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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 30

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 15, 2014

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Local Cable Contract Up For Grabs

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday, May 12 the Montague selectboard voted to issue a Request For Proposals for an entity to provide local access television for the town. The current local access provider is Montague Community Cable Incorporated, better known as MCTV, and the vote brought back memories of the long battle to return the administration of local access television to Montague from Greenfield.

In the view of the selectboard, MCTV's failure to notify the town of its desire to continue to be the provider one year in advance of the expiration of its contract, which ends on May 19, kicked in the need for a new RFP process.

Local access television is part of the broader contract between the town of Montague and Comcast for the provision of cable television services to the town. That contract is still under negotiation. MCCI receives a set portion of Comcast revenues, which will continue even though the Comcast contract remains at a stalemate.

Michael Langknecht, president of MCCI's board of directors, and station manager Dean Garvin approached the selectboard with a proposal to simply extend the existing

see MONTAGUE page A7

"It's a Life or Death Situation": Sheila Raye Charles Speaks at TFHS

By PATRICIA PRUITT

GILL-MONTAGUE – On Wednesday, May 7, Turners Falls High School students filed into the theatre to hear a talk by the late singer Ray Charles's daughter, Sheila Raye Charles Steptoe, and her husband Michael Tony Steptoe.

Sheila Raye introduced her husband, Tony, who told his story of going from being a high school senior with a 3.5 GPA and a promising high school athletic record in three sports – a person full of expectation and a sense of possibility for scholarships and opportunities for college – to a felony charge for accessory to a robbery.

His was a case of both being in the wrong place at the wrong time and no good deed goes unpunished. He gave a ride to a man he knew by sight and let him off where he wished to go. The man proceeded to rob a store at gunpoint.

Someone wrote down Tony's license plate number, he was arrested, and did time in jail as an accessory to the crime. He came home with all his aspirations shattered.

In a state of depression over his loss of possibilities he began to smoke marijuana, to take pills, then to shoot heroin, all of which earned him another jail sentence. Altogether, he spent more

than 11 years in prison. His route out of drugs and prison cells was to seek an answer through prayer.

He got honest with himself and started reaching out for something positive. He became humble about his real situation and what it would take to save his life from the dead end where it had stalled.

His advice, based on his experience, was: "Consider every choice." Ironically, in prison he began to formulate new aspirations.

He explained that it was not until he realized he was still going to have to make choices for himself that he was able to visualize what he might make of himself.

Several times he offered students this thought: "A vision is already a reality."

When he got out of prison the second time, he was determined to make a positive life for himself. After training to be an esthetician,

see CHARLES page A6



Charles and her husband tour schools with the cautionary tale of their life experiences.

Gill's Selectboard Candidates Differ On Views of Town

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

At the Gill selectboard forum on Tuesday, May 6, candidates Fred Chase and Gregory Snedeker presented contrasting views on how they would lead the town into the future. The major difference between the two was their assessment of how they regarded the present well-being of the town.

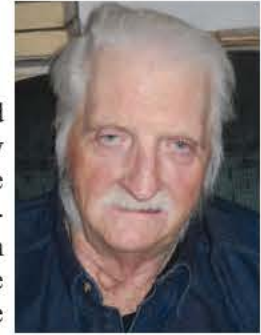
For Chase, the town appeared to be "in horrible shape and needed to be fixed." Snedeker said he believed that while improvements could be made, he thought the town was actually doing well.

For Chase, Gill has become a "point of departure, not a destination." "There's nothing to attract people here," he said.

He was also quite critical of changes that he'd seen take place over the last half-century. "You used to have town hall dances and weekly church suppers. Gill, in fact, was famous for its church suppers. We had a picnic area and a public beach. Now there's nothing."

Snedeker disagreed, saying he didn't see the situation as being so "bleak." "There are many things that bring people to Gill: our schools, Uppinghill, my two favorite restaurants, and the boating club."

Snedeker also noted that it is "easy to complain... but I don't think that's a point of departure to



Chase, left, and Snedeker, right.

build community."

For Chase, the most pressing need is to increase the tax base. Citing statistics of income and unemployment, he remarked that one-third of the residents of Gill are on fixed incomes: "We can't expect these people to pay more."

He said he would attempt to create a 5- to 7-year "expansion plan" for Gill, with a particular emphasis on attracting small businesses. He also said the town should investigate grants that would aid the town.

Snedeker agreed that it was difficult for some people in town, but felt that the selectboard and town committees had done "a very good job navigating the town over the last 20 years."

While noting that increasing the tax base was certainly important, he took a more cautious approach to how this could best be achieved. He said as selectman he would seek advice from various town committees on how the town could achieve growth.

see GILL page A5

Erving: Town Meeting Calls For New Zoning Regulations To Allow Gas Station

By KATIE NOLAN

On Wednesday, May 7, the Erving annual town meeting approved spending \$25,000 toward a state matching grant funding a feasibility study for the library.

The meeting also instructed the planning board and selectboard to develop new zoning regulations that might allow a gas station at the Dunkin' Donuts and convenience store on the corner of French King Highway and Semb Drive.

Finance committee member Arthur Johnson said that, although the printed warrant showed that the finance committee approved the library study appropriation, the vote was split 3-2.

Johnson said he voted against recommending it because, "I just didn't want to get into a [financial] situation like Orange or Athol... The library is doing fine as it is. It is more than big enough the way it is and is meeting everybody's needs in Erving."

He added that he didn't want to have the town end up spending "one hundred thousand or a million" for a new library building. Asked from the floor if he had ever been in the library, Johnson replied, "No."

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo said of the library, "they do a lot of good work

there," and listed free computer access, DVDs, books, science programs, and a visit from the Lego Lady. He noted that the state share of the grant is for \$50,000, giving the town \$75,000 to complete the feasibility study.

Jacqueline Boyden told the meeting that the feasibility study would explore ideas about whether the library should expand in its current location, build new, or reuse an existing town building.

Library director Barbara Friedman said the purpose for studying the library facility was to "make the library relevant for the 21st century."

Finance committee chair Daniel Hammock said that library expansions can be controversial, but he knows the members of the library feasibility committee and he "trusts them to be thoughtful and frugal people."

Town clerk Richard Newton suggested that rather than a "one-off" study, the town should take a holistic approach and consider if there is a way to consolidate uses

of town buildings.

A straw poll initiated by Newton indicated that townspeople liked the idea of the holistic approach. However, Friedman told the meeting that the language in the article was carefully written to meet the requirements of the matching grant and that changes could jeopardize the grant application.

The library study appropriation passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Article 5 asked the town to allow "the development and construction of a gas station

see ERVING page A4



Erving dedicated its annual town report to Robert Bitzer, who has represented the town on the Franklin County Technical School committee for 24 years. Bitzer was praised for his years of active participation on the school committee, several subcommittees, and at in-school and after-school events. According to the profile in the town report, "Every annual town meeting, Mr. Bitzer has taken the time to come and give a short speech about the importance of the Franklin County Technical School and vocational education."

Public Transit "Conversations" Begin

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – "If there were no funding limitations, what transit service would you want?"

That is how Maureen Mullaney, a planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, kicked off the new process to evaluate fixed route service provided by the Franklin Regional Transit Service.

But since there are funding limitations, one of the key goals of the new process, according to officials who organized the meeting at the Great Falls Discovery Center, is to give Franklin County more money to expand service.

The Discovery Center meeting was the first of four in the region billed as part of a series called "Community Conversations on Transit."

Other meetings will take place in Greenfield, Orange and Charlemont in the coming days. The meetings are part of a "Comprehensive Service Analysis" (CSA) mandated by the state legislature as part of its recently passed transportation bill.

The meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation describing the CSA and the regional transit authority – its budget, the towns it serves, and the kinds of service it provides.

There was also an interactive quiz on these issues, with audience members re-



Just over twenty people attended Turners' public input event.

sponding to questions about public transportation with hand-held clickers. The Reporter will not ruin the fun at future meetings by revealing the questions in advance.

After the PowerPoint, members of the audience, which numbered just over twenty, were encouraged to visit various stations on the perimeter of the hall.

One station, labeled "Where is There a High Demand for Transit?," showed a map of the region. The public was invited to place small green dots where they live, and small yellow dots to mark locations they frequently visit.

At another station, the public was invited to place larger dots on a board to "Vote for Short Term Priorities." The suggested options included staffing the booth in the lobby of the Transportation Center; adding short, direct access shuttles; better

connections with PVRTA service; and WiFi access.

Another station contained maps where the public could actually propose new routes or devise their own transit system.

The public appeared to enjoy these activities, but there was little discussion of the issues raised over the past year about the FRTA's fixed routes, including the viability of the direct route from Montague to Amherst, public calls for weekend service, the need for a broader vision of public transit serving diverse constituencies, and questions about how the system is financed and how costs are assessed to member towns.

FRCOG and FRTA officials have stressed that these public meetings are only the beginning of the CSA input process, which will continue for approximately a year.

The conversations will continue.

The Montague Reporter

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It's Time To Act on Global Warming Now

Last week the White House released its *National Climate Assessment Report*. The news was neither good, nor unexpected. We've known for some time that the planet is getting hotter, that climate change is real, and that we humans are doing our best to hasten temperature rise. We just didn't quite know how bad it really was.

The extensive report is a distillation of the largest batch of US climate data ever. "It is notable that as these data records have grown longer and climate models have become more comprehensive, earlier predictions have largely been confirmed," says the report.

But the study also notes the polar caps are melting at an even greater rate than expected. And just this week new data on the breakup of the vast Antarctic ice shelf reveals that not only is the ice melting, the trend is irreversible.

As a consequence of this warming there have been significant increases in flooding, more severe droughts, heavier precipitation and rising sea levels. This in turn has already affected agriculture, water resources, human health, and ecosystems on land and in the oceans.

The report also highlights the tremendous economic costs of climate change, costs that will get worse if we fail to act.

At last, President Obama seems seriously willing and eager to act. Unlike far too many in Congress, he has grasped that the only possible course to take is to aggressively reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases.

As a result, new bills will soon be introduced into congress. Climate change, as the president and many know, is here to stay. But reducing greenhouse gasses will lessen the degree and thereby the intensity of the thermal impact on the US and the planet.

The E.U. grasped this reality quite some time ago, and has made great strides in curbing manmade pollution. But China, India, Russia and the US, huge players in the global warming catastrophe, have not. Perhaps this report will change that.

Ban-Ki Moon, Secretary General of the U.N., has gotten it. He has convened a U.N. summit on the issue for September.

For decades one of the major reasons we and other polluters have been unwilling to do much about CO2 emissions is the belief

that doing so will harm the economy. What this report makes clear is that not doing something about greenhouse gasses will hurt the economy even more.

Ban-Ki Moon highlighted this issue in his call to action: "Just as scientists are united on the impacts of climate change, so are economists generally agreed on the costs of combatting it."

Working now for a rapid transformation to a low-carbon economy will be significantly less expensive for people and economies than failing to act... No one can afford the relentless increase in global temperatures that business as usual will bring."

It's not just politicians who are concerned. John Nelson, chairman of Lloyds of London, wrote last week that damage and weather-related losses around the world have increased from an annual average of \$50 billion in the 1980s to close to \$200 billion over the last decade.

"The 326-year-old insurance market, whose members write insurance business worldwide, believes the time has come for a formal call on the industry to take into account various climate-change scenarios to avoid unpredictable losses to businesses."

In more prosaic terms, what Nelson's statement means is that insurance companies are going to be far more cautious in insuring homes in areas prone to hurricanes and tornadoes. Waterfront homes will be less and less insurable.

Then, of course, there's Senator Marco Rubio, whose own state of Florida was cited in the report as being under serious threat from rising ocean levels and increased hurricanes.

Rubio told ABC News last week that he does not believe "human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it."

He then added: "I do not believe that the laws that they propose will do anything about it, except it will destroy our economy."

President Obama has his work cut out for him. While many in Congress on both sides of the aisle are on board, far too many, particularly in the Republican Party, are not. We hope the president's resolve will not weaken, that science and fact will prevail over special interests, or maybe just stupidity. Our planet deserves better.



"A rising tide lifts all boats!"

SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors



Gill: Banash Makes Endorsement

Over the past several weeks I have heard many things that the two candidates for Selectman have been saying.

I carefully watched the Candidates forum last week, and listened to the two candidates' answers. Only one of the candidates has taken the time to talk to me.

Initially I had reservations about both candidates, as neither has had any recent meaningful experience

in town government.

After very careful consideration, I believe that Greg Snedeker is the best candidate, and should be elected on May 19.

Greg does not come into this with an agenda. He realizes that he has much to learn, and is willing to listen and to take the time and do the work that is necessary. He is enthusiastic about Gill.

He does not think that things

need to be "fixed," and believes that we need to continue to go forward with the initiatives that the present Board has started.

I believe that Greg will be a positive addition to the Gill Board of Selectmen. Please vote on May 19, and cast your ballot for Greg Snedeker.

Ann Banash
Gill

Helping Montague Thrive Through Play

Playability, the extent to which a community makes it easy for kids to get balanced and active play, is a new movement taking shape in communities across America fostered by the national nonprofit KaBOOM! in partnership with Humana Foundation and led by 212 American cities who are making play a priority.

On May 13, the Town of Montague was recognized as among the 212 communities named a 2014 Playful City USA designation for the first year for our efforts driving the movement to foster family-friendly, kid-friendly environments by offering easy and accessible opportunities for play.

Some of the initiatives we will be working on this year will be the development of a skate park, the installation of an accessible swing

(both at Unity Park), working on a comprehensive plan to improve Rutter's Park in Lake Pleasant, and installing new swingsets at Highland Park in Millers Falls.

