time of year, but the prospect of a corporation taking three million gallons a year of water out from under our town and selling it for tremendous profit makes it worth my time to learn about the aquifer and Nestle's bottling plants in other places.

Especially regarding the aquifer, it seems there is a lot that is unknown. I was surprised to learn that it is unclear even where the boundaries of the aquifer lie. There is some speculation that perhaps the aquifer runs down the Valley, maybe even connecting to the Tolland aquifer from which Amherst draws its water. Much more needs to be learned, even within the scientific community, in order for the town to make wise

decisions about this resource.

I suggest a series of educational forums for residents to come, ask questions of water and development experts in the region, and hear each other's ideas. If anyone is interested in working with me to organize an educational series designed for open discussion of the issues, I would be glad to hear from you.

- Suzanne Webber

Montague

suzanne@brooksbendfarm.com

Where Have All the Flags Gone?

I thought I should respond to the editorial cartoon that appeared in the August 23rd edition of the *Montague Reporter*. It said, "What Happened to the Flags? Is the War Over?"

When the contract for the renovation of the veterans memorial on Avenue A was awarded and the work commenced, the flags had to be removed due to the construction.

Whether or not the flags will return to Avenue A will be up to the trustees of the veterans memorial, should veterans agent Leo Parent make a request to do so. Then, too, does Leo want to continue taking on the responsibility of maintaining the flags, removing them and having to replace them when the grass is mowed during the mowing season.

This is a big job for Leo and

his assistant Jody. I have had numerous people say to me they want to see the flags return, and I have no reason to believe the trustees would not approve a request to bring them back to the memorial when construction is completed. If Leo decides he wants to undertake this responsibility again, I suggest all who are interested in seeing the flags return contact him and volunteer your help in assisting him when he needs it.

We are hoping to have the veterans memorial completed by Sunday, November 11th. We are planning to have a ceremony at that time and date, and we are inviting everyone to attend the dedication; we sincerely hope a large crowd will attend. I will have a program schedule at a later date.

- Art Gilmore, Chair
Soldiers Memorial Trustees
Montague

American Dead in Iraq as of 9/5/07



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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Joy in Wendell Coverage

Many of us from the small towns deeply appreciate the attention and care given to covering small town affairs by the *Montague Reporter*. Your reporting has been comprehensive and accurate, and it is providing a unique and important service to citizens that cannot be found anywhere else. Thank you for your continued efforts; I don't know what we'd do without the *Reporter*.



Joy Gorzocoski

A good example of this kind of sensitive and attentive reporting was Nan Riebschlaeger's article about Wendell Old Home Day in the August 23rd issue. The article captured the feeling and excitement of the event beautifully, and really gave the reader a good idea of what holds these small communities together and keeps them alive. Your reporter did a fine job of answering the question "What draws people to the small towns?"--a question other newspapers might not even ask.

The activities at Wendell Old Home Day were so varied and plentiful that it is understandable that the article did not cover every high point. One such moment that deserves mentioning is the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award. Every year the town presents this award to a Wendell

citizen who has made a major contribution to the town's life, whether it be government, social services, music, art, farming, or just living. This year the award went to Joy Gorzocoski, who has most recently served the town as the caretaker of the Town Hall and custodian of town buildings. Townspeople who use the Town Hall for private affairs or public meetings get the key from Joy. They know her as a smiling face and kind disposition that is ever helpful in maintaining the building and keeping it available and in top notch shape for use by all.

Joy is also the administrative assistant to our town coordinator, where she works in an office that fields many complicated and diverse challenges, and she also helps keep order there. In addition, she's worked in the past for many other branches of town government. Ted Lewis, a member of the selectboard for more than 35 years, said, "Over the years, Joy has worked for every department in town."

Although she was recovering from a recent operation, Joy made it to the town common to receive the award, and thanked the town with one of her famous smiles.

Thank you Joy!

- Dan Keller
Wendell

Loved the Last Issue

Was this latest issue (*MR V#42*) the work of the *Montague Reporter* board of directors? I found it a pleasure to read, and a beautiful presentation. I'm especially pleased with the work from Nan Riebschlaeger -- her writing and photos hint rather strongly that we made a good move in finding her to replace me on the board! Good work, Nan!

Josh Heinemann's selectboard coverage was even more humorous than usual; he always captures little subcurrents flowing in

the meeting, and in town.

David D., your article about your bicycling political work to shut down Vermont Yankee was just plain inspiring, and revealing of the depths of radical political conviction. You're up there with the best all around newspaper people I've ever met, the journalistic equivalent of Derek Jeter. David Brule, this column finally establishes it -- you're too Irish to be a good American yet -- you're going to have to try harder! (Are you even trying?)

Ann Harding's light-spirited but sharp contribution... the "correction" letter... the poetry page... the news of Joe Parzych's book getting reviewed in the *Boston Globe*... the reports by Chris and Lyn and Nan from the various village celebrations... This issue is another one by a true community newspaper, another stitch in the fabric of our community -- helping it be a truly beautiful fabric, made with loving hands.

- Jonathan von Ranson,
Wendell

Old Home Day Coverage

A note of thanks to the *Montague Reporter* for the excellent, extensive coverage of our Montague Old Home Days. We can always count on you to give us "good press;" however we are

not done yet! There will be a Montague Old Home Days auction, September 22nd. For info on donating items call: 413-367-9422.

- Peg Bridges
Montague Center

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Arrests Abounding

Wednesday 8-29

8:44 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at an L Street address. Building owner states that an apartment had been entered and items taken. Under investigation.

Thursday 8-30

8:43 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license, speeding, and operating without license in possession.

9:11 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Friday 8-31

3:13 p.m. Report of a dog running loose and barking on Ripley Road. Referred to Animal Control Officer.

Saturday 9-1

1:25 a.m. Report of a medical emergency near the Shea Theater on Avenue A. One subject was placed in protective custody.

7:40 p.m. Report of a safety hazard near the Farren Shelter on Farren Avenue. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating to endanger.

Sunday 9-2

12:54 a.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Turner Street address. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested on two straight warrants and also charged with possession of a class D drug (subsequent offense).

5:41 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident in front of the Farren on Montague City Road. Two cars involved, one person injured. Subject transported to Franklin Medical Center by ambulance.

Monday 9-3

10:17 p.m. Report of a noise disturbance at a 5th Street address. Neighbors were being loud. Asked to quiet down.

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An Outsider's Look at Lake Pleasant

BY LYN CLARK - Question: All right, I'll ask it: "What does Lake Pleasant have in common with the British and Roman Empires (and Ozymandias, king of kings, for that matter)?"

Answer: They all had a 'rise and fall'; and, with the exception of Ozymandias, they all - Great Britain, Rome and Lake Pleasant - are still with us today and doing just fine, thank you very much, even if not in quite the same way as in their glory days. (Ozymandias - for his sins - still lies buried in the lone and level sands.)

While villages similar to Turners Falls were established around manufacturing, Lake Pleasant was started as a resort community on the southern

shore of the lake, rapidly morphed into a summer retreat for the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association, and was soon host to some 2000 to 3000 Spiritualists who arrived by train and trolley from all over the country. Talk about a mob scene! And these folks knew how to have a good time. While still dressed to the nines - ladies in bustles and men in bowler hats - they managed to cruise the lake in the Uncle Sam (similar to the Quinnetuket II river boat), bathe in the warm lake waters (sans bustle and hat, one assumes), dance in the pavilion, enjoy music from the bandstands, play whist on the hotel veranda, and of course

attend religious services and consult mediums who were naturally drawn to the campmeeting, being the quintessential Spiritualists themselves. They all lived cheek-to-jowl, initially in elegant tents that soon gave way to cottages; they filled up the hotels, and had their own state-of-the-art railway station. All this in little Lake Pleasant, a far cry from the quiet village of some 300 souls that now call it home.

Question: So what happened? Why the 'fall' part of the 'rise and fall'?

Answer: There were several factors that led to Lake Pleasant's demise as a popular watering hole. One was the invention of the automobile - once John and Jane Doe were no longer dependent on trolley and train for their R and R getaways, they could pick and choose from a smorgasbord of delightful vacation spots, and did; also, early in the 1900s a fire destroyed at least half of the cottages, the bandstands, dance pavilion and three-story hotel; then another blow: the Spiritualists came under fire by the press as a result of some fakes and frauds doing business in their name (it's always the few who ruin it for the rest, isn't it?); and that wasn't the end of their bad luck: medical advances were saving more lives - especially of infants - which led to fewer people yearning to communicate with the spirits of loved ones, and, of course, that led to a decline in interest in Spiritualism in general. That would be enough to send a summer retreat into oblivion, one would think. But



After the Lake Pleasant Hotel burned in the fire of 1907, the train station was moved to the center of the village and became the Lake Pleasant Inn. The town of Montague later acquired it, and in 1977 knocked it down.

