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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 28

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 1, 2014

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Montague Elementary Schools To Be Reconfigured; New Principal Added



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTOS

Sheffield and Hillcrest will once again be separate schools.

By PATRICIA PRUITT

At its Tuesday meeting, the Gill-Montague school committee meeting voted in favor of a proposal by superintendent Michael Sullivan for a revised configuration for Montague Elementary Schools.

Sullivan proposed to return to two separate schools for the elementary curriculum, to be divided along the same grade levels as currently housed in Hillcrest – pre-K through first grade – and in Sheffield – second through fifth grades. Hillcrest serves about 160 students and Sheffield 250.

Under the plan, Hillcrest would have its own principal, to be hired by July 1. Sheffield would also have a new principal as well as an assistant principal.

Sullivan said he hoped the increased administrative presence in the schools would allow a stronger in-school culture and sense of community, as well as “a clear and collective sense of purpose” to develop among students and parents

at each school.

It will allow the early childhood program at Hillcrest to focus its attention on integrating its efforts with community organizations as well as focusing on teaching literacy.

Hillcrest’s mission is somewhat different from Sheffield’s where, for example, teachers develop curricula that incorporate new standards in math and science.

Each school’s principal would be better able to respond to concerns of staff, students and families, and focus on the particular mission of their school.

The assistant principal at Sheffield would be in charge of managing student behavior, and coordinating the staff providing social and emotional support to students.

Each principal will be in a better position to establish clear goals and expectations with staff and to hold staff accountable to these expectations.

All members of the school see **SCHOOLS** page A2

Dean Cycon at the Leverett Library: Saving The World, One Cup of Coffee At A Time

By DAVID DETMOLD

If there is a sustainable way forward for our planet, Leverett’s Dean Cycon has been out front for the last 21 years scouting the path.

Before he founded Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee Company with a \$6,000 used coffee roaster and \$1,000 worth of coffee beans in a warehouse in Orange in 1993, Cycon worked as an environmental lawyer, with a focus on the concerns of indigenous people.

While teaching at the University of Rhode Island, he delivered a lecture on deforestation in Brazil, and was introduced to a coffeeshop owner in Providence who was interested in giving something back to the Brazilian coffee farmers who supplied him with his product.

“Do you realize how poor the farmers are who grow our coffee?” Cycon recalls the coffeeshop owner asking.

Cycon looked into it, and realized there were no development organizations working with coffee growers, who were living in poverty in coffee producing nations, while the Hills Brothers and Maxwell Houses of the world grew rich on their labor.

Cycon’s effort to address this particular imbalance led him first to co-found an organization called Coffee Kids, a New Mexico based non-profit that supports education, health care, food security, economic diversification and capacity building initiatives for coffee growing communities in Central and South

see **COFFEE** page A5



PHOTO COURTESY DEAN CYCON

Cycon celebrates the coffee harvest with Asaro Mudmen in Papua New Guinea.

Leverett School Committee Plans for the Worst; Saturday’s Town Meeting May Be a Nail-Biter

By JEFF SINGLETON and CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

On Monday, April 28, the Leverett School Committee discussed how it would respond if the elementary school were suddenly required to cut \$100,000 from its budget.

That is what might happen this Saturday if Shutesbury calls for a change in the method by which costs are assessed to members of the Amherst-Pelham Regional middle/high school district.

Kip Fonsh began by stating that the town of Leverett might have to cut as much as \$192,000 from the overall town budget if the town of Shutesbury were to reject the regional budget, under its current method of funding, and adopt the “statutory method.”

The current method assesses the five towns in the region according to a “rolling” five year enrollment average.

The statutory method, on the other hand, begins by assessing the towns a “minimum contribution” based on relative wealth, and then assesses the remainder based on the local regional agreement.

A rejection by Shutesbury of the alternative method would either mean that the



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Leverett’s elementary school budget hangs in the balance.

regional district would have to cut, according to Fonsh, \$1.6 million to allow Leverett and Amherst to be “held harmless” (avoid cuts), or would require the two towns to make significant cuts to fund the increased regional assessment.

The possibility of a combination of school district and town cuts was mentioned, but not discussed in detail.

Fonsh estimated that in the event of a Shutesbury rejection, the Amherst Elementary School might be required to cut \$100,000 from its budget.