Cities and towns, along with leaders from every sector collaborating towards a common goal, have the power to turn all spaces into transformative, playful areas for activity, inspiration and discovery.

Many of the innovative Playful City USA communities are leveraging underutilized resources and unexpected spaces in creative ways to make play the easy option for families – from designating public play days to holistic investments for play in schools and communities.

By creating a kid-friendly destination for families and businesses to invest in we are setting the foun-

ation for Montague to thrive with playful solutions.

Thanks to thoughtful leadership of our parks & recreation Commission and board of selectmen, as well as a helping hand from Humana Foundation and KaBOOM!, we hope we will be able to continue building our community to become a great place to live over the next year and for many years to come.

Now is the time to accelerate the playability movement in our community and we need your help.

Join us in celebrating our successes and show your support for play as we continue to work towards creating a brighter, playable future for Montague.

Jonathan J. Dobosz, CPRP
Director, Montague Parks & Recreation

Some Corrections

Eagle-eyed John Hanold, chair of the Montague finance committee, brought to our attention some errors in our reporting on Montague's town meeting (May 8, 2014, "It's Unanimous: Montague Town Meeting backs Unity Skate Park").

We stated that town meeting appropriated \$8,136,058 in salaries for elected and appointed officials. This figure actually represents all of the General Fund, not just salaries.

We also implied in our article

that the amount town meeting appropriated for recent collective bargaining agreements was a final number. In fact, the town and the unions have not yet reached agreement.

We also erred in our Montague Selectboard article (May 8, 2014, "Board Struggles Again with Barns and Parking Bans").

We wrote that Montague town planner Walter Ramsey had provided maps to Lisa Adams.

Walter tells us: "Those maps were surveyed plans that were re-

searched and provided by DOT directly to Ms. Adams. They were part of DOT's survey background materials. I only bring up the point because the article asserts they were the wrong maps.

"I do stand by the DOT survey – as it is logically researched and stamped by a professional engineer – but my office did not provide the 'wrong' information."

We thank John and Walter for their careful reading of the paper. We regret the errors.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Wendell Plant Swap will be held Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to noon on the common, near the gazebo. Bring annuals, perennials, and other items to swap or share. Some people come because it's fun, whether they have plants to swap or not. The Plant Swap is sponsored by the Wendell Community Garden. Contact Katie at 544-2306 for more info.

Greenfield Community College is hosting a **free Public Safety Day event for families** on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the main campus. Children will have the chance to check out police cars, safety helicopters, ambulances and climb on fire trucks. There are also child ID kits, raffles, live action demos and a visit from Smokey Bear.

Is someone in your family starting to think about driving? Do you have a parent who perhaps should

NOT be driving? Might you have a family member needing special equipment in order to drive? What is a restriction on a permit or driver's license? Any other questions?

Nekke Ragoza of Liberty Driving School brings her extensive driving-related expertise to **GSB in Turners Falls** on Saturday, May 17 from 10 until noon to help you out with any questions or concerns that need answering.

Light refreshments will be provided free of charge by GSB. No reservations required.

Monday, May 19, 2014 is the **Montague Annual Town Election**. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in all six precincts.

All registered voters of Montague will vote for selectman, assessor, board of health, parks & recreation commission, library trustees, Montague Housing Authority, Soldiers Memorial trustees (veteran & non-veteran) and town meeting

members from all precincts. Voters will also be voting for the Gill-Montague school committee.

The **Gill Annual Town Election** will be held on May 19, 2014 from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the Fire Station, 196 Main Road.

Candidates are on the ballot for board of assessors, selectboard, tax collector, two- and three-year seats on the cemetery commission, constable, library trustee and board of health, and the Gill-Montague school committee.

There will also be a debt exclusion question to authorize a temporary increase in the tax rate for a roof replacement project at the Public Safety Complex (196 Main Road).

The **38th Annual Flea Market & Gas Engine Show** starts on Friday, May 23, with food booths opening at 11:30 a.m. The event is hosted by the United Church of Bernardston, 58 Church Street, and continues through Sunday, May 25.

The **TRIAD Spring Lunch** supporting the Gill/Montague and Erving Senior Centers is Wednesday, May 21 at noon in St. Kaz Hall, at 197 Avenue A, in Turners Falls.

Tickets are \$6 and are available at local police departments, senior centers and from TRIAD officers. The lunch is presented by the Turners Falls Fire Department and topic will be fire and fall prevention.

The Gill/Montague Senior Cen-

ter, at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, is hosting **sing alongs** with Morning Star and (sometimes) Moonlight at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 22 and June 19.

The **deadline to register dogs in Montague is Thursday, May 29**. Thereafter, a fine of \$20 will be added to the registration fee. On June 1st, the Chief of Police will receive a list of delinquent dog owners for enforcement.

Dogs are licensed at the Town Clerk's office. A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5 and a license for an unaltered dog is \$10.

The Clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided.

License renewals may be obtained through the town's website: www.montague.net only if your dog's rabies vaccination that was used for last year's registration has not yet expired.

The Town Clerk's office is open Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays. For more information you can contact the office at 863-3200, ext. 203 or email at townclerk@montague-ma.gov.

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Water Bills Due June 2

Customers of the Turners Falls Water Department, which serves Turners Falls, Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls, have until June 2 to pay their water bills.

There is a \$20 late fee for bills submitted after this date.

The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls. Bills may be paid by mail, in person, or at the department's website: www.turnersfallswater.com.

DEP, Natural Heritage Approve Greenfield and Hatchery Roads Plan

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

MONTAGUE – Mark Fairbrother, chair of the Montague Conservation Commission, announced at a public hearing on May 8, that both the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program have approved the plan proposed by the commission to comply with the state's storm water management plan.

The plan, prepared by Greenman-Pedersen and Epsilon Associates, in conjunction with the conservation commission, seeks to ensure that all improvements to Greenfield and Hatchery Roads are made in an environmentally safe manner.

The scope of the work on these roads includes: reconstructing and straightening Greenfield Road from Hatchery north to Montague City; building a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Pan Am tracks on Greenfield Road; widening Hatchery Road; repaving Greenfield Road from the Montague Book Mill to its dead end at the Pan Am Railroad;

and crossing and transit improvements to Montague City Road, to better connect the canalside bike path to the south side of that busy road.

Among the proposals accepted by the DEP and Natural Heritage are that there be no stockpiling of materials, fueling of vehicles or storage of oil, fuel or other hazardous materials in wetlands resource areas or their buffer zones.

In addition, the private contractor must provide watertight tanks or barrels to dispose of chemical pollutants that result from construction activity.

Other stipulations are that the contractor notify the conservation commission 48 hours in advance of any changes in scope, design or construction methods prior to their implementation in the field.

Additionally, any spills of hazardous materials must be reported immediately to the DEP and the commission, and cleaned up according to DEP guidelines.

Fairbrother expressed satisfaction with the restrictions and the DEP and Natural Heritage approvals.

Leverett School Committee Reorganizes; School Choice To Continue

By REPORTER STAFF

The Leverett School Committee, at its meeting on Monday, May 5, after electing officers, immediately began making decisions about the near and more distant future.

The committee welcomed two newly elected members, Jenn Chylack and Allen Mully. In choosing new officers Kip Fonsh was elected Chair, Cheryl Bonica as Secretary and Sarah Dolven as representative to the Regional School Committee.

Three topics engaged much of the attention of the committee members during the evening. First, each May, by state law, the committee must decide if it wishes to continue to be designated a school choice.

Members of the committee expressed a myriad of concerns including the ethical and moral dilemma posed by taking money from other districts along with their students, the financial impact on both the school and the town and the benefits and pitfalls of admitting youngsters from other communities.

While the vote was to continue to admit School Choice students, this is a conversation that will in the future require input from the entire community.

Members also discussed a request from the finance committee to provide information regarding the rationales for the employing of teachers, paraprofessionals and other staff members.

Superintendent Mahler will craft

a response that will be shared with the Finance Committee and Select Board at a meeting that will include the School Committee.

The committee also discussed the upcoming sustainability committee meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 19. The work of this committee has taken on significantly more importance after the lengthy discussion and debate at this year's town meeting.

The work of this group continues to focus on developing strategies that would insure the continued high level of instructional programs at Leverett Elementary. However, the discussion may broaden to include other town services and how all town departments are related to one another financially.

Finally, Superintendent Mahler shared information with the committee members about the Commonwealth's decision to gradually replace the MCAS with a new test, the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers).

The continued piloting of this new test in Spring, 2015 is something that all parents should pay attention to and become as knowledgeable as possible about the details of this new assessment. The committee will also be paying very close attention to this matter.

Reporting based on information supplied by school committee chair Kip Fonsh.

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in Montague



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ERVING from page A1

and car wash located on land in the Town of Erving."

Ralph Semb, who initiated the petition to bring the article before town meeting, offered an amendment, changing it to a request for the planning board and selectboard to develop zoning bylaws that would allow gas station development in the town's Zone 2 drinking water protection area.

At the 2009 annual town meeting, a citizens' petition article presented by Erik and Ralph Semb asked for zoning bylaw changes that would allow construction of a gas station at their property, which is located in the Zone 2 drinking water protection area for the town's water supply well.

However, at that meeting, the voters overwhelmingly approved an amended article asking the selectboard and planning board to work together to develop the zoning bylaw changes.

The revised zoning bylaws presented at a subsequent special town meeting did not receive the necessary approval from 2/3 of the voters. A convenience store and Dunkin' Donuts franchise were constructed at the site.

Ralph Semb told this meeting, "Many people have come to me asking for a gas station in town." He said that with modern safety regulations for petroleum storage tanks, "groundwater will not be polluted in any way, shape or form."

Planning board chair William Morris said, "Currently the town bylaws are a bit more strict than the state laws and regulations." He suggested that the zoning bylaws

should be decided after planning board study, a public hearing and a public vote.

Hammock said that it was "a good thing financially to have a gas station in town," and that "with today's technology, a gas station will be safe."

Tim Cronin, who said he formerly operated a Shell station in Greenfield, said, "Gas stations leak, either by operator error or customer error." He said that 36 states are facing water restrictions, and that "the number one resource is water."

He added, "We have good water in Erving and I want to see it protected."

Questioned about whether the planning board would seek independent experts about the issue, Morris said that the planning board doesn't do investigations, but interested citizens bring in information and experts and there is a "robust dialogue."

Robert Bitzer commented that the Semb family "is very dedicated to the town of Erving."

The amended article was approved by a majority voice vote.

An article adopting revised water department rules and regulations as town bylaws was amended to a request that the water commissioners (the selectboard members) set the revised water department rules and regulations. The amended article passed by majority vote.

During discussion of the water department, Morningstar Chenven asked whether the water commission was aware of potential threats of contamination to drinking water from the proposed Tennessee Gas Company pipeline expected to be

routed through Erving.

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo said that the project was at the stage of surveying land and that the final route was unknown.

He said that the proposed route was not going near the town's drinking water aquifer.

Anthony Rubinacci commented that traffic on Route 2 posed as great a threat to groundwater as the proposed pipeline and that the pipeline construction would provide needed jobs.

Moonlight Davis remarked that jobs are important, but asked, "can we afford to have something in the water that will make us sick?"

Klepadlo observed that the article concerned departmental rules and regulations, not the pipeline, and moderator Rich Peabody brought the meeting back to discussing changes to rules regarding water connections, rates, meters and abatements.

The meeting approved FY'15 expenses including \$3.1 million for general government expenses (town administration, fire and police departments, highway, library, and parks and recreation), \$2.6 million to fund Erving Elementary School, \$990,476 for secondary education tuition and expenses, \$672,944 for wastewater operations, \$380,833 for Franklin County Technical School, and \$300,000 for the other post-employment benefits liability trust fund.

For FY'15, salaries for elected officials total \$100,000.

Other money items approved included:

- \$100,000 for road work on North Street, Church Street and High

Street

- \$30,000 for a generator for fire hall #2 (Erving'side)
- \$25,300 for a highway leaf collector
- \$25,000 for maintaining and improving town buildings
- \$12,000 for the special stabilization fund for EES computers
- \$10,000 for replacing computers and accessories in police department vehicles
- \$10,000 for a printer for the assessors' office
- \$8,000 to purchase portable pumps for the fire department
- \$7,500 for purchasing space in the Around Town newsletter
- \$7,000 for replacing firearms for the police department
- \$7,000 to purchase large diameter hose for the fire department
- \$6,000 for purchasing software, components, and accessories for the police department to utilize the county's Tritech computer system
- \$5,000 for a copier at POTW#1
- \$5,000 for repairing and replacing existing street lights

The town approved putting \$835,759 in the stabilization fund.

Finance committee chair Daniel Hammock observed that in 1989, the stabilization fund had only \$30,000, and recommended that the town continue to save money while the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project is paying 70% of town property taxes.

The town authorized establishing a revolving fund for the Council on Aging for facility use payments from outside groups and re-authorized a COA revolving fund for the COA van.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD
**IP Mill, Firefighter Hires,
Gas Pipeline Top Agenda**

By **KATIE NOLAN**

With newly-elected member William Bembury on board, the selectboard brainstormed goals for the next year and decided to consider five project areas.

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo suggested studying whether the town should develop a public water supply along Main Street. He said that the state will be repairing Route 2 in coming years, and the town should consider if water lines could be installed while the pavement is opened up during construction.

Bembury said that the town needs to find a use for the International Paper Mill property, currently in the process of becoming town property via tax taking.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan remarked that as she drives by, she sees more windows broken.