Photo courtesy of Spirit and Spa, by Louise Shattuck.

fate hadn't quite finished with Lake Pleasant. The *coup de grace* came in the form of the Turners Falls Fire District that took the land bordering the lake and closed the lake to all recreational use in 1908 in order to preserve it as a water supply. It was predictable that many of the cottages that remained would be abandoned and razed; some left standing would serve as low-income, subsidized housing for the town of Montague; the hotel, falling into disrepair, was finally demolished. Lake Pleasant had hit bottom.

Question: But wait, you said it was now doing just fine, even if not in quite the same way. So?

Answer: People - especially the stoic, determined folks of New England - don't give up easily. We're a stubborn lot. Those folks who still remained in that small community - the summer ones, the year-rounders, the Spiritualists - they just kept on, and little by little started to build back and fix up. In 1975 the Lake Pleasant Village Association was formed, and Bob Begg, Jr. - a third generation villager - rallied his neighbors to rebuild

the walking bridge over the ravine that separated the two halves of Lake Pleasant, once again tying the Highlands to the Bluffs. Pickets were sold to finance the construction with the names of donors carved into them. This work of art became renowned as the Bridge of Names. Anyone who has failed to stroll across has missed a treat.

Also in 1975, Lake Pleasant, which had been the town's most remote neighborhood, was incorporated to become the fifth village of the town of Montague.

Fast-forward to the '90s, and we see outsiders starting to move in and renovate. Was property cheap? Or did the spiritual nature of the village appeal? Or both? The word gentrification comes to mind, but that carries images of McMansions and tidy tract developments, and blessedly the village of Lake Pleasant is free of these. The Lake Pleasant of today is still patching itself together, but there's a grace to its asymmetry, a charm to its homeliness, like that of a well-worn and beloved patchwork quilt.

see PLEASANT pg 7

MCTV Schedule Channel 17: Sept. 7-13

Friday, September 7

8:00 am Common Man Concerts: Eric Goodchild (Bagpipes)
9:00 am Montague Select Board (8/27/07)
11:30 am Block Party Part 3
1:30 pm Art Fest 2007
6:30 pm NASA Connect: The Wright Math
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (8/28/07)
10:00 pm Gladwood Studios: Preachin The Blues
11:00 pm North Quabbin Woods: Local Woods

Saturday, September 8

8:00 am NASA Connect: The Wright Math
8:30 am GMRSD Meeting (8/28/07)
11:30 am Gladwood Studios: Preachin The Blues
12:30 pm North Quabbin Woods: Local Woods
6:30 pm The Well Being: "Memory - Sexual Abuse Healing & Support"
7:30 pm GED Connection #17: Social Studies Themes in U.S. History
8:00 pm Montague Grange: Aquifer Meeting
10:00 pm Block Party Part 3

Sunday, September 9

8:00 am The Well Being: "Sexual Abuse Healing & Support"
9:00 am GED Connection #17: Social Studies Themes in U.S. History
9:30 am Montague Grange: Aquifer Meeting
11:30 am Block Party Part 3
6:30 pm Over The Falls: Home Schooling
7:30 pm Independent Voices #35
8:00 pm Montague Grange: Family Dance
9:30 pm Physician Focus: Preventing Medical Errors
10:00 pm Block Party Part 2

Monday, September 10

8:00 am Over The Falls: Home Schooling
9:00 am Independent Voices #35
9:30 am Montague Grange: Family Dance
11:00 am Physician Focus: Preventing Medical Errors
11:30 am Block Party Part 2

6:00 pm Gladwood Studios: Preachin The Blues

7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)
9:30 pm Block Party Part 3
11:30 pm Carlos W. Anderson

Tuesday, September 11

8:00 am Gladwood Studios: Preachin The Blues
9:00 am Block Party Part 3
11:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson
6:30 pm The GED Connection #17: Themes in U.S. History
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (Live)
10:00 pm Thomas Jefferson Speaks
10:30 pm North Quabbin Woods: Local Wood

Wednesday, September 12

8:00 am GED Connection #17: Themes in U.S. History
8:30 am Thomas Jefferson Speaks
9:00 am North Quabbin Woods: Local Woods
6:30 pm NASA Connect: The Wright Math
7:00 pm GED Connection #18: Social Studies Themes in World History
7:30 pm The Changing Face of Turners Falls
9:30 pm The Well Being: "Sexual Abuse Healing & Support"
10:30 pm Encore Body Art: Helga & Crabby

Thursday, September 13

8:00 am NASA Connect: The Wright Math
8:30 am GED Connection #18: Social Studies Themes in World History
9:00 am The Changing Face of Turners Falls
11:00 am The Well Being: "Sexual Abuse Healing & Support"
12:00 pm Encore Body Art: Helga & Crabby
6:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Denise Gendron
7:00 pm Montague Select Board 9/10/07
9:30 pm Montague Grange: Aquifer Meeting
11:30 pm Block Party Part 3

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Shea Seeks Relief, Police Station Vote Set

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - Police building committee member Deb Radway opened the Montague selectboard meeting on August 27th with an update on the plans for the new police safety complex planned for Turnpike Road. Radway said the police building committee has been meeting weekly since January, and have been successful in completing the tasks they have set out to accomplish. They have produced a schematic site plan, and they are planning to use durable and low maintenance materials in as many areas of the new building as possible. She said the projected \$5.1 million cost may look high, but with the call volume the Montague police receive, the town should plan to build a building adequate to the police force's needs.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments, represented by Peggy Sloan and Jessica Atwood, presented information on a grant they have received to remediate petroleum impacted sites. They are looking for property in the Montague area that could benefit from the program; the grant could potentially pay for testing on those sites. The FRCOG has cleaned up and redeveloped five previous sites in Montague since 2002, including the Dubois

property on the corner of Canal and Third Street. The board had a couple of suggestions about former gas station sites they would like the COG to look into. Their main suggestion was the Millers Falls railroad yard.

Robin Paris and Denise Coyne from the Shea Theater board came to the meeting asking if they could transfer \$5,000 dollars of funds earmarked for a new theater marquee, to be used instead for operating funds.

The Shea is running a deficit mainly due to substantial increases in utility costs. Paris and Coyne said their board is fighting hard to keep the Shea open, as the nonprofit theater brings so much opportunity and entertainment to the town. They are seeking support from the community, and are hoping donations and grants as well as volunteer workers will help them get above water again. Paris said she believes "with the growth of Turners, it is possible not only for the Shea to keep going but also to succeed."

The board agreed to allow the earmarked funds to be transferred to meet operating expenses.

Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District gave an informational presentation on plastic products that are recyclable in the Montague area.

She stressed that anyone with questions about recycling could go to their website (www.franklincountywastedistrict.org) for a list of accepted materials, or call their office (413-772-2438); they are more than happy to answer any questions. Amy Donovan, program director for the FCSWMD, noted that the most recent *Harry Potter* book cover was made from the recycled paper from Western Massachusetts, so no one can say recycling isn't a hit.

Nick Waynelovich from the Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts, and members of his family took issue with the town's actions as landlord of the Colle Opera House, where Ja'Duke has been a tenant. They presented a number of issues where they believed they had been treated unfairly, and Waynelovich said they felt their family's character had been brought into question. As hurt feelings became more apparent, board chair Pat Allen required the Wayneloviches to stop and wait for a closed session with the board. However, some points were voiced before the dialogue was shut down.

Waynelovich said selectboard members and other town officials had convened in his rental space

without notification after he gave notice that Ja'Duke would be vacating the premises by September 1st, as they are relocating their performing arts studio to the Montague industrial park. Waynelovich said that incident left a bad taste in his mouth; he believes he and his family were ideal rental tenants, and that they have offered the community as a whole a great entertainment and educational opportunity.

The owners of the newly renovated Rendezvous bar on Third Street were up next. They were asking for an entertainment license. After the board was assured the partners had done a lot of work to soundproof the bar, which had been the source of long-running noise complaints from neighbors of the former Yesterday's bar (including from some of the present owners of the newly renovated establishment). The new owners said they are aiming to tailor their entertainment to keep noise levels acceptable to the neighborhood. The board approved their request for an entertainment license, and everyone expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming grand opening of the space.

Before the meeting closed, the selectboard announced a date for a debt exclusion vote for the

proposed \$5.1 million police station: November 6th, 2007. The building committee will continue to seek grant funds to offset the cost of the construction, prior to the vote, so the final debt exclusion vote figure has not been determined yet.