There followed a lengthy discussion of how this might be accomplished.

Principal Anne Ross suggested that the committee start with what was absolutely needed. “You need eight classroom teachers and SPED services for the [mandated] requirements, and then

you start looking,” she said.

The discussion quickly turned to funding a significant amount of money from the school choice revolving fund.

Approximately \$130,000 is in that fund now, but most of it is being used to finance the upcoming FY 15 budget.

The district is projecting revenues of approximately \$140,000 in the next fiscal year, and it was suggested that \$60,000 of that could be used to meet the potential budget shortfall.

That would leave \$40,000 in other reductions to meet the potential shortfall.

Although a formal vote was not taken, this appeared to be the solution the committee would adopt if the upcoming town meeting on May 3 were forced to provide another \$100,000 to the

see **LEVERETT** page A3

Landowners Warned of State Action On Gas Pipeline Surveys

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Landowners who have denied the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company the right to conduct a “preliminary survey” of their property have received letters threatening to petition the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities for “an order to enter your property to perform the requested surveys.”

The Town of Montague, which has denied survey permission on town land, had not received a warning letter as of this writing.

According to a letter dated April 23 received by Laura and Mark Chapdelaine of Greenfield Road, “it is Tennessee’s preference and intent to work with each landowner that has not consented.”

The letter continues to state that “Tennessee prefers the one to one relationship and direct communication with you regarding its survey request rather than pursuing the MA DPU process.”

The Chapdelaines have initially indicated they do not prefer the “one on one relationship” with the pipeline company, and may instead challenge the order before a DPU hearing. “We’re trying to find out more,” Laura Chapdelaine told the Reporter. “I don’t know what the

hearing consists of. We need to find out and maybe bring in the fire chief.”

The Chapdelaines have argued the frequent fires caused by sparks from the railroad make the proposed pipeline a dangerous proposal. A switch yard is just on the other side of the Connecticut River and railroad cars can frequently be seen idling next to the Chapdelaine property.

The law does not require a public hearing, but this has been the recent practice of the DPU.

The TGP letter requests permission to conduct five different surveys on the property:

“(1) civil surveys, which identify the boundaries of the corridor for all other surveys, obtain an accurate description of existing features, and locate the alignment for the proposed pipeline, (2) geotechnical surveys, (3) archeological surveys, (4) wetland and stream surveys, and (5) surveys for rare, threatened and endangered species.”

The TGP letter went on to

state that the surveys will be used in its applications to the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission and to other federal and state agencies for permission to construct the natural gas pipeline.

The letter cites Massachusetts General Law Chapter 164, Sections 72A, 75B and 75D as authority to conduct the survey. Section 75A authorizes the DPU to allow an electric company to conduct a survey “preliminary to eminent domain proceedings.”

Section 75D applies this to pipeline companies. The law does not require a public hearing, but this has been the recent practice of the DPU.

Section 75A does not clearly define what is meant by “preliminary to eminent domain proceedings.”

The process of applying to federal and state agencies for the right to build a pipeline has barely begun (indeed the surveys would appear to be the beginning of that process).

In response to local protests in the region, state officials have emphatically stated that no policy decision has been made about the need for a new pipeline through the state. The TGP letter appears to justify the pipeline, and

see **PIPELINE** page A4

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Now Is The Time To Say Yes

Sixteen years ago, Katren Hoyden and Sonia Basay began to notice that many of the teenagers they worked with at Montague Community Television's Family of Man project – a program to teach media skills to 'at risk' youth – were continuing to put themselves at risk in pursuit of one of their favorite pastimes.

No, not dealing drugs – although that pastime was all too prevalent on the Avenue in those days.

No, Hoyden and Basay saw that the kids in our downtown were using the sidewalks and alleyways as skateboarding platforms, darting past parked cars and into traffic. These feats of daring could likely lead to an avoidable accident or death if something wasn't done to create a safe place for the youth to exercise their passion for stunt bikes, scooters and skateboards.

Sixteen years later, the same circumstances prevail.

Hoyden, with the support of Basay and the rest of the MCTV crew, decided to help the young people of our town organize and take action in their own behalf.

They found a number of likely leaders among the teens, notably a young man named Chris Gallagher – 14 years old – and his friend Winter Orion Clark. Those boys got their friends together, and got themselves on the agenda of the Montague selectboard.

