



# The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 14 – NO. 21

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 10, 2016

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### Leverett Officials Express Frustration with Shutesbury

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

Leverett is still working with the regional committee for the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District on the possibility of merging elementary schools. While the issue has been on the table for years, members of the selectboard expressed frustration at their meeting Tuesday over Shutesbury's unpreparedness to vote on the merger at the last regional school committee meeting.

"We simply did not want to vote with one town not knowing what they were doing," said selectboard chair Peter d'Errico.

D'Errico explained that while Shutesbury may not wish to merge elementary schools, a vote is necessary to allow the other towns in the region to merge. All four towns in the region must vote for the measure in order for it to pass.

"Nothing changes unless all four towns vote for it," explained member Julie Shively.

In light of this, Shutesbury must be prepared with a position on the matter. According to d'Errico, due to a communication breakdown with the Shutesbury government, the town was not aware the vote was to

see LEVERETT page A4

### Preview: Town Elections

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – With town elections around the corner in April and May, candidates are filing their nomination papers this month. We checked in with town clerks' offices to see what might be in store for voters.

So far, Erving's Art Johnson is the only standing selectboard member facing a race to keep his seat. His counterparts in Gill, Wendell, Leverett and Montague have all an-

nounced they will seek re-election, and no challengers have yet identified themselves in those towns.

Erving school committee chair Scott Bastarache and George "Moonlight" Davis, who sits on the planning board, have both filed papers to run against Johnson. Papers must be filed by 5 p.m. this Monday, March 14 in Erving.

According to assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard, incumbents are running unchallenged for all other

see ELECTIONS page A3

### Ice Cream, Gems – and a Space with Gas

By JEN HOLMES

TURNERS FALLS – Long noted for its vacant storefronts, the downtown will be looking busier than ever this spring. Two new businesses have rented space on and off the Avenue, and plan to open their doors in coming months. Meanwhile, property owners are seeking tenants for new commercial spaces.

The Country Creemee, formerly located on Millers Falls Road across from the Turners Falls Airport, is moving to Avenue A, and scheduled to open sometime in April.

Co-owners Cynthia Ahearn and Robyn Mason said they have a lot of work ahead of them to get the 23-year-old business up and running in its new location after the very unexpected move, but that the Creemee will be open as soon as possible. They plan to share more details with the public once their new setup is more settled.

Ahearn and Mason signed the lease with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) just last week, and the organization is pleased to have such a beloved local business move into their last remaining spot in the historic Crocker Building.

"We're really excited about having them as tenants, and overall just excited to have the Creemee downtown," said Frances Pheny, executive director of the HRA. "Especially with an established business such as



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Most recently home to the boutique Dusk, this Third Street building will soon host Tangible Bliss.

theirs, that the public really supports."

The addition of the Country Creemee fills the last remaining vacancy in the Crocker Building, which provides storefront space for Gary's Coins & Antiques on Avenue A, MCTV on Second Street, and rent-subsidized apartments upstairs.

see DOWNTOWN page A8

### Peer Mediation at the Middle School: Transformative, on Both Sides of the Table



WICKS PHOTO

Mediators (l-r) Emily Young, Alyson Murphy, Amber Taylor, Allison Wheeler, Catherine Bezio, Katie Graves, and Josh Galvin are among those who help their peers resolve conflicts in a pioneering program at Great Falls Middle School.

By LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS – There's a peer mediation program at Great Falls Middle School that is helping students resolve problems without

adult intervention. It won't work for every disagreement – conflicts that escalate to hitting and violence require involvement with teachers and administrators – but hurt feelings, jealousy, misunderstandings,

and complaints against teachers and coaches have all been successfully mediated by a well-trained and enormously dedicated group of students.

There are ground rules. Participation requires two full days of training (for which students are required to make up missed school work), and weekly meetings.

Mediators must learn to stay calm, listen without judgment, wait patiently for answers, and lead people to a resolution without suggesting the answer.

They practice between sessions, looking for ways to improve. They make up scenarios, correct one another, enjoy experiencing different points of view.

Last year eleven students received training, bringing the total number of mediators to fourteen.

The state-funded program is run see MEDIATION page A5

### Erving Voters Approve Midyear Expenditures

By KATIE NOLAN

About 35 voters attended the Erving special town meeting Monday night, and approved ten expenditure articles totaling \$284,192. All of the expenditures were funded either from free cash or by transferring money from other previously approved line items.

The meeting approved \$40,000 for roadwork at the Pan Am road crossing at 45 East Main Street. Selectboard chair William Bem-bury said that, under a 1972 agreement, the town is liable for

crossing upgrades. Faced with a required \$300,000 safety upgrade, the board negotiated with Pan Am and Erving Industries, resulting in Erving Industries paying the majority of the cost.

The meeting approved \$88,000 for two new police cruisers, replacing two older ones. One of the older cruisers, which has a canine cage installed, will be "handed down" to the animal control officer. Police chief Chris Blair noted that the new vehicles would be "small SUVs – V6s, not gas guzzlers."

see ERVING page A4

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Sun, Wind, Gas: Energy Politics Heat Up Across Massachusetts

By JEFF SINGLETON

BOSTON – This spring the leadership of the state legislature plans to bring forward a much-anticipated Omnibus Energy Bill. The bill, which is being crafted by the leadership in the House of Representatives, will include provisions pertaining to solar, wind, hydroelectric, and natural gas power.

Much of the attention in recent weeks has focused on House speaker Robert DeLeo's support for offshore wind. The issue has been on hold since the demise of the much debated "Cape Wind" project last year, but DeLeo has hinted that the

House bill will propose a competitive process to subsidize wind projects further offshore.

Governor Charlie Baker, on the other hand, has tended to be more supportive of hydroelectric power, including "hydro" from Canada.

The legislation will no doubt consider policy in the context of the state's greenhouse gas emission targets, known as GWS (Global Warming Solutions Act). The 2008 law that set these standards requires that the commonwealth reduce greenhouse emissions between 10% and 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, and 80% below them by 2050.

see ENERGY page A5

By DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD – Jeff Halper, a US-born anthropologist living in Jerusalem with dual American-Israeli citizenship, is an unapologetic member of the dwindling but still active left in Israel, where he co-founded the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions in 1997.

Halper has often taken part in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience against what he views as the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He has been arrested many times for attempting to block bulldozers engaged in the demolition of some of the 18,000 Palestinian homes that Israeli military and civilian authorities have leveled in the West Bank and Gaza since 1968, in continuation of a policy begun under the

British mandate in Palestine.

The demolition of Palestinian homes is a tactic alternately viewed as a necessary counter-terrorism measure by Israeli authorities, or an illegal means of collective punishment and land seizure by the United Nations and critics of Israel.

During an hour-long speech in front of about 50 people on Monday at Greenfield Community College's Downtown Center, Halper mentioned that the Caterpillar corporation, manufacturer of giant armored bulldozers used in house demolitions in the Palestinian territories, was one of the first targets of the growing international campaign of boycotts and divestment in protest of Israel's policies toward Palestinians.

Halper was the only Israeli to take part in the first international flotilla challenging the blockade of



CC PHOTO BY TIM SALLINGER

Jeff Halper, in a 2010 photo.

Gaza in 2008. He was arrested for that activity as well.

Halper is on a speaking tour of America in support of his newest book, *War Against the People*, see HALPER page A6

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## At Least Put A Lock On The Thing

It seems that Turners Falls has more to offer visitors with each passing month, so we hesitate to dwell on the negative. But one curiosity in particular needs addressing: a certain giant building has now been collapsing for a full ten years, and is a danger to the public.

The Griswold Cotton Mill on Power Street, one of the village's anchor employers in its industrial heyday, ended up as a department store, Rockdale's, and then a discount store, Railroad Salvage. The building is still known locally as the Railroad Salvage, and many locals still fondly remember shopping and working there.

A number of obstacles have impeded the reuse of the building since the store's closure: Turners is off the beaten path. The building is wedged between the power canal and the river.

Besides water, the site is completely surrounded by the property of the power company, First-Light Power Resources, and any redevelopment or demolition will rely on FirstLight's cooperation. A smaller building, the "annex" along the canal, is in better shape, but even hooking that building up with basic utilities will require digging on FirstLight land.

An unknown number of industrial poisons hide among the wooden planks, bricks, glass, iron rods, and debris of the main building, and there is a fear that chemicals disturbed during demolition could wash straight into the Connecticut River through a poorly-mapped lattice of underground drains.

Several successive owners have been unable to realize their dreams for the property.

In February 2006, a section of the main building's roof fell through five stories into its basement. That May, sections of exterior wall started to topple.

Power Street was closed for three years, and eventually reopened. The town has ordered the building be secured, and for years a chain-link fence, topped with barbed wire, enclosed both the main building and annex, protecting them from all but the most deliberate trespassers.

The property was since split into two lots, and last year the town of Montague took the annex building for back taxes owed. The main structure is currently owned by a single-member limited liability corporation known as Solutions Consulting LLC.

Solutions Consulting was formed on July 24, 2013, and on August 1 of that year, it purchased the property for \$200. Though Jeanne Golrick of Millers Falls is apparently the sole remaining member of the LLC, the company lists as its principal office a mailbox at a UPS Store, 90 miles away in Wakefield, MA.

In its corporate filings, Solutions describes its corporate character this way: "Independent consultants harmonize their specialties [sic] to provide creative solutions to individuals."

Very few specialties seem to have been harmonized, and very few solutions cooked up, for the Railroad Salvage building over the last two and a half years. The gate (as of Sunday afternoon) was wide open, and the site seems to be in use as a dump for automotive, industrial and household trash. We watched as a curious older couple rode their bicycles right in.

Whatever motive may have led to Golrick's involvement with this building, she is not to blame for its miserable condition, and most likely lacks the talent or connections to do anything about it. Solutions Consulting LLC also happens to be behind on its taxes, but the town is in no rush to become responsible for the disaster.

Abandoned by industry and stifled by power, the thing is a public nuisance, and will almost certainly require public money in one form or another to dismantle safely.

The Griswold Mill is part of the legacy of the power company that built Turners Falls and dug its canal. Perhaps its successor could be convinced to pitch in.

The very least that can be done in the meantime – if all parties are hoping to kick the can down the road for younger people to deal with when they are older – is to ensure that its fence is repaired and its gate locked.

There is a popular fascination with, and aestheticization of, industrial ruins, and locally the Railroad Salvage building has become an icon of decline, the subject of sculpture, art and photography.

If something terrible happens to some hapless explorer, it does not matter whether private or public neglect should be held to blame. We will all be responsible for looking the other way, and for failing to face the problems of the present.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letter to the Editors

### Importance of Recording

I just read the correction in this week's *Reporter* about comments incorrectly attributed at the Gill Special Town meeting. Here is another great example of why it is important to have meetings recorded.

Thanks to MCTV for hosting Gill programming online on Vimeo, making it possible to get the straight scoop. I am still facing opposition from some town members who don't want to talk into the mic or don't understand why it is important.

Thanks to Steve Damon, who did a great job as mic runner and helping folks understand why it is important while I was juggling with our fabulous new AV system.

By the way, I could use more help. Anybody out there?

Janet Masucci  
Gill Cable Commission

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### Municipally Owned Cable: The Time is Now to Build the Future

By CHARLES KELLEY

**MONTAGUE** – A municipally owned fiber-optic cable system is a very new concept in a very complicated technological field. The communities of this area must have this technology to survive and thrive in these very uncertain economic times.

Verizon and Comcast, operators of twisted pair and coaxial copper cable systems, will not build a fiber-optic cable system. In fact, they view the introduction of a town-wide municipally owned fiber-optic cable system as the worst-case scenario because it introduces competition, which is good news for the Internet service consumer.

The only way for these communities to achieve the economic and technical promise of town-wide municipally owned fiber-optic cable systems is to build the systems themselves.

When a municipality builds a fiber-optic cable system in an area already served by an established cable operator, it is called an overbuild; the competing cable operator (the municipality) is the overbuilder. All cable licenses in Massachusetts are nonexclusive and are open to competition.

To the Internet service consumer, choosing between copper or fiber would be like choosing between leasing a '90s Ford SUV with 200,000 miles for \$120 a month, or owning a new, fully loaded Shelby Mustang for \$40 a month. Today's consumers are highly motivated comparative shoppers, and when given the choice they will invariably make the right one.

There is a rich local history of this area's farmers working cooperatively together. They owned their farms, but raised their barns communally. Similarly, each municipality could own its fiber system assets, which would be held and administrated by the town's Municipal Light Plant (MLP).

The local collaboration between neighboring communities such as Greenfield and Leyden or Montague, Gill and Erving would be done between the towns' MLPs. A more encompassing regional approach would be unwieldy and collapse under its own weight.

Suppose Greenfield's MLP goes forward with an overbuild. Leyden's MLP could join economic forces with Greenfield and come up with a plan to provide both communities with a fiber-optic system. This system could be operated by a local company such as Crocker Communications. The over \$200,000 in annual revenue that the Leyden subscribers would generate would easily cover the financial and operational costs with a surplus that could go back to the towns' subscribers as rate decreases.

There are also federal funding sources which the municipalities can apply for, such as the Universal Services Fund, which has four programs: high cost (subsidizing the cost of services in rural areas); low income (including Lifeline and Link Up discounts for those in poverty); rural health care (reduced rates to health care providers to ensure that they have similar service as urban counterparts); and E-rate, which subsidizes telecommunications service to schools and libraries.

Net Neutrality is the Internet's guiding principle. It preserves our right to communicate freely online. This is the definition of an open Internet.

Net Neutrality is crucial to small business owners, startups, and entrepreneurs, who rely on the open Internet to launch their businesses, create a market, advertise their products and services, and distribute products to customers.

We need the open Internet to foster job growth, competition, and innovation. Without Net Neutrality, the next Google will not get off the ground. Ten lawsuits designed to gut Net Neutrality have been filed, and both the House and Senate appropriations committees have passed bills containing riders to sabotage the Net Neutrality rules.

Only a municipally owned, town-wide fiber-optic cable system can protect Net Neutrality and qualify for federally funded programs.

We are living in truly exciting times, and the introduction of this new technology and service has the potential to transform our lives for the better. Competition in the marketplace ensures that everyone can enjoy the ride on the superinformation highway.

When the door of opportunity opens, no one will push you through – if anything, you'll get shoved aside. The time is now to build the future.

Mr. Kelley lives in the Patch, and is a town meeting member for Precinct 6.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

The town of Montague had a **48% registered voter turnout** for the 2016 presidential primary on March 1. There were 2,302 Democratic and 589 Republican voters. In 2012, primary turnout was 12%, and in 2008 it was 45%.

