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# The Recorder

198th Year-No. 190

28 Pages

Greenfield, Massachusetts

SINCE 1792



Jennifer Kenne

## County funds set aside for shelter

By NICOLE CUSANO  
Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — Franklin County commissioners have agreed to use \$4,500 from an emergency fund to support the operation of a temporary homeless shelter in Turners Falls.

Located at the Franklin Area Survival Center on Fourth Street in Turners Falls, the temporary shelter opened in June and will serve homeless men and women until a permanent facility opens at 219 Silver St.

The permanent shelter is scheduled to open by November 1.

Homelessness is an issue that "transcends town lines," commissioner Margaret Striebel said after the commissioners' unanimous vote Thursday. The shelter is a county shelter, so it is appropriate for the county to offer financial support, she said.

The county's contribution, along with a \$4,500 United Way grant and \$589 in private contributions, will fund the temporary shelter's operating budget of \$9,589, according to Kit Hinga, chairwoman of the Franklin County-Athol Homeless Coalition, one of the agencies running the facility.

The county funding will come from the Starkweather Fund. This fund was established in 1963 with a \$17,895 bequest, according to County Treasurer Jean Smith.

According to the terms of the bequest, the interest earned on the \$17,000 can be used for emergency requests for human service programs, Smith said.

In July the temporary shelter served 29 men and women, according to a report for July. Between three and eight people stayed at the shelter each night of the month, the report said.

In addition to providing shelter, food and clothing, the facility has also assisted guests in finding permanent housing, employment, and substance abuse programs, according to the report.

The shelter's \$9,589 budget will pay for two staff positions as well as utility costs, client transportation, and telephone and laundry expenses.

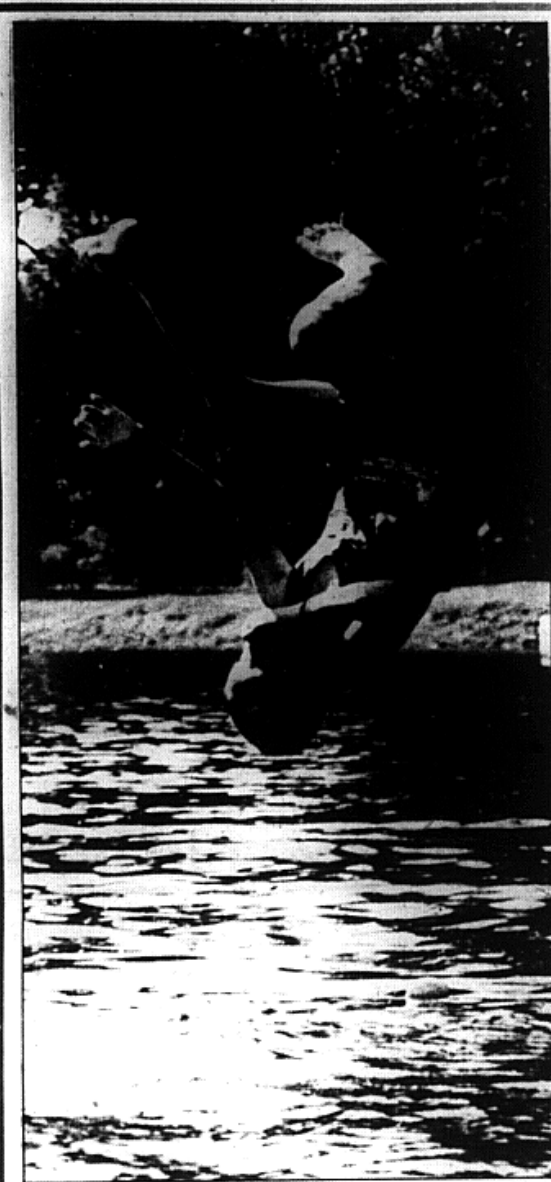
The shelter's original proposed budget was \$12,220. But when the survival center received only \$4,500 of the \$7,000 it requested from United Way, the budget was trimmed accordingly, survival center director Joseph Raba said.

Cuts were made in salaries for the shelter's manager and assistant manager, he said.

The temporary shelter became necessary after a state-funded Salvation Army shelter on Chapman Street closed in April.

Some homeless were put up in the county courthouse for several nights until the temporary shelter opened.