They went as a group to ask the town to help them build a skatepark – a safe place for them to play in a world that can turn dangerous for young people when there are too few job openings, too few positive role models, too few positive outlets for their boundless energy.

Soon, the teens were able to get the town's first temporary skatepark built on 2nd Street, with the support of the selectboard and the active help of Montague building inspector David Jensen.

But before that first temporary skatepark opened, with plywood ramps donated from Rugg Lumber, and donations from dozens of other local businesses, Gallagher and Clark had drowned while swimming at the Rock Dam. They never got to play at the skatepark they helped to build.

To keep faith with their departed friends, the rest of the skateboarding teens in those days organized benefit concerts at the Shea Theater, raising money to keep the plywood ramps in good repair, and eventually to move the temporary park from place to place, to the back of Chick's Garage, and finally to the lot on the corner of 11th Street.

Others also took up the cause:

Byran and Sarah Dolan, Ellen Spring and Ruth Nervig, an Ameri-corps volunteer at the Brick House. David Detmold, the founding editor of this paper, and early proponent of the cause, continued to keep the dream kindled.

One of the mainstays of those intermediate efforts, including fundraising concerts, was a pal of Chris and Winter's named Greg Ellis.

Last year, as the long effort to keep the deteriorating plywood ramps of the temporary skatepark at 11th Street in usable condition gave way to a full-court press to build a permanent concrete skatepark, Ellis was again among the voices calling for a safe place for the teens of Montague to skate.

Just before he died in an early morning car crash on an icy road in Greenfield this January, Ellis' Facebook page was calling for other friends from those early days to help him organize more benefit concerts, to raise more money, to try again to build a home for young skateboarding enthusiasts to play.

Now, at long last, that effort is coming to a crucial vote at Montague's annual town meeting on Saturday, at the Turners Falls High School, at about 1 p.m.

Chris and Winter won't be there, but their plea for a safe place for kids in town to skate will still be heard. Greg Ellis won't be there, but his family and friends will be, keeping his dream alive.

We have seen amazing improvements to the recreational facilities at Unity Park in recent years. Over a million dollars in federal and state funds have transformed that park into a premier attraction, with new play structures for little kids and renovated ballfields for their parents.

Even a volleyball court is being built. But the teens are still waiting for their skatepark.

Some kids don't join ball teams. Some aren't the studious type. Some don't have parents who can take them to cultural attractions in far off towns and cities. But they are vital, active members of our community just the same.

The dangers that beset the teens of our town in 1998 – when the crack cocaine epidemic was at its height – are mild in comparison to the dangers presented by cheap opioids and heroin today.

We have let too many of our teenagers drown, too many die in car crashes, too many waste their lives in jail cells and rehab programs.

Several successive generations of community teenagers have worked hard over the last 16 years



Am I still dreaming, or...

Letter to the Editors

Investing In Our Youth

When I talk to people about why I've been working with others to finally make a skatepark in Turners Falls a reality, the word I use most often is "investment".

Our Town Meeting members will be voting this Saturday on whether the town should allocate money for a skatepark.

Having been a Town Meeting member, I appreciate the obligation to make sure that the town is managing the budget responsibly with an eye to the future.

I firmly believe that the cost to the town will be a very manageable amount for a few reasons: first, the town will be obligated to provide funding only if it is awarded a state grant which will cover the majority of the cost; second, the total cost for the park will very likely be less than the original estimate; and

third, the skatepark committee is working very hard on an ongoing massive fundraising campaign that has already raised over \$30,000.

The skatepark will be the first in our region, and once it is built, it will generate revenue. The families that will be travelling here to use it will certainly be going out for lunch, buying ice cream, and visiting the shops downtown.

This isn't a speculation – we have residents in Turners who regularly leave town with their kids to use the parks in other places such as Northampton.

The other way in which the skatepark will be an investment for our town is even more important. It will be an investment in our youth, which will produce positive returns now and in the future.

Building a skatepark will give

young people a healthy outlet for building and sharing their skills, and the designated location at Unity Park means that they will be included with the general recreating community.

Younger kids will watch and learn, and older adults will get to see and appreciate the skills required to use the skatepark.

Remember, the youth today will be adults in our community before we know it.