Bembury said, "The town should do something with it before it becomes an Usher Plant."

Bembury said recruiting and retaining qualified firefighters is "a discussion we need to have." He said that the discussion would necessarily involve fire chief Philip Wonkka.

Sullivan commented, "The fire department is in transition and the transition is going well." She added that staffing the fire department is an issue a lot of small towns face.

Klepadlo remarked that the problem with finding firefighters is that "you don't have people working in town during the day." He said the larger issue is "what type and quality of services we want to provide to residents."

The board also wants to review the town's policy manual and evaluate whether the combined highway/water/wastewater department is operating successfully.

Klepadlo and Bembury agreed to represent Erving at an informational forum with Kinder-Morgan, Inc., the company proposing to build a natural gas pipeline through Franklin County, including through land in Erving. The meeting was organized by Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Franklin Regional Planning Board.

Klepadlo said that there is no proposal to conduct hydraulic fracturing in Erving: "The only thing

they're going to do in Erving is bury the pipe." He said that town residents, especially those in the proposed pipeline path, "should have the chance to weigh in."

At the annual town meeting last week, moderator Richard Peabody announced that the town was looking for a volunteer to organize the town's Memorial Day observance. Because no volunteers came forward, the board asked town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp to ask police chief Chris Blair and Wonkka if they could organize the event.

Bembury observed that the town owns an electronic bugle, programmed to play "Taps".

The board received notices of ZBA and planning board hearings. The zoning board of appeals will hold a public hearing May 28 regarding a lot owned by Richard and Donna Pomeroy, which was declared not to be a building lot in 2014. The Pomeroy's contend that the lot is a current legal building lot.

A second hearing on the same night will consider WMECO upgrades to the substation at Northfield Road.

The planning board will hold a hearing May 29 on the special permit application from James Rollins of North Street to operate a retail home-based business selling firearms and ammunition.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Ousts Squatter From Bank-Owned Property

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Police chief Ed Chase along with treasurer Carolyn Manley met the Wendell selectboard at its May 7 meeting with a report that a squatter had moved into the abandoned house at 120 Wendell Depot Road, a house with land that is stalled in land court, but otherwise would have been taken for back taxes.

He did not give names, but said that a woman had seen the person around the premises, and that when he went to investigate, he found personal possessions and an untended pot of water cooking on a propane burner that was fed from a 20 lb. tank. No one was inside.

Chase left a note for the squatter informing him that he had to leave, and at the meeting he said the squatter is in the process of leaving. The house has no septic system and no electric service.

Manley said the house is owned by Fleet Bank, since the start of this process bought by Bank of America, and although the process of taking the property for back taxes was started years ago, a complication in the deed has put the taking on hold.

The original property was 1-1/2 acres, too small to fit both a well and a septic system. Another 1-1/2 acres was added to the property, so there are two deeds with different dates, and that discrepancy has made land court avoid the issue and process newer claims instead of trying to work through those details.

If the squatter does himself in trying to seal cold air out while heating with an open flame, the owner at the time, right now the bank, is liable.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard

asked if the selectboard could write a letter asking the court to face the discrepancy, and move forward with the tax taking. If the town owns the building the town can have it boarded up.

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested that the town should do the right thing and board the building up. He said that is not assuming liability, it is just doing the right thing. The board of health can look at the building, condemn it and post a placard. At a minimum the board of health should be made aware of the situation.

Fiber Optic News

Changing subject, Chase said that the fiber optic internet connection is working well at the police station. Access Plus wants permission to install an antenna on the highway garage, as a public service for homes nearby, and Keller said he would bring that up to highway commissioner Harry Williston, and fire chief Joe Cuneo.

Energy Committee Request

When the meeting opened, selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser was working on a laptop computer establishing a wireless internet system in the town office building. He stopped that, and joined the other board members at the table when energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger came into the room with a simple request.

Riebschlaeger said that New Salem has designated Swift River School a town building, and is asking that Wendell do the same. That would allow the towns to use green community grant money for energy

improvements to the building.

Board members agreed to that with a unanimous vote.

Town Coordinator's Report

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the FRCOG will bid out fire fighting equipment for the town, free for the first year of bidding. She then relayed the contents of an email from librarian Rosie Heidkamp which asked whether the library and the WRATS should be open during their normal hours on the Saturday (June 7) annual town meeting. Keller thought closing either might cause an outrage.

The WRATS is open early on Saturdays, and only one of the two attendants is a Wendell resident. The library could be staffed by non-resident workers and volunteers.

Aldrich gave a list of loss control recommendations from MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town's insurance source). Some are too expensive, some reasonable, and some the town has already done.

The office building furnace room has already been cleared of unrelated things, but the emergency lighting in the building does not work, and the computer network room should have a halotron or carbon dioxide fire extinguisher.

In the police building, there still are things stored near the furnace. The roof leaks should be repaired and the stained ceiling tiles replaced. Keller said the leaks have been fixed and the stained tiles can stay. Aldrich continued, saying the office has a frayed rug which could be a tripping hazard, and there should be an eyewash station.

The highway building furnace room drain may lead into the ground and should either be sealed or connected to a tight tank to prevent oil leaks from polluting ground water. There may already be a tight tank

connection, and Keller suggested that Williston might remember if that is true from when the building was constructed.

The roof should have heating coils or snow guards to keep snow from sliding in front of the bay doors; Keller said the whole roof is not in good shape and he mentioned the energy audit of town buildings and the issues brought up in that should be addressed first.

MIIA offered a driving simulator for the road crew, which Heard said she thought might one day be useful.

Finally, the library book drop should be a free standing structure, an expensive replacement for a system that is working well. Otherwise MIIA recommends surrounding the book drop inside with a 5/8" fire-proof sheetrock box.

Assessors Want Wage Increase

Assessor Stephen Broll said that the board of assessors would like to increase Wendell's paid assessor's wage by \$1 an hour. Helen Williams is not completely happy with that, but it is an improvement.

Wanita Sears, the town's shared clerk says that for the moment she does not work too many hours and her salary is high. Board members considered and decided to keep the salary constant another year because hours may increase.

Surplus Auction a Success

Keller said that Ted Lewis did a great job auctioning surplus town property. Almost everything was sold, and the town earned \$7071. Everyone who won an item has paid already.

Oil Tank Inspection

Aldrich said that on May 14, Roth, the company that manufactured the oil tanks in the town office building, will come and inspect the tanks to

see if they were installed properly by Royal Steam Heat during the original construction. On occasion this past winter there was smell of oil during the heating season, and it looked to some as if the tanks had been walked on. Keller said that when Roth comes he will be there, as will fire chief Joe Cuneo.

Resignation from Zoning Board

John Craddock resigned from the zoning board of appeals. The ZBA meets only as needed, and selectboard members understand that alternates are available.

Killdeer Encouraged to Move

Mary Thomas said that a killdeer was nesting on the Town Common and she asked that the town not mow until the eggs have hatched and the young birds have left the nest.

A later check found three of the four eggs broken, either hatched or eaten. Citing the human use of the Common, board members thought it not a good place for a nest and suggested that regular mowing would encourage the killdeers to move to a less exposed place.

The Giant Behemoth at the Wendell Free Library, Saturday May 31, 7:30 p.m.

The dumping of radioactive waste in the ocean disturbs a prehistoric monster than can project electric shocks and radioactive beams.

After terrorizing the English coast, it is discovered that if the creature is destroyed with conventional weaponry it would spread a dangerous amount of radioactive contamination over the entire country, with this fact preventing the military from attacking the monster as it nears London.

There will be a short (1/2 hour) film before the movie: Episode 5 of *The Phantom Empire: Beneath the Earth*.

GILL from page A1

Snedeker also said that as selectman he would latch on to businesses that are in town and find out what they need.

Chase cited the Mariamante property as an ideal place to create investment. He said he would like to see the site developed along the lines of the Great Falls Discovery Center. He said he would work with American Indians on creating a center for history.

"For 10,000 years," he said, "Gill has been part of this American Indian history."

Snedeker agreed that the Mariamante property also presented an opportunity to the town, but said he would have to have far more information before he could make a decision about what best to do with the site. "I think it's premature to make a decision about the property, as the process about the land is still ongoing."

The two candidates also had different views on funding the GMRSD. Snedeker, who has been an educator at all levels for almost 25 years and who has a daughter at Gill Elementary, stated that while

education was always going to be a big expense it was also a big investment. "Good schools are imperative to the quality of life."

Chase, while agreeing that Gill had to fund education, was less approving of the present formula. "We have to do research on how money is being spent," he said.

Chase noted that you have to weigh the quality of school against the burden on taxpayers, particularly those on a fixed income. "You can't be bankrupting people and driving them out of their houses [to pay for education]."

Chase was also critical of unfunded state and federal mandates. "I don't believe federal and state mandates should be forced on the town without them paying for them," he stated. He cited Chapter 70 busing as an example of a mandate not fully funded by government agencies.

Snedeker, in contrast, argued that education is one of the soundest investments a town can make, citing the progress he felt Gill and Montague have made over the last few years in negotiating a workable assessment with the district. He said

he felt that the compact between the towns and the school had done a lot to make the entire process smoother and fairer.

Chase did not comment on the compact, but did say that more children in town meant more money for education. He felt that Gill should look into making an agreement with Erving to "spread the wealth and get a better deal."

On whether Gill should investigate sharing a police chief with other towns, such as Northfield or Bernardston, Chase argued strongly against the idea. He said he was "90 percent in favor of what's going on with the police department. The ten percent has to do with bookkeeping."

Snedeker cited mutual aid agreements with other towns, but said he would have to learn a lot more before he could comment on a shared chief position.

In his remarks on how he felt the town should operate, Chase said he felt a business model was appropriate. As president of the Antique Truck Club of America he said he had brought the organization from bankruptcy to profitability in just a

few years.

Snedeker, on the other hand, said he did not feel that governments should be run like businesses. "You don't operate government to make a profit. The role of government is to take care of its citizens."

Chase, a lifelong resident of Gill, is the owner of Fred's 4-Wheel Drive Service and president of the Antique Truck Club of America. Since 1957 he has been involved in the town, serving for many years on the highway, fire and police departments, as well as the finance committee. He has been a constable for more than two decades, and said he is in town hall a couple of times a week "to check on things."

Snedeker, a Gill resident for 22 years, is a music teacher at Stoneleigh-Burnham School and owns a small audio engineering business. He has also taught in higher education and at the elementary level, and he holds a degree in economics. He served as assessor, and ultimately head assessor, from 2005 to 2008.

The polls are open at the fire station in Gill on Monday, May 19 from noon to 8 p.m.

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CHARLES from page A1

he worked with musicians such as John Legend and Alicia Keys. As he said, "Life took off!"

Before turning the mic over to his wife Sheila Raye Charles, Tony left students a final idea to think about: "You set the standard for how others treat you."

Charles expressed enthusiasm and sincere interest stating that her mission was to share her experiences so as to show young folks the way to go forward, and to guide them away from drugs.

She reiterated many times that steering clear of drugs, or coming back from drug use, is a matter of life or death.

Although she was the daughter of a famous singer, from the age of five she felt abandoned by her father, and longed for his presence and protection. Her mother had remarried, and she said the stepfather would do "bad things" to her when he was angry with her mother.

By the age of 12 she was smoking pot to escape the pain. She later went to Columbus, Ohio and

abused crack for 22 years. During that period she had five children, three of whom were born "crack-addicted babies," and the fifth weighing only 14 ounces when he was born.

She couldn't stop smoking crack. The addiction got progressively worse; she would accept anyone or anything if she could get crack.

Before she knew it she was on her way to federal prison three different times. Her kids were taken away with a promise of "no return to her ever" by social services. Her life was destroyed.

She kept trying to medicate the pain in her life, but what she did was "drive herself down a path of disappointment". She didn't reach out for help. In prison there was no escape from her pain. She cried out to God to take her life.

A student asked, "What made you turn to God?"


The answer was: "In prison I had lost everything, but I still wanted to survive. So I asked God to help me and I had no idea if he would answer me. He asked me

to give up all the pain, the abandonment, the abuse and the drugs. I wanted to walk away from the edge and to make the best 'me' I could."

In 2003 Charles was released from prison. Since then she has been on her mission to help young adults make good choices. In 2010 she reunited with her children and has built a loving relationship with them.

She asked the question, "What is it to want what will kill you?" The answer – given by a student – was "insanity."

Charles went on to talk about some of the so-called "bathtub drugs" which can kill a person in three months. "Anybody can do drugs. It takes courage to choose what's right. It takes courage to be yourself."

Sheila Raye is also a fine singer and sang a few of her father's songs, and invited a student down front to sing "Hit the Road, Jack." She closed the program singing "This Little Light of Mine" with Tony and the entire theaterful of students. 

Community Health Care Initiative Holds Public Forum on Future of Baystate Franklin Medical Center

The Community Health Care Initiative has invited representatives of Baystate Health to participate in a public forum on the future of our hospital on Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Middle School. The forum will provide an opportunity for the community to learn about Baystate's plans for developing services at Franklin Medical Center.

The Forum will start with a presentation by the following representatives of Baystate Health: Mark Keroack, MD, MPH, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Chuck Gijanto, President, Baystate Franklin Medical Center; Sara Rourke, MD, Medical Director, Greenfield Family Medicine and President of the BFMC Medical Staff; and Steven Bradley, Vice President, Government, Community and Public Relations.

Following the presentation residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

BFMC is currently planning to update the surgical suite, replacing existing 40 year old operating rooms, recovery rooms and endoscopy units and recruit additional surgeons and other specialty physicians.