Community Meetings Schedule

for new Montague Police Station

Community Meetings Schedule to discuss and receive public input on the proposed new Montague Police Station are as follows:
Sept. 18th, 7:00 p.m., Montague Center Fire Station.
Sept. 25th, 7:00 p.m., Hillcrest School
Sept. 27th, 7:00 p.m., Millers Falls Library
Oct. 4th, 7:00 p.m., Mason Hall Montague City.

Review design and site plan. How it will get paid for? Financial impact to taxpayers? Answers to frequently asked questions. Opportunity to comment.

Presented by Montague Police Station Building Committee: Jay DiPucchio, Pamela Hanold, Walter Kostanski, Deborah Radway, John Zellmann, Patricia Pruitt, David Gendron, Douglas Starbuck, Ray Zukowski and Ray Godin, ex officio.

PLEASANT from pg 6

Question: But what about the Spiritualists?

Answer: Why, fewer in number, of course, but they never left. They are the reason I drove to Lake Pleasant last month. I had a growing curiosity about this group that had so tenaciously held on for 137 years, and had just celebrated its 95th Camp Week. It was a hot, humid day, and a view of the lake was obscured by the thick undergrowth and trees that had reclaimed the shoreline. Across from the post office only a few hundred yards up from the lake, I found Thompson Temple, a building that in 1913 had served as a printing plant for the National Spiritual Alliance (TNSA).

Up until 1913, the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association (NESCA) was the only spiritualist association in Lake Pleasant, but in that year a philosophical dispute over the concept of reincarnation divided the spiritualists into two camps. NESCA rejected the concept of

reincarnation, and those who embraced it formed The National Spiritual Alliance, Inc. While the former group eventually disbanded, in 1976, the latter is still headquartered in the Temple and is still going, with 43 dues paying members last year and 10 lifetime members, not to mention the discarnate entities helping from the other side.

Louise Shattuck, who died in 2005, was the last member of a family of three generations of Lake Pleasant spiritualists. When it came to honoring history, she was keeper of the flame. She wrote the book, *Spirit and Spa, A Portrait of the Body, Mind and Soul of a 133-Year-Old Spiritualist Community in Lake Pleasant, Massachusetts* in collaboration with David James, to whom she passed the torch, and who now carries forward her legacy.

Question: What are these particular spiritualists' beliefs?

Answer: Surprisingly, perhaps, not so different from those of many other religions - but with certain differences. It is a

deist religion. In James's words: "TNSA principles include belief in an infinite and eternal creating and sustaining source, the interconnectedness of everything, the siblinghood of humanity, personal responsibility for thoughts, words, and deeds, non-judgmentalism, continuity of life of the soul, communication between the worlds of form and formlessness, and reincarnation as the means of progression toward perfection." I think my sister, who is a Buddhist, would feel quite comfortable with this religion. I almost could myself, despite being a secular humanist. It is so all-embracing.

Question: Well, as a not-quite-believer, what did you find to do?

Answer: My friend and I wanted to have our auras photographed - something I consider to have some scientific validity. This we did with fascinating, and what I thought were pretty accurate, results. My friend then consulted a medium, and I took in the Louise Shattuck Memorial Guided Walking Tour

and slide show that James conducted, masterfully. What stays with me today are two things in particular: One is the sense of antiquity and spirit that pervades the upstairs hall of Thompson Temple where services were and still are held, a hall with the portraits of those from the past looking down from their frames out over the congregants. The other is the strange sensation I had while walking through woods once dense with people, now dense with trees; a semi-transparent overlay of present over past, the two merging in an eerie fashion as faint sounds of laughter and music drift up to the surface (can it really be only my imagination?), a glimpse caught out of the corner of the eye of something anachronistic, spirits made substantial for just a blink of the eye - a crack in the present back into the past, opened for barely a millisecond... and then gone.

Question: Hmm. Can just anyone have access to TNSA and its members?

Answer: Yes. In fact the last Saturday of the month is when the Psychic Fairs are held, between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the post office. The next fair is on September 29th. Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of your own choice with whom you will meet in the lovely old hall, and despite several consultations going on simultaneously, you will find it very private. Reiki healing services are also available. TNSA conducts workshops throughout the year, and there are several interesting ones coming up this fall. You should check it out.

Question: Now, who in the Dickens is Ozymandias?

Answer: I can't do all your work for you. Google it.

For more information about The National Spiritual Alliance, go to: www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Jennison Road Land Protected

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

At the August 22nd selectboard meeting Dave and Betty Richards put 52 acres of their property on Jennison Road into permanent protection from development, with a deed restriction under the auspices of the Franklin Land Trust. An act of the legislature will now be required if someone wants to subdivide the land. It is already under Chapter 61 protection, and the Richards will continue to allow the public to use their land as before for skiing and hiking. Motorized vehicles will not be allowed, and the Richards do not allow hunting because their horses may be out.

support from Wendell's conservation commission, which they submitted along with a site plan, and the selectboard signed the paperwork, indicating their approval of the change. Representing the Franklin Land Trust, Alain Peteroy said representatives from the trust would visit the property in one year just to check on it.

The selectboard began the meeting by approving Orange Oil's low bid of \$2.389 per gallon for heating oil for the town, and \$50 an hour for service calls, both for nights and weekends, and for regular hours.

The town center building projects have come in under budget, and the town will need to

borrow \$60,000 less than originally anticipated. Closing will occur in September, but will only need the selectboard's approval, not special town meeting's.

The vestibule in the new town office building became uncomfortably hot this summer with the morning sun shining directly on it. Keller said an engineer suggested a venting system with a low opening by the door and a larger opening high in the window. Board member Christine Heard suggested some shade might be just as effective, a low tree or possibly a perennial plant that would die back in winter when the additional heat would be

welcome. Board chair Ted Lewis said that the nearest tree should be 150 feet from the building. No decision was made, as the seasons are changing and the extra heat will soon be welcome.

The North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce is planning a fishing derby sometime in the beginning of October, and they asked the selectboard to give them the name of someone who might be willing to attend a planning meeting on September 13th. After some discussion the name of Todd Soucie of Depot Road was forwarded, and a telephone call was made to see if he would be available. He liked the idea and volunteered.

The planning board asked for selectboard input for updating the Community Development Plan, which is five years old. Several of the goals in the original plan have been accomplished, including the purchase of Fiske Pond, construction of a town center septic system, the new town office building and library, but other items needed to be put in order of their priority, as the selectboard saw their

importance. With a little discussion, board members put the goals in the following order based on their perceived importance:

- Encourage cottage industry.
- Make smaller housing units available so young people and elderly people on fixed income can afford to stay in town.
- Work with the Franklin County Community Loan Fund to encourage small businesses.
- Work on housing rehabilitation.
- Create an updated building guide for owner builders.
- Insure that the roads are in proper status, that their layout is properly described and shows where the roads actually go.
- Encourage "traditional neighborhoods," where a person's needs for work, shopping and social gathering are all within walking distance.
- Create an Agricultural Commission.
- Adopt a Forest Conservation Bylaw
- Create access to the Millers River. Board member Dan Keller thought the town owns some land that borders on the river, and that it might be possible to build a trail to the water.

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has funding available for Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Erving, Greenfield, Leverett, Leyden, Montague, Orange, Rowe & Shelburne.

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3	\$51,600.00
4	\$57,350.00
5	\$61,950.00
6	\$66,550.00

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Turners Filmmaker and Artist Team Up to Produce Oral History of Alice Rossi, founding member of NOW and UMass Professor

Alice Rossi may be most well known as the first leading feminist scholar to assert that there are indeed innate differences between women and men. The author and editor of works on family, kinship, sex, and gender, Rossi was a founding member of the National Organization of Women. She was elected to NOW's first National Board in October 1966 and chaired NOW's first Task Force on the Family in 1967.

One of the scholar's daughters, artist Nina Rossi of Turners Falls, will interview her mother on-camera. This is a courageous choice made by adult children who ask their elder loved ones to record their stories. The first interview was recorded in August by filmmaker and seasoned personal historian Carlyn Saltman, also of Turners Falls. It focused on Dr. Rossi's personal and family life and how she juggled the very issues that were the focus of her writing and teaching. The next session to be recorded Sunday, September 9th, will be on her career as a leading feminist scholar who shook up more than one bastion of academia.

For more information visit Nina Rossi's website at: <http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.com/arts/artists/#nina> or Carlyn Saltman's website at: www.YourStoryMatters.com

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

Budget Concerns Weigh Heavy on Gill Board

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK - From selling the town's surplus cruiser to contemplating new insurance plans for town employees, budget concerns once again were at the forefront of the Gill selectboard meeting on Tuesday evening, September 4th.