Other towns we heard from were Gill with 57.9 %, and Erving with 40.7% registered voter turnout. The town clerk's office in Montague finished counting for the evening at 2:30 a.m. last Wednesday morning.

Remember "**spring forward, fall back**"? Then set your clocks ahead an hour this Saturday night!

**Have you ever eaten bear golumpki**, or venison Salisbury steak, or stroganoff made with moose meatballs? If you haven't, then take a walk on the wild side and come to Franklin County Technical School's 15th Annual Fins, Feathers and Fur Wild Harvest Dinner, where these and other exotic dishes will be served.

The dinner, sponsored by the school's Fins, Feathers and Fur Club, will be held this Friday, March 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Tech School. Diners are asked to give a \$25 donation.

Besides moose, bear and venison, the game dinner will feature appetizers and main courses that include recipes made from turkey, pheasant, haddock, shrimp, ham, lamb, and more. The meat is donated by Massachusetts Environmental Police, private donors, and FCTS culinary arts instructor Chef Benjamin Pike.

Tickets may be reserved by emailing Pike at [BPike@FCTS.org](mailto:BPike@FCTS.org).

He urges people who want to attend the Wild Harvest Dinner to reserve their spots early, since the event tends to sell out.

DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services will host a benefit **Trivia Night** on Saturday, March 12 at the Greenfield Moose Lodge. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the competition begins at 7:30.

Bring your own snacks, and money for the cash bar. A 50/50 raffle will be held in addition to a few other surprise prizes. Entry fee is \$10 per person for teams up to ten players.

Learn the art of **pruning blueberry bushes** on Sunday, March 12, starting at 9 a.m. The Leverett Trails Committee invites you to learn pruning techniques from Joe Sincuk while helping get the town-owned Gordon King Blueberries ready for summer harvest. Bring gloves and hand clippers if you have them.

Drive in at the gate just south of 101 Shutesbury Road. The Leverett Trails Committee is cosponsored by the Leverett Conservation Commission and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust.

**Learn what's at stake for our rivers.** World Water Day is Wednesday, March 16.

Andy Fisk, executive director of the Connecticut River Watershed Council, will talk about the river, from its source to our local river, as part of the **Home School Science** classes at Carnegie Library in Turners Falls at 1:15 p.m.

For more information, call (413) 863-3214.

On the same day, the Watershed

Council also invites the public to an **open house and celebration** from 4 to 6 p.m. You will learn the latest info on river restoration and hydroelectric relicensing; watch rock carving demos; and view the historic journals and sketches on display. Come meet fellow river lovers, staff, volunteers, and trustees and share your river stories.

The celebration will be at the Council's office at 15 Bank Row in Greenfield, and is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Call (413) 772-2020 for more information.

Join William Dean, author, amateur photographer, and nature enthusiast, on Wednesday, March 16, from 7 until 8:30 p.m., for an amazing look at the **Barton Cove eagle nest** during recent breeding seasons. This multimedia program takes place at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center.

The Barton Cove nest has been unusually productive during the past few seasons, with two to three eaglets successfully fledged. This program will provide a beautiful look at these eagles with a photo and video presentation, interspersed with stories and observations. Highlights of other regional eagle nests will also be included. Mr. Dean enjoys sharing his passion for these remarkable birds that he has photographed and observed for the past nine years. Please visit his website at [www.cutloosewildlife.com](http://www.cutloosewildlife.com).

This event is free and is appropriate for ages 10 and older. No pre-registration is required.

The Communities That Care Coalition's Coordinating Council and Community Action Youth Programs invite you to save the date for **Community Voices on Youth Substance Use** on Thursday, March 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Greenfield High School Cafeteria.

The two organizations have recently completed a series of focus groups with dozens of youth and parents, as well as interviews with nearly fifty community stakeholders

in schools, law enforcement, treatment and recovery.

Community Action Youth Programs is in the process of creating "digital storytelling" videos that capture some of the youth perspectives shared in the focus groups. Community Action looks forward to sharing the videos and the study results with you, and hearing your reactions and feedback.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, located at 84 K Street, Turners Falls, will be holding an **Easter Bazaar** on Saturday, March 19 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Stop by and enjoy crafts, items from Poland, religious gifts, baked goods, Polish foods, raffles, lunch, and much more. For more information, call William at (413) 367-2402.

**Enjoy a night of romance and laughs**, both designed to tug at your heart strings and make you cry with laughter with the Franklin County School Tech Players. The event is at the newly reopened Shea Theater in downtown Turners Falls on March 18 and 19, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy the **9 Worst Break-Ups of All Time** by Ian McWethy. You think your breakup was bad? Eve Tonsil, an employee of the nonprofit company "Relationships for a Better Tomorrow," is here to take you on a tour of the nine worst break-ups of all time, from the Cro-Magnon era to the Civil War, to a smattering of modern-day break-ups.

Stick around for *That's Not How I Remember It* by Don Zolidis. Mom and Dad love to tell the story of how they met in 1986 – "pretty much the most awesome year ever." Trouble is, they remember their courtship completely differently...

For information, call (413) 863-9561 ext. 233. Admission is \$5 for students and senior citizens, and \$7 for adults.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

### ELECTIONS from page A1

offices. Erving's annual town meeting will be held Monday, May 2, and the town election is May 4.

Across the river in Wendell, where nomination papers are also due this coming Monday, incumbents appear to be running unchallenged for selectboard, board of health, planning board, moderator, constable, and library trustees, but there are at least three contested positions.

Cemetery commissioner Richard Mackey faces a challenge from Jon Bowers. Both men are also running for a second seat: Mackey against Wayne Leonard, for road commissioner; and Bowers against incumbent tree warden Peter Zera.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith says that there is a vacancy on the board of assessors, and one on the school

committee. "I'd like to see some people step up for the vacancies in the assessor and school committee positions," she said. "It's a valuable and rewarding experience."

Wendell's election will be held May 2.

Leverett uses a different model for its elections than other local towns. Holders of elected office indicate in the town newsletter whether they want to run again; an event called a Candidate's Night is held, for interested parties to introduce themselves to voters and discuss issues; and elections are held from the floor at the annual town meeting.

Most incumbents plan to run, though Kip Fonsh is retiring from his school committee seat; currently, only two people are running for three seats. Candidate's Night is on Tuesday, March 29 at town

hall, following the town budget hearing.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford encourages residents to come to Candidate's Night, even if no elections are expected to be contested. It's a good way to get a sense of who's who in town government, and there are usually vacancies in appointed offices, "if someone's interested in giving the town a hand."

Leverett's annual town meeting takes place Saturday, April 30 at 9 a.m. at the Leverett Elementary School.

Nomination papers in Montague are available until March 24, and are due March 28. Town clerk Deb Bourbeau said that, as of this week, Chris Boutwell did not seem to be facing any challengers for his seat on the town selectboard.

Montague's variation on the

standard model is its representative town meeting. Of the 126 seats on this body, the highest governing authority in town, 23 are vacant, and so far only 7 people have pulled nomination papers for those seats. (Precincts 3, 4, 5 and 6 are on track for a shortage.)

Montague's town election is Monday, May 16.

Gill's also takes place that day, but town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo said she was just getting started this week. "I just decided not to have it overlap with the presidential primary," she explained.

No one has yet taken out nomination papers in Gill. Randy Crochier has indicated to the *Reporter* that he intends to run again for his seat on the town selectboard.



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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**  
week ending 3/4/2016:  
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Olivia Delisle  
**Grade 7**  
Sonjai Rathore  
**Grade 8**  
Brian Poirier

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**RECYCLE**

**BOTTLES & CANS**  
Week of March 14  
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

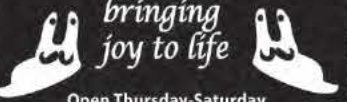
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## ERVING from page A1

Two fire department vehicles were approved: a \$44,000 fire department command/utility vehicle, and a \$60,000 brush truck. Fire chief Philip Wonka said that the command/utility vehicle would be parked at the fire station.

The meeting approved \$25,000 for upgraded Internet cabling at Erving Elementary School. School committee chair Scott Bastarache said that the state is mandating that all testing be online, and the school's current cable system (approximately 13 years old) does not have the capacity to support that.

The meeting approved \$5,500 for interior/exterior repair and piping at the senior/community center. Senior center director Paula Betters explained that during the building's first year of operation, because of lack of insulation, the interior plumbing line for the exterior spigot froze and water flooded part of the building. The general contractor for the building returned and worked to repair the leaks, but when the exterior spigot was used this year, the leaks were still present.

"We didn't know it wasn't fixed correctly until this year," Betters

said. Asked whether the general contractor could be responsible for the cost, Betters said that the contractor filed for bankruptcy four years ago.

Betters said she based the \$5,500 article on the estimate from one plumber, but would seek several estimates before proceeding with the work.

Other items approved were:

- \$17,292 for two thermal imagers for the fire department
- \$3,200 for two overhead roofs at the senior/community center exits
- \$1,200 for a floor buffer at the senior/community center.

The meeting also transferred \$63,828 in receipts from Comcast to the public, educational and government (PEG) access and cable fund.

Bembury noted that the newly formed cable access committee would meet for the first time on Wednesday, March 9.

George Moonlight Davis led the meeting in a round of applause for selectboard chair William Bembury, who has been volunteering four hours a day since July to help cover the tasks usually handled by the vacant administrative coordinator position.



## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Treasurer Appointment Debate Heats Up

By KATIE NOLAN

Treasurer Margaret Sullivan, who intends to retire when her term ends in May 2017, published an article in the March *Around Town* newsletter stating that an article changing the treasurer position from elected to appointed will appear on the warrant for the annual town meeting and that a similar ballot item will appear on the May 2016 town election ballot.

The article began, "What is the difference between an Elected and an Appointed Treasurer? An elected position means that the treasurer must be a registered voter; an appointed position means that the Treasurer is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and is an employee of the Town of Erving."

"Additionally, elected officials are exempt from the town's Personnel Policy and appointed officials must follow it."

On March 7, selectboard member Arthur Johnson said he had received calls from townspeople asking why the question was on the draft annual town meeting warrant when the same article had been defeated at the last town meeting. "People on the floor [of town meeting] have already hashed it out," he said.

"I have the same concerns," selectboard member Jacob Smith said, "regardless of my personal opinion."

Selectboard chair William Bembury said, "I'm a firm believer in an elected position. We voted on this

three times in the past six years... Every time, they say 'No'."

Commenting about Sullivan's *Around Town* article, finance committee chair Daniel Hammock said, "there's a fine line between informing people about what's going on, and taxpayers' money being spent to support one side or another of an argument."

Assistant assessor and *Around Town* editor Jacqueline Boyden agreed, saying, "You can't advocate an issue one way or the other in *Around Town*." She said that it was implied in the minutes from a recent selectboard meeting that the appointment article "was on the table," and an article to that effect had been placed on the draft of the ATM warrant.

She said that Sullivan had submitted her article to the newsletter, and it had been printed unchanged.

Boyden recommended that the selectboard write a rebuttal for the next issue, stating that the board did not intend to place an article regarding appointing the treasurer on the ATM warrant.

Bembury said the board would provide an article before the next deadline.

Boyden noted that, if the issue is not decided at the 2016 annual town meeting, "the next time we get to vote on it is four years from now," because a newly-elected treasurer would be able to serve out the three-year term.

Town clerk Richard Newton

## LEVERETT from page A1

take place.

"There is a dysfunction in the politics of the town, and now it is spreading to the region," said d'Errico.

Further frustration was expressed over the way Shutesbury is handling budget negotiations within the regional middle and high school district.

"Shutesbury wants to offload onto the other three towns," said d'Errico.

The budget discussion centers on whether to move from the current method of assessment of each town's share of the district expenses, which uses a five-year average school enrollment from each town, toward moving to the state's "statutory" method, which weighs a measure of wealth. Shutesbury is pushing to move closer to the statutory method.

"They get twice as much state money as us," Shively said. "That's why they want to move closer to the statutory method. The government simply thinks they are poorer."

Shively explained her position on the matter: "In the long run, if Shutesbury gets their way, there will be significant cuts."

A spokesperson from Shutesbury, town administrator Rebecca Torres, said Shutesbury doesn't have the same support for merging their elementary schools as Leverett. "We are simply in a different place," Torres said. "Shutesbury doesn't feel there are the same benefits to the town as Leverett."

While Shutesbury has been aware of the possibility of a merger, and has been part of the ongoing process, their school committee doesn't fully support the idea, Torres said. A representative at the last regional school committee meeting thanked the other towns for working with Shutesbury during the ongoing process.

## Under Two Authorities

Roy Kimmel presented for the Council on Aging and discussed transportation issues in Leverett. Currently, Leverett is not allowed to be part of two transportation authorities, but residents see a need for transportation both to Amherst using the PVTa and to Greenfield using FRTA. A bill currently in the state legislature, H3028, would allow the town to join both transit authorities.

"Currently, we cannot get to

Greenfield by bus," Kimmel explained. Kimmel told the board he has met resistance from the FRTA regarding possible membership.

Wheelchair access is also an issue. "While it isn't a problem now, it might be in the future," Kimmel explained. The possibility of using Uber was also discussed, with a fare of \$12 each way to Greenfield.

Leverett is waiting for the bill to pass to move forward with the FRTA.

## Other Business

There is a safety issue at the Shutesbury Hill Road intersection. Tom Hankinson investigated the intersection personally, and told the board he felt a Yield sign for crossing traffic would solve the problem. Because traffic coming down the hill would find it hard to stop in certain conditions, the board discussed signage in other locations.

"Signage will simply assign blame for accidents; it won't stop the accidents," said d'Errico.

Margie McGinnis will look into the process for sign placement and state regulations regarding new street signage.

Barbara Tiner, of Montague, sent a letter to the board explaining her role in opposition to the pipeline and Leverett's role in the matter. While the pipeline would not pass through Leverett, the town has signed on in opposition to the construction of the pipeline.

In her letter, Tiner explained that some towns in the area have bylaws in place for the purpose of reducing the impact of construction of major projects like the pipeline. D'Errico raised concerns that Leverett did not have such laws.

Montague has been designated as an intervenor in Department of Public Utilities hearings over Berkshire Gas' contract for gas from the pipeline, and other towns are being asked to help defray its expenses.

Tiner will need to present to the Leverett planning board and will need to have a request for a monetary contribution ready for the Leverett budget hearing on March 29.