"As advocates for quality services in our community, we are keen to bring our community into the discussion at this forum," said Janina Thayer, RN, member of CHCI and Greenfield's Board of Health.

"Currently, we are particularly concerned about the availability of pediatric care, as well as the lack of sufficient in-patient mental health and addiction rehabilitation services in our community," said Joannah Whitney, PhD, a medical anthropologist who studies health and wellness among youth and young adults and who is a member of CHCI.

CHCI encourages residents from all of Franklin County to attend and participate in this free open public forum.

For further information call Patti Williams at (413) 774-6406.

Training Yourself to Train Your Dog

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – At times it seems as though everyone living in Montague has a dog. With the chance for neighborhood walks, romps in the wildlife area, meetups at Unity Park, and strolls along the bike trail, it's a perfect place for dog lovers, most of the time, but not always.

There's a necessary social contract among dog owners, and the fine details can be confusing. Shouting out, "My dog is friendly" as your pup runs up to greet a dog that does not like other dogs is not a good idea, nor is passing closely on a narrow path with a dog that has not been trained to politely meet and greet.

Dogs on retractable leashes can swerve into a pedestrian's path or lurch and pull their owners down.

People don't appreciate dogs jumping up on them with muddy paws, even if it is an adorable creature just trying to be friendly.

And dogs do not appreciate people who fail to read their very clear body language.

Face turned away: "please, I am shy." Ears pulled back: "I'm feeling anxious, alert, and maybe aggressive."

"Many things can make a dog uncomfortable, and it's the owner's responsibility to identify the problem and then work with the dog below its threshold of discomfort," says Elise McMahon, an animal behaviorist who runs Canine Head Start on East Chestnut Hill Road in Montague, where she offers classes, individual instruction and an internship program.

To explain the theory of a dog's threshold of discomfort, she provides a familiar example. Suppose you have a dog that starts barking and pulling at the sight of another dog on the sidewalk. (I confess to having this problem.) Elise has tools to help solve it.

How close to another dog do you have to be before your dog reacts? "Start beyond that point, when your dog is in its comfort zone. It is that very same behavior.

Each time your dog reacts, it is like a behavioral brick being laid down in the foundation of your dog's behavior repertoire.

So, if you want to change a behavior, the first step is not to let it happen, then work on establishing alternative and incompatible behaviors for your dog to engage in.

For instance: "I cannot lunge and bark at that person/dog/car if I need to hunt for the treats scattered about my feet!"

Elise explains what she and her trainer do: "We work to alter your dog's state of mind. I want to shift the dog from, 'I am afraid of that

strange person with the hat and beard' to 'Oh my, there is a person with a hat and beard, yippee! I am going to get lots of yummy treats now!'"

It does no good just to tell your dog the person is a really nice guy; your dog has to feel it himself, and it is our job to create that feeling."

Most often owners inadvertently



Elise McMahon studied animal behavior with wolves.

do the very opposite by tightening up on the leash, taking sharp stress inhalations, and gushing inconsistent commands that the dog is not fully equipped to follow.

Have you ever realized that telling a dog to sit down is asking her to do two things at once?

Yes, it's complicated, and time consuming. Dog owners speak of Elise with reverence, and then look embarrassed, because few of us have consistently followed her advice. It's like practicing the piano an hour a day.

Yet what she has to say is worth hearing again and again, and it's never too late to work on your dog's behavior. You can always make improvements, though it is better to jump on a problem when it first appears.

You can't be walking your dog and talking on your cell phone, and it's even hard to chat with a friend who might be walking with you, and this is Elise's point. To have a confident, well-behaved, dog, an owner has to commit to the training. "The owner has to understand that he or she is responsible for everything the dog does."

Some people assume that well-known breeds such as Golden Retrievers and yellow labs are naturally smart and obedient, but Elise cautions potential owners not to count on this and neglect training. All dogs are individuals, and understanding this will inform your training. People who do not

have time for a puppy rescue adult dogs, often believing website reports that the dog is house broken, leash trained, and safe with cats and children.

Some of this may prove to be true after the "honeymoon period," but that does not mean that this dog doesn't need to learn the rules of your household. Those rules depend on what you want and what is safe in your household.

Elise offers another example, and refers to some trainers who believe a dog should always go out doors and down stairs behind the human or sit at every threshold. In Elise's household, there are five large dogs. She breeds Briards.

Since she does not want five dogs shambling down the stairs behind her, Elise has trained her dogs to go first out doors and down stairs. "The important issue is not who goes first but that your dog will wait and go when asked," she says.

Elise recounts the story of Imbo, who was the alpha male wolf in the pack at Wolf Park during the early '90s, when she was studying pack behavior and social development of pups.

"The pack was fed fresh road kill deer. When the carcass was brought in, various individuals would begin eating. Imbo would often remain where he was. At some point, he would get up, go over and eat.

"There would be vocalizations and posturing, and he would gain access to the carcass. Imbo did not have to eat first to prove he was 'alpha,' nor did he toss the others on to their backs and shake them to prove he was the leader.

He ate when he wanted to, not first to prove he could. He knew he

could, and was confident and secure in that knowledge. He had nothing to prove. The others acquiesced to him, which is precisely what gave him that leader role."

Elise adds, "I have clients who tell me they must eat first, go out the door first, etc., to prove they are alpha over their dog. I think, why? Imbo didn't, and then I try to explain it all to them. There is a long standing misinterpretation of wolf pack behavior, which is the basis of subsequent assumptions that humans need to act like alpha wolves."

People also need to remember that dogs are a different species with their own way of communicating, Elise says. A dog that growls is trying to communicate. It is better than biting without warning.

A person who punishes a dog for growling has just told the dog not to communicate its feelings. A person who yanks a dog back from a stranger has indicated danger and taught the dog to fear strangers. And this is too bad because the person probably thought she was putting the dog in a polite sit/stay.

If it all seems as though there are no bad dogs, only badly trained people, that would be true. Anyone who doubts Elise's methods should simply hand her the leash. It's magic. With a cheery, "Good girl, let's go," your dog looks ready for Westminster.

If you've read this far and are now thinking about getting a dog, you can find a breeder and buy a puppy, or you can rescue a dog from a shelter. "The needs of a young puppy and an adult rescue dog are different, but equally demanding," says Elise.

"If you are getting a purebred puppy, do your homework. Do research on the breed – so you won't be surprised by the energy level of a hunting dog – and the breeder. Ask for recommendations from others who have bought a puppy.

"Make sure the breeder helps you choose the pup. Even at a very young age dogs will begin to display their temperaments, and the breeder will know the characteristics of each puppy. Then plan to commit to two

years of puppy classes with follow up at home between classes."

"When you rescue a dog, you are inheriting the unknown," says Elise. Depending on the dog's age and temperament, you should expect one to two years of classes, and a minimum of ten sessions with a behaviorist. The most important of these meetings is an intake interview where you work with the behaviorist to identify areas of concern.

Elise comes to this nuanced work with years of experience. She's been working in animal behavior with both domestic and wild canids since the early 1990s, and has included projects on a number of captive and wild canids including Darwin's foxes in Chile, crab-eating foxes in Venezuela, African wild dogs at the Philadelphia Zoological Garden, and grey wolves at Wolf Park in Battle Ground, Indiana.

She began working with domestic dogs in Philadelphia, where she worked at the Veterinary Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania in the Behavior Clinic. She then worked as an animal behavior consultant before moving to Massachusetts to pursue a Ph.D. in Animal Behavior.

Elise believes that anyone working in the field of dog training and behavior must have a solid knowledge of animal behavior and learning theory. Though she didn't say this, it is obvious that they should also love animals, a condition easily determined in any meeting with Elise. As a child she acquired dogs without her parents' knowledge, hiding one under her bed and another in the garage until her parents caved in and let her adopt a dog.

Although she's booked four to six weeks in advance, she will always make time to respond to calls in an emergency – a good thing to know when you are at your wit's end and ready to haul your recent rescue back to the shelter. Her dog love becomes contagious when she is working with you and your dog, and she provides inspiration to work just a little harder on your training.

To learn more about her classes, services, and Briards, go to www.canineheadstart.com.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Planning Board Chair to AT&T: Welcome To Leverett!

By DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE from page A1

local access contract for five years. Langknecht argued that even with an extended contract, the parties were allowed a 60 day "termination" right so an extension would not necessarily preclude other options.

He noted that there is currently an annual review by the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), to be completed in July. In this context, a short term extension of the current contract or a new RFP "might create a different level of complexity."

The selectboard then turned to Gary Earles and Eileen Dowd of the Cable Advisory Committee for guidance.

Earles stated that the CAC believed that the current contract for local access should be extended to the end of the year to allow the parties some "breathing room" to resolve the "snafu." This would allow the CAC to complete the annual review and resolve the issue of the need for an RFP.

Earles seemed to be suggesting that the town should issue a restricted RFP targeted to MCTV alone, an idea which was quickly rejected as violating state open bidding laws.

Earles was asked by Selectboard member Michael Nelson if his statement represented the position of the CAC. Earles responded that the advisory committee had discussed the issue "internally," but did not adopt an "official position" due to an inability to call an open meeting given short notice.

Mark Fairbrother then stated that, given MCCI's failure to give the one-year notice, he felt the town was required to issue a new RFP, "to go out to the world."

The other selectboard members and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio agreed. "More likely it will go back to MCTV, but we'll see who shows up," said Mike Nelson.

The selectboard voted to have the town administrator prepare a temporary extension contract until the end of 2014, and to send it to the CAC and MCCI by Thursday, May 15.

Other Business

Department of Public Works director Tom Bergeron came forward next, with a plan for additional "angle" parking on Avenue A in front of the Carnegie Library.

Library officials have argued that the board's decision, made the previous week, to allow parking on the southeast side of Seventh Street does not allow sufficient parking for library patrons.

The original concept had focused on parking across Avenue A in front of the shopping plaza, but a variety of issues, including blocked sight lines for cars emerging from the mall and fear of library patrons failing to use the crosswalk to cross the street, caused second thoughts.

Then Bergeron had the thought that perhaps parking spaces could be created on the library side of the street. It turned out there was room for up to 19 spaces under this scheme.

The idea pleased both the Selectboard and Librarian Linda Hickman who was in attendance. Fairbrother urged Bergeron to continue the planning process, hoping to produce a specific proposal within the next few weeks.

There was a brief discussion of street lights malfunctioning in Turners Falls, and the long time it is taking Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO) to respond to complaints.

Local residents who may have been registering complaints with the town need to call the Turners Falls Water District or WMECO's local service request line: (413) 781-4300.

Reports can also be made via the WMECO service request website at www.wmeco.com/wms/.

Frank Abbondanzio asked the board to endorse a letter to Senator Stephen Brewer requesting the state transfer Franklin Regional Council of Governments from a county to a state retirement system. The board approved the letter.



In response to the selectboard's request from March to loosen "the prohibitive setback requirements" on the siting of cell phone towers in town, now that AT&T has formally notified the town of the company's intent to locate a cell tower 530 feet off of Route 63, on land owned by Roberta Bryant, Jeff McQueen, chair of the Leverett planning board, predicted his board would be willing to comply.

Approved by overwhelming vote of town meeting in October of 2012, the town's newly-minted cell tower siting bylaw requires setbacks of 2,000 feet from roads, and 1,650 feet from residences.

The cell tower AT&T proposes to place near the high-tension lines, next to the riding ring on Bryant's equestrian center, would be approximately 530 feet from the road, according to planning board member Richard Nathhorst.

Nathhorst estimated that the locations of two residences on that property were approximately 1,000 feet from the proposed cell tower location.

AT&T has delivered multiple copies of a two-inch-thick filing document to town offices, received April 28, seeking special permits or variances from the town's new cell phone tower bylaw from both the planning board and the zoning board.

The planning board intended to take the matter up on Wednesday, but planning board chair Jeff McQueen told the selectboard he intended to call the representative from AT&T who had spoken to him about the company's plan before the meeting, and McQueen said he would ask AT&T to hold off on the application until the planning board had a chance to propose looser setback requirements to town meeting this fall.

McQueen said he would also consult with the zoning board of appeals, in an attempt to draft a joint letter to AT&T outlining the regulatory boards' intent to seek town meeting approval to loosen the setback requirements for cell towers.

"What I'd like to do is write a letter to AT&T," said McQueen. "and tell them, 'Don't try to cram this down our throats. Wait until the fall, and we can make the changes so you can walk through a friendly door.'"

"We'll communicate with the ZBA," added McQueen, "to see if we can draft a letter we can both sign off on."

If AT&T does not agree to withdraw their application, the boards must act on it within 65 days of the April 28 filing, according to Ken Kahn, a lawyer and member of the planning board.

Leverett's former cell tower zoning bylaw would have allowed cell towers only in one of the town's three small, low-lying commercial districts. Ironically, the AT&T application would have been allowed under that bylaw, since Bryant's property lies in one of those commercial zones.

Believing that no commercial company would want to site a cell tower on low-lying land, in the wake

of a severe ice storm that knocked down telephone and power lines several years ago, the selectboard, with the backing of the police and fire chiefs, urged a revision of the cell tower bylaw in 2011.

That effort culminated with a town meeting vote on April 28, 2012 that fell a few votes shy of a two-thirds majority, which would have allowed cell towers to be placed anywhere in town, with setback requirements of 600 feet from residences and 1,000 feet from a school.