The board carefully reviewed xeroxed packets of Group Insurance Commission information (that detail projected insurance costs for town employees if the town were to join the state insurance program) prepared by Gill administrative assistant Tracy Rogers. In light of the tight budget, the idea of switching plans to save the town money was attractive to all board members. "We're looking at a \$120,000 override and here is ten percent of it," commented Ann Banash as she looked over the various insurance options. However, after some discussion, the board decided further review was needed before coming to such an important decision.

Acknowledging the current school budget had put the town in a tough financial spot, board member Nancy Griswold said, "You have to look everywhere [to save money]. But you want to provide the best you can provide for your employees."

Paul Nowill, chair of the Gill finance committee, was present on Tuesday for the meeting to give his perspective on upcoming monetary issues for the town. "We need to get the override passed," Nowill stated, referring to a projected October Proposition 2½ override vote of around \$150,000. "I don't like it; no one likes it, but it has to happen."

The selectboard agreed with Nowill that the citizens of Gill needed to have all the facts at their disposal before voting, especially in regard to the townwide property revaluation currently nearing completion (see sidebar).

"The biggest question I get as assessor is, 'When are the values going to be ready?'"

said Griswold, who also sits on the board of assessors. "People want to know the process, but more importantly they want to know the bottom line, what it will mean for them. We want to get to the end of this so we can get on with the business of running the town."

Nowill asked if there would be any surprises for the town when the triennial reval is finished. "Some people will be happy; some won't, and some will be status quo," replied Griswold equably.

Selectboard member Leland Stevens said, "The assessments must be available at least a week before [the tentative town meeting date of October 1st]." A representative of the state Department of Revenue will be visiting the town on September 13th, and it will probably take the DOR a few weeks after that to certify the town's new property values.

Brighter news came from the Gill DPW, when superintendent Mick LaClaire brought

forward the results of his recent meeting with Greenman, Petersen Inc., the town's engineer for the ongoing reconstruction of Main Road from Wood Avenue to the Northfield line. The board had been seeking answers on some billing questions on the project, and LaClaire reported these had been resolved to everyone's satisfaction. "GPI has cut their bills considerably. I think it's fair," LaClaire said.

LaClaire also gave the board

news of asphalt bids for roadwork in Gill. The rapid approach of fall and omnipresent budgetary concerns pushed the DPW and the board to make a quick decision, awarding the contract to Comer Contracting, who came in with the lowest bid.

Sergeant Redmond of the Gill police was also present to report on the sale of the department's surplus cruiser. Bids for the cruiser so far have topped at \$1,000.

MEMO FROM GILL BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Recollection of Data and Triennial Revaluation Update

Residents of Gill: The visits to homes throughout town are nearing completion. If you have not had an interior home assessment, or responded to a letter left by one of the Mayflower Assessors, please call the Assessor's Office at (413) 863-0138.

The conversion of the data has begun and the programming of the values of Gill is nearly complete. The next step of the project throughout September will be the analysis of sales required by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for certification.

After that, assessors will place a notice of hours when residents may come to the Gill town hall to review the assessed value of their property. Time will be made available for residents with questions to talk to the assessors.

Avenue A Gets a New Topcoat

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - After a year or more of planning, and a week or more of dealing with a main street ground down to base coat, with no lanes or lines or crosswalks, finally Avenue A is getting a brand new coat of asphalt.

"Today, we're bringing in the side streets and repaving 7th up the Hill," said Montague highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, pausing between sweeping up a broken bottle in front of the barbershop, and fixing a very important problem (a plugged toilet) at the town-owned Colle Opera House, as paving trucks from Lane Construction roared around town like so many heavy artillery units in a major ground offensive. If Bergeron were the general directing this campaign, he was keeping his cool during the height of battle Wednesday.

"Today, they're putting down 600 tons of blacktop," said the highway superintendent. "Tomorrow, they're going to pave from the bridge to 7th Street: 3500 tons. Next week, they'll be painting new lanes and parking lines." The new crosswalks will

come later, Bergeron said, as part of the ongoing removal of architectural access barriers and renovation of curb cuts along the Avenue, to make the downtown streetscape comply more fully with modern Americans with Disability Act requirements. And with all the citizen led beautification improvements to the planters, public art installations and storefront window art displays, a brand spanking coat of asphalt on the Avenue will add a welcome unifying touch, pulling the downtown scene together in a way motorists, tourists, and pedestrians, and business owners will all appreciate.

"The downtowners have been excellent through this whole process," added Bergeron.

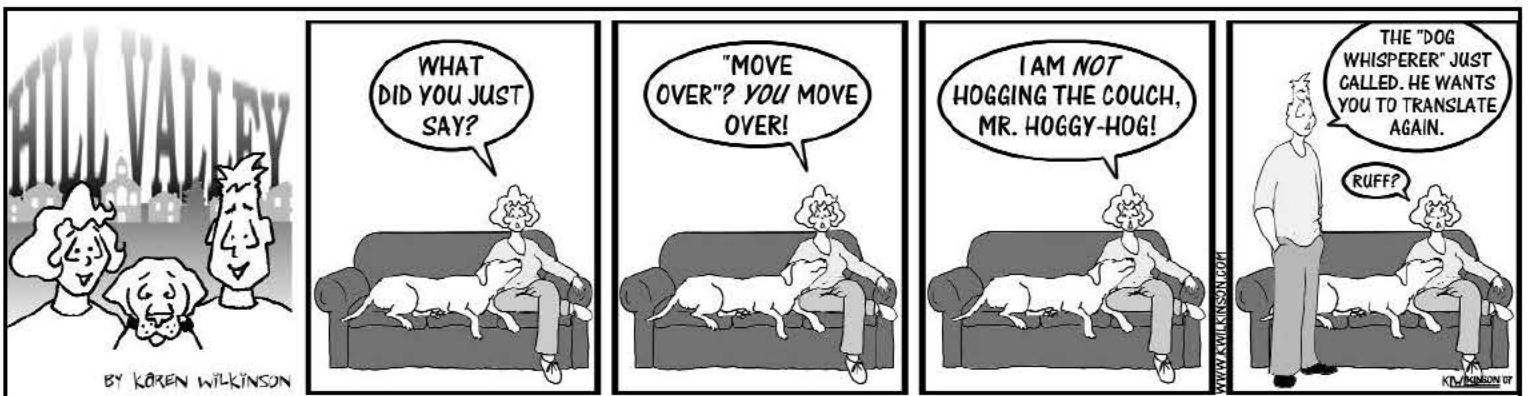
"They've been inconvenienced the last couple of weeks, but nobody's called to complain about it."

The resurfacing of Avenue A and 7th Street is being paid for entirely from state Chapter 90 funds, to the tune of \$383,000. Before heading back to supervise the work on 7th Street, Bergeron looked down the cold-planned Avenue with its crisscrossed hatchmarks, exposed manhole covers, raised gas and water mains and said, "It will be nice to have it done."

No argument there.



The Lane Construction crew lays down an inch and a half of fresh asphalt on Seventh Street and Avenue A on Wednesday



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MEALS

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community meal that takes place every Monday night at Our Lady of Peace church. Under the auspices of the Franklin County Community Meals program, this meal is one of many held in the Pioneer Valley and, for twenty-one years, has been under the direction of Turners Falls native, Amy Connelly.

In the lower level of Our Lady of Peace, the room is stark and reminiscent of a school cafeteria. But for the statue of Jesus overlooking the food line, you would hardly know you were in a church. The entire evening was absent of any evangelizing or preaching. The people running these meals aren't interested in saving souls; their focus is on providing people with something to eat, in a comfortable, non-judgmental setting. As people take their seats, Connelly oversees the food preparation, and checks with the servers to make sure they know the routine.

The servers come from the surrounding community and are crucial to the success of the program. The night I was there the group was from Our Lady of Peace, other evenings it might be the Montague Congregational Church or perhaps students from Northfield Mount Hermon School who are dishing up the vittles. The parishioners from Our Lady of Peace (previously St. Mary's and St. Anne's) were one of the first groups to volunteer, and have maintained a steady presence at the community meal for twenty years. This night, the servers included adults and children as young as nine years old, each taking a serious approach to their assigned task. I was particularly struck by the young woman who kept one protective hand on her son, carefully balanced on her hip, while scooping mashed potatoes with the other.

Before any food is served, Connelly steps before the group to welcome them and ask what's new in their lives. Clearly, this part of the evening is something that everyone looks forward to, the fellowship every bit as sustaining as the food is nourishing. It is a chance to share a bit of news, an update on a pregnancy or illness, or perhaps an accomplishment of a grandchild. Following the exchange of news, Connelly asked if anyone would like to say grace.