The Cemetery Association is applying for a grant to partially rehab Leverett's cemeteries. The selectboard signed on in support of the grant.

The Leverett selectboard's next meeting will be March 22. A budget hearing will be held March 29, followed by Candidates' Night.



asked, "If someone gets elected and does an abysmal job, how do you get them out?"

Although the town passed a recall bylaw in 2014, assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard stated that it was stalled "in legislative limbo," waiting for approval by the state legislature.

School committee chair Scott Bastarache raised the possibility of changing the term from three years to one, allowing the town flexibility to change the selection method

if needed.

Finance committee member Eugene Klepadlo suggested that the selectboard hold an informational meeting "to educate people exactly why you think it should be appointed and what is at stake."

The board decided to remove the article from the draft warrant and to hold an informational meeting in September to solicit feedback from citizens about the issue.

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## MEDIATION from page A1

in partnership with Debbie Lynangale of the Mediation Training Collaborative in Greenfield, and staffed by mediation coordinator Scott Smith. Smith is a school administrator who came out of retirement to work with students again.

He strides through the hallways as if he's worked there for decades. He gathers the student mediators for a weekly lunch/discussion, and without compromising anyone's confidentiality, the mediators have a chance to discuss challenges, share ideas, and role-play.

He also sits in at each mediation session. "I am so impressed by the maturity of these students," he says. "I watch them, and sometimes my jaw drops with admiration."

Fourteen students have been served by the mediation program in terms of training and leadership, and according to Ms. Lynangale, approximately 60 young people have participated in some part of the mediation process this school year.

She adds, "One could make the arguments that all the middle school students benefit from having heard about and seen mediation modeled. They know that there are options available to help work through fights or disagreements, and that people – both adults and peers – care about resolving issues."

The mediation program is completely voluntary; it's an option offered to students with a conflict to resolve.

Mediator Alyson Murphy, an eighth grader who has been with the program the longest, says most problems are resolved in a single 45-minute meeting, as long as the participants come with a sincere desire for resolution.

With the mediators' help, the participants create a contract. It can call for action, or consist of a promise to avoid one another.

"On some occasions, the problem is mostly resolved before the mediation begins. Just being willing to work on a solution begins to create the solution," Alyson says.

Kate Graves, a seventh grader new to the program, says, "I originally wanted to do this to help others, but it has changed my life. When you walk down the hall and see two people as friends again, you see something you helped repair. It's a good feeling."

Allison Wheeler, another eighth grader, smiled at Mr. Smith and said, "This is the best year yet." She has done seven mediations so far, and in addition to the satisfaction of helping others, she also believes the program has brought her closer to her friends.

"You can hear in what the peer mediators say about the program how impactful it is on them, and the students who participate in mediations," says Annie Leonard, who is in her first year as the school's principal. "It's important to know that this is validated in research about what early educational experiences make for resilient adults."

Leonard cites four "protective factors" necessary for youth development, and explains how the mediation program addresses all four.

The first three are positive mindset ("shown in the way the mediators talk about practicing their craft and seeing mistakes as part of learning"); relationships ("shown in the mutually supportive ties between the mediators themselves, and the mediators and Mr. Smith"); and self-care ("shown in how the mediators talk about learning to balance school work, mediations, sports, arts and other activities").

The last protective factor, Leonard says, is purpose. She describes "the deep sense that these students have of needing, and wanting, to do something beyond themselves for the



MIKE GALLANT PHOTO

Great Falls Middle School peer mediator Allison Wheeler, second from left, on a visit by The Mediation and Training Collaborative (TMTTC) to the State House January 26. Wheeler is joined by TMTTC volunteer mediator Tasba Marshall, representative Steve Kulik, TMTTC director Betsy Williams, and mediation specialist Scott Smith.

benefit of their community.

"I'm just proud to be part of a school that recognizes how important it is to support students developing resilience in this way."

Leonard's reference to self-care emerged from one of the last questions during my group interview with the mediators. I asked the students what other activities they were engaged in, because I was curious to know if the peer mediation program allowed enough time for sports or the arts. I anticipated that it would not, but I was wrong.

Most are three-season athletes; many also

play an instrument. One is on the yearbook staff; another is a member of the gay/straight alliance; yet another belongs to the anti-cyber bullying group. They ride horses, dance, play softball and tennis, swim, and serve on the student council. I could not write fast enough to capture it all.

When asked how they manage, most laughed and said it isn't hard if you give up sleeping.

But they didn't look tired. They looked energetic and resilient, and proud of themselves, as they should be.



## ENERGY from page A1

However, the House leadership and the governor have also stressed the need to lower electricity costs to consumers, pointing out they are among the highest in the nation.

Will the legislature be able to both lower costs and save the planet? And will they be able to accomplish this by the end of April, the target date for omnibus legislation?

### Solar Gridlock Continues

The current status of state solar net metering legislation raises serious doubts about the legislature's ability to reach an energy compromise. Net metering is a state program that subsidizes solar energy by compensating solar producers for electricity they produce. Producers receive several kinds of credits for the amount of energy they generate above that which they use on a monthly basis.

The net metering program has generated unexpectedly big increases in solar production since 2010, but has also generated fierce opposition from utilities and manufacturing interests. The latter say the program increases already high electric costs, and that these costs are passed on to non-solar producers.

The debate has come to a head because the largest utility, National Grid, has reached the limit, or "cap," in the amount of medium and large-scale solar it is required to compensate. There is now a long waiting list for solar projects in the National Grid distribution territory.

Legislation emerging from the state Senate has tended to be more solar-friendly, while the House has been more concerned with lowering costs and reducing subsidies. The proposals by Governor Baker have been somewhere in the middle.

Last November, the Senate and House failed agree on compromise net metering legislation, so the issue was sent to a conference committee. There was some hope that the issue would be resolved soon after the new year, but that has not happened.

Gridlock still prevails.

The conference committee may kick the can down the road, passing a small increase in the cap in mid-March and saving the other net metering issues for the omnibus bill this spring. The problem with this game plan is that it throws one of the most contentious issues in the energy debate, along with natural gas pipelines, into the omnibus bill.

### More Pipeline Hearings

Speaking of pipelines, there will be another no doubt raucous hearing on Wednesday, March 30 at the Greenfield Middle School. This one concerns whether property owners who have refused to grant the pipeline company, Kinder Morgan / Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP), survey rights should be compelled by the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to do so. The DPU is holding six hearings around the state on the issue.

You can read the application online (DPU Docket #1603), or at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. It makes interesting reading, to be sure.

In addition to the standard arguments for the pipeline – essentially that it will save us much money on our utility bills, particularly cost driven by winter "price spikes" – the application also includes a list of virtually every property owner in the state who has denied TGP survey rights. There are also maps of each piece of property.

We tend to think of opposition to pipelines as a western Massachusetts obsession, or depending on your view, passion. But the number of property owners who have denied survey rights in the eastern part of the state – in places like Andover and Peabody – is truly surprising.

On the other hand, the list shows only five Montague property owners who have refused survey rights. The project in Montague passes primarily through electric utility and state property. TGP actually

moved the original proposed path to avoid a number of privately-owned properties, one of which is protected by state agricultural protection program.

One of the more interesting properties on the list is the land owned by the power company FirstLight Power Resources. FirstLight denied the TGP survey rights when it was owned by the energy giant Engie, formerly GDF Suez.

Engie imports liquefied natural gas to New England, and has argued that imported LNG is a better alternative to address winter price spikes than gas piped underground from Pennsylvania.

It was recently announced that Engie is selling FirstLight to a Canadian firm, PSP Investments. The new company declined to comment on the pipeline survey issue when asked by the Reporter last week.

You can also comment on the issue, either by attending the hearing on March 30 or sending your comments to the DPU's Siting Division (see instructions, page A6).

The DPU is also holding a hearing on a request by the electric company National Grid to enter into 20-year contracts with TGP for capacity on the proposed pipeline that runs through Franklin County. This is, in some ways, more significant than the survey issue, because the contract brings TGP closer to filling the proposed pipeline.

The problem for the pipeline company has been that these contracts, called precedent agreements, are the primary way – in some situations the only way – the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which approves pipelines, determines "need" or new infrastructure.

Current TGP contracts, which must be approved by the DPU, are primarily with local gas distributors like Berkshire Gas. These have filled only 40% of the proposed pipeline (a requested capacity of 1,200,000 dekatherms, or 1.2 billion cubic feet of capacity). The 100,000

dekatherms requested by National Grid would bring the TGP up to approximately 50%.

This is a particularly controversial request because it comes from an electric company, not a gas distribution company. Prior to last fall, electric companies could not own electric generators and could not purchase the fuel these generators used. These restrictions were part of legislation passed in 2008 designed to produce competitive markets.

The generators, for the most part, did not find it in their economic interest to enter into long-term, or "firm," contracts with pipeline companies.

Last October, the DPU ruled that electric distribution companies could enter into long-term contracts for natural gas and pass the cost on to electricity customers through a fee known as a "tariff." That October ruling is being appealed by a number of stakeholders to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The DPU hearing on the National Grid request will be on March 10, the day of the publication of this newspaper, in Boston. There will be another hearing in Methuen on May 11. The DPU will accept written comments until that date. Documents on the National Grid contract request appear on Dockets 16-05 and 16-07 on the DPU website (click on "DPU File Room").

### Shutesbury Solar Debate

Legislative gridlock on net metering policy could impact local projects.

Montague is in the territory of Eversource, which still has some room for new projects under its cap. Not so with Shutesbury, which has been discussing a 6-megawatt project on private land. Shutesbury is in National Grid territory.

The Shutesbury project, which is proposed for wooded land owned by the WD Cows lumber company on Lake Street, has encountered stiff opposition from local residents. They have expressed concerns about

the loss of trees and the drainage problems that might produce.

The company says it has preserved thousands of acres of forest land over the years, and that its practices are sustainable. Supporters of the project have pointed to the virtues of solar power and projected tax revenues to Shutesbury.

Deacon Bonner, chair of the town planning board, says that his committee has completed hearings on the special permit required for the project and is "grinding toward a decision." The board is still accepting proposed conditions to the special permit.

Meanwhile, there will be a proposed "solar bylaw" on the annual town meeting warrant this spring. The bylaw would restrict ground-mounted solar installations to ten acres. The proposed project, according to Bonner, is twenty acres.

The town of Montague, on the other hand, will see a bylaw change on its annual town meeting that would perhaps be more solar-friendly. This would allow ground-mounted solar in the town's business and industrial districts by special permit. The bylaw contains a sunset provision that would allow the town to limit the duration of this special permit to twenty years.

Montague has a major solar project in the works that is not affected by current bylaws, but could be undermined by state metering legislation. The town has contracted with Kearsage Energy of Watertown to build a 6.4-megawatt solar array on its former landfill off Turnpike Road.

Town planner Walter Ramsey, in a letter approved by the town Selectboard to state legislators, warns that under the reduction in net metering reimbursements proposed by the House of Representatives, the project "may be in jeopardy." In addition, Ramsey warned, Montague is in the territory of Eversource, which is near its net metering cap.



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HALPER from page A1

Israel, the Palestinians, and Global Pacification (Pluto Press, 2015); his appearance in Greenfield was sponsored by the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice.

Halper made the case for a new approach to settling the longstanding conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

He asserted the failure of the 1991-1993 Oslo Peace Accords, and subsequent “facts on the ground” – by which he meant the growth of Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, the continuing Israeli military occupation of at least 97% of the West Bank, and what he called the “cantonment” process of subdividing and segregating remaining centers of Palestinian population in the West Bank from their neighboring lands through physical or military barriers – have eliminated the viability of the two-state solution envisioned at Oslo.

In Halper’s view, the only just solution now is to “transform” Israel and Palestine into one bi-national state, with constitutional protections established to recog-

nize the integrity of the two peoples who would live within its borders, similar to the constitutional frameworks of Canada or Belgium, or, by analogy, Great Britain.

The alternative, he said, is “a regime of permanent, institutionalized separation and domination. That’s apartheid.”

And, Halper said, “That’s where we are today.”

At the moment, some 8.46 million people live within the internationally recognized borders of Israel proper, while about 4.4 million live in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza.

But, of the 8.46 million people living in Israel proper, at least 20% (about 1.65 million) are Muslims, and 75% are Jews. Additionally, about half a million Israeli Jews now live in settlements in the West Bank.

Taken together, the two populations are approaching rough demographic equality in terms of their overall numbers between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan Valley.

But as Halper sees it, the civil rights enjoyed by the Palestinians, whether in Israel proper or in the territories themselves, are somewhat less than equitable.

Halper said in Israel itself, the twenty percent of the population commonly referred to as Arab Israelis are forced to live on just 3.5% of the land. “Non-Jews cannot buy or lease land in 93% of the country reserved for Jews,” he asserted. “We have today a super-

apartheid regime,” in Israel, “with the support of the United States, which hasn’t escaped the attention of the rest of the world.”

The Israeli Supreme Court has handed down rulings in recent years finding discrimination in the way government resources are allocated more favorably toward Israeli Jews than Israeli Arabs in such matters as education and housing.

But in the territories, the situation is far worse for the essentially stateless people who make up the vast majority of the population, not to mention the plight of some five million Palestinian refugees now living in generally squalid conditions elsewhere in the Middle East.

Halper cited the example of the Palestinian West Bank city of Qalqilya. Qalqilya, with over 40,000 residents, is entirely surrounded by the 25-foot tall concrete Israeli separation barrier, except for one narrow opening on the east side of the city controlled by the military, and one underground tunnel. Freedom of movement, access to water, and access to ancestral farmlands are all controlled by the Israeli military.

Halper suggested the situation in Qalqilya could be generalized to the West Bank as a whole.

The West Bank barrier wall, which as planned will separate nearly ten percent of the land from the West Bank, leaving it on the Israeli side of the 1949 armistice line, is “twice as high as the Berlin Wall,” and – at 430 miles – more than four

times as long, Halper said.

Since the early 1970s, Israeli Jewish settlers in the West Bank have grown in number from a little more than a thousand to more than 600,000, in about 200 settlements today, Halper said. “In six years, there will be a million,” he predicted.

By all this, Halper concluded, “Israel has systematically and deliberately eliminated the two-state solution.”

Pointing out that in 1991, when Yasser Arafat and the PLO agreed to recognize Israel and signed onto the Oslo Accords, the Palestinians would still have controlled “a seaport, an airport, contiguous territory, and agricultural resources. They could have made a go of it.”