"What I'd like to do is write a letter to AT&T and tell them, 'Don't try to cram this down our throats. Wait until the fall, and we can make the changes so you can walk through a friendly door.'"
— Jeff McQueen
Planning board chair

After the failure of that vote, the selectboard appointed a nine-member committee of proponents and opponents of the looser setback requirements, along with an apparently neutral biology professor and physics professor from UMass.

This committee came up with the consensus setback guidelines that passed overwhelmingly at a special town meeting that fall, about eighteen months ago.

"We set up a committee and acceded to the setback requirements that committee proposed," Kahn recalled on Tuesday.

"If we go off the subcommittee recommendations," added McQueen, "we want selectboard cover."

Kahn summarized the odds of AT&T's success in gaining access to the site proposed under the current bylaw.

"They can do a variance, but they can't grant a special permit. There's no grounds for it. We all know that if a variance is ever appealed, the appellant generally wins."

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico recalled the process leading up to town meeting approval of the current bylaw. "My memory of that committee is there was a lot of waffling around, a lot of nonsense about repeaters, and we granted the setbacks to placate one or two people."

McQueen responded, "Your memory is right."

Nathhorst said at the time the planning board considered it likely that proposals coming from cell tower companies would most likely seek sites "up high," on land where the setbacks would not pose a stumbling block to wider coverage.

The current proposal from AT&T is on the flatland of Long Plain, near residences, he said, "to fill in a dead spot on Route 63, because of complaints about losing service on the north-south corridor."

D'Errico said McQueen and the

planning board would have "strong support from the selectboard, and all the chiefs," to loosen the setback requirements in the current bylaw. "We've heard from all the residents who want this."

D'Errico said the federal government's Telecommunications Act pre-empts local communities from relying on concerns about the possible health impacts of cell tower emissions in enacting zoning requirements regulating where cell towers can be sited.

He said the setback requirements enacted in the current bylaw may have avoided any overt reference to human health impacts, but as in a recent federal court case about the state of Vermont's ability to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, deep-pocketed corporations could review the record of open meetings to glean any references to citizens' health concerns prior to enacting the cell tower bylaw.

He said the town could be hard pressed, legally and financially, to defend the current bylaw in court, if AT&T decided to sue the town for the right to place a cell tower on Bryant's land.

But Kahn said, "We have a reasonable bylaw. It's defensible."

After a bit of back and forth about whether health concerns did play a role in the framing of the bylaw, Kahn said, "My concern is: what do we do about the committee?"

D'Errico replied, "The committee doesn't exist anymore."

McQueen said, "It's likely the planning board will go back to the original [April 2012] proposal."

Without mentioning citizens' possible concerns about the health impacts to young people, McQueen said the planning board would probably try to include a 1,500-foot setback from the school, on grounds a cell tower would provide an "attractive nuisance" to school children in case "there are a lot of people who need that to make themselves more comfortable."

"When people are right here screaming at us, we say, 'OK. We'll give you a hearing.' But it's really just a small minority objecting to this."
— Peter D'Errico
Selectboard member

Kahn said the planning board could propose a setback requirement from residences greater than the industry standard of one and a half times the tower height – in this case, the proposed AT&T tower height would be 120 feet – and allow residents to waive that requirement if they so choose.

He noted that in the current application, the resident wants the tower on her land.

At this point in the discussion, selectboard chair Rich Brazeau asked town administrator Margie McGinnis

if the subcommittee appointed by the selectboard to come up with a consensus proposal in 2012 had issued a written summary of their findings. McGinnis said they had, and Brazeau asked her to provide it for the selectboard to review.

D'Errico said, "Most people in town are overwhelmingly in favor of this." He referred to the restrictive setback requirements approved in October 2012 as a case of "the tail wagging the dog."

He continued, "When people are right here screaming at us, we say, 'OK. We'll give you a hearing.' But it's really just a small minority objecting to this."

McQueen responded, "Zoning is political." Referring to the percentage of town meeting voters needed to change a zoning bylaw, he added, "A two-thirds majority is even more political."

Called for comment after the meeting, former cell tower bylaw subcommittee member Brian Emond said that, in coming up with the recommended guidelines, "We took into consideration property values, the views, conservation issues. It was very well thought out by a panel of individuals who are experts in their fields."

"I feel once again the planning board is supposed to represent the town. The town voted this bylaw in. Before the planning board makes such rash statements to a corporation, they should be speaking to people in the town."

UMass physics professor Dr. Robert Hallock, who also served on the committee, recalled, "At the time we did our committee work, the priority was protecting the property values of the citizens of Leverett. There was the feeling that there were several sites in town that would be consistent with those setbacks."

Hallock said the views of local citizens and of emergency responders, needing better cell phone coverage in town, were taken into consideration in crafting the setback requirements.

Hallock said, without seeing the specifics of the AT&T proposal, "My guess is the committee's view would be, 'What's the good reason for modifying the requirements, now that the town has so recently accepted the guidelines we proposed?'"

Roberta Bryant, reached by phone, said she was most definitely in favor of having a cell tower on her property. "We've planned for it for quite a while," she said.

Abutter Robert Schmid, of Long Plain Road, when called for comment, said, "We're feeling pretty inundated right now. I'm a little less concerned with the cell tower, to tell the truth," referring to the planned expansion of a gravel pit on Bryant's property, across the road from his house.

Schmid said he wondered why AT&T couldn't be persuaded to put a tower just up Jackson Hill Road, on town-owned land, so the town could gain some revenue, and so the north-south cell zone could be covered within the bylaw's setbacks.

"People need cell service in this area," said Schmid, "and there isn't any."

Franklin Regional Council of Governments NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

The Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization will open a 30-day public review and comment period for the **Draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.**

The comment period will begin on Monday, May 12, 2014, and will end on Tuesday, June 10, 2014.

Copies of the draft document are available for review at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, located at 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield, MA, by calling (413) 774-3167 x 126 to request a copy, or by logging on to www.frkog.org.

Franklin Regional Council of Governments NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

The Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization will open a 30-day public review and comment period for the **Draft 2015 Unified Planning Work Program.**

The comment period will begin on Monday, May 12, 2014, and will end on Tuesday, June 10, 2014.

Copies of the draft document are available for review at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, located at 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield, MA, by calling (413) 774-3167 x 126 to request a copy, or by logging on to www.frkog.org.

FACES



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

Donna Francis, chair of the Montague Agricultural commission, hands artist Labri Bond a check for \$50 for his award-winning Great Falls Farmers Market poster. Francis said she hopes to make the contest an annual event.

&



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

PLACES

Emma Johnson, No. 12, waits at home plate for her sister, Maddy Johnson, No. 17, to also score a run. Turners crushed Greenfield's Green Wave, 22-1, in the home game last Friday, May 9.

Spring Diaper Drive Is Under Way

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY – A Spring Diaper Drive to benefit young children and families is being sponsored by the Perinatal Support Coalition and the Early Childhood Mental Health Roundtable, two groups of professionals from a range of organizations that serve young children and families.



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

It's that easy: Reporter editor Patricia Pruitt (r) drops off diapers with Jared Libby at the Brick House Community Resource Center.

Anyone can help close the diaper gap and help low-income mothers and families meet their diaper need.

Diapers matter. The health and social consequences for babies and families who do not have sufficient diapers can lead to a whole mountain of problems.

Reducing diaper need for low-income mothers has huge ramifications for maternal and child health, mental health, the child's development and school success, and the mother's access to future economic opportunity.

Low-income families often struggle to provide diapers for their babies. Infants use up to 12 diapers a day and diapers can cost an average of \$100 a month or more. This is equal to up to 6% of gross pay for a low-income family.

And since diapers can't be purchased with WIC or SNAP (food stamp) benefits, the entire cost must be borne by the families.

A baby who has to stay in a dirty diaper is at risk for infections and rashes. And when the baby is stressed, the mother is also stressed, and the child may be at greater risk

for child abuse.

Currently, diapers can be dropped off in the afternoons at Turners Falls at the Brick House Community Resource Center at 34 Third Street from Tuesday to Saturday. Call for more information: 863-9576.

GCC Downtown is also accepting diapers through May 23.

The group is also looking for volunteers to host a diaper drive this spring in their place of work, faith community, neighborhood, school, civic organization, or any group to which an individual may belong.

To help a group get started, the sponsors are also providing a complete diaper packet with materials to get a diaper drive underway.

This includes information about the drive including articles, ideas for hosting a drive, a donor information sheet and more.

For more information, or to donate money to the cause contact Amy Olson at Clinical & Support Options, at (413) 774-1000 or by email at aolson@coinc.org.

Checks should be made payable to: "Community Action – Diaper Drive" and sent to 1 Arch St. #1, Greenfield, MA 013011.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Potential Elephant Corpse Vanishes

Monday, 5/5

3:15 p.m. Took report of larceny at Central Street residence.

5:30 p.m. Illegal dumping on Old State Road. Under investigation.

10 p.m. Report of large deceased animal in the middle of Route 2. Checked same, nothing found.

Tuesday, 5/6

3:30 p.m. Confirmed 911 misdial at elementary school.

11:30 p.m. Subject on French King Bridge transported to Franklin Medical Center.

Wednesday, 5/7

3 p.m. Report of male subject skateboarding down the middle of Moore Street. Located subject and advised to stay out of roadway.

3:15 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Warner Street.

Thursday, 5/8

8:30 p.m. Noise complaint on West High Street. Same stopped.

Friday, 5/9

12:30 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with distraught male subject behind Carroll's Market in Millers Falls.

2:30 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with underage party in Lake Pleasant.

4:30 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on River Road.

7 a.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], for operating a motor vehicle with revoked registration and without insurance.

4:25 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Mountain Road.

5 p.m. Report of suspicious, unoccupied vehicle parked at French King Motel. Property

owner will tow if not removed by next day.

5:30 p.m. Took report of property damage on Rose Lane.

9 p.m. Report of pole down, Route 2, Farley area. Motor vehicle had crashed into utility pole. MSP Athol handled same.

10:30 p.m. 911 call from Old State Road residence. Verbal altercation. Situation resolved.

Saturday, 5/10

9 a.m. Report of motor vehicle damage at French King Entertainment Center parking lot. Found that a tractor trailer unit had backed into a utility trailer pod. Took report.

Sunday, 5/11
8 p.m. Alarm at community center; found to be generator. Highway department advised.

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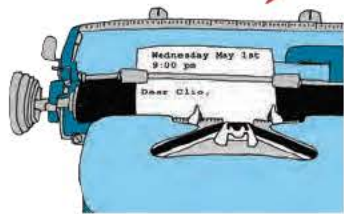
B1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MAY 15, 2014

Dear *Clio*,



Clio, I hope you are still answering letters. I've got an issue.

My girlfriend told me she cheated on me with an old boyfriend a few months ago. I give her credit for telling me about it, and she said she was sorry but that he was in town and it just sort of happened.

She said it was no big deal, but I think it is. We're supposed to get married next summer and now I don't know. I'm having some real problems with this. I don't feel I can trust her anymore.

What should I do? I still love her and all that but I can't get over it.

Can't Get Over It

Dear CGO,

Yes! I am still here, just waiting by the typewriter for someone to send me a letter. I am glad that you wrote but am truly sorry that this happened to you. It must have been awful to hear the news when you were not expecting it.

When someone betrays our trust, it is always a risky choice to trust that person again. No one wants to get hurt a second time, so it makes sense that you are having doubts right now.

My advice is: don't break up with your girlfriend yet. Some marriages do survive an instance of infidelity. Some people even feel that a crisis brought them closer together, forcing them to communicate and to appreciate how much they mean to each other.

Of course there are also many cases that do not have a happy ending. For that reason I do not

see CLIO page B4

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES ON THE GREAT FALLS BATTLEFIELD

Re-telling the events at Peskeompskut

BasketMaker stands, her eyes glistening with the pain of remembering. "I heard my mother scream and then the thunder again and saw another flash of light inside the wetu. My little brother, who was sleeping next to me, screamed and I felt his body jerk then felt hot blood squirting all over me. People were screaming "Mohawks!," then we heard one of the English soldiers grunt and the thunderstick at the western door fell. All was confusion and noise... a dog squealed as it was hit by a bullet. I remember being at the edge of the cliff above the river. People were jumping into the roiling water.

On the shore I thought I saw the thunderspirit dancing, his feathered cape and staff moving cruelly up and down as he danced our deaths. We saw the English soldiers coming down the cliff, shooting at everything, their steel swords glinting like lightning bolts, and I hid inside a small cave made by the rocks... I knew if I stayed in the rocks I would be killed, so I jumped into the river with the others, swimming towards the falls. I was swept over, flung into the air, expecting to die as the others had on the rocks at the bottom... (excerpt from the re-telling of the massacre, by Kelly Savage in "The Pond Dwellers" 1997)



Turner's Falls, in Connecticut River.

"All agreed that it was a rare chance to strike swiftly at the assembled hosts. Captain William Turner, with about 150 men, marched by night, by way of Nash's Mills and Fall River, and fell upon the Gill section of the camp, close to the falls, in the gray of the morning of May 19. He slew them in their beds, men, women, and children, gun muzzles in many instances, being poked through the entrances of the wigwams. They killed about two or three hundred, who started from their beds and dreams shrieking wildly: 'The Mohawks! The Mohawks!' The more agile leaped into the foaming waters and were pierced by bullets as they buffeted the rapids; and many were drowned..."

(excerpt from "The History of Montague" by Edward Pressey, 1910)

see WEST page B6



Die, Die, My Weedling!

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

FRANKLIN COUNTY – I spend nearly all of my time outside. I take in the changing weather, the newly blooming undergrowth of the woods as I rush by on my bicycle, the limey haze of just-burst leaves on the great trees lining River Road, the gentle, winged vibrations of bees looking for the right place for their almost geodesic paper homes.