When no one volunteered, she offered a Catholic prayer, after stressing her belief that a common thread connects each of us, regardless of our faith or denomination.

The sense of community in the place was evident. It became apparent to me that some of those gathered came because they need the meal, others because they have no place else to go. They seek the comfort and fellowship that a shared meal can bring. I discovered, when I sat down to chat, that most were as hungry for someone to talk with as they were for food. Some told how long they have been coming to the community meals, others told me about their families.

When I asked about Connelly, everyone had a story to tell, like how she never missed a meal when her kids were little, often carrying one on her back, another in front. To a person, they sang the praises of a woman who has made a difference in their lives, a woman they have come to know, not just as the community meals coordinator, but also as a friend.

The community meals program traces its roots back to 1984 when a group of twelve local residents got together to see what they could do to make a difference in Franklin County. While each came from different backgrounds, they shared one goal: to bring the community together in one place. A place where there would be none of the social or economic barriers that frequently divide communities, a place where all in attendance could share food and fellowship. This shared vision became the foundation, the philosophy, if you will, of the community meals program. Originally housed at the former Del Padre building in Greenfield, in 1985, the program moved to the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield and expanded to a second night.

In 1986, Connelly petitioned the group to establish a site in Turners Falls. The board gave its OK pending the location of a site and serving groups to support it. Excited about bringing the program to the community she grew up in, Connelly turned to the people she thought would support her, her church community. To her dismay, each parish, despite having the resources and, arguably, the moral obligation to help, turned her down.

The rejection was a stinging blow, and for a while caused

Connelly to question her faith. It did little, however, to undermine her determination to establish a community meal site in Turners Falls.

With her infant daughter in a backpack, Connelly hit the street in a dogged, determined effort to find someone to share and support her vision. One by one she approached groups based in the community, groups she thought might help, yet one by one each of them said, "No." Finally, despite being a small congregation, with precious few resources, the Turners Falls Baptist church said, "Yes."

Ultimately, the undertaking proved to be too much for that small congregation to maintain and the program was forced to move, but Amy had established a foothold. Over the years, the Turners meal has been housed in the Episcopal Church, the Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's, St. Anne's and most recently at Our Lady of Peace. Despite operating on a shoe-string budget and depending heavily on volunteer help, people were fed with no questions asked and entirely without distinction.

The Monday night community meal is not the only benefactor of Connelly's commitment and passion. Over the years, she has directed each meal site in the county, and for five years was actively involved with the Orange Food Pantry. When the former director of the Orange Food Pantry was killed in a car accident, Connelly volunteered to step in as a short-term advisor who could bring her experience and offer a sense of direction. What she found was a community much in need of the program and a program falling short of

meeting those needs. Enlisting the help of her sister, she began to put the program back on its feet. For five years, they rented a van and trucked two to three tons of food from Hatfield to Orange each week. In 2006, after suffering a mild heart attack, Connelly stepped down from the program, confident she was leaving it strengthened and revitalized.

Connelly has worked most of her adult life to help people in her community and she takes justifiable pride in what she's done. Over the years, she's had quite a few interesting experiences, some poignant, some humorous. One night in Turners, a man who'd had a little too much to drink wandered in. When he became disruptive, Connelly politely asked him to leave, at which point he started to give her a hard time. All of a sudden, his demeanor changed and he turned and left the building. It wasn't until Connelly turned around and saw eight of her senior citizen patrons, some with canes raised, that she understood why. She'd had their back all these years; they were simply returning the favor.

Amy Connelly is just one of many people working to bring about change. She'd be the first to downplay her contributions as anything more than the daily activity of fellowship, lending a hand to fellow travelers on the planet.

What makes someone exhibit the commitment, passion and dedication that she brings to her community? I can't answer that, and neither could her kids, her priest, or anyone else I interviewed for this article. Like the people I sat with the night of the meal, each person I talked to had

his or her own favorite story about Amy Connelly. They talked about her cool, measured approach to her mission, and how that rubs off on others. They marveled at the way she involves people, building a sense of community while feeding those in need. Everyone talked about how she breaks down barriers, insisting that servers share the meal, sitting among those in attendance. In so doing, she teaches everyone that we are not so different, that any of us could be in a position of need.

Both the Connelly girls, Maureen and Emma, have grown up working at the program. Fr. Stan, pastor of Our Lady of Peace, pointed out that they bear witness to the work their mother does and share her passion for it. This has given them a greater awareness of who they are. He proudly told me about the program Emma developed at Our Lady of Peace, in her role as a youth group advisor, a program she titled "Junior Justice." Each week, she and her youth group class would collect a dollar from folks, which she'd then use to buy milk for the various programs her mother was involved in.

Amy Connelly has always held true to her contention that as long as the community meals program continues to embrace its original mission it will survive, until it's no longer needed. Realistically, that day is not as close as she'd like, but there was the night that a woman stood and announced that she would not be returning as she didn't need the program any more. It's nights like those that keep Connelly going.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Alarms and a Heated Argument

Thursday 8-30

6:52 p.m. Fire alarm at Slate Library, all o.k.

Friday 8-31

8:00 p.m. General burglar alarm at the Gill Elementary School. Teacher on site.

Saturday 9-1

12:00 a.m. Assisted Northfield Police in a high speed pursuit. Operator apprehended.

1:50 p.m. Medical assistance requested for a Main Road residence.

Sunday 9-2

1:10 a.m. Officer checked suspicious motor vehicle in the South Cross - West Gill Road area.

1:31 p.m. Road rage incident reported on French King Hwy near Wagon Wheel restaurant.

3:30 p.m. Officer assisted Montague police with a motor vehicle crash on Montague City Road.

11:19 p.m. Checked subject behind closed business on Main Road. Involved parties had permission to be there.

Monday 9-3

4:31 p.m. Assisted fire depart-

ment with fire alarm at Northfield Mount Hermon

5:15 p.m. Two car motor vehicle crash at Gill lights on French King Highway.

6:35 p.m. Officer assisted Bernardston police with a domestic incident in progress.

9:50 p.m. Assisted Erving police with motor vehicle accident with injury at Semb Drive and Rt. 63.

Tuesday 9-4

9:20 p.m. 911 call at West Gill Road residence for past heated argument. All o.k. upon arrival.

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LOST

continued from p. 1

Montague Community TV were to "re-up" such a series with a local twist, it might well be titled "Finder of Lost Loveds" and star Chet Chin of Turners Falls as a public detective who specializes in locating metal objects "gone missing" from the body, but not from the mind, of the dispossessed. Items Chin searches for are sometimes of sentimental, or intrinsic value, such as rings, bracelets, and necklaces, and other times more mundane, but essential to the smooth conduct of everyday life, such as car keys, cell phones, nails in the driveway which keep puncturing tires.

In contrast to Franciosa who played fictional detective Cary Maxwell, owner of Maxwell Unlimited, Chin factually lives his investigative role as the owner of Chet's Metal Detectors, a business operated for the past three years from his home at 65 Millers Falls Road. He is an authorized White's Metal Detectors dealer and will be demonstrating more than half a dozen models at a booth under the grandstand at the Franklin County Fair this year.

Chin became a metal detecting hobbyist ten years ago. Since 2004, he has been president of the Mohawk Artifact Recovery Club which has more than 30 members from

Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties, as well as from communities in southern New Hampshire and Vermont. In addition to prospecting on their own for whatever they might find, Chin and other club members are open to requests to look for lost items.

One success story among many involved Eric Murphy of Amherst. In May, Murphy had spent hours moving wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of dirt across his yard to build up an area around a patio. When he started, his wedding ring was on his hand, but when he finished, it was gone.

Following weeks of fruitless search, including use of a metal detector, Murphy contacted Chin in July.

Tracing and retracing the path Murphy had taken, Chin found numerous coins, tab tops from cans, and a Hot Wheels toy car. Then he struck pay dirt.

"As he handed me the ring," Murphy said, "a feeling of great excitement, happiness, and relief flooded over me. We had looked at possible replacement rings, but that ring was my true wedding ring, the one my wife put on my finger the day we were married. That was the only ring my heart really wanted."

Chin was born in Boston in May, 1944. His father died when Chin was 11, and the family moved from downtown

Boston to Dorchester. He graduated from Boston Trade High School in 1963, where he studied electricity for four years.

Following two years as an electrician's apprentice, Chin qualified for a journeyman's license in September, 1965. He enlisted in the Air Force the following month, hoping to follow his trade, but because he was colorblind, the Air Force trained him as a parachute rigger instead.