He blamed the Israelis for the collapse of the Oslo Accords, a verdict still in hot dispute by students of modern history. He minimized the impact of the violent resistance of the Palestinians to Israeli policies, speaking of “seven-year-olds with scissors” attacking Jews in East Jerusalem, but making no mention of Qassam rockets from Gaza falling helter skelter on Sderot. And he claimed the United States, and US politicians of every stripe “from Sanders to Santorum” have enabled the Israeli government to maintain the “occupation and imprisonment of an entire people... on the southern borders of Europe, in the full glare of the television cameras.”

He noted the \$70 billion in mili-

tary aid the US government has provided and promised to Israel in the 20-year period starting in 2008 as one main bulwark of that support.

But at the same time, Halper said, even US Secretary of State John Kerry has recognized that the violence raging across the Middle East today will never be dampened until the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is resolved.

To do that, Halper said, it will be necessary to recognize the new “facts on the ground,” set aside the fruitless quest for a two-state solution, and support instead the establishment of a constitutional bi-national state, with the rights of both the Israelis and the Palestinians protected and insured, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan Valley.

How will that happen?

Halper predicted the Palestinian Authority would soon collapse. And in the vacuum, chaos may ensue, with a hardening of Israel’s military occupation of the Palestinian territories.

That may be the point, Halper said, “when the DeKlerk moment comes.”

And, Halper suggested, when it does, the left – or what’s left of it – must be ready to seize it, both inside Israel and without, and to push for a binational, democratic state to bring the hope of a just and lasting peace to Israel and Palestine.



## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### D.P.U. 16-01

Petition of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.  
before the Department of Public Utilities  
pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 72A, 75B and 75D  
for Authority to Perform Geotechnical and  
Other Surveys on Certain Private Properties

### D.P.U. 16-02

Petition of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.  
before the Department of Public Utilities  
pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 72A, 75B and 75D  
for Authority to Perform Vernal Pool and  
Other Surveys on Certain Private Properties

### D.P.U. 16-03

Petition of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.  
before the Department of Public Utilities  
pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 72A, 75B and 75D  
for Authority to Perform Surveys  
on Certain Private Properties

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (“Company”) has filed three petitions (“Petitions”) with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) requesting that the Department grant the Company the authority to enter upon land owned by certain private landowners (“Survey Properties”) who have not previously granted access to the Company to conduct surveys on their land in connection with the Company’s proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project (the “Project”), now pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) (Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C., FERC Docket No. CP16-21-000). As set forth in more detail in the Petitions, the Company maintains that the surveys are needed to gather information required for FERC’s review of the Project. The Department will review the Petitions to determine whether the requested surveys should be granted.

In Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C.,  
**D.P.U. 16-01**, the Company requests authority to enter upon land owned by **twenty-three (23) private landowners**, which is generally located on or near a major water body, a railroad crossing, or a road crossing, which may require installation of the pipeline using the horizontal directional drill (“HDD”) method. The Company seeks authority to conduct geotechnical surveys, and for purposes of efficiency, and to minimize disruption and inconvenience, the Company also seeks authority to perform civil, archeological and cultural resources, wetlands and water body delineation, and endangered or rare species surveys at the same time it enters the properties to perform geotechnical surveys.

In Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C.,  
**D.P.U. 16-02**, the Company requests authority to enter upon land owned by **eighteen (18) private landowners**, which land is located within two hundred feet from either side of the proposed centerline of the pipeline, for the purpose of conducting vernal pool surveys. For purposes of efficiency, and to minimize disruption and inconvenience, the Company also seeks authority to perform civil, archeological and cultural resources, wetlands and water body delineation; and endangered or rare species surveys at the same time it enters the vernal pool properties to perform vernal pool surveys. These surveys are described in more detail in paragraphs 18-24 of the Petition in D.P.U. 16-02.

In Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C.,  
**D.P.U. 16-03**, the Company requests authority to enter upon land owned by **four hundred eight (408) private landowners**. The survey activities will generally be conducted in an area located within two hundred feet from either side of the proposed centerline of the pipeline, for the purpose of making civil, archeological and cultural resources; wetlands and water body delineation; and endangered or rare species surveys. These surveys are described in more detail in paragraphs 18-26 of the Petition in D.P.U. 16-03.

The Department will conduct six public comment hearings to receive public comments on the Company’s petition, as follows:

## SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS FOR D.P.U. 16-01, 16-02, AND 16-03

Tuesday, March 29 – 7:00 p.m.  
Berkshire Community College, Boland Theater  
1350 West Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Wednesday, March 30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Greenfield Middle School Auditorium  
195 Federal Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Tuesday, April 5 – 7:00 p.m.  
Lunenburg High School Auditorium  
1079 Massachusetts Avenue  
Lunenburg, MA 01426

Wednesday, April 6 – 7:00 p.m.  
Lynnfield Middle School Auditorium  
505 Main Street  
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Wednesday, April 13 – 7:00 p.m.  
Dracut Senior High School Auditorium  
1540 Lakeview Avenue  
Dracut, MA 01826

Thursday, April 14 – 7:00 p.m.  
Andover High School Auditorium  
80 Shawsheen Road  
Andover, MA 01810

Copies of the Petitions, and complete sets of exhibits is available on the Department’s Website <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>. (Enter docket number “16 01” “16-02” or “16-03.”) The Petitions are also available in hard-copy format for public inspection at the offices of the Department, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts. Copies are also available for public viewing at the public libraries of each city or town where the Survey Properties are located. You may also obtain a complete copy of the Petition (with all exhibits and property sketch documents) by contacting the Company’s attorney (see contact information below).

Any person who desires to submit written comments on the Petitions may do so by filing an original and two copies of such comments with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02110. An electronic copy of all comments should also be sent by email to each of the following: (1) the Company’s attorney, James L. Messenger, Esq. at [jmessenger@gordonrees.com](mailto:jmessenger@gordonrees.com); (2) the Department at [dpu.effling@state.ma.us](mailto:dpu.effling@state.ma.us); and (3) the Department’s Hearing Officer in this proceeding, Stephen August, at [stephen.august@state.ma.us](mailto:stephen.august@state.ma.us). Written comments should be submitted no later than May 6, 2016.

Oral comments presented at the hearing and written comments submitted are given equal weight by the Department in its review of the Petitions. Written comments

should specify the property location, identify any concerns about the survey, and request any relevant conditions to be placed on the Company to protect property and/or to ensure the opportunity for the landowner to be present during the surveys. Commenters should not submit petitions to intervene or petitions for limited participant status because the Department will not be conducting adjudicatory proceedings in this case, but will instead be issuing its Order based on the oral and written comments received from affected landowners and the general public and responses from the Company to any written questions posed by the Department.

Any person who wishes to communicate directly with the Company should contact Attorney James L. Messenger, Gordon & Rees, LLP, 745 Atlantic Avenue, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02111; email address: [jmessenger@gordonrees.com](mailto:jmessenger@gordonrees.com); and phone: (617) 902-0098

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice may contact the Hearing Officer using the contact information below:

Stephen August, Siting Division  
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities  
One South Station, 5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 305-3622 – [stephen.august@state.ma.us](mailto:stephen.august@state.ma.us)

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Unity Skatepark Deemed “Substantially Complete”

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague’s new Unity Skatepark passed another milestone at the town’s selectboard meeting on Monday, March 7 as the board approved a “Certificate of Substantial Completion” for the project. According to Parks and Recreation director Jon Dobosz, athletes have not waited for the certificate, as the park is already experiencing heavy use.

This did not seem to bother Dobosz or the board, who approved the certificate with much enthusiasm. Dobosz said the facility is already a “fantastic resource.” The only problem, he noted, is that skateboarders occasionally remain “after dusk” when Unity Park, of which the skate park is part, closes.

Most of the remaining work on the park involves landscaping, which can not be completed until the weather turns warm. The official completion date for the project is June, but Dobosz stated that he was “looking to finish way before.” Hopefully there will be an official “grand opening” in May, he said.

Finance committee member and cycling enthusiast Greg Garrison requested the “use of public property” in and around Unity Park for the Eastern Conference Cycling Championship Criterion Race. Actually Garrison introduced Lucy Archer of Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cycling, who made the request.

According to Archer, the race will begin at Unity Park, proceed up the hill onto Third Street and then back down, taking a right on L Street and returning to the park. The races will take place on April 30 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This route will probably involve closing portions of the above streets for large portions of the day. Garrison and Archer will work with police chief Chip Dodge on detours and signage.

Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz said he was concerned that “large trucks” might be traveling down side streets. Archer said that “we will hire the number of recommended police officers,” and would also provide “volunteer marshals.” Dodge, who attended the meeting, seemed confident such details could be worked out.

Archer estimated that there would be as many as 300 cyclists participating in a total of twelve races. Noting that many participants would be standing around and “mainly eating” for large portions of the long day, she recommended that vendors be encouraged to sell food at the event.

The event will take place “rain or shine,” since cyclists train in wet and slippery conditions.

### This Again!

Downtown Turners Falls store owner and planter coordinator Gary Konvelski questioned the legality of a recent decision by the selectboard to encourage “planter participants” to meet and weigh in on the issue of the choice of coordinator.

Last year, a “planter committee” established a set of guidelines for volunteers tending the town-owned downtown planters, which were approved by the selectboard. Early this year, the selectboard dissolved that

committee, which it said had completed its mission, and appointed Kovelski as the coordinator.

Another downtown store owner, and chair of the planter committee, Rodney Madison, has protested that the dissolution of the committee was premature. He also noted that the planter committee was supposed to make recommendations for the position of planter coordinator.

The selectboard argued that the committee, whose mandate was to recommend planter guidelines, had completed its work. However, the board also noted that the guidelines called on “planter participants” to recommend a planter coordinator. Since this had not been done, the board recommended that a planter participant meeting be called to weigh in on the issue.

Konvelski questioned this decision, asking “what happened to the vote that was taken” to appoint him coordinator.

“It still exists,” responded chair Michael Nelson.

Konvelski then questioned the legality of the process.

Kuklewicz stated that he wanted the planter guidelines “in front of [him]” in order to discuss the issue, and recommended that the issue be put on the next selectboard agenda. The rest of the board agreed.

### Other Business

The selectboard, acting as the personnel board, approved a request from police chief Chip Dodge to classify a new lieutenant position in the department as “Non-union, Grade G, plus 8 1/2%, no less than Step 6 on that grade or \$37.78/hour.”

Dodge has justified the new position, which must still be approved by town meeting, as providing for a substitute when the chief is out of town. It is also designed to relieve Sergeants of office duties so they can spend more time in the field. Dodge says the new position will not increase his 16-person staff and will be revenue neutral.

The board endorsed a potential amendment to Zoning Bylaw 6.3.3. The amendment would reduce the required width of driveways to residences with setbacks of 500 feet or more to 16 feet. It would also require “passing turnouts” every 300 feet. The proposed amendment will be sent to the planning board, and then to town meeting in the spring.

During the “public comment” section, the board was asked about security at the Railroad Salvage building. It was noted that the fence surrounding the dangerous building had been frequently left open.

The board said that the building’s owner had been ordered to “secure” the building by building inspector David Jensen, and promised to raise the issue with Jensen. Later in the meeting, the board requested that the police department monitor security at the building more closely, and perhaps even contact the owner.

The board did not express any opinion as to who the building’s owner was.

The board retired at 7:40 p.m. to an executive session to discuss litigation concerning the proposed natural gas pipeline through town.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was March 9, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### DOE Critical of Lake Grove

The Wendell planning board continued the site plan hearing for the expansion of Lake Grove at Maple Valley School again on March 7, to allow time for Roland Paulauskas, executive director of the residential school for sexually abusive boys and young men, ages 10 through 21, time to provide a copy of Lake Grove’s response to a recent Department of Education report critical of the school’s practices.

The hearing, which began on January 5, has reconvened four times since then, drawing a crowd of more than two dozen residents and town officials who have questioned the plan to expand the campus to allow for a therapeutic farm animal program, farm stand, skate park, administrative offices,

and outbuildings.

According to the DOE program review, “not all AWOLs were being reported, and not all staff were aware of AWOL requirements.”

Additional concerns include the age range of the students, the lack of an approved health care manual, failure to make critical notifications to the state, and failure to provide copies of policies to students.

### VY Uprate on Hold

On Monday, federal regulators froze the Vermont Yankee power increase at 105% after a measurement on Saturday recorded vibrations that exceeded acceptable levels.

The NRC last week issued approval to allow Vermont Yankee to increase power to 120% of its design capacity under close scrutiny because of concerns about the plant’s steam dryer, the component that removes droplets from the steam before it feeds into the turbines.

### Shopping Cart Roundup

Shopping carts are everywhere downtown, in doorways and driveways, parking lots, bus stops, and sidewalks. “I collect four or more a day,” said Power Town Apartments’ maintenance man Kim Hine. “Sometimes six.”

“When we get a large number of them, we call Food City and ask them to come over and retrieve them,” said Power Town manager Sharon Cottrell. “We consider them a safety hazard. They pile up in front of building entrances, kids play on them.”

“I’d like to see all parties come together to come up with a creative solution,” said Anne Jemas, member of the downtown streetscape committee.

“I don’t think they are ever returned to the store,” said Fourth Street resident Jean Hebden. “I only knew one person who ever returned her cart, but she’s dead now.”

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Gill Grants Cash, But Not Seal, To Anti-Pipeline Efforts

BY AIDAN BELANGER

The town of Montague sent a request for the \$5,000 Gill’s February 22 town meeting voted to send them, to help defray costs of legal representation related to the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline.

The money would be used to support Montague in Department of Public Utilities docket 15-178, a proceeding that would determine the outcome of Berkshire Gas’ contract to buy from the NED pipeline – technically, from the “supply path” section of the pipeline between Pennsylvania and New York.

“Any harm or risk that Gill may face due to NED is tied to this DPU case,” Montague’s letter began. The letter emphasized the importance of this proceeding, explaining that “the multiple interests that Berkshire Gas and its corporate owner Avingrad have in the NED project are a significant reason the proposed pipeline exists,” and that “The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will only approve a pipeline that has enough contracts in place.”

The motion passed Monday’s selectboard meeting with the support of chair Greg Snedeker and John Ward, and was opposed by Randy Crochier.

Snedeker wished to add that he did respect the opposing views to supporting Montague, especially Jeff Suprenant’s position, that Montague and other regional towns hadn’t helped Gill residents during hearings about the Northfield Mountain Project.

John Ward agreed, adding that it is hard to deal with something that is already entrenched in happening.

The Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline also asked for Gill’s permission to use its town seal on their letterhead.

“I don’t mind them using our seal,” responded Crochier, “but I’d like to know what it’s going on, and who exactly we are giving permission to use the seal.”