It's true, as it appears, that spring is a season of firsts. But I've come to believe through many hours spent in participatory observation, that every week is a distinct season. I know that each week is a spoke of the 52-spoked wheel, each fortnight a car in the endlessly cycling Scrambler ride of old-but-new-again insects, light, and temperature.

This past week brought the dreaded but inevitable return of weeds, which I think of as Nature's Revenge. It marks a watershed moment in the spring.

The time is now over when the exposed soil, through regular-enough freezing temperatures, stays bare as a brown sheet of construction paper, appearing to be waiting to be lent meaning by the horticultural designs of the farmer-as-auteur.

Finally this week the sea-foamy crema of spring has spread to the fields. The natural world's enthusiastic gusto for the end of winter is shown clearly on the bare face of the soil in the carpet-like growth habit of galinsoga and the tenacious but

OK-in-salad lamb's quarter. Nature despises voids the way that graffiti artists hate empty brick walls in alleys, and at times when I can detach myself from my chosen role, I'm given hope by its ability to fill space with life.

We kill weeds in a great many creative and medieval ways. Before planting we can plow them, their leaves and stems being crushed under a 6-inch wave of soil and their roots inverted to wither in the sun.

A different strategy at this stage would be to use the harrows, where they would be coarsely chopped by ogre-toothed disks. And if one really wanted to make utter mincemeat of them, you could roto-till them into oblivion (although this is bad practice for soil health).



EASY-BUTTERFLY-GARDEN.COM

We also rid our beds of weeds using 2-, 3-, and 5-row cultivators, Lillistons with their many ninja star-like blades, basket weeder, and even our bare hands in the farm version of Krav Maga.

Probably the most impressively fun way to exercise extreme see AGRARIAN page B4

Director Anne White, Leaving Leverett Chorus, Invites Former Members to Sing

By LEE WICKS

Former members of the Leverett Community Chorus will have one last chance to sing under the direction of Anne Louise White at this year's Spring Concert on Sunday, May 18 at 3 pm in the gym at the Leverett Elementary School.

Former chorus members are invited to join the chorus for the final two songs, and should plan to come to the

the Year by her colleagues at Fort River School in Amherst, is reluctantly stepping down due to family and work responsibilities.

She has been asked to pilot a new arts integration program at Fort River where her position has been restored to full time, and she has parents in need of her time and care.

In a letter to the chorus members, she wrote about her love for this intergenerational chorus, its inclusive-

rience. I want there to be opportunities for us to come back together. I plan to host two Community Sings in Leverett in the fall and spring. These will be evenings where we can harmonize on songs that can be learned in one evening...

"I so much appreciate the tremendous energy you have invested in our community. So many of you have pitched in, in so many important ways: We all have a place in



Ann Louise White leads the chorus during rehearsal.

rehearsal before the show at 2:00 pm to run through the songs with the rest of the chorus.

Ms. White, who founded the Community Chorus thirteen years ago and was recently named Teacher of

ness; its commitment to the community and the pure joy of bringing people together to sing.

She said, "My thirteen years of making music with the chorus has been a profoundly meaningful experience."

the choir. Thank you for being that choir."

A search is underway to find a successor to lead the chorus, and Ms. White said, "I am personally thrilled that they are doing this. This is a

see CHORUS page B4

New at the Wendell Free Library: Mixed Media Work by Nina Keller

By RICHARD BALDWIN

Wendell Free Library's spring exhibition this year is the first public showing of paintings and drawings by Nina Keller. This mixed media show is filled with imagery that is derived from Nina's long time direct involvement with, and love for, nature. Like her surroundings and her many interests, the work encompasses a wide range of detail and energy.

Ms. Keller has long been active in a wide variety of endeavors. In addition to working on the family's organic farm, she teaches part time at the high school level, runs periodic writing workshops and is very active politically both in town government and as an anti-nuclear activist. Her abundant energy and creativity flourish in gardening, sewing, writing and the visual arts.

In her statement about the works in this exhibition she writes:

"We paint how we think, what we see, know, imagine and believe.

Drawings are worksite dreams.

They can be exacting realism and also slide into impressionistic alchemy and phantoms.

If you look around my farm, you will see art incarnate.

It is not all beauty.

Beware the Mad Bombers."

The above is an accurate description of works in this show. The pieces encompass a wide range of imagery from the pencil



"Open the Doors." Photo by Julia Rabin.

sketch of a post and beam element, "Oak Tree," and the drawing, "Curiouser" (inquisitive cows), based on observation, to the highly fanciful works, "Alchemy" and "Far Away and Deep." The latter two are imagined compositions presenting poetic narratives.

The series of four pieces, titled *Microcosm-Macrocosm*, done in synthetic charcoal, are characteristically high contrast black and white drawings.

These have the opposite feeling from others in the show. They are bombastic in style (one of them is named "Bombs"), in-your-face aggressive, clearly echoing the "Beware the Mad Bombers" phrase in Nina's statement. Not friendly imagery, but enticing.

In sharp contrast are the whimsical and humorous, "Curiouser" and "Open The see KELLER page B2

Pet of the Week



“MITTENS”

Are you looking for an oh so handsome young kitty? MEOW!
That's me. Pick me please! I have so much energy I don't know what

to do with it. They call me Mittens, Mr. Mittens that is. I am so soft. I love to play. I love to be petted all over.

I love to play with the water as it comes out of the sink. Is that weird? Not really.

Sometimes I can play rough - so please no young children for me. No cats either because not all cats like the way I play either.

Come down and see how handsome I truly am. I will be waiting for you.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

The Joys of Low-Impact Exercise

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I've got problems with several joints and I heard low-impact exercise is something I should try. What is low-impact and can you suggest some exercises?

Warning: If you want to begin a new exercise program, you should consult your physician and request a list of exercises that are best for your age and physical condition.

As you age, your body becomes less flexible and more vulnerable to injury. Low-impact exercise does not place excessive pressure on your body. There are many low-impact activities that can give you a good, relatively safe workout.

The following are some low-impact exercises that you can review and discuss with your doctor. I put these in alphabetical order:

Golf

Golf is great for increasing flexibility and strength. Swinging a club is more exercise than it appears to be. If you can walk 18 holes with a hand cart, you are in great shape already. But riding the course with a golf cart will still have you walking more than you would think.

KELLER from B1

Doors,” where Nina’s informal shorthand treatment conveys a feeling of intimacy, of friendliness.

Then too are the delicate pieces, “Ascend Descend” and “Mind The Birds,” where the tiny markings and watercolor washes remind one of Kandinsky’s work. In the colored drawing, “Skunk Cabbage,” the combination of

Cycling

Riding a bike gives you a substantial workout. I enjoy riding bike trails because I get to enjoy nature while getting low-impact exercise. I gave up riding on streets because there are too many dangers posed by cars and trucks. If you don't want to ride outdoors, you can pedal a stationary bike indoors.

Swimming

Swimming poses very little injury risk. The water relieves the stress on your body. Swimming also is a whole-body exercise. There's lots of strengthening and stretching while afloat. It's great for your arms, legs, back and shoulders.

Tai Chi

In Asia, tai chi (tie-chee) is considered to be the most beneficial exercise for older people, because it is gentle and can be modified easily if a person has health limitations. A person doing tai chi progresses slowly and gracefully through a series of movements while breathing deeply and meditating. Tai chi relaxes and stimulates the body and mind. Tai chi has been called *moving meditation*.

Walking

Walking is one of the simplest and best low-impact exercises. All you need is a good pair of shoes or sneakers and a place to walk. On

cold and rainy days, I see a lot of seniors walking around indoor malls. When you can, a beneficial exercise is leaving the car keys at home when you have to run an errand.

Water aerobics

Water aerobics is another exercise that can work the whole body. The concept behind this exercise is that everything you do is resisted by the water. This exercise is so popular among seniors that an iconic photo you see often is of a bunch of older people in a pool smiling.

Weight-lifting

You should begin doing your moves without weights. Then go to light weights. You can increase the weight amounts gradually. Getting a personal trainer for weight-lifting is a smart idea.

Yoga

Yoga practice includes physical postures that participants flow into and then hold before proceeding to the next posture. Yoga has been shown to help alleviate many of the health problems faced by older adults. In fact, the many benefits of Yoga are supposed to combat the aging process. Yoga can help your balance, a serious concern for seniors.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org

Senior Center Activities May 19 through 23

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon.

Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant.

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357.

Messages can be left on our machine when the center is closed.

Monday 5/19

Closed for Town Election

Tuesday 5/20

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 5/21

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise

TRIAD Lunch

Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/22

9 a.m. Tai Chi

11 a.m. Sing Along with Morning Star

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 5/23

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 5/19

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12:30 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday 5/20

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Steve Damon

10:45 a.m. Senior Business

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 5/21

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo

Thursday 5/22

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

Noon Cards

Friday 5/23

9 a.m. Bowling

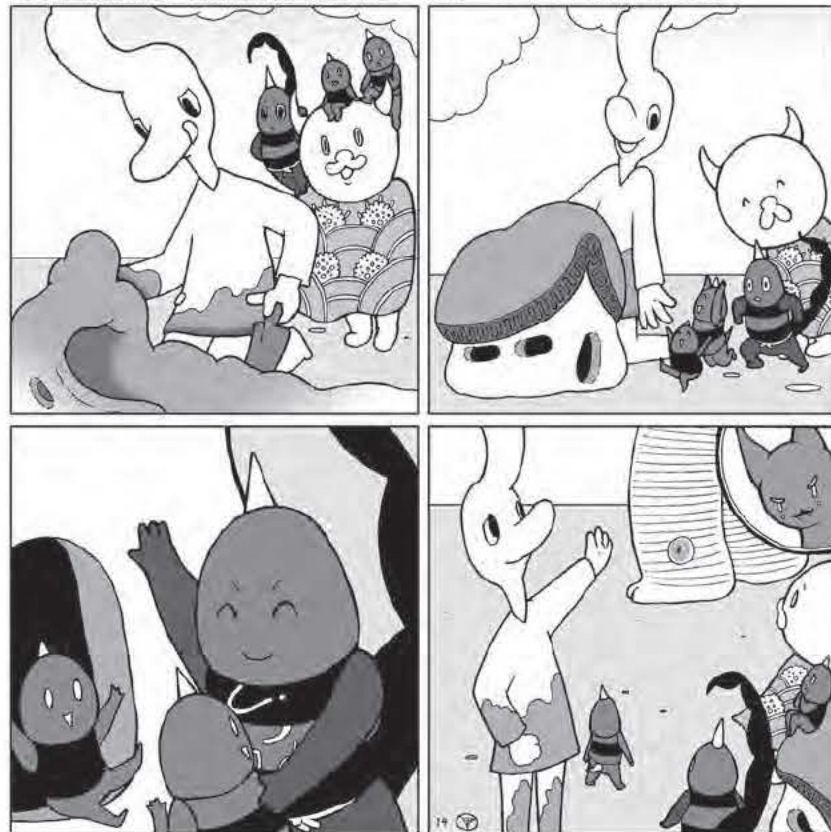
LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out opertura.org.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Hours

Saturday, May 17, is the last Saturday the Carnegie Library will be open until after Labor Day.

Carnegie Library parking on 7th Street was changed again, this time back to the library side of the street, for safety reasons, by the Select Board.

The parking in front of the Carnegie Library is currently unchanged, but diagonal parking on Avenue A is being investigated.

Home School Science on Wednesdays has ended for the season.

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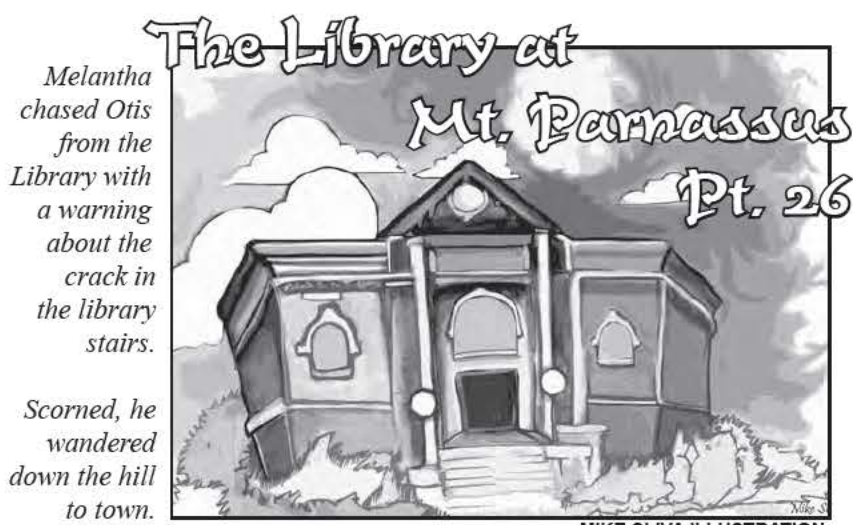
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MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

I trudged back through the town, feeling sulky. My boots crunched through the silicate snow with a grating noise that caused my teeth to grit. I ducked into the Golden Mean, hoping to put the whole weird scene at the library behind me.

It was still early. Sixto was sleeping on a racing form by the cash register, beside a dead cigar in a glass ashtray. His huge double paws were curled delicately beneath his noble chest, and his proud visage, noble as an Egyptian pharaoh, glowered in restive sleep.

Iona was tending bar. I sat in the corner by the jukebox and ran my finger down the red and white rows of glowing song titles. A Polynesian version of "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain," was playing, sounding tinny and far-away.