"I had to learn how to sew and put up with being called a 'panty packer,'" Chin said, "which was tough to take for someone raised in the projects of Boston." Following 14 weeks of training at Chanute Air Base in central Illinois, he was asked to stay on as an instructor. "That was the beginning of my teaching career," Chin said, "and the best lesson I learned was that you don't have to like the job you are assigned, but you do have to do the job."

Chin signed up for a second tour and was sent to Udorn Air Base in northern Thailand for a year. He requested a transfer back to Chanute as an instructor, but had to agree to an extra 10 months of duty. When he returned to Boston following discharge as a Staff Sergeant in August, 1970, Chin combined electrical training with teacher training. From September of that year to June, 1973, he taught shop and theory at Don

Bosco Technical School during the day and courses at Coyne Electrical School at night for people preparing for journeyman's and master electrician licensure. From mid-1973 to mid-1977, Chin worked as an electrician for the Jordan Marsh Company in Boston during the day and took courses at night and on weekends to qualify for state certification as a licensed electrical teacher.

During the summer of 1977 Chin learned about a job opening at the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls, which was preparing to begin its second year of operation. Following an interview, he was hired to teach electricity shop, theory, and code, and did so until mid-2000, then took a year off. When Chin returned the following year, he switched from electricity to computers and taught courses in computer literacy and computer applications, such as word processing, spreadsheets, database, and internet web page construction, until June, 2004, when he retired.

In addition to his on-campus Tech School tenure, for a decade beginning in the late-1970s, Chin was instructor for Tech School evening classes conducted at Greenfield Community College. From the early-1990s until retirement, he taught evening classes at GCC in computer and internet basics.

For Chin, retirement has not meant a life with feet propped up on a porch railing and constant reminiscing about the "good old days." In addition to his metal detector business, Chin and his wife, Beth, are involved in a number of adventures which are variations on the theme of electronics.

In 1996 Chin joined the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club and became a licensed "ham radio" operator. In 2006, Beth matched him. His call sign is N1XPT and hers is KB1NQL.

In 2005 the Chins joined the Community Emergency Response Team which functions under the umbrella of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and provides first aid, incident management, and radio communication services. CERT played a vital role in the October, 2005, safe evacuation of residents from a flooded trailer park located in the Meadows section of Greenfield.

Since 2006 the Chins have been members of the Franklin County Medical Reserve Corps, an organization composed primarily of doctors, nurses, and EMTs. In the event of a pandemic or other kind of massive medical need, the Corps would be activated and respond anywhere in the local area. Beth is a Licensed Practical Nurse and does double duty with Chet in providing computer and communications skills.

"We believe it is important to be involved in things which give back to the community," Chin said. "Long ago I learned the truth of the saying 'What goes around, comes around.' I grew up in a family that was very poor. The Boston community showed us a lot of generosity then. I want to return what I can to this community where I am now."

For Franklin County, that kind of spirit is a real find.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Vehicle Pursued on Main

Tuesday 8-28

8:31 p.m. Report of breaking and entering at a North Street address.

8:51 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for unarmed burglary, larceny from a building, resisting arrest, and fugitive from justice resulting from a warrant from NH.

Wednesday 8-29

12:30 p.m. Medical emergency at an Old State Road address.

Assisted with medical care. BHA transported to hospital.

Thursday 8-30

3:00 p.m. Alarm Northfield Road. Spoke with home owner, all set.

Friday 8-21

2:30 p.m. Report of chair in travel lane of French King Bridge. Item moved to side of road.

4:00 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted].

[redacted] for receiving stolen property.

Saturday 9-1

1:05 a.m. Attempted to stop motor vehicle traveling west on Route 2. Vehicle fled north on Route 63. Northfield Police pursued vehicle north on Main Street. Operator was stopped and arrested by Erving Police. Custody turned over to Northfield Police.

6:15 p.m. Report of keys locked in car at Country Store With dog inside. Entry to vehicle gained.

Sunday 9-2

9:00 p.m. Walk in to station reports wallet stolen at Laurel Lake Campground. Information taken.

9:00 p.m. Accident on Route 63 at Semb Drive. Box truck vs. car. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating motor vehicle after suspension.

Monday 9-3

9:30 p.m. Report of a barking dog in Forrest Street area.

Tuesday 9-4

7:10 p.m. Noise complaint. Older teens hanging out at Elementary School Playground around 11:00 p.m. making noise.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - *Q. I'm a 61-year-old woman and I've been experiencing some incontinence lately. A friend told me there are exercises I can do to help the situation. Do you know what she's talking about?*

First, talk to your doctor about the incontinence. Don't begin any exercise program without a check-up.

Your friend is probably referring to "Kegel exercises," which

were developed 60 years ago by Dr. Arnold Kegel to control incontinence in women after childbirth. These exercises are now recommended for both women and men who experience urinary or fecal incontinence.

Kegel exercises strengthen the muscles of the pelvic floor. The exercises improve the functioning of both the urethral and rectal sphincters.

The muscles that are developed through the Kegel program are the ones you feel when you try to stop the flow of urine. After about eight weeks of exercising, you usually see results, such as less frequent urine leakage.

Urinary and fecal incontinence are examples of "pelvic-floor dis-

orders." Others include constipation, rectal pain, vaginal prolapse, rectal prolapse, pelvic pain and sexual dysfunction. In medicine, prolapse means that an organ has slipped out of place.

The pelvic floor is a network of muscles, ligaments and other tissues that hold up the pelvic organs - the vagina, rectum, uterus and bladder. When this network - often described as a hammock - weakens, the organs can shift and create disorders.

Women who delivered several children vaginally and suffered tissue damage during childbirth are at higher risk for pelvic-floor disorders. Another risk factor is obesity, because added weight strains the pelvic floor. A predis-

position to have weak connective tissue can add to the problem.

Aging and menopause contribute to disorders. More than half of women age 55 and older suffer a pelvic-floor dysfunction.

About one in three women in the U.S. will have one of these dysfunctions in her lifetime. One in nine women will have corrective surgery for one of these problems. Because women are embarrassed by pelvic-floor disorders, they underreport them.

It should be noted that men can suffer from pelvic-floor disorders, but less commonly than women.

In severe cases of pelvic dysfunction, women feel pressure or a pull in the vagina or lower back. The opening of the uterus may

stick out from the vagina.

There are many ways to treat pelvic-floor problems.

Some women relieve their symptoms with Kegel exercises. Eliminating caffeine, a diuretic, can help. Eating more fiber can improve bowel function. Pessaries, plastic devices that come in many sizes and shapes, can be inserted into the vagina to support pelvic organs.

And then there is surgery, which can be done vaginally or through the abdomen. The surgical method is determined by the type of problem. More than 200,000 American women have corrective surgery annually.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com.

DOORS

continued from pg 1

even more than it already is as an interesting community where you can enjoy living."

So far, it looks as if Berger, Janke, Brewster and Wisniewski have already achieved some of their goal. Over the three days I spent bellying up to the bar - I mean researching this article - I met at least a half-dozen friends and neighbors, and got introduced to several folks I'd seen before but never met. They came from all age groups (two and a half to 75) and professions (carpenters, at least one plumber and more than a few artists), and all seemed to feel almost instantly a connection to the place and to one another. The beer on tap, the fine wine available by the glass, the array of liquors from common garden varieties to more exotic scotches and whiskies, and the interesting and eclectic menu also helped the bonding experience.

But even here, there is a real sense of how the owners have their community in mind. A pint of Pabst can be had for \$2.25; a BBC Steel Rail pint costs \$3.75. Wines range from \$4 to \$7 a glass. And for the teetotaler or under 21 set, a nice

mix of non-alcoholic drinks are also available.

The menu, too, has something for everybody: cheese plates for \$4.99, Frito nachos for \$3.99, grilled PB&J with Fritos (a big hit with the little guys) for \$2.99. The sandwiches, of which I sampled three types, are delicious and affordable ranging from \$4.99 to \$6.99. Of special importance is that the kitchen closes at 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and on midnight Friday and Saturday. This is welcome news to many in Montague who have long wondered why (with the notable exception of Chinatown) there seems to be a self-imposed 9 p.m. food curfew in Turners.

Although the doors opened at 3:00 p.m. last Saturday, the gala grand opening is set for the 12th of September through the 16th. The opening festivities kick off with the first of what will be a monthly reading series at 8:00 p.m. on the 12th. Likely readers include owners Janke and Berger, along with community stakeholders like Patricia Pruitt (Turners Falls poet and Montague selectboard member), Sara Jaffe from UMass, former Lady Killigrew owner Matthew Latkiewicz and other

notables yet to be noted.


On Thursday, the 13th, at 8:00 p.m., comic Eugene Mirman and friends will entertain the troops. An irregular on several sitcoms, Mirman's first Comedy Central half hour special will air this fall.