The selectboard decided to table the proposal until further information was divulged.

### Road Weight

The selectboard reviewed three examples of proposed revisions to the town bylaws.

The intention of potential bylaw changes is to protect the town from the pipeline in case it comes through, but the examples reviewed don’t specifically entail the pipeline, and would affect other businesses. One proposal, the local road bylaw, would limit the weight capacity of vehicles on the road in order to limit the pipeline construction company’s ability to use Gill roads to haul loads for the project. This bylaw could potentially adversely affect other large construction projects, school buses, and Gill’s excavators.

The selectboard agreed that the town needed to be careful passing any such laws, with their potential for unforeseen consequences. The selectboard suggested hosting a meeting of the town boards to get multiple heads inspecting the proposals, and decided to begin coordinating this effort.

### Complete Streets

The town of Gill was invited by the FRCOG to participate in the Mass in Motion Complete Streets Program, which encourages design of streets and roads for multiple uses and modes of transportation.

The selectboard felt that this is a very good program but that it did not fit Gill’s rural profile. Snedeker voiced that he was concerned about committing to this project to only later find out Gill doesn’t have the funds.

Randy Crochier added that the project may contract Gill to requirements the town would not like.

John Ward said he felt it was a fantastic program for a town like Greenfield, adding that something needs to be done about Turners Falls Road.

### Fire Equipment

Fire chief Gene Beaubien came to the selectboard meeting on Monday to make an amendment to a request for equipment filed last July. The previous request asked for two sets of equipment. Since that time a larger member was replaced by someone smaller, and a third set is needed for that person.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington joked about recruiting firefighters with an ad reading “Volunteers wanted – Men’s 38 preferred.”

The request was accepted unanimously.

Baubien added that preparations were underway to install phone system upgrades at the fire station, funded by an Emergency Management Preparedness Grant.

### Other News

Library window inserts, funded with Green Communities money, were installed Monday, March 7.

The selectboard approved sewer bills totaling \$18,653.36 for Riverside sewer users. Purington noted that the billed figure, which covered December through February and was based on water usage, looked low in comparison to the amount of wastewater pumped to Montague from the neighborhood.

He said he suspected that this disparity was due to ground infiltration coming from having more rain this winter than snow, which often melts after February.

Bruce Yukl resigned from the Agricultural Commission. The selectboard accepted it with regret, noting that this was a second resignation from that committee in a short time.

The selectboard suggested running an ad in the newspaper detailing committee openings and requirements.

Stephen Baskowski and Phillip Gilfeather-Girton were appointed to the conservation committee through June 2018.

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**DOWNTOWN** from page A1

The corner space's most recent tenant was Twisters, which also sold ice cream and food, and closed its doors in August.

Another highly visible storefront, the "little yellow building" at 38 Third Street, will soon be open for business. Tangible Bliss, owned by Kara Mondino and Jae Roberge, will feature a variety of gems and minerals for sale, as well as handmade items such as leather goods, wire-wrapped jewelry, hemp accessories, clothing, and art work – with many items customizable.

Mondino and Roberge make the majority of the items themselves. "We've been doing so, independently, for over a decade," Mondino says, emphasizing that both she and Roberge have been honing their crafts for quite some time.

In addition to their own items, the couple plans to dedicate space in the shop to feature work by other artists and artisans from the area.

Mondino adds that they will encourage other local artists to visit the shop or contact them in order to display their art and handmade items.

"Having a community involvement is very much a part of what we're doing," she says.

Mondino, who has lived in various locations throughout New England, moved to Turners Falls when she and Roberge began dating. Roberge grew up in Turners Falls, and spent a number of years traveling and selling his wares at gem and mineral shows across the country, but often found himself coming back to his hometown. Eventually, the two decided that downtown Turners would be an ideal place to set up a more permanent business.

"It's a nice location, and we feel that it's a town on the rise," Mondino explains. "There's art most places you look on Avenue A... and music most nights of the week," she adds.

Mondino says that although there are a few local places that sell hand-made goods, she and Roberge feel that the "crystal and gemstone market is relatively untapped in this area," and that Tangible Bliss would



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

*The corner space in the Crocker Building will again serve ice cream and food.*

be a welcome addition to the town.

Mondino and Roberge hope to have a "petite opening" within the month, with the doors open for limited hours, and anticipate a grand opening towards the end of May, giving them adequate time to make and collect items for purchase and fully set up their shop space.

Chris Couture, owner of Couture Bros. Painting and various properties around Turners Falls, has two commercial locations open for rent on the Avenue: 370 Avenue A, the former location of Black Jungle Terrarium Supplies, and 187 Avenue A, the Couture Bros. retail that formally closed two winters ago.

Couture explains that the 3,600-square-foot former Black Jungle location is "zoned industrial," so the possibilities, in terms of what kind of business could inhabit that location, are numerous.

"Black Jungle was an internet-based retailer, so the spot worked well for them to basically do storage and shipping. But really anything – manufacturing, office space – could work there," Couture says.

Couture also emphasizes that the location is water accessible, mentioning that a film and print developing company once worked out of there – "before the digital age" – and that it also includes natural gas service, a difficult commodity

to come by, since Berkshire Gas invoked a moratorium on new service in late 2014.

Couture purchased the stretch of buildings that includes the current location for lease in 1998. "It took a lot of years to get those buildings going, and I invested a lot of time and energy into it, but it looks great and it's doing well now," he says.

With the exception of the former location of Black Jungle, all the other spots on the block are full, with Simon's Stamps, Ideal Home Improvement, and the recently opened Brick & Feather microbrewery all located in Couture's properties.

"[370 Avenue A] was going to be a vet hospital – we had it all planned out," he says. "I took down the 'for

sale' signs and everything, but they backed out at the last minute. It happens, though."

Despite the setback, Couture feels optimistic that he will find a new potential tenant soon.

"People don't generally move in the winter, so it should get some interest soon – now that the weather is getting nicer," he says.

Couture himself has been moving his business recently, as he is currently downsizing his painting and supplies business from his 4,000-square-foot retail store at 187 Avenue A, and working solely from his workshop down the road.

The former store would be appropriate for any sort of retail business venture, and Couture says he is happy to open up the space in hopes of encouraging new business in the town.

"I like to see business staying local," he says, "and by renting out this place, I'm trying to do my part to help stimulate the economy."

Couture's family has lived in Turners Falls for several generations, and his grandfather began the family's painting business over a century ago. Given that history, Couture says, he deeply invested in maintaining the growth seen in downtown Turners in recent years.

"It's all about giving back to the community, and hoping they reciprocate," he says. "And they usually do. There's a lot of good, hard-working people here."



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

*Owner Chris Couture is renting this commercial space with its own gas hookup.*

**The Montague Reporter**

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**Lake Ice Melts Early**

**LAKE PLEASANT** – The warm weather of El Nino made haste this year to lay early waste to the 40th annual Ice Off the Lake contest in the smallest of Montague's five villages.

Gathering March 5 at the traditional appointed hour of 5 p.m. at the traditional appointed place, the Raisin Rosen picket at the midpoint of the Bridge of Names, contest judges eyeballed and binocularized the visible surface of the lake and saw not a cube of ice afloat.

Thus the 2016 contest was declared concluded, and became the second earliest end date in the event's history.

The winner this year was Max Shapiro, son of George Shapiro of Montague Avenue. Max's younger brother, Fedya Michel, won the 2014 contest.

The contest date range was February 22 through April 19. Those dates represent the earliest and latest dates ice has left the lake since the contest began in 1977. Last year the contest finished April 13.

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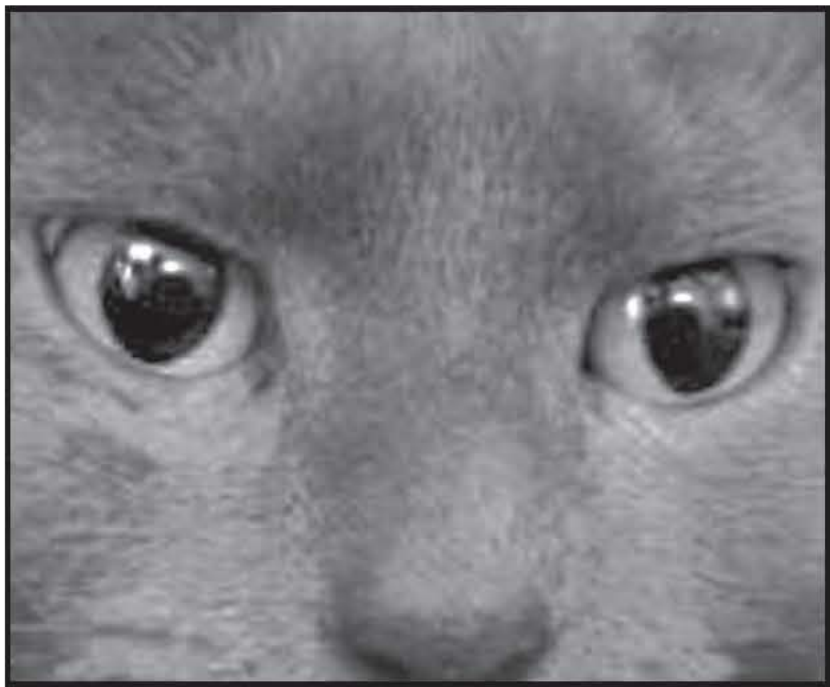
# Pet of the Week

Hey, I'm Abbott! I came from a house that had too many kitties. Dakin doesn't know a whole lot about me, but I would do well living with another kitty, and would probably enjoy a quiet home.

I'm a little shy when you first meet me, but if you talk to me softly and given me cheek and head scratches, I'm going to want you to keep going.

I'm really very sweet, once I get to know you. I have a funny little scar under one of my eyes. I'll be your warrior princess! So if you're looking for a nice young lady to join your family, come visit me today.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



“ABBOTT”

## Senior Center Activities MARCH 14 to 18

### 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.

**Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch**  
**M, W** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics, 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Monday 3/14**  
8 - 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic appts.  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 3/15**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
**Wednesday 3/16**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 3/17**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 3/18**  
AARP Tax Prep Appointments  
No Activities

### LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us). Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### 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 congregational meals.

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

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

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

**Monday 3/14**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
**Tuesday 3/15**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 Homemade Lunch (call)  
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting  
**Wednesday 3/16**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 3/17**  
8:45 Aerobics (fast moving)  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring  
**Friday 3/18**  
9 a.m. Quilting workshop  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
Noon Irish Dinner (pre-register 24 hrs)  
12:30 p.m. Painting Class/Wkshop

### 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.

**AUBUCHON** from page B1

can break down sales transacted over a day to cash, check, credit cards, and coupons redeemed.

The computer can also do payroll and process applications. “What’s really time-saving for me as a manager,” said Valeski, “is the help computers are in the hiring process.” All the steps of hiring are done on line with the proper government forms like W-2’s and in-house application forms.

“When a new employee starts here, he or she has never written a word on a piece of paper.

It has been done electronically including an electronic signature.”

Unlike many other businesses, Aubuchon is gearing up for just about the busiest time of the shopping year: spring. “May is our

Christmas month,” said Steve. “In fact, people are already getting started with their questions and purchasing their materials. People want to mow their lawns. They’ve been cooped up for a long time.

“And it looks like we may even have an early spring.”

Aubuchon Hardware donates materials to several organizations. Its chief charitable relationship is with the Franklin Area Survival Center. Ten years ago the company began an annual barbecue, usually around Mother’s Day Weekend, as a day to give children a chance to play with a bouncy house and balloons along with eating hot dogs.

“Five years ago,” said Valeski, “we also started to put a bucket out there and collected money for the Survival Center. It’s our way of

giving back to the community.”

With such a busy, demanding job, how does Steve relax? “For recreation,” he said, “I love driving.” Valeski is a member of the BMW Car Club of America and attends driving events all around New England.

Turners Fall’s Aubuchon is located at 200 Avenue A in Turners Falls. In addition, a total of more than 80,000 items are on sale through the company’s website at [hardware-store.com](http://hardware-store.com). To reach the store, call (413) 863-2100.

The store is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# This Week on MCTV

### By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

MCTV staff have been working hard to provide you with fresh programming from local events. Every week you can check out the live broadcast of local meetings, including the Montague select-board on Mondays at 7 p.m. and finance committee meetings on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

The following videos are now available online, for download & in the TV schedule:

- Black History Month: Kim Kalesti, February 27: New York City Jazz Singer Kim Kalesti and three local jazz musicians on acoustic guitar, bass and drums perform
- Call and Response: Portraits of

Influential African American Blues and Jazz Musicians. Hosted by The Rendezvous. 1 hr, 10 min.

- Black History Month: Bob McNeil, February 27: Bob McNeil, New York spoken word poet, lecture "From Africa to Hip Hop" at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Essays, lyrics, poems, quotes, songs, and stories shared by McNeil and his accompanists take the audience through the history of music. 1 hr, 17 min.

Finally we would like to add a correction from the week of February 22 to 26: the February Coffeehouse at Great Falls Discover Center, sales at the Great Falls Discovery Center Coffeehouse on February 12 did not benefit No

Fracked Gas in Mass. Artist CD sales and artists' shares of ticket prices did benefit No Fracked Gas in Mass: specifically, David Fersh, Art Fuleihan, Beth Adams, Sandra Boston, Andree Clearwater, Annie Hassett, Jacki Odess-Gillett, David Sibek and Storm.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Varicose Veins and You



*Q. My mother had varicose veins in her legs and now I'm getting them. She put up with them. I don't want to. So how do I get rid of them?*

Varicose veins are twisted and enlarged veins that bulge in legs, but they can appear in other places. Varicose veins are more common in legs because veins from the groin to the ankles endure the most pressure of any veins in the body.

Varicose veins affect half of people over the age 50. Women get varicose veins more often than men.

Spider veins, which are named for the spider webs they resemble, are like varicose veins, but they're smaller. Hemorrhoids are anal varicose veins.

Aging is a major cause of varicose veins. As we get older, our veins stretch and the valves in them weaken. These valves keep the blood flowing toward the heart. If

the valves malfunction, blood backs up in the veins and engorges them.

Varicose veins are blue because the blood in them needs oxygen, which it gets when it returns to the heart and is pumped through the lungs.

These bulging veins can be painful, but, for many, they are just ugly nuisances. There are many options available to treat them. The first step in dealing with varicose veins is to get them examined by your doctor and get personal advice about how to deal with your condition.