"What would you like?" "I'm not sure I can put it into words," I admitted. "For now, maybe just an absinthe."

She smiled and set me up, pouring a measure of the bitter wormwood spirit into a reservoir glass, balancing a sugarcube on a slotted silver spoon atop the rim, and pouring ice water slowly through the sugar as we talked. The clear liquid in the glass turned a milky, opaque green, and the pungent smell of fennel wafted from the seething mixture.

I thought I heard her murmur, "Absinthe makes the heart grow fonder."

But I could never quite hear what Iona said, distinctly.

I was pretty fond of her already. Tall and slender, with a swimmer's build and the poise of a bull dancer, she was a rare figure of grace in our wind-blown town. She cut her brown hair short, cut it herself in the mirror, she told me, and the style accentuated the long fluid line of her neck.

She often seemed dissatisfied with her lot in life, but always managed to work the name of her boyfriend, Niko, into the conversation whenever I began to think about asking her out.

"Sixto caught a bird last night," she remarked offhandedly, and moved away to help another customer.

"How is that possible?" I called after her. "Was the bird drunk?"

She came back down the bar toward me.

"Sixto is so fat and pampered,"

I said. "I didn't know he ever left the bar."

"Oh, Georgie lets him out every night to do his business." Georgie was the cook. "He told me Sixto was carrying a bird in his mouth when he let him in today."

"What kind of bird?" "A cedar waxwing."

She stood there for a moment looking at me.

"Think of it..." she said. "Asleep in the reeds, down by the frozen river, dreaming of spring. All of a sudden, with no warning, an avalanche of fur and claws comes leaping down on top of you."

"Before you even wake up, he grabs you in his teeth, and before you can say, 'Daedalus!' Bang! You're lunchmeat."

She flicked a toothpick out of the cup and snapped it in two between her thumb and middle finger and smiled at me.

I dropped a quarter in the jukebox and put on "Social Security," by the Fine Young Cannibals.

The waxwings flew into town in a small flurry each January, on their way north, and could be found for several days along the Avenue, and on some of the main side streets, rustling around the ice-encrusted crabapple trees, ransacking them for frozen berries.

The birds' timing was impeccable. Soon after they departed, heading who knows where, the winter wind would tear the last of the old fruit from the trees and leave the sidewalks in town littered with flaccid red pulp, which froze and thawed tenuously and formed a rind on the soles of our winter boots we scraped off every time we trudged in from out of doors, leaving traces that resembled blood and brain matter on all the welcome mats downtown.

The waxwings, occasionally joined by their rare bohemian cousins, had Mt. Parnassus solidly imprinted on their erratic migratory maps as a place where frozen berries could be gleaned in abundance from the stubby ornamentals, which came alive for a few days in mid-winter in a blur of red and yellow-tipped wings and a hectic cloud of frenzied feeding.

It was not unusual each year for a few of the dominoed birds, gluttoned and delirious, to fly straight past the next crabtree and slam headfirst into a plate glass storefront window, breaking their delicate roan feathered necks.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Goat Dispute, Hens on the Loose, Skunk in the Daytime; Injured Rabbit, Deer, and Baby Hawk; Human Guy Gets Finger Stuck In Gas Tank

Monday, 5/5

9:30 a.m. Party in to station to report that a work bench he had left outside of his storage unit on Second Street was gone. A friend located a Craigslist posting for the item in question. Officer contacted seller on Craigslist; seller believed that the bench had been abandoned. Seller will be returning item to where he found it.

9:34 a.m. Request for officer to retrieve a bag of pills left in the restroom of Ed's Barber Shop. Bag containing +1 Oxycontin pills removed and disposed of.

7:14 p.m. Landlord-tenant disturbance on Avenue A. Investigated.

10:03 p.m. Business computer reported stolen from People's Bakery. Report taken.

Tuesday, 5/6

12:09 a.m. Caller reported catching a male party who broke into his vehicle on L Street. Subject left a pair of sandals behind; described as barefoot, 5'3" - 5'6", stocky build, and wearing black sweats. Officer responded; K9 search initiated but canceled after caller witnessed subject leaving area in a Jeep Cherokee driven by a white female. Info shared with Greenfield PD.

4:42 a.m. Silent 911 call received from a Turners Falls Road residence; responding officer found that the call was for suspicious activity, and that the suspicious subject was in a field observing the meteor shower.

10:27 a.m. License plate stolen off motorcycle overnight on Park Street. Paperwork completed and stolen plate entered into national database.

10:45 a.m. Assisted U.S. Marshals Service with warrant arrest in Erving.

[Redacted] was arrested as a fugitive from justice on a court warrant.

3:28 p.m. Caller from East Chestnut Hill Road reported that his neighbor's goats that keep escaping from their residence are loose again and approaching his yard. Animal control officer advised and en route. ACO got goats back on owner's property and will follow up with owner.

7:21 p.m. Two needles found in bathroom trash at F.L. Roberts. Items disposed of.

8:00 p.m. Caller reported two chickens loose in the

Avenue A area: one behind a building and one in Spinner Park. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 5/7

11:07 a.m. Caller reported that his finger was stuck in the hole where you put the gas nozzle in your vehicle. TFFD and officers advised. Caller freed by TFFD.

11:24 a.m. Report of vehicle into Jersey barriers at former Railroad Salvage location. Accident was due to driver being distracted by a passenger's medical issue. Medical issue resolved; vehicle towed; DPW advised re: Jersey barrier.

1:24 p.m. Caller reported "small explosion" after two females attempted to jump start a vehicle in the Rite Aid parking lot. No apparent injuries; lingering smoke; fluids on ground. TFFD advised.

2:50 p.m. Report of several mirrored closet doors dumped illegally on Winthrop Street. DPW advised.

7:26 p.m. Following a traffic stop,

[Redacted] was arrested and charged with failure to stop for a stop sign; possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle; and operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license (subsequent offense).

Thursday, 5/8

12:21 a.m. Two reports of male creating a disturbance in a Third Street apartment building. Male found to be attempting to get help for a medical issue with an infant in a neighboring building. BHA and TFFD advised and en route.

7 a.m. Caller reported seeing a skunk out in daylight; no other abnormal activity observed. Animal control officer advised.

1:14 p.m. At request of Hampden County Sheriff's Department, male subject from Lake Pleasant verbally trespassed from their jail.

1:21 p.m. Caller reported finding a rabbit whose back legs had been run over by a

car. Services rendered.

7:15 p.m. While hiking off of Reservation Road, caller observed a suspicious male who may have been exposing himself. Caller took down all license plate numbers in the area. Unable to locate.

7:46 p.m. Caller reported that neighbor on Park Street was making homemade explosives from two liter bottles and blowing them up in the yard. Investigated.

8:40 p.m. Second call regarding homemade explosives being detonated on Park Street. Investigated.

9:16 p.m. Female student reported missing; last seen earlier today at Franklin County Technical School, but did not get on the bus home. Female located by Greenfield PD and transferred to DCF custody.

Friday, 5/9

12:52 a.m. Loud noise disturbance on Fourth Street. Peace restored.

1:04 a.m. Loud noise disturbance in area of Ninth Avenue in Lake Pleasant. Second caller reported loud music coming from a large party with possibly 100 people in attendance. Gathering dispersed; party moved inside and all advised to quiet down.

2:48 a.m. Caller reported seeing a white SUV pull into her driveway and a male get out and open the storm door. During call, caller, embarrassed, realized that this was most likely the newspaper delivery man. Responding officers found that vehicle was, in fact, the paper delivery. All OK.

6:12 a.m. Car vs. deer north of Greenfield Road and Hatchery Road. Driver uninjured; deer ran off into woods; significant damage to vehicle.

12:32 p.m. Debit card reported stolen from mailbox on Park Street three weeks ago; since then, transactions totaling more than \$650 have been made. Investigated.

12:36 p.m. Caller report-

ed having been told by a neighbor that a tenant in their building on J Street had "a lot of weapons" in his apartment and had been observed acting suspiciously recently. Referred to an officer; caller advised of options.

6:11 p.m. Complaint regarding two males standing on the corner of Fourth Street and Avenue A and kicking "nips" into traffic on Avenue A. Caller reported that these two parties are always in the area causing issues and he is "sick of it." Parties described as black males, wearing all black with baseball caps on. Investigated.

Saturday, 5/10

11:30 a.m. [Redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

12:19 p.m. Caller reported hearing approximately 20 gunshots coming from the wooded area behind her residence on Millers Falls Road; shots sounded closer than legal distance. Referred to Environmental Police.

12:25 p.m. Report of a male subject on a bicycle downtown yelling, screaming, and acting disorderly. Unable to locate.

11:09 p.m. Officer passing through Deerfield flagged down and advised of a large bonfire nearby. Deerfield FD advised.

Sunday, 5/11

1:16 a.m. Report of male subject urinating on building on Avenue A. Unable to locate.

1:53 a.m. Loud music complaint on Fairway Avenue. Peace restored.

4:52 a.m. Following a disturbance in Lake Pleasant, an intoxicated Hatfield man was taken into protective custody.

11:12 a.m. Injured baby hawk reported on Davis Street. Hawk retrieved and later picked up by environmental police.

3:46 p.m. Caller reported that a party attempted to run her son over yesterday. Services rendered.

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AGRARIAN from page B1

prejudice against weeds and their plentiful ilk is the flame weeder – or Flame Reaper, if you'd like the nomenclature to be as dramatic as it should be.

Supposedly you can buy them at Wal-Mart, although I've never heard of it, probably based on most organic farmers' predisposition toward ramshackle D.I.Y. technology.

Flame weeders are so easy to build, if you're good at building things, that I can explain it in one paragraph.

First, take just the frame from an old external frame pack, the hard-on-the-back kind they probably stopped making after 1989. Attach a standard 20-lb propane tank to it with a carabiner you'd trust your life with

and a bungee cord on the bottom for stability. Attach a 4' propane tank hose with S regulator to your tank, then fit the outer end of the hose with a 2'-long, 3/4" diameter iron pipe.

That's it! Now you can stand fully upright and enjoy watching the weeds shrink into themselves and evaporate in a way that makes it seem like they never existed, like you had just gone back in time and murdered their weed-mothers.

The flame weeder seemed at first a bit too NBC, or maybe WMD. It appeared to be a little too symbolic of waging war on Mother Earth.

I mean, while using it the soil does smoke and little pieces of wood and other memorabilia of the natural world briefly flare up with flame that seems to be moving in 2X fast-for-

ward.

But now I see it as more phoenix-like, more a part of the natural continuum of birth-death. The flame passes over the carrot seeds in the seedbed, just starting to germinate, and it rings in their Umbelliferan New Year, like burning one's Christmas tree on the first of January.

While we'll kill the weeds that eventually grow up around them with a mechanical cultivator, with hoes and our own fingers, it's the two-foot-long iron birthday candle of the flame weeder that marks their entry into our sunlit world.

Pete lives in Montague City and works on a farm in Sunderland. He joins us as a guest columnist this season.



LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 13, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

The Polka Place

St. Kazimierz Society of Turners Falls, known in previous decades throughout New England for their Saturday night polka bands, celebrates its 100th anniversary this Sunday with a ceremonial march to the church, a special dinner, and a commemorative book.

In addition to Sunday's activities, there will be a forthcoming Karaoke Night, as well as an evening of music with the Baby Morrison Band.

Healthy Complaints

Andy Hamilton, chair of Wendell's board of health, filed a complaint against selectboard chair Ted Lewis in Orange District Court.

The complaint charges Lewis of threatening him at the preceding week's selectboard meeting, after things heated up around a different complaint that had been filed against Hamilton by property owner Paul Rich.

Rich alleged that Hamilton had conspired with his tenant's boyfriend to create code violations for which Hamilton had recently

served to Rich.

Near the end of the discussion, after Hamilton made references to Mr. Lewis being "pissy," Lewis replied, "If you want to settle this, mister, I'll settle this right now. I'm sick of your bullshit," rising from his chair and heading towards the hall.

Hamilton asked Lewis if he was aware he had threatened him, to which Lewis replied, "it's not a threat, it's a promise."

Turners Music

Students from Turners Falls High School band and chorus traveled to a competition in Hershey, PA this past weekend and returned home bearing trophies and smiles.

Accompanied by GMRSD band director Steve "Mr. C" Ciechomski, the chorus placed second with an excellent rating, the jazz band placed second with a superior rating, and the concert band placed first with a superior rating.

Additionally, several students were acknowledged for their individual achievements, including David Parody for a baritone sax solo, Justin Prokovich for a trumpet solo, and Henry Gaida for piano playing.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Animal Complains; Keeping of the Peace

Monday, 4/28

12 noon Boyle Road resident reported being harassed by male party looking for homes.
2:20 p.m. Motor vehicle lockout at West Gill Road business.
3:30 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with arrest.
4:45 p.m. Landlord/tenant dispute on Oak Street.

Tuesday, 4/29

7:20 a.m. Animal complaint on Route 2 at Hill Drive. Removed same from roadway.
8:30 a.m. Court paperwork issued for Oak Street resident.
11:55 a.m. Suspect from harassment report located and removed from Boyle Road area.

Wednesday, 4/30

7:15 a.m. Assisted Main Road business with employee issue.
7:30 a.m. Report of larceny of signs from Main Road residence.
5:25 p.m. Medical emergency on Route 2 at Highland Road. Subject transported by BHA.

Thursday, 5/1

10:50 a.m. Restraining order updated on French King Highway resident.
12:10 p.m. Arrested Riverview Drive resident for breaking and entering and assault and battery.
10:10 p.m. Suspicious person/activity at River Road residence. Unknown party transported to hospital.