The Franklin County-Athol Homeless Coalition has applied for a \$300,000 federal grant to run a permanent shelter on Silver Street. Hinga said Thursday the coalition expects a response to its grant application by the end of August.



Recorder/Peter MacDonald

## Newton, take note

River Leon of Greenfield seems to defy the law of gravity as he does a flip at the Greenfield Municipal Swimming Pool Thursday.

## The mural

### Reactions to proposed design proving mixed

By LUCY LEETE  
Recorder Intern

GREENFIELD — Reactions to a proposed mural to be painted opposite the Veteran's War Memorial downtown beginning Tuesday range from a few favorable comments to many expressions of discomfort and dismay, based on a sampling taken at the Greenfield Public Library.

A scaled-down version of the mural, on display in the library, has

drawn eight legal-size pages of reactions since it was put on display about 2½ weeks ago.

According to project coordinator Rebekka Tippens, who spoke with the artist Monday, some of the suggestions have already been incorporated into the fourth draft of the mural.

Artist Janet Braun-Reinitz, of Brooklynn said, "This is what usually happens, and this is what's good." She said she has changed several

## Arabs seek so as Iraq's foes

The Associated Press

Arab leaders today sought a diplomatic way out of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, while the United States forged ahead with a mobilization aimed at protecting Saudi Arabia and increasing pressure on the Baghdad government.

The United States talked of multiplying its "Desert Shield" deployment in Saudi Arabia to as many as 250,000 troops — the most since the Vietnam War — and hinted at a possible naval blockade to choke off Iraq's oil exports.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remained defiant a week after launching the invasion of the oil-rich

kingdom of Kuwait. Iraq on Thursday reportedly massed forces at the northern border with Turkey and southward toward Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Israel test-fired a missile in apparent response to Iraqi threats.

The Baghdad government also closed its borders to foreigners trying to leave Iraq or Kuwait, where a total of about 3,400 Americans remain. After annexing Kuwait on Wednesday, it told all foreign embassies in Kuwait to move their operations to Baghdad by Aug. 24.

A day after the United Nations condemned the annexation, the Arab League held an emergency summit in Cairo today to give Iraq a final chance to withdraw and avoid possi-

## Saudi Oil: The world's

By CHARLES CAMPBELL  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The vital interest America sees in Saudi Arabia is no mystery: it's the oil. The desert kingdom sits on a sea of crude whose flow is crucial for running the engines of the modern global economy.

Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest oil exporter, and its 255 billion barrels of proven reserves give it 25 percent of the world's total.

"The sovereign independence of Saudi Arabia is of vital interest to the United States," President Bush said in dispatching American troops to face off with menacing Iraq.

Experts agree that if Saudi oil fell

to conquest, destruction or intimidation, the consequences would be devastating.

"The word unthinkable is correct," said John Lichtblau, chairman of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation. "If Saudi Arabia were out, 7 million barrels a day would be lost. You couldn't close the gap with prices. You'd have to have worldwide rationing and shortages."

It gets worse. Any set of events that blocks Saudi oil would presumably cut supplies from other Persian Gulf oil exporters as well — certainly Abu Dhabi and maybe Iran. Who knows what would happen next?

"It would be a major international conflict," Lichtblau said. "Oil would

## Oil hikes hit New England

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Washington research group has produced a report that will come as no surprise to beleaguered motorists who lived through the 1970s in the Northeast: if oil prices go up, New England will be hardest hit.

A 50 percent hike in the price of oil over the average 1989 price would translate into an extra \$298 per person per year for New Englanders, a report released Thursday by the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition. The money would cover higher gasoline costs for cars, public

transportation and trucks and higher home heating costs.

By comparison, the national average for such a price hike would be \$241 per person.

The impact on New England could be even greater, said institute policy director Diane De Vaul, because the per capita figures do not include the price impact on oil-fired power plants. New England relies heavily on oil for electricity generation. In Maine, for example, three-fourths of the fuel costs borne by utilities go toward oil purchases. Nationally, only 10 percent of utility fuel costs go for oil.

elements to diminish the "dizzying" quality of the mural, which several commentators had mentioned.

The border will have brighter colors, and some of the background coloring has been changed. The yellow has been toned down.

She also explained that one of the elements that makes the scaled-down drawing look so "busy" is that it is a small rendition of something meant to cover a 98-by-24-foot space.