Before trying a variety of procedures, you can wear compression stockings that squeeze the legs and help the veins move blood. They are available at most pharmacies. If these don't work, your doctor may recommend one of the following:

- Lasers can make varicose and spider veins vanish.
- Injections can close the veins and make them fade away. This is called "sclerotherapy."
- Heat is used to destroy varicose veins. A catheter is inserted in a large varicose vein. The tip of the catheter is heated and then withdrawn.
- Catheters can also be used with radiofrequency or lasers to close veins.
- The veins can be removed with incisions. This is called "vein stripping."
- Small varicose veins can be taken out with little punctures of

the skin. Surgical hooks remove the veins. This is called "ambulatory phlebectomy."

- In advanced cases of varicose veins, "endoscopic vein surgery" may be used. In this procedure, the surgeon inserts a tiny video camera to help in the removal of the veins with incisions.

Varicose veins can't be prevented, but there are steps you can take to reduce the chances of getting them. Here are some pointers:

- Walking improves the circulation in your legs.
- Losing weight reduces pressure on veins.
- Low-heel shoes and flats exercise your calves.
- Tight clothes restrict circulation.
- Lying with your legs up improves circulation.
- Sitting, especially with crossed legs, or standing for a long time cuts down on circulation.
- Eating foods low in salt and high in fiber is beneficial. Salt leads to water retention and swelling. Not consuming enough fiber leads to constipation, which can contribute to varicose veins.

*If you want to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com)*

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DIE WISE from page B1

Following her friend’s death, Cooper searched for learning opportunities and found Jenkinson was doing a workshop at Rowe Conference Center. Experiencing his approach left her “grateful to have an encounter with someone with such depth, such knowledge of the subject.” She thought others might benefit, and her hunch turned out to be correct: to date, around thirty people have signed up to read and discuss the book.

Asked why she was one of them, Rosie Heidkamp, town librarian, said, “Because death is a reality – and as our community ages, we’ll face death more often.” She said gathering to open up to each other about experiences and feelings around dying “gives us a wider berth to be able to talk, support each other with illness, with cancer issues.

Heidkamp suspects that “the more of us in the community who have a language and shared sensibility about it, when we’re facing each others’ deaths, the more room there’ll be to be able to talk, to be honest rather than awkward, to be real with each other and not get other people’s fears coming at you.”

“I’m not very comfortable talking about dying,” confessed Trudy Smith, another participant. “It doesn’t usually come up, and when it does, there’s so much sorrow. In the group I thought we might get more ease. I’m always interested in people’s stories.

“So far, people have been very forthcoming. I’ve learned a lot. It’s been very heartwarming – I know my neighbors a little better. But mainly, I realize I’m not very comfortable talking about it.”

Jenkinson calls ours a death-phobic culture, but Smith wonders if technology might have created the problem. “Yes, there’s a trend toward making us live as long as possible. That hints that we have difficulty giving up our life. We try everything, Western – and Eastern – medicine, what it has to offer. But I’m not sure we’re afraid of dying – we’re just used to availing ourselves of technology. We feel entitled to it, all of it, plus a long, long life. I don’t know if it’s a phobia or just a deep sense of entitlement. And we all struggle: how much is too much...? At what point to stop interventions?”

Jerry Barilla referred to a passage in the book to the effect that people who have been implicitly asked by family, friends, the medical profession, etc., “to die for far too long” have literally said out loud, “You wouldn’t treat a dog this way.”

“That sentiment,” he said, “confirms what I came into the group with, that description of the end of a life cycle. It clarifies it for me. We need to change our attitudes.”

Smith said Jenkinson doesn’t condemn people. “He acknowledges that

they’re well-meaning. Just caught.” She likes the stories he includes of those he’s worked with as a consultant to the dying through palliative care and hospice organizations.

Ricky Baruc, co-owner of Seeds of Solidarity Farm in Orange, said he came with the premise: “If you want to truly live, you need to know how to die.” He said he has “no knowledge about that process. Also, when people around you are dying or really sick, how do you relate to it? It fascinates me.”

He called the group “Amazing. Death is heavy; talking about it in the group brings out people’s true humanity. It’s the equalizer. As a group we’re all trying to figure it out. We have to be humble. To be around other humans in a humble way.”

Book group member Maggie Houghton called death “a subject I’ve been thinking about for quite a while. I’ve thought a lot about my own death, knowing it’s coming at some point.” She said she has “some ideas about how I’d like it to not happen.”

For her, the group ideally would go beyond just discussing the book itself – “that we’ll develop some response in the community to people who are dying. The people who gathered around Molly [Kaynor] and Clearwater [Liberty],” both Wendell women who died within the last few years... “They were able to keep [them] at home. It takes quite a lot, a lot of people.”

“There’s a general awareness quite a few of us are heading down this road, and we can talk to each other about it, not feel isolated. We’re not in this alone.”

Houghton noted that Jenkinson “kind of turns a lot of things upside down. Talking about how nothing on this Earth is dependent on human beings: the animals are dependent on plants, plants are dependent on the Earth. [Yet] we like to think that we’re the most significant thing on Earth. The book is very thought provoking!”

Heidkamp believes “Clear,” as Clearwater was known to her friends, “gave a real gift to us.” This artist and beloved community member managed to keep an openness about her coming death. “It was a lot of months – she was diagnosed in April, died in October. We sat on her porch and laughed together. Her rhododendron,” she reminisced, “she wanted to be sure it was well pruned one last time... There was almost a sense of approaching birth!”

“When somebody has had the fullness of their life, there’s an opportunity to be able to celebrate it together.” Heidkamp added “And what a gift reading this book together gives us!”

Shay Cooper said it’s not too late to join a discussion group, and those interested could call her at (978) 544-2190.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Susan B. Anthony Dollars Stolen; Chuck E. Cheese Tokens Returned

Monday, 2/29

10:59 a.m. Officers at DIAL/SELF attempting to locate a missing juvenile per request of Athol PD. Staff advise that missing female is not there at that time. Female’s boyfriend still resides there but is not believed to have returned there last night. Staff will be on lookout and call MPD if they return.

5:10 p.m. Caller advising there are 2 needles in a parking space outside Family Dollar; she found them when going to leave for the day. Officer in area will retrieve items.

5:10 p.m. Caller from Five Eyed Fox advising of a few people who just came in to the establishment. Parties were yelling and causing a disturbance; when caller asked them to leave, they refused at first. When caller advised she was calling the PD, the parties left. Caller requests to have on record that they have been asked not to return.

6:24 p.m. Caller believes that missing female officers were looking for last night was just in the DIAL/SELF building but has since left (5-10 minutes ago). Description provided. Officers advising negative findings; checked all the Patch as well as the Avenue A/Montague City Road area and spoke to employees at Cumberland Farms. Units will continue to be on lookout.

10:35 p.m. Caller complaining of loud music possibly coming from Brick House Community Center. Officer stated music was not that loud and could not be heard from the street. However, he spoke to the people there and advised them of the complaint. This is the last set of the night.

11:08 p.m. Caller from Depot Street reporting 4 large diesel trucks idling in the road and blocking a driveway; they are very loud, and caller cannot sleep.

Tuesday, 3/1

7:50 a.m. Caller from Prospect Street advises that vehicle was broken into sometime after 9 p.m. last night. Vehicle contents were rifled through, and \$30 in Susan B. Anthony dollars was stolen. Report taken.

9:14 a.m. Caller from DIAL/SELF reporting that a client’s motor vehicle was broken into overnight. Several items stolen, including a GPS unit. Report taken.

10:30 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer re: suspicious activity that occurred in October 2015. Caller found several Chuck E. Cheese tokens on her front lawn this morning; she is concerned that this may be related to a breaking and entering to her

residence in October 2015. Caller requests extra patrols in her neighborhood due to this issue and other suspicious activity.

2:11 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer re: an incident that occurred the other day with a neighbor. Dispute was over a handicapped parking place. Caller advised of options and to call if this happens again.

3:14 p.m. Caller from Hillcrest Elementary School requesting an officer to assist with traffic from school dismissal/buses and traffic from voting.

Wednesday, 3/2

10:51 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a probation warrant.

Thursday, 3/3

4:03 p.m. Caller advising of female party driving a red Subaru Impreza with a piece of plywood on the roof unsecured. Caller states that vehicle was traveling northbound on Federal Street just south of Swamp Road, was only going about 10 mph, and plywood had already come off once, almost hitting another car. Officer off with vehicle on Federal Street; assisted motorist with securing plywood. Party will continue to drive slowly with hazards on.

5:05 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road reporting 3 kids with a 4 wheeler and dirt bike riding in the area of the hill by the baseball fields. Caller stated kids all have helmets on; however, he is concerned due to the way they are riding (blowing donuts) that the school will not allow the snowmobilers to use this property. Officer reports that parties were gone on arrival and there does not appear to be any property damage.

Friday, 3/4

12:06 a.m. Caller reporting suspicious tractor trailer unit driving around Sheffield Elementary School. Caller states that operator parked the truck behind the school and was walking around it. Truck may be marked “Burke.” Officers out with operator of truck; same is delivering oil.

1:58 p.m. Party into station to report that she overheard a conversation in which her neighbor stated that he would “poison her.” Referred to an officer.

2:11 p.m. Manager from Rite Aid stating there is a shoplifter currently in the store. Caller witnessed her putting multiple items into her bag; he also witnessed her taking items out of boxes and placing the empty boxes back on the shelf. Officer advises that party was escorted out of the business, and she was trespassed from the location by the manager.

7 p.m. Caller from L Street advising that items were taken from her car again. Advised of options.

8:31 p.m. Officer off with approximately 4 kids at the skate park. Gathering dispersed.

10:19 p.m. Officer moving along a group of kids from the skate park.

Saturday, 3/5

4:49 a.m. F.L. Roberts employee reporting intoxicated male causing problem in store. Male then went outside and urinated on side of building; is now lying on ground outside of building. Male taken into protective custody and later released.

11:49 a.m. Caller reporting a brush fire on a front lawn on South Ferry Road; fire is reportedly getting close to the house. Shelburne Control notified to tone MCFD. MCFD en route. Officer advises homeowner has fire mostly extinguished; some grass still burning.

1:48 p.m. Landlord reports that she was showing an apartment on K Street and noticed someone living in the attic of the building. Female party reportedly stated that she wanted to stay until next week when she would have an apartment. Landlord requested that she leave. Also received a call from one of the building’s tenants reporting the same. Officers spoke to callers. Party was not there upon officers’ arrival. Landlord will put a lock on the door to the attic; if the tenant hears any noise upstairs, they will call MPD.

3:36 p.m. Caller requesting

to speak to an officer re: his wife’s daughter stealing his vehicle. Caller’s insurance was canceled, so vehicle was parked due to being unregistered/uninsured. Caller believes daughter will be in downtown area. Officer located vehicle parked on Fourth Street; caller called back advising of same.

4:03 p.m. Caller in skate park area complaining of a gray Ford Explorer operated by a young male that has been speeding, spinning its tires, has come and gone three times now. Caller concerned for children in area. Officers will be on lookout.

9:47 p.m. Caller from K Street advising that the female party earlier found living in an attic was back attempting to return to the attic. Landlord had put a new lock on the door; female is using a screwdriver to try to break it. Responding officers advise all clear; parties in the apartment next door to the caller were spoken to and advised how to get any belongings they have left upstairs from the landlord and not to enter the attic if they do not have a key.

Sunday, 3/6

9:52 a.m. Caller from L Street just walked outside to find a broken window on her rental car. She has spoken to officers multiple times in the past few days regarding suspicious activity, larceny, and possible breaking/entering. Officer requesting on-call detective to see if he could lift prints off vehicle; heavy damage to side. Investigated.

10:36 a.m. Caller concerned about a tractor-trailer truck parked across from Greenfield Savings Bank on Avenue A that has been running for approximately 1 hour. Caller upset about the exhaust that the vehicle is emitting. Caller also concerned about the trucks parking in the Food City lot as she does not want this space to become a truck stop. While on phone, caller advised that the truck on the side of the road was leaving. Caller advised this would be on record.

# MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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**MAX BUS** from page B1

the Mohawk Trail and in Western Mass. “People pay good money to travel to places like this and here I am living in it.”

The business center provides affordable office cubicles and high speed wireless on the third floor of the Old Fellows Building, owned and managed by Buckland’s Michael McCusker. Englert finds Shelburne Falls and the center “open, positive, very friendly, a great place for my business. I don’t like to work at home in my office. This is a remarkable place to work, with 15 to 20 people; none of us do the same thing. The diversity of it is very special and very positive.

“Fate, or whatever you want to call it, has landed me here. I look down at the river, the Bridge of Flowers, and



The bus line is operated as a nonprofit.

go downstairs for a sandwich. It’s a wonderful place to do business, to think about what’s next.”

What drives her transportation passion’s bus? “Over the last 25 years, there’s been a significant decrease in transportation services in rural areas like Franklin County and elsewhere.

“I’m always interested in asking the question, ‘How can we reverse the disinvestment in rural transportation?’ Because living in a rural area most of my life, I have a strong interest, both personally and professionally, in how we sustain our communities and the vital links to regional urban centers while maintaining our quality of life and managing growth.”

She drives over 2000 miles a month, attending business meetings

in Gardner, Athol, Worcester and elsewhere. The company is set up as a social justice enterprise: “We don’t charge profit on our work, bridging the private and public sector. We have a network of colleagues who I’ve worked with in 25 years of my area, tackling issues that come up in small rural areas.

“No one – very few – people sitting in skyscrapers are doing this. It’s not something you’ll ever make money in; I’m looking at it as a positive force. It’s not about profit, not about going global, it’s about building a local network of people who care.”

As the overall general population expands, she is considering transportation needs in rural areas as far away as South Dakota and Iowa from her Shelburne Falls office.

“Because I’m not making a profit, for me, looking at the project that has the greatest social justice return and greatest impact on the community – that’s how I gauge what’s the pressing need, and what we can work on next.”

For more information and bus schedules, access [ridemaxbus.com](http://ridemaxbus.com). For info on the business center, see [bridgeofflowersbusiness-center.com](http://bridgeofflowersbusiness-center.com).