Friday, 5/2

10:43 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with a large fight on Avenue A in Turners Falls.
4:15 p.m. Located reported erratic driver on Route 2. Subject OK, just tired.
4:35 p.m. Disabled vehicle on Route 2. Assisted same to Mobil station.
5:50 p.m. Restraining order issued against Riverview Drive resident.
9:20 p.m. Unattended motorcycle reported on Main Road. Checked OK.

Saturday, 5/3

8:50 p.m. Harassment of resident in Greenfield reported. Greenfield PD contacted.

10:15 p.m. Assisted parents of suspicious subject in locating adult son near river in Gill.

Sunday, 5/4

5 p.m. Walk-in report of erratic motor vehicle operator on Main Road.
5:20 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with reported jumper from Route 10 bridge.
7:10 p.m. Riverview Drive resident assisted with property dispute.

Monday, 5/5

2:15 p.m. Report of motor vehicle leaking gas on Route 2.
3:30 p.m. DCF investigation for family abuse on Dole Road.

Tuesday, 5/6

9:10 a.m. Medical assistance for Stoughton Place resident. Transported.
9:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident at Main Road and Route 2. No injuries reported.

Wednesday, 5/7

9 a.m. Assisted party with background check on resident.

11:15 a.m. Escorted resident for Keeping of the Peace to Riverview Drive residence.

5:40 p.m. Suspicious truck reported in Riverside area. WMECO workers located.

6:50 p.m. House alarm on West Gill Road. All OK.

Friday, 5/9

10:30 a.m. Trespass orders lifted for parents from elementary school. Same notified.

12:55 p.m. French King Bridge area for reported subject going to jump. Area search.

2:40 p.m. French King Highway resident reported signs stolen from town property.

4:30 p.m. Restraining order issued to Hoe Shop Road resident.

7:35 p.m. Investigated suspicious female at French King Bridge. Contacted family.

9 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with closing of Route 2 due to accident in their town.

CHORUS from B1

testament to the power of community singing."

The Community Chorus brings together people of all ages to experience the joy of singing. Rehearsals are social events where community members get to know one another and feel a part of a collaborative endeavor. Together they create a supportive environment that encourages children and adults to gain confidence in their abilities.

Music reading is not a prerequisite. Beginning and advanced singers are invited to join and experience the joy of harmony singing. Ms. White said, "Even people who think they can't carry a tune in a bucket in no time find themselves part of a glorious choir."

With singers from "7 to 107," some have been involved since the first year. The Chorus started out with 25 people and now numbers 57. Ms. White has directed 24 commu-

nity performances and led the chorus at community gatherings, memorial services, retirement home concerts, and dedication ceremonies. She said, "We have hosted the Alaskan Children's Chorus, and have sung with visiting musicians from Scotland and Canada."

The music itself is inclusive and represents diverse cultures. Though the intricate harmonies are often challenging, Ms White coaxes, cajoles, and encourages the members, leading them through various vocal exercises until the sound she is searching for is achieved.

She's an adept musician and a born teacher who has created community through the simple (or not so simple) act of raising voices in song. Her successor will inherit a well-trained chorus filled with joyous spirit.

The program for the free concert:
1. *Akanamandla*, a South African freedom song

2. *Wondrous Love*, a piece from the Shape Note Southern Harmony singing tradition

3. *Summer is a-Cumen In*, an English song dating back to 1245

4. *Skye Boat Song*, a Scottish folk song.

5. *A Million Nightingales*, a tribute to the peace work being done in the Middle East, by Linda Hirschorn

6. *Potato*, a humorous piece by Cheryl Wheeler

7. *Fount*, a traditional hymn, arranged by Malcolm Dalglish

8. *Harriet Tubman*, written By Walter Robinson, arranged by Anne White for the chorus

9. *Follow the Heron Home*, written by Karine Polwart

10. *No More Fish*, by Shelley Posen

11. *Turn the World Around*, written by Harry Belafonte

12. *God Danced*, by Andrew Lawrence

13. *Woyaya*, a South African freedom song.



CLIO from B1

think you should rush into getting married either. You can still date your girlfriend, but let her know that you need some time to think before picking a date for the ceremony.

It's hard for me to tell from one letter whether your girlfriend has the potential to be a loyal partner. On the other hand you are in the perfect position to judge whether this relationship will work, as long as you give yourself enough time to figure it out.

She did tell you about what happened, which is a good sign. She cares enough not to lie to you, and also, she is choosing you over the ex-boyfriend. Maybe this was her way of proving to herself that you are the one. I hope for both of you that this is true, and that your girlfriend can be a good partner to you.

However, if you are writing to me, feeling unsure, I suggest that you postpone the wedding until you are sure.

Perhaps you have already picked a date and started planning the wedding, and it feels inconvenient to change the date. Also, it might be awkward having to explain to friends and family why you are postponing the wedding.

I promise you, though, that getting divorced is even more of a hassle, and just as uncomfortable to explain to friends and family.

For some couples, getting divorced is more expensive than the wedding. It is definitely worth the awkwardness at this point to wait until you are sure that you trust her

not to hurt you again.

I believe that you will know when (or if) it is safe to trust your girlfriend. Right now you are saying that you can't get over it, and that may always be true.

Maybe you will feel differently, though, in a few months, or maybe in a year. When that time comes you will know that this is the woman you want to spend the rest of your life with. Then you can start planning the wedding.

It is normal to be nervous about getting married or to get cold feet, but this is different. A wise part of you is questioning whether this is a one-time thing and also whether you are able to forgive her and move on. It is important to figure out the answers to those questions.

As long as part of you is not sure whether you can trust your girlfriend, I think you should listen to that warning voice inside you.

You were at a point in your life where you were ready to make a commitment to one person whom you say you love. You deserve to have a happy marriage, and I really hope that you will get to have the life you planned with this person.

May she convince you that she is trustworthy, and that you can go ahead with your plans.

If it is not going to work, however, this is the right time to be honest with yourself about that fact, not five or ten years from now, after you are already married.

Good luck!

Yours,
Clio



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ONGOING:

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

Turners Falls Fishway Open! 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day until Sunday, June 15, First Street, off Avenue A.

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Free *Texas Hold 'em* Poker tournament, with cash prizes.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Great Falls Farmer's Market, Turners Falls, 2 to 6 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll*

& Laurie Davidson. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: Thursday Night Jazz, *Ted Wirt and John Harrison*, 5 to 7 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

ART SHOWS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Transformagination: the Surreal Collage Art of Tiffany Heerema*. On display through June 7.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: photography of *People's Movement to Shut Down VT Yankee* on display through May 31st.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Ed Gregory's* photo exhibit in the Great Hall, high-resolution images of typically mundane subjects on display through May 31st.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Turners Falls, *Third Thursday* events various locations, Avenue A. see www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

FRIDAY, MAY 16

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Food For Change*, a provocative look at the current resurgence of food co-ops in the U.S. and their unique historic place in our economic and political landscape, with a focus on our own Franklin Community Co-op (Green Fields & McCusker's Markets), 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie with *Midnight Swerve*, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Burning Bridget Cleary with Jennie McAvoy* opening, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Trailer*

Park dance party! \$, 8 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Tarbox Ramblers*. String bassist Scott McEwen, drummer Robby Cosenza and guitarist Michael Tarbox, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, outlaw country, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mark & John turn FIVE-OH! With Sandy Baily and Her Funky Friends*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Shelburne Falls: Bridge of Flow-



Burning Bridget Cleary at the Montague Bookmill, Friday, May 16, 8 p.m. Rose Baldino and Deirdre Lockman, who lead the band with high-energy and tightly woven harmonies in both fiddle and vocals. The driving rhythm and bass end by Lou Baldino on guitar, and percussionist, Peter Trezzi, on djembe drum. Jennie McAvoy opens.

ers Plant Sale. Plants from the bridge and other spots around town will be for sale. Vendors selling tools, propagated wildflowers, garden-related art, books and local crafts. 9 a.m. to noon. Held at the Trinity Church, Main Street, Shelburne Falls. 9 to 12 a.m.

Co-op Birthday Celebration, 311 Wells St., Greenfield. Live music: *Xopo*, Balkan and *Ras Moon*, reggae. Join Real Pickles, Artisan Beverage Co-op and Pioneer Valley Photovoltaics (PV2), 2 to 5 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Food For Change*, 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie with *Midnight Swerve*, 7 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *The Equalites*, proceeds to benefit the Millers River Watershed Council, open mic, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Doug Alan Wilcox*, singer/songwriter, 7:30 pm.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Belas Bartok* CD Release party, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Patti's Sex-*

tieth Birthday Party with Rhythm, Inc., reggae, 8:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Ray Mason and the Lonesome Brothers*, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Alternaprom*, music party benefit for the Greenfield Center School. DJ, Cocktails, Karaoke, Photo-booth! \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer with DJ Just Joan*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *AfterGlo*, current & classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Join the *Nolumbeka Project* for the annual *Day of Remembrance of the infamous Great Falls Massacre on May 19, 1676*. Program includes ceremony, video presentation, and conversa-

tion. Soups and refreshments for sale. Walking tour of the Wissatinnewag property in Greenfield, following the event. More info: nolumbekaproject.org 11 to 3 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lizzie Davis & Mitch Gettman*, singer-songwriter, 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *DANSE CAFÉ - French & Breton Dance*, dancing, instruction, live music, French Café ambience. \$, 3 to 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 19

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BINGO!* 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Green Fields Market, Greenfield, *Robin Lane* and friends, on the mezzanine, 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Lawson Pomeroy* (of Orange Crush): *Fear No '80s*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *June and the Bee, Woman Songwriter Collective*, \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Russell Kaback*, soul/folk, 9:30 p.m.

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WEST from page B1

Battlefield Grant Update

The 338th anniversary of the infamous event at the Great Falls/Peskeompskut on May 19, 1676 is upon us. Was it a battle or a massacre?

The attack upon the refugee camp in what is now known as Riverside certainly was a disaster for the three hundred tribal people encamped there, having fled the battle zone in southern New England during King Philip's War.

The elderly men, women, and children who perished there fell victim to the revenge of the colonials who were seeking to end the raids on their homes, livestock, and families.

Captain William Turner and most of his men paid with their lives also, when warriors from the bands of Pocumtuck, Nipmuc, Narragansett, and Wampanoag caught up with them as they retreated in panic near what is now the junction of Silver and Conway streets in Greenfield.

The multiple perspectives on this event, both a massacre and a battle, are the focus of the 2014 Battlefield Grant application filed by the Town of Montague.

Early planning and scoping sessions for this grant are proceeding apace. Montague has been hosting monthly meetings to get an early start on planning and preparation for implementing the grant, expected to be awarded in June.

As the local coordinator of the grant application, I've been facilitating the meetings that have generated a high level of interest, excitement, and passion.

An unprecedented coalition of the Historical Commissions from the towns where battle events took place, Gill, Montague, Deerfield, Greenfield and Northfield, plus the tribal representatives from the Wampanoag of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Nipmuc Tribe of Massachusetts, the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohicans and the Native American advocacy group, the Nolumbeka Project, Inc. have all been collaborating in these scoping sessions.

The main thrust of the grant itself will be a pre-inventory project to identify the likely locations of the battlefield and associated sites using military terrain analysis (*Battlefield Survey Manual 2000:7*) to identify these likely locations, and the avenues of English approach and withdrawal.

An innovative and historical aspect of the grant will be to bring together the oral histories of the

participating tribes who will write their own Tribal accounts of the event at the falls.

The Yankee histories, both oral and written will also be integrated into this definitive study.

Not wishing to wait for the awarding of the grant before beginning to get organized, we've brought together an ad hoc multi-disciplinary advisory committee of scholars and Tribal Officers familiar with the colonial history and archaeology of our region in preparation to hit the ground running when the awarding of the grant is announced.

Rhode Island State Archaeologist (ret.) Paul Robinson, as Principal Investigator for the grant, has reviewed the Project Work Plan with this committee of advisors.

Using the Work Plan of the Nip-sachuck (RI) Battlefield as a model, we will adapt elements of that plan to fit the Great Falls Battlefield study.

The Rhode Island battle at the beginning of the King Philip's War is the focus of an earlier National Park Service Battlefield Grant, and we are expecting that upon the awarding of the Great Falls grant sometime in June, we will have two very important battle sites of that War in sharp focus.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Tribes will be developed to ensure that all parties understand and agree to the conditions for the Tribal contributions to the project.

At the most recent planning session, a map of the battlefield area was provided by FRCOG.


Spreading this map out on the conference table, we began an almost hour-by-hour mapping-out of events: the encampments of the Tribal groups present, the approach routes of the colonial forces, the attack on the refugee camp, and the retreat routes of the attackers.

Activists from the Deerfield Historical Commission, Bud Driver and David Gracie shared some of their 20 years of research in the study of native presence in the Valley. They traded interpretations of the details with Nolumbeka Project anthropologist Howard Clark and Joe Graveline, Nolumbeka chairman.

It's clear that this study will provide the most recent and up to date research on this event, and it will be done by local experts, people who have lived on this site all of their lives.

Tribal representatives from the Wampanoag of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Narragansett Indian Tribe were quoted as saying that the level of collaboration and coopera-

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tion taking place here in Montague is already serving as a model for such cooperation between Towns and Tribes throughout New England.

We have all agreed that, grant funding or no, this project will go forward. The talent, knowledge, and willingness have converged on this spot.

Now is the time to write of the multiple perspectives of that fateful day. Now is the time to do this right.



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