On Friday, the 14th at 8:00 p.m., a variety of live music will be on tap. The lineup begins with Rusty Bell, whom Berger describes as "kind of honky-tonky, quirky, bohemian, Tom Waits-y," followed by Northampton-based Wood Green Empire, a gypsy jazz quartet. Also on stage that evening will be a New York

jazz quartet called "I Am The Color of Dead Leaves," featuring "hotshot sax player" Nathan Hobbs who lives in Amherst. And finally, (although they'll likely lead off the evening as they are the mellowest of the bunch), the Robert and Glenda Holmes Lounge Duo, a mostly acoustic duet who play covers of odd and cheesy sixties and seventies material, some of it tongue-in-cheek, some of it heartfelt, who come from Brattleboro. Robert was a member of Til Tuesday and is the leader of the wedding and party band sensation LoveBomb.

Sunday, the 16th, at 7 and 9, will feature the *Found Magazine* road show led by Davey Rothbart, a frequent contributor to NPR's "This American Life."

Regular events the 'Voo' gang hopes to make permanent are special nights for special events. On Tuesday nights, for instance, a knitters' circle is envisioned, and Wednesday nights will feature games and gaming.

You can dock your shuttle at The Rendezvous seven days a week from 3 p.m. until 1 a.m. Things are looking up. 

Tattling on the Tatting Club


BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

TURNERS FALLS - After day four at The Rendezvous, Boddington's from England takes the lead as my new favorite beer. I haven't gotten to the wine list yet. Maybe next week. The girls are impacting what the boys play on the juke box. How cute is that? Feed, feed, feed the machine. I met Beulah, a 13 week-old puppy on the porch. Perfect manners. Opening day there was a line to play Ms. Pac Man. It just wasn't straight. So far

the best new idea at the bar has been to recreate *Little Women*, with the women as cops. Some goofypants on the kitchen staff was wearing a beer foam mustache soon after his shift was over on Monday. Results from Tuesday's Craft Night: knit swatches for fingerless gloves and the embroidery beginnings of a bird. Maybe change the selectboard meetings to The Rendezvous knitters' circle? Do you domino? There are rumors of

game nights on Wednesdays. Be the first to win The Simpson's board game. Update: the grilled PBJ now comes with bonus Fritos! The Guinness tap isn't in yet, but once it is, Lisa the Bartender assures all that it will be poured properly. You'll have time for a bathroom break, a smoke break, and to connect to the wireless wonders of the internet if you choose before you ever see it. Also coming soon, the Nockle-me-down cocktail!

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The Fall of the Mill of Usher

BY REPORTER STAFF

Soon the Usher Plant, long an albatross around the neck of the collective ownership of Erving Paper Mills, will disappear. What the arsonists began on July 30th, Patriot Environmental, Inc will finish, in the very near future. The shell of the Usher building left standing after the midnight blaze will be demolished by Patriot, who closed the deal and purchased the property last week.

The purchase and eventual demolition was good news to Morris Hausen and the town of Erving. Hausen and affiliated owners had long been attempting to sell the abandoned factory complex, which sits on the banks of the Millers River in Erving Center. With the sale, the town of Erving will recoup \$194,135 owed in back taxes, penalties and interest on the plant. The windfall due to the payment of the Usher debt will

enter the town general fund for the time being. Certification by the state Department of Revenue, expected next year, will then allow the town to classify the money as free cash, according to Tom Sharp, Erving administrative coordinator.

In the meantime, the permitting process for demolition of the former shoe factory moves forward. Jim Hawkins, the Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspector had wanted it down by August 15th. He said he wants 95% of what is there to be gone and the debris removed as soon as possible.

The DEP representative, Bob Schultz, is overseeing the demo-



The Usher Mill burned on the night of July 30th in an arson fire. The new owner will soon demolish the structure, but he is not saying what his plans are for the property after that.

lition of the complex for the state of Massachusetts. The presence of asbestos in the building requires careful monitoring of the site by the DEP. Water will be continually sprayed on the site during demolition to keep the movement of

dust to a minimum.

Ron Bussiere, president of Patriot Environmental, the plant's new owner, has said hazardous material from the site will be sent to Ohio, to be entombed in an abandoned mine shaft where similar debris is sent

from all over the Northeast. He did not disclose his company's specific future plans for the property when questioned by town officials during a site visit last week.

In addition to DEP permits, Patriot will need emergency certification from the Erving Conservation Commission to perform the demolition within the Riverfront Protection Area. The Natural Heritage Agency of the state will also need to approve the work, since the project is within endangered species habitat.

A demolition permit will be issued under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. Given the location of the property, which is within one hundred feet of the Millers River, any future work at the site will necessarily be determined and limited by permitted activity within the Riverfront Protection Zone.

SCHOOLS from pg 1

override article, then Montague will have to make up the entire shortfall in their school assessment from reserves.

[At the same special town meeting, members will also act on a warrant to place a debt exclusion article before the voters of Montague, for a new \$5.1 million police station on Turnpike Road.]

Gill administrative assistant Tracy Rogers said Gill is preparing for an override vote of comparable size sometime in October. The town will be asking voters to approve approximately \$150,000, 80% of which would go to meet their share of the revised school budget. The remainder - about \$30,000 - would be needed to meet the budgets of other town departments at the amounts approved by annual town meeting in May. Rogers said local receipts had been coming in slightly lower than anticipated when the omnibus was passed, making the override even more of a necessity.

Rogers said the selectboard will wait to set a firm date for the override vote until the town's triennial property revaluation is complete, so that they can inform citizens exactly what the impact will be on the tax rate. At the time of the annual town meeting, Gill officials had said they would still need to find around \$27,000 in new revenue or savings to meet departmental budgets as approved.

Interim Gill-Montague superintendent Ken Rocke said he made the recommendation to reduce the GMRSD operating budget by \$176,000 once he learned that lower out of district special education placements would allow the GMRSD some unexpected savings this year. Under the leadership of special education director Cynthia Joyce, the schools were able to reduce out-of-district placements from 27 to 15 this year.

"She's been instrumental in bringing special education students back to the district," said Rocke. "Not only will these stu-

dents remain in the district at lower cost, but they will receive as good or better services from our programs, in our classrooms," Rocke said.

The former Old Mill program, established in 2005 by Joyce's predecessor, Laurie Farkas, to educate special education students in district on the upper floor of the old Sheffield School building, has been dissolved under Joyce's tenure, Rocke noted, in favor of establishing classrooms for special education students to be educated near their mainstream counterparts.

Even with the expected savings, Rocke said, "The budget is very, very tight, and special education costs are unpredictable by their very nature." Therefore, if anticipated SPED savings do not materialize fully, Rocke said it may be necessary for the district to dip into its excess and deficiency account to make up the added cuts to its '08 operating budget. There is an estimated \$250,000 to \$300,000 in this account, which is normally car-

ried forward until an end of fiscal year audit certifies the amount. But in duress, the district could access these funds by vote of the school committee to meet present operating expenses. However, Rocke said, the account is normally viewed as insurance against unexpected contingencies that may arise during the school year, and stripping it early in the year will leave the district unguarded in the event of emergencies that may occur.

Rocke informed the school committee that the state will allocate only \$21,000 in additional "pothole funds" to the GMRSD this year, less than the amount hoped for to make up budget shortfalls.

The Massachusetts Department of Education has placed the Gill-Montague school district on the "underperforming" list due to a lack of fiscal capacity to meet educational goals, and a lack of administrative leadership to meet these goals. Rocke said the DOE will be sending a three person team

at the end of September to evaluate the GMRSD, now that a budget has been passed, and to see whether the recent changes in the district's administrative team has alleviated some of the leadership deficiencies outlined in the DOE report.

A new principal, Bill McDonald, has been hired to work half-time at both Montague Center School and Gill Elementary. Anna-Stine Ohlson has been hired as the new curriculum development coordinator for the upper grades. She will also work as MCAS coordinator, program developer, and evaluator of teaching and learning at the high school and middle school. Upper school principal Jeff Kenney has taken on the additional role of director of secondary education. At Sheffield, guidance counselor Kevin White will be assuming a dual role as half time assistant principal, freeing principal Chip Wood to work half-time as director of teaching and learning for grades K-5, while at

continued next page

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
First Annual Pothole Pictures Shelburne Falls Film Festival. An Evening with Steve Alves. Interwoven selections from his 6 films with music from the Falltown String Band. \$10. This event is co-sponsored by the Franklin Land Trust, Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust & CISA.