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M1	M3	Trip		M2	M4
READ DOWN		Service		READ UP	
ARRIVE FROM		CONNECTING SERVICE 0		DEPART TO	
4:10 AM	-	Hartford/New York		12:35 PM	9:10 PM
-	-	Springfield		2:40 PM	9:10 PM
-	12:25 PM	Boston - South		12:35 PM	10:35 PM
5:30 AM	1:00 PM	Worcester		12:20 PM	8:25 PM
5:55 AM	1:29 PM	Clinton		11:56 AM	7:56 PM
6:15 AM	1:53 PM	Leominster		11:32 AM	7:32 PM
-	12:32 PM	FR   Boston North   TO		11:50 AM	7:40 PM
6:27 AM	2:09 PM	Fitchburg		11:16 AM	7:16 PM
6:30 AM	3:05 PM	TO   Boston North   FR		10:26 AM	7:02 PM
6:57 AM	2:37 PM	Gardner		10:48 AM	6:48 PM
7:15 AM	2:55 PM	Athol		10:30 AM	6:30 PM
7:32 AM	3:12 PM	Orange		10:13 AM	6:13 PM
7:44 AM	3:24 PM	New Salem		9:59 AM	5:59 PM
8:03 AM	3:43 PM	•	Pelham	•	9:40 AM 5:40 PM
8:15 AM	3:55 PM	0	Amherst	9:30 AM	5:30 PM
8:50 AM	4:30 PM	▼	Northampton	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
DEPART TO		CONNECTING SERVICE		ARRIVE FROM	
9:25 AM	4:55 PM	Boston South		-	-
9:25 AM	4:55 PM	Springfield		-	4:45 PM
9:25 AM	4:55 PM	New York		-	4:45 PM
9:15 AM	-	Albany		9:00 AM	4:50 PM
10:05 AM	-	Montreal		-	-
1:31 PM	-	TO   Amtrak NEC   FR		-	4:03 PM
Service Notations					
•	Flag stop; may leave up to 7 minutes early or later than time				
0	Stop for disembarking customers; may leave up to 7 minutes early in this direction				
0	Connecting service schedules may vary by day of week; consult with carrier				

## Granby Knocks Turners Boys Out of Playoffs

By MATT ROBINSON

### Granby 67 – TFHS 56

The Granby Rams defeated the Turners Falls Basketball Indians in the second round of the D-IV playoffs on Friday March 4. The loss ended Power-town’s playoff aspirations.

At the beginning of the game, Granby hit two foul shots. Turners was able to hit a three-pointer to take the lead, but this was a harbinger of things to come.

By the end of the game, Turners had committed 19 fouls while Granby had only 11. As a result, only 2 Indians hit foul shots for a total of 6 points while Granby doubled up by hitting 12 freebees.

The first quarter remained tight until 1:17 was left in the period, when the score was 16-14. That’s when Granby hit a three-pointer, ending the quarter with Blue down by 5 points, 19-14.

In the second period, the Rams

popped out to a 9-point lead, 23-14, with less than a minute elapsed. Then they stretched the lead to 12 points, 30-18 with 3:50 left in the first half.

The Rams maintained their double-digit lead throughout the period, and the first half ended with a score of 39-26.

In the third period, Granby held the Tribe to 9 points while scoring 15 of their own, and after three quarters led 54-35. Turners managed to make up some of the deficit in the last quarter, outscoring Granby 21-13, but the Rams held on to take the game 67-56.

Tionne Brown was the game’s high scorer hitting 4 two-pointers, going 2 for 2 from the line and landing four 3-pointers for a total of 22 points. He also pulled down three rebounds, gave three assists, made two steals and had a deflection.

Jalen Sanders scored 17 points on five 2-pointers, four free throws and a 3. He also grabbed four rebounds, made two assists and took a steal.

Josh Obochowski scored all 6 of his points on layups and added five rebounds, an assist and a deflection. Kyle Bergmann got 4 points, on a layup and a floor shot, and had six rebounds, a steal and a deflection.

Anthony Peterson went 2 for 3 from the floor for 4 points and took four rebounds, made an assist and blocked a shot. Tyler Lavin hit a 3-pointer, gave four assists and grabbed a rebound.

Ricky Craver had three rebounds, an assist and a deflection. Nick Croteau and Colby Dobias both had rebounds, and Trevor Mankowsky also saw playing time.

By MATT ROBINSON

### Lenox 57 – Franklin Tech 42

On Thursday March 3, the Lenox Millionaires shifted into high gear in the fourth quarter, cementing a win against Franklin Tech, and eliminating the Eagles from the D-IV playoffs.

Lenox held the high-flying Eagles to just four points in the first quarter and led by 8 at the half, 26-18. The Eagles chipped away one point in the third, pulling to within 7 points, 34-27, going into the final quarter.

But that’s when the Millionaires caught fire. They put up 23 points and extended their lead to 15, 57-42, when the final buzzer sounded.

Colin Gould led the Eagles with 16 points on seven field goals and two free throws. Zach Korpiewski scored 9 points on four buckets and a freebee. Joel Farrick added 7 points with a foul shot and three baskets. CJ Daignault hit a 3-pointer and a bucket for 5 points. Tyler Hastings cracked in a 3-pointer, and Corey Johnson added two points.

### FRANKLIN TECH GIRLS PLAYER STATISTICS

	Season	Career
Brittany Andrews	241	666
Ashlee Townsley	116	208
Michelle Leh	84	177
Alexis Barrett	30	75
Amber Merritt	36	70
Brooke Adams	40	40
Haley Kidder	37	37
Erin O’Neil	0	19
Cassie Harris	8	8
Emily Giguere	0	7
Bri Wilder	4	4
Emily Maselli	2	2
Kat Zanders	2	2
Kristin Slowinski	0	2

### PLAYER STATISTICS

	Season	Career
Colin Gould	478	592
Zach Korpiewski	369	369
CJ Daignault	131	165
Corey Johnson	98	103
Alex McBurnie	58	101
Joel Farrick	84	89
Max Charest	81	81
Tyler Hastings	49	49
Jared Bergmann	21	21
Jake Despines	16	16
Seth Sierakoski	15	15
Cole Littlewood	5	5

Thanks to Sean Crowell for providing additional statistics.

## Free Parent Workshop

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Free dinner and/or childcare for participants who pre-register. Please contact the Community Network for Children, to register or with any questions, at [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com) or (978) 544-5157.

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**SPACEPORT** from page B1

round kind on music boards. The energy vortex feels strong here.

Inside, there are science exhibits; for example, on the use of gyroscopes in space travel. One wall acts as an art gallery. My favorite painting depicts a map of the moon with a mandala-like flower and Star of David circumscribed over it, surrounded by horses, angels, women with Victorian umbrellas, and faces that look like Cleopatra, Rasputin, and Bob Marley.

A young woman, wearing a blue jumpsuit with a patch that probably infringes on a copyright held by Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry, stands behind a counter. Behind her head, halo-like, is a widescreen TV fading between images of projects based at the spaceport, including Virgin Galactic’s experimental spacecraft and pictures of historic space feats. It also includes a scrolling CNN-like news ticker of space news at the bottom.

She is really good at answering my questions: There would be no TSA security check at the spaceport. The spaceport is good for the town and the local economy.

Virgin Galactic’s first passenger spaceplane crashed during a test flight because of pilot error, and their new craft was just completed two

the 30 miles of desert between town and the spaceport, and I know the best way to do it is from the leather saddle of my Univega.

I cross the Rio Grande and head up into the Caballo Mountains. The traffic-less road is cut deep and tall, with rock walls rising up on either side. Partway up I reach the Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Manmade lakes in the desert always make me feel uncomfortable, and this one is no exception. Over it hangs the embarrassed poignancy of a shrunken lake crowded with a marina and party boats that are too many, and too big.

It’s a perfect day for biking: the air is cool and the sun is warm, not hot. I crest the tops of the mountains and can see the entire 25-mile-wide valley in front of me. On this side of the pass the mountains are not as steep and I can see the land flow gently down to the next range to the east, beyond which lie the Trinity Test Site, the White Sands Missile Range, and Holloman Air Force Base.

I don’t have a smart phone, so I’m using complicated-appearing directions scribed by hand from Google Maps, which on some animal level I mistrust. But just as listed, at mile 10.0, I make a right-angle turn onto County Road AO 08, which basically appears to be a dirt-surfaced

with two golden tabs, and to me it looks like a kind of near-future external hard drive – like the kind that they must probably already be using at the spaceport. I remind myself that I had hoped to get closer to death on the trip, and I ride on, into the dust.

I navigate my way through the spider web of ranch roads, my byzantine list of Google directions held pressed against my handlebars. I can more or less tell where I am by the north-south running mountains that border the valley.

Occasionally I hit deep sand pits that require great concentration and strength to stay upright through. I pass over many cattle guards whose wide spacing threatens to swallow my road bike tires.

There are a lot of large cattle and I wonder if they are Ted Turner’s aurochs, the ancient wild ancestors to today’s cows, which a person in town told me lived in this valley. There are windmill wells, and I can sometimes see a house.

The apparent openness of the landscape deceptively conceals things. Despite the intense mind-lock I’m using to keep my wheels on the barely-at-all-packed part of the road, I suddenly become aware that there’s a truck behind me, driving fast.

I zag over to the shoulder, coming dangerously close to straddling my top-tube, and the cowboy drives past, tipping his hat at me in a way that seems smug. While our eyes are still connected, the cyclists’ feeling of defiance prompts me to start yelling, “Which way to the spaceport, cowboy?” but he drives on without recognition.

After an hour on uncoun­ted range roads I pop out on a recently paved two-laner, running dead south through the middle of the valley. This was the road that any human with any sense would direct you to take. When it comes to biking, smoothness is like energy, and I fly along over the gently flowing terrain, past the carcasses of cattle in every stage of decomposition.

I stop to take a skull – it fits diagonally in my pannier, just barely, and I hope that it is the skull of an auroch. Next to its complete skeleton, its skin lies on the ground, almost whole. It’s so dried and rug-like that it seems like it was tanned by a professional.

The only vehicle that passes me on this road is the Follow the Sun Tours mini-bus – the \$50 tour that I did not want to pay for.

After blasting along for forty-five minutes or so I begin to see a ranch, to the east of the road. Besides the small ranch house I notice some outbuildings behind, with dark brown roofs.

As I draw closer, it becomes apparent that these buildings are actually quite far from the ranch, and that they are huge. I coast to a stop at a four-way that looks like the crossroads where Robert Johnson met the Devil.

In front of me, the pavement turns to dirt and continues southward to the horizon. To the right, a range road heads off, in an ash-to-ashes dust-to-dust sort of way. A sign points left, 2 miles downhill on pavement, to the spaceport.

I can see all of it laid out: the runway they refer to as Spaceway 16-34; the swoop-winged shape of the terminal known as the Gateway to Space; the round, Jetsons-y building that houses the Southwest

## NOTICE OF FILING

On February 28, 2016, Turners Falls Hydro LLC, PO Box 149, Hamilton, MA 01936 filed an Notice of Intent (NOI), Preliminary Application Document (PAD) and Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the re-licensing of Turners Falls Hydro Project (FERC No. 2622), located at 16 Canal Road, Montague, MA. The NOI, PAD and TLP documents are available for public inspection at 823 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA, or can be downloaded from the FERC library at <http://elibrary-backup.ferc.gov/>

Comments on the NOI, PAD and request to use the TLP are due to the Commission and potential applicant no later than March 29, 2016 and must reference the project number P-2622. – Turners Falls Hydro, LLC. Respondents must submit an electronic filing pursuant to 385.2003(c) or an original and seven copies of their comments to the Secretary, FERC, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Spaceport Authority and Mission Control, all surrounded by the smooth, featureless valley and backed by dark mountains.

Tiny-seeming, elongate red trucks drive between the buildings, like blood cells between organs.

I coast up to the security checkpoint. I consider just cruising through, but instead venture a greeting to the slouching, comfortable-looking back of the security guard. He stands to attention really very quickly, apparently surprised by my accidental stealth, dropping his pistol magazine onto his chair.

I show him my *Montague Reporter* All-Access photo-lanyard, and he says that I cannot enter.

I tell him that I’d spoken with Sandra at Spaceport Authority, and she said she’d get me in.

“No way,” he replies.

I mention that the spaceport is owned by the taxpayers of Sierra County, and he stares at me blankly.

I ask him what it is like to work at the spaceport. “Life’s an adventure every day,” he responds, with the sarcasm-free deadpan I imagine all Constitution-owning patriot types to possess. Basically, he seems annoying, like a cat woken from a nap by a toddler, so I let him get back to his Survival Weapons And Tactics Magazine, or whatever it is.

The desert is exciting to me because it feels like it is between eras of time. Chronos is taking a break and the cambium of life is peeled away, allowing one to see back through time, periods and eras appearing like the rings of a tree.

In the West Texas desert we found hundreds of fossils – trilobites, ancient ferns, spiral ammonites over a foot in diameter. The land here was a teaming sea, then a rioting forest, and the pause of the desert today suggests that it will be these again.

This New Mexican desert suggests distant times of a different sort: a nostalgic cowboy past, and a techno-utopian future. The two parallel wagon-wheel ruts of the Camino Real, the old Spanish road from Mexico to Santa Fe, pass through the valley just a couple miles from Spaceport America. Or perhaps these visions are not divergent: they coexist like in a real-world space western, a plausible prequel to *Firefly*.

Do most of the people in the neighboring communities benefit from Spaceport America’s presence? Do blockbuster mega-projects help people who are not already well off?

Out of four people I spoke with, two were affirmative, two negative. A woman who worked at the Charles Motel told me that her husband had worked clearing the sagebrush off

the site, and her son had helped build the road that sped my journey.

My server at El Faro Mexican Restaurant, where I gorge myself upon getting back into town, only knows a security guard. She quips, in that not really understanding, but eager-to-please way, “You like to go on bike rides? That’s cool.”

The spaceport, which is supposed to be paying Sierra and Doña Ana counties, has not yet generated enough money, and so the taxpayers of these small rural counties are still paying for this outpost of Silicon Valley.

\* \* \*

Truth or Consequences seems to favor big, Hollywood-inspired solutions – first a sensational name change, then voting to build a first-in-the-world commercial spaceport.

Years ago, when first traveling the southwest, I spied Truth or Consequences on a map and knew that I had to go. On this trip, I stayed at the Charles Motel, I ate at El Faro, and I bought groceries.

But when a very rich person buys a \$250,000 ticket from a British corporation to fly out of a spaceport that’s 30 miles into the desert, it’s not clear how that economic activity will circulate through the community. If the spaceport succeeds in creating an industry, as was the hope of Bill Richardson, the former governor who generated the idea, then likely it will benefit local people from all walks of life.

Many names of businesses in town start with “Truth,” like Truth Tattoos. The spaceport, while there’s still more literal tumbleweed on the road than cars, is more like a living myth.

Spaceport America is in the middle of the desert because the tech and aerospace firms don’t want spies to steal their cutting-edge technology. But it also means that there’s the potential that it will disappear without a human to bear witness, like 96% of all life in the Permian Extinction.