Other changes include giving a

dog on a leash to "the little boy" in the work — said by the artist to be a symbol of the future walking out of the past. Parents, grandparents and a little girl will also be added to the mural. The buildings will be labeled, and Washington Hall — the former town office building where the police station is now located — will be replaced by Poet's Seat Tower, said Tippens.

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# Mural

From Page 1

Respecting one commentator's wish, the mayflower, which is the state flower, will replace the lilies of the valley.

The depiction of the proposed mural shows black-and-white, photograph-like pictures of several buildings in the area, including Shea Theater, set in a bright background of yellow, purple, green, red and orange. A river, surrounded by fields, flows near the bottom of the painting in bright blue. A cross-stitch-like pattern divides the picture into thirds and forms borders around the "photographs".

Of the 20 people who viewed the library exhibit and wrote comments, only four indicated that they liked it. Although the others did not say that they disliked the work, they did suggest several changes.

In the written comments, many people objected to the dearth of people in the mural. One person commented: "Hopefully, the little boy in the proposed mural will enter the real estate business and he will have the opportunity to market all of what is dominant, i.e. buildings!"

At least three people wrote in comments that they didn't feel that the location on the Borofsky building, overlooking the Main Street veterans mall, was appropriate.

Lois Garston of Leyden wrote, "This proposal...is trite. It looks like a commercial travel poster. It is simplistic and dull. Actually it would take a much more profound artwork to match the (veterans) memorial ... which is now in place."

Paul Coughlin, chairman of the memorial trustees, said he feels that although the mural is "not too offensive," the location is not "proper." He also said he was concerned about

what will happen to the mural three or more years from now.

He mentioned deterioration and graffiti as potential problems. Part of the agreement with the artist, according to the sponsors, is an annual return to repair any damage.

Coughlin said that he would prefer to have no mural at all, and that he is afraid that the mural may have gaudy colors that will detract from the memorial. He was not aware of the artist's plans to tone down the colors.

Coughlin said he is planning to call a meeting of trustees next week. He did not know what course of action he could take, since the mural will be painted on private property.

Coughlin is a veteran with two sons in the Army, and is "very much interested in (the mural)."

Mark Fitzpatrick, veteran's agent for Greenfield, wrote that he felt that the mural lacked anything about American-Soviet relationships. He also said that while he felt that the mural was "pleasant," he would have chosen different sites, such as Greenfield Tap & Die and the Poet's Seat Tower, for use in the simulated photographs.

He wrote that although he has lived in Greenfield for 15 years, he was not familiar with some of the sites in the painting.

Greenfield Selectman Bernard J. McGarrah says he dislikes the idea of the mural, saying, "I wish we didn't have it... I don't think we need any amateur artists coming forth with their thoughts." He also felt that the Veteran's Mall offers enough and the space does not need anything more.

Amy Dryansky, executive director of the Arts Council of Franklin County, said although she didn't know much about the project, "I love the

idea of public art." She also said that it was important that people had a chance to see a version of the mural so that "we don't get what we get."

When asked about the fact that Braun-Reinitz is not a local artist, she said that her "tendency is to want local people." She pointed to the Council's decision to hire local performers for its Saturday's Child series because of current fiscal problems.

Comments on the mural are welcome, said Tippens, who warned that suggestions for any major changes should be made right away.

With the help of several residents, the painting of the project, should take about three weeks, according to Braun-Reinitz.

The mural is being sponsored by the Institute for Cultural Understanding in Colrain and the Traprock Peace Center in Deerfield. In an earlier interview, Braun-Reinitz said "The mural will reflect a respect for things past."

Braun-Reinitz is a muralist who has worked in the Soviet Union, Nicaragua and Liverpool, England, as well as in American cities.

In explaining her work in an interview last month, she said, "The mural will reflect respect for things past." She said at that time that she planned to immerse herself in reading a history of Greenfield, and added that she saw no problem with being an urban-oriented artist trying to capture the feel of a rural town.

According to Tippens, a delegation of young people from Mirgorod in the Ukraine may help paint the mural onto the wall. Mirgorod is Greenfield's "sister city."

The Mirograd delegation is scheduled to arrive Aug. 27 and stay for the mural's dedication Sept. 9.