Moonlight & Morningstar perform at The Smokin' Hippo, Erving at 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Green Thumb Brothers*: Reggae, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heros* - Rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *John Sheldon & Blue Streak* - Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill Concert: *The David Goodrich/ Ross Bellenoit Group*. Modern jazz, shockingly quiet and unbelievably loud. Arrive early for couches, armchairs, and to browse the books, Montague Center. 8pm, \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, unless noted otherwise. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, student tickets \$10

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mawwal*: Acoustic World Music, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic* hosted by Dave Boatwright - All welcome to play, 9 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heros* - Rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

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Paul Kaplan performs Saturday, September 15th at the Montague Bookmill, 8 p.m. "Paul Kaplan has a rare gift for writing and singing songs in the old troubadour tradition. His new CD "After the Fire" is reminiscent of the works of Gordon Lightfoot and Stan Rogers, with beautiful melodies and strong narratives seamlessly crafted into one classic ballad after another. This is the work of a master."
- David Massengill

Grand Opening Gala at the Rendezvous, 3rd street, Turners Falls. Live music! 8 p.m. \$8.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Horseshoe Tournament Day!* 4 Bands, BBQ, starts at 1 p.m.

Montague Bookmill Concert: *Paul Kaplan*: contemporary folk from the man who sang "Run, Al, Run!" 8 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Grand Opening Gala at the Rendezvous, 3rd Street, Turners Falls. *Dance Party!* Free.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH & 16TH
9th Annual North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival at Forster's Farm, Orange. Music, food, garlic! Adults \$5/day or \$8 for the weekend, kids under 12 free. Info at www.garlicandarts.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
Scandinavian Dance at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Music by Petra Kirstein, Andrea Larson and friends. Dancers with all levels of experience are welcome. No partner necessary. \$8 donation. 3 to 6 p.m. Info scandia2ndsunday@aol.com or (413) 253-0525.

Grand Opening at the Rendezvous: *Found Magazine* has two shows at 7 & 9 p.m. Suggested donation \$4.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
Live Jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 to 9 p.m.

BEGINNING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
Shea Theater acting classes for ages 7 to 10 yrs. old. Classes run for eight weeks, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. \$75, information at www.theshea.org or 863-2281.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

Childhood vaccinations talk by Naturopath, Dr. Emily Maiella. We will talk about what is in (and not in) the vaccinations, if the vaccine is "live" or not, what side effects and contraindications have been observed. Held at Green Fields Market, Greenfield, Free. 6:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
At The Shea Theatre, Turners Falls. Kelly Moore & Emerald Dreams Music For Mankind. www.musicformankind.net

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Day at The Beach* with Judi & Jeff Bauman: Folk & Country, 9 - 11 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND
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.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Radio Free Earth*: Acoustic Duo, 9 - 11 p.m.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25TH
Hymn to the Earth An exhibit of luminous imagery by photographer Ron Rosenstock, featuring landscapes of beauty and spirit from Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, South America, India

and the United States. Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Thurs.-Sun. 1-5 p.m. 863-0009.

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. The concert is sponsored by the BFMC Healing Environment Committee. The public is invited. Refreshments served. In inclement weather, the concert will take place in the hospital's main lobby. Free.

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 September 27th to December 16th.

The National Spiritual Alliance conducts a *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 George 624-3383 or Angela 863-9920.

Pianist/composer **Adam Bergeron** solo show at Deja Brew, Wendell. Admission is free for restaurant & bar patrons, 8 p.m. Feature is his interpretations of 18th and 19th Century composers, original compositions for solo piano, and classical improvisations. Visit www.adambergeron.com

THROUGH NOVEMBER 4TH
Made of Thunder, Made of Glass: American Indian Beadwork of the Northeast features one hundred beaded bags and hats from the Gerry Biron & JoAnne Russo collection. Accompanied by contemporary paintings of Native Americans by Gerry Biron, of Mi'kmaq descent. Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 774-7476.

AUDITIONS
Shea Young Stage Company will produce *Alice in Wonderland* with auditions: September 19th, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Casting of 20+ for actors ages 11-14. Audition will consist of warm-up, improv and reading. No prepared piece. Please arrive at 4:30 p.m., unless prior arrangements have been made. Rehearsals will be Monday and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., beginning September 24th. Performances November 30th and

December 1st. Directed by Melissa Urey. For those cast, fee of \$175 for production costs charged.

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SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 9TH, & 16TH
Great Falls GeoWalk. Turner Falls lies amidst some of the most interesting geology of Western Massachusetts. 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.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS SEPTEMBER 11TH, 12TH, 18TH, & 19TH
Nature@8 is an early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Participants will meet at the bird bath outside the main entrance to the Discovery Center 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.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
Earth Rangers: "Making Tracks" Hands-on Earth science education for children 5 years and older and their families. FREE. Designed to educate young people about conservation of Earth's resources. 11 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - www.greatfallsma.org

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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Gardener's Delight

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - Anyone trying to predict the activities of Mother Nature is a fool. Think of the weather business, for example. During World War II, the scuttlebutt was that the accuracy of weather prediction didn't extend beyond three days. We haven't really advanced much past that today, in spite of huge technological advances in the field.

My late husband, Woody, used to enjoy telling an anecdote from his days as an early morning announcer for WHAI. Apparently he was serenely reading the weather copy which described a cool but sunny day, when he happened to look out the window to see thick snowflakes falling.

"Holy (expletive)," he said on the air, "Look at that (expletive) snow!" There was more trouble to be had in the lecture from John Haigis, station owner, than the weather man ever got into for being so far wrong.

Early this month, when I was so impatient for the first full-sized tomato that I was checking the vines daily and still finding the fruit green, I guessed (and put in print) that I would endure ten to fourteen more days of waiting. Right. The Friday that copy of the *Reporter* hit the front porch floor, I picked half a dozen beauties in time to take them on my final summer trip

Downeast. Five days from green to yellowish to red. I hadn't factored in the potential effect of rain and intense warmth.

It's reassuring to remember that we're only human and in spite of science, there are still many mysteries.

Now, of course, the tomatoes are coming in madly. There are ten plants out there in the garden, more than any one person needs, but you can always find takers for the extra fruit and there is much that can be done in the kitchen to handle the overflow. The main reason I overproduced was to allow for plant loss due to varmints or disease, and to try several new varieties. I grew three old favorites and three older tomatoes new to me.

Gardener's Delight continues to be the stand-out for flavor and juiciness. Eating these little round cherries is like eating candy right off the vine. This is an acidic yet sweet tomato and a very prolific one. The one downside of this variety is a tendency for cracking in the fruit. This happens when the plant is over watered and when the fruit is overripe. These are faults I can easily live with as this is absolutely the best tasting tomato ever.

Bush Celebrity and



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

Brandywine Red come as close as can be to the flavor of the cherries. These tomatoes are smaller versions of Celebrity and Brandywine which are large, ribbed beauties more prone to cracking. These two tomatoes are juicy and tangy, have produced well, and have an additional advantage over their larger cousins. If you're short on garden space or have a patio or porch garden, these two plants can be grown in a tub, or can if provided with a little support. Either version of these tomatoes is excellent for slicing and for that summertime favorite sand-

wich, the BLT.

Believe It Or Not is a beefsteak tomato which certainly lived up to its name. The fruit weighs between 10-16 ounces and is so meaty that the seed sacs take up the slimmest perimeter of the fruit. One beautiful slice would cover that quarter-pounder of beef or turkey with no problem. The tomato flavor is good although not exceptional. The bottom line is the eating factor. A sandwich made with Celebrity or Brandywine is a three napkin affair. Because Believe It Or Not is mostly meat with less juice, you could probably eat one out of hand with one napkin. It's all about what you personally define as a great tomato.

Arkansas Traveler and Box

Car Willie have produced smooth medium-sized pink (Arkansas) and red (Box Car) fruit that can honestly be described as both meaty and bland. These tomatoes are best suited for further kitchen attention. They would no doubt make good canned tomatoes, could be used in a tomato-vegetable juice recipe and might just be improved in flavor by roasting. I'm more a fan of hearty off the vine eating with just the embellishment of a little vinegar and oil. After all, there are plenty of commercial producers of canned tomatoes, sauces and juices. Not only that, but it's a terribly long year until the next fresh tomato season. *Carpe diem* and enjoy!

If you insist on cooking, try these roasted tomatoes. They take time, but they are delicious, and your oven does most of the work.

Slow Roasted Tomatoes

- a recipe -

Use only very meaty tomatoes sliced thickly. Put in a roasting pan and drizzle with olive oil.

Add to the top some chopped basil and salt if desired.

Add to the pan cloves of garlic, unpeeled.

Roast at 200 degrees for 6-8 hours.

Place on a platter and squeeze out the roasted garlic onto the tomatoes.

Enjoy at room temperature as a side dish or with fish or pasta.



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