In a traffic-less roundabout at the entry to Spaceport America there’s a huge sculpture, called “Genesis,” by Tucson-based artist Otto Rigan. It’s a huge red parabolic arc, elevated a few feet off the ground. According to the artist, it symbolizes Spaceport America’s supposed mission of making space travel accessible to all.

But my initial thought – perhaps because, in that moment, a cowboy was driving by in a dirty 1-ton flatbed that smelled like pelletized chicken manure – was “it’s bull horns.” Whatever happens in the future in this valley, the sculpture works.



JULIA ROSE GOLUMB PHOTO

*Our intrepid reporter, under his vehicle.*

weeks ago. (My travel companion, Julia Golomb, suggests that maybe this one would be Lady Gaga’s. )

Jocelyn – she doesn’t tell me her last name – is a true believer, informing me with conviction that “we’re dealing with a historic event – when we do start sending people into space, they will come.”

She lets me know that, despite my media credentials, it’s very, very unlikely that they will let me in over at the spaceport. I knew that this probable misadventure would take a great deal of energy, so I ate the crumbled freeze-dried space Oreos on Jocelyn’s sample plate.

\* \* \*

The car is in the shop getting its code read, so I hop on my bike. Actually, I’d probably have chosen to bike anyway – I want to see and feel

ranch road.

My danger sense begins tingling because people I’d asked in town had assured me that the road was paved the whole way out, and according to my directions, this looked to be the beginning of a vast labyrinth of unmarked ranch roads. I get off my bike, drink some water, and eat one of the three chocolate nougat bars I’d brought to stay alive. I look around for a sign.

The Stop sign is full of bullet holes, but this doesn’t seem surprising. There are cattle bones, and cactuses that look like nopales – I wonder if I could eat them in a pinch.

Then I see a bright blue spot on the ground. It stands out because everything else, even the green of the cactus and the red of the Stop sign, is actually a shade of brown.

I pick it up. It’s a blue plastic square the size of my thumbnail,



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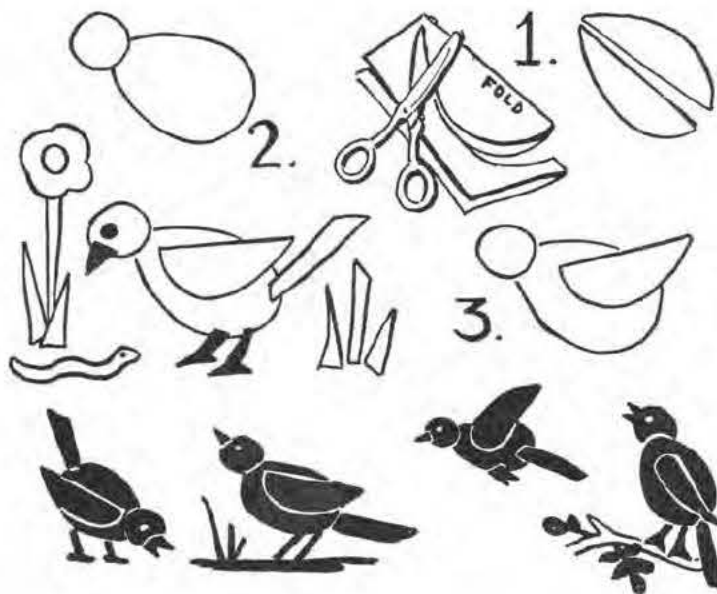
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# The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION



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BEVERLY KETCH COLLAGE

### PRINDY AND THE WISHES

Up, down, rocked the nest like a in the breeze. "So now I am a Robin!" thought Prindy. "Cheep, cheep! don't push!" cried little Billy Redbreast. "Cheep, cheep!" cried all the other with their mouths wide open, and up flew Mr. Redbreast with a fine fat for their dinner. "My dear," he said to Mrs. Redbreast, "the children are getting too big for this. Besides, Cook has put a full of cake on the by the kitchen! , and if they could fly down and get it, how much less trouble it would be for me!" "Their are not strong enough yet, my dear," said Mrs. Redbreast. "Besides, I have to sing at a concert in the maple- to-day and I cannot teach them." "To-morrow then," said Mr. Redbreast. But Billy was a bold little and when his parents were gone he hopped up on the edge of the . "Watch me fly up to the !" he cried, and he spread his and away he went. But alas, he did not fly up to the ! He went flip, flop, down and landed in a heap on the . "Cheep, cheep!" he cried. Mr. Redbreast dropped his and came flying. Mrs. Redbreast stopped in the middle of her and came flying. And Ellen and heard the commotion and came flying too. "O save him!" cried Prindy, leaning over the edge of the . Alas, she leaned too far, and out went all the other , flip, flop, to the ground! "Well, well!" said Mrs. Redbreast. "They may as well learn to fly now!" So she coaxed and she scolded and they spread their and up, up they flew till they were all safe back in the . "Tomorrow," cried Mr. Redbreast, "we will all fly down and eat the cake in the together!" Up, down, rocked the nest like a for joy. "It is fun to live with the robins!" thought . "I wish, I wish!" And pop! she was not in the any more, but scurrying into a hole in the wall with a long tail whisking in before her!

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



A strange bird for coloring.



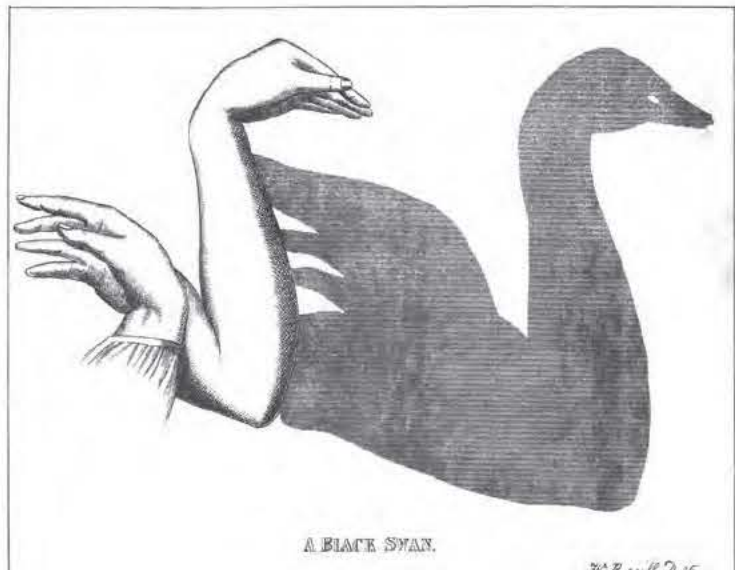
Carefully cut out the parts of this bird and tape them together!



This is an American robin. Can you see or hear any outside right now?



Spring is coming. If you see a lone baby bird who can sit on a branch or stand up like this little robin, they may look helpless, but their parents are probably nearby watching over them as they learn to fly!



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

## ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word*. First week of each month. Monthly poetry reading, often with special guest poets. 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Outside the Lines!* Last Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

## EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Mez, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

## EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

## EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

CeCe's Chinese Restaurant, Turners Falls: Traditional Native American and improvised Asian

solicits entries for its April exhibit *Where in Leverett?* at the Leverett Library. Take a photo, draw a picture, write a poem, riddle or paragraph about a place in Leverett. Challenge others to figure out where it is through your work. Deadline March 15. Info at [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org)

Slate Roof Press, a member-run, not-for-profit collaborative, invites submissions to its annual poetry chapbook contest. The winner receives \$500, and will have his/her chapbook published by Slate Roof. Winners make a 3-year commitment to the press. May 15 deadline. For full contest guidelines, visit [www.slateroofpress.com](http://www.slateroofpress.com).



*David Rovics has been described as an American indie singer/songwriter and anarchist. His music concerns topical subjects such as the 2003 Iraq war, anti-globalization and social justice issues. He has had his music featured on Democracy Now!, the BBC, Al-Jazeera, Acik Radyo and other networks. Rovics will be performing this Saturday, March 12 at the Mt. Toby Meetinghouse in Leverett at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Mt. Toby Concert Series.*

flute music featuring *Eric Wolf Song*. 6 to 6:30 p.m. Free.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

## EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present*. Large paintings by Louise Minks and sculpture by Belinda Lyons Zucker. Winter hours, Wed-Sunday 10 to 4 p.m. Through March 31.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *17 Mysteries and Signs* by Ruth West. Tintypes for the Digital Age. Through March 12.

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Earthly Delights* Paintings, fiber, jewelry, photography, wood and pottery by member artisans. Through 3/30.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Winter*. Over 60 works of art created by more than 30 artists.

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, Turners Falls: Rodney Madison: *"Of African Influence."* Madison's paintings are paired with traditional African fabric, which has served throughout his life as inspiration for his art.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The Leverett Trails Committee

sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. 6 p.m. Donations.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Looney Tunes Cartoon Festival*. A Pothole favorite. 7:30 p.m. Preceded by *A Cappellagos - a cappella* at 7:00 p.m. \$

the Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Milo Sprague Trio*, featuring Marty Jaffe and Eric Miller. The Western Mass. debut of this NYC-based trio, two of whom hail from here. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno Boogie Blues! 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Snaz*. Brattleboro Indie - pop-rock sensations and guest TBA. 9:30 p.m. \$

## SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Mt. Toby Concerts presents David Rovics*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Looney Tunes Cartoon Festival*. A Pothole favorite. 7:30 p.m. Preceded by *Whistlestop - fiddle/banjo/guitar* at 7:00 p.m. \$

RPX, Greenfield: *The Recovery Project presents Stainless*. 13th Annual Recovery Jam. Drug and alcohol free environment. 8 p.m. Donations.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Comedy Show with the Ha-Ha's: The Armando*. Spontaneously-created comic theater on the second Saturday of every month. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Grant Maloy Smith*. Americana country. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Community Smokes*. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Escape Route*. Highly Danceable Classic Rock. 9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 13

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Rebecca Hartka: Bach to Brazil Concert with guitarist Jose Lezcano*. Music from Cuba, Brazil, and the first Bach Cello Suite. 3 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

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

## MONDAY, MARCH 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic Cabaret*. 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Rendezvous: Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Space-men*. Klondike Koehler, Compton Maddux, Johnny Moses, Doug Plavin. 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. Americana-ana. 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie and the Pistoleros*. Outlaw country! 9 p.m.

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Saturday, 3/12 - 9 p.m.

Escape Route

Sunday, 3/13 - 8 p.m.

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## April 30: GMEF Annual Gala, "Jukebox Memories"

From sold out performances in Atlantic City, Branson, Foxwoods Resort & Casino, Nashville, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and Canada, to the stage at Turners Falls High School, the Gill-Montague Education Fund welcomes tribute artist, Brian McCullough, performing as the legendary Roy Orbison and Conway Twitty, at their 12th Annual Gala,

"Jukebox Memories."

The Gala begins at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 30 in the Turners Falls High School Auditorium.

Also on stage: the American Longboards, one of the nation's leading rock'n'roll bands, entertain with a high-energy tribute to American rock'n'roll featuring music of the '50s, '60s, and '70s.

Tickets for the GMEF 12th Annual Gala will be on sale March 19 at the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and Scotty's Convenience Store in Turners Falls. They are also available starting March 5 by calling Sandy at the TFHS 863-7296, or at the GMEF website, [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org). Tickets are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door.

### 1676-2016:

#### What Have We Learned?

#### Tribal and Colonial Historians Reflect on the Battle of Great Falls

*Hosted by the Battlefield Grant Advisory Board  
Sponsored by the Montague Planning Department and National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program*

**Saturday, March 26, 2016 – 1 to 3:30 p.m.**

Auditorium of Turners Falls High School  
222 Turnpike Road, Montague



**MONTAGUE REPORTER**

Montague Center resident Greg Pellerin takes a break at the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light House with his wife Chris Pellerin late last month.

Northeast of Orlando, the inlet connects the Mosquito Lagoon and Atlantic Ocean.

**ON THE ROAD**

Send your pictures to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

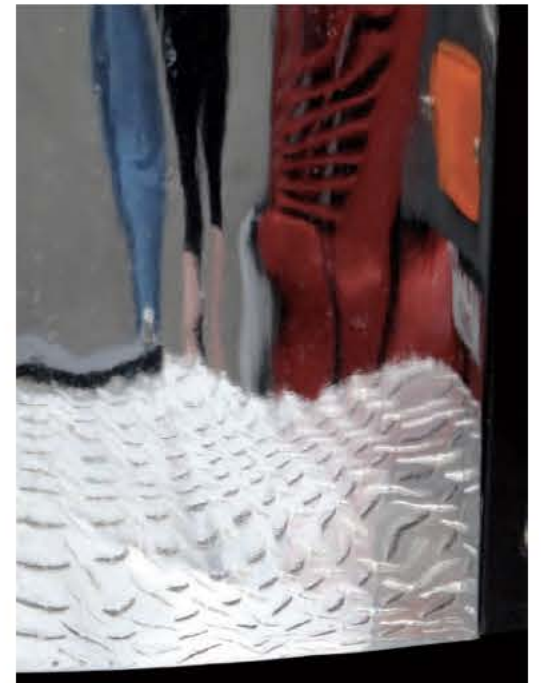
## Wendell Photographer Shows at Gallery A3

AMHERST – Gloria Kegeles of Wendell is exhibiting her photography at Gallery A3 in Amherst this month. The collection of photographs, entitled "Further Reflection," will be on view until April 2.

Gloria began photographing reflective chrome surfaces in the 1980s, and actively seeks out vintage automobiles, trucks, and the occasional musical instrument to explore the distortions of these chrome curves and expanses of diamond plate.

Kegeles writes: "I have a great love for the unique cars of my childhood. My dad's 'family van' was a black 1951 DeSoto limousine! I start with the vehicle as a full canvas and search through the lens for the parts and angles of the canvas which catch my mind's eye."

"The transition from three to two dimensions, of subjects already distorted by curved



Beyond Diamond Plate, by Gloria Kegeles

surfaces and multiplied by reflection, often produces unpredictable results, thus recapturing an altered dimension – the stuff of photographic magic."

The borderless prints in her exhibit are big, at least 9" by 12" or larger. Hours at Gallery A3 are Thursday through Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Visit online at [gallerya3.com](http://gallerya3.com)

A self-taught photographer, Gloria shoots with a compact digital camera, preferring that her work be about seeing, rather than equipment. Examples of her work may be seen online at [chromephotos.com](http://chromephotos.com).



Gloria Kegeles

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