If we show them now that they are valued members of the town, it is much more likely that they will grow up to be adults with the kind of values that a community needs to thrive.

Anne Jemas
Turners Falls, Precinct 4

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committee voiced opinions on the proposal.

Sandy Brown of Gill voiced her opposition on the grounds that it increased transitions unnecessarily for low-income students, and moved to hire a vice principal at Hillcrest instead.

That motion was voted down in favor of consideration of the Superintendent's proposal.

Jane Oakes spoke in favor of Sullivan's proposal.

Jen Waldron, pointing out that she served on the task force that created the current elementary configuration, said she initially wondered, "why change it?"

After speaking with parents, teachers, and paraprofessionals, Waldron said, she concluded it looks like a community, but isn't working well particularly for Hillcrest.

Marje Levenson said she felt there had not been wide enough outreach to the towns about the change being proposed.

The final vote was 6 to 2 in favor of the proposal, with Brown and Levenson voting no. Misty Lyons

was not present.

Sullivan also declined to convene a task force to consider long-range alternatives for Sheffield and Hillcrest, such as the parallel pre-K through 5 schools suggested at an earlier school committee meeting by member Mike Langknecht.

Among the reasons he cited were the cost of the facilities changes that would be needed; the staffing required; space limitations; and duplication of resources, such as technology, age-specific materials, and equipment for physical education, art, and music.

The school committee approved the school committee election warrant.

Sullivan has begun the process of his evaluation by the school committee and spent time to explain their "homework" assignment, due May 9 and to be handed in to Robin Hamlett in the Superintendent's office. He handed out 3-ring binders full of forms and directions to be followed in doing the various parts of his evaluation.

The next school committee meeting will be on May 13, 2014.



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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Come welcome in the Spring at the **Montague May Day Celebration**, to take place on Sunday, May 4. Festivities begin around 10:30 a.m. as all are invited to process from the Montague Center post office to the town common.

Young children have the honor of carrying the maypole. Singing of May songs and maypole dancing will commence on the town green as the maypole is erected.

With ringing bells and the smashing of sticks, area Morris teams will wake the earth and ensure fertility with capers and leaps, amid general merriment and frivolity.

The event is free of charge and participants are encouraged to bring along a blanket and picnic lunch. Contact 367-9923 for more information.

The first of two 2014 **Quabbin Reservoir hikes** led by Marty Howe is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, along the New Salem Gate 26-27 loop. Participants meet at New Salem Common for an 11:15 a.m. departure, returning at about 3 p.m.

Hikers stay with the group, but may leave the hike early if they inform the leader. All Department of Conservation and Recreation rules are observed: no smoking, and no taking or leaving anything.

Hikers should bring lunch, drinks, cameras, binoculars, sun screen and bug repellent, and be prepared for insects. Drizzle or light shower threats do not cancel the hike, but steady rain does.

The Swift River Valley Historical Society website (www.swiftrivermuseum.org) and Facebook page

LEVERETT from page A1

budget.

Union 28 superintendent Bob Mahler noted, however, that this solution would “decimate” the school choice revolving fund, and only delay the necessary cuts by a year.

There was further discussion of responding to questions and comments that might come up at town meeting.

What if town meeting members advocated the consolidation of classes to meet the shortfall or reduced assessment? “Let us manage the budget,” Mahler hypothetically responded. “How we do it is our business.”

Or, as outgoing chair Catherine Brooks put it, “Thank you for your thoughts on that, but that is not where we’re going to go.”

Committee member Sarah Dolven noted that there will be a presentation by the sustainability committee at Saturday’s town meeting, which will discuss ways to increase local revenues.

The school committee seemed to feel that zoning was overly restrictive, and discouraged new growth. Kip Fonsh pointed out the large percentage of land that was subject to conservation restrictions.

“We all love our rural town but at some point we don’t have the money to fund it,” was one final comment that appeared to capture the sentiment on the committee.

May 3 Annual Town Meeting

Saturday’s annual town meeting promises to be something of a nail-

post updates when the weather is questionable. For more information, call (978) 544-6882 or email srvhs-museum@gmail.com.

Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra is holding auditions for the 2014-15 season on May 4 and 6. Auditions will be in Greenfield and Amherst. Audition prep classes are available at Artspace Community Arts Center, Greenfield. Sunday, May 4, 1 to 3 p.m. at Artspace Community Arts Center, 15 Mill St., Greenfield, MA and Tuesday, May 6 in Amherst (location and time TBD). For more info contact: Susanne Dunlap, (413) 210-2480.

Free Soup and Games Night is a monthly benefit event held at Hope & Olive, Hope Street, in Greenfield the first Monday of each month. from 5 to 7 p.m.

On Monday, May 5, the proceeds from raffles, bake sales and bar proceeds will **benefit the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center** in Turners Falls. The Friends group works with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to bring quality family and children’s programming, along with new interactive exhibits, to the GFDC.

To celebrate 35 years of success, “**Taking Power: Photographs from the People’s Movement to Shut Down Vermont Yankee**” will be opening Tuesday, May 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Green Fields Market, Main Street in Greenfield. The work of three outstanding photographers, Lionel Delevingne, David Shaw and Cate Woolner, will be on display through the month of May.

At the opening, Delevingne and

Shaw and members of the exhibit’s sponsors, the Safe and Green Campaign, will be on hand to talk about the context of the photos and the successful struggle to close Vermont Yankee. Refreshments will be served.

For information about this show, please contact Nancy at nancykbraus@yahoo.com or (802) 380-3362, or visit www.safeandgreencampaign.com.

On Tuesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Montague Town Hall, MCTV will broadcast live a **forum with the two candidates**, Fred Chase II and Greg Snedeker, who are running for a three-year term on the **Gill Select-board**. Gill voters are welcome to attend.

The candidates will answer a series of prepared questions and if time allows will take questions from the audience. Ray Steele will moderate and the forum will last one hour.

Town elections for Gill and Montague are Monday, May 19.

Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is hosting a **Special Women’s Veteran Services** presentation on Wednesday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Viviana Marcotte and Kim Adams, Women Veteran’s specialists from Boston, provide an over-view of services, benefits and initiatives relating to female veterans.

Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Community Action and Totaltech Recycling Company are hosting an **electronics recycling event** at the Four Corners School parking lot on Bernardston Road, across from Cherry Rum Plaza.

Free coupons will be given out for Antonio’s Pizza, Baker Office Supply and Burger King. All donations, which range from \$5 to \$25 depending on the items, benefit Community Action.

The First Congregational Church, 43 Silver in Greenfield, is having their annual **Rummage, Tag, and Food Sale** on May 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will also be a bake sale fundraiser for the First Church

from \$434,250 to \$233,400 if Article 15, which would restrict borrowing to the lower amount, passes.

The fire department is looking to spend \$14,352 on scuba equipment contingent on 90 percent of the cost being returned to the town from the Federal Fire Act fund. \$8,000 will have to come from taxpayers, however, for turn-out gear.

The police department is hoping voters approve \$36,000 for a new cruiser. The Board of Assessors is requesting \$13,000 to hire a consultant.

Two “non-binding” petitions will be of special interest to many.

The first asks town meeting to approve a resolution that would prohibit drones from flying over the town. In addition, it asks Congressman McGovern and Senators Warren and Markey to introduce a resolution to end the practice of judicial killing by armed drone aircraft.

The second petition is a resolution to oppose the proposed new Tennessee Gas Pipeline, and to champion sustainable energy.

Passage of this petitioned article would result in formal resolution that would state that the people of Leverett oppose, this or any, pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracking within the borders of Massachusetts. At least two major transmission lines already carry such gas into the state.

Additionally, the resolution would lend support to Massachusetts House Bill #3796 that seeks to protect water, safety and health from fracking.



School. For more info, call (413) 774-3449.

The 22nd anniversary of America’s largest single day of giving will be held Saturday, May 10, at mailboxes throughout the country. The National Association of Letter Carriers’ **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** in Partnership with the U.S. Postal Service, Campbell’s Soup, Feeding America and other partners helps feed the hungry when many food pantries are depleted.

Currently, 49 million Americans – 1 in 6 – are unsure where their next meal is coming from. Sixteen million are children who feel hunger’s impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. And nearly 5 million seniors older than age 60 are food-insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to ask for help.

In 2013, 74 million pounds of food was collected by postal carriers nationally, feeding an estimated 30 million people. Over the course of the 21-year history, the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has collected well over 1 billion pounds of food.

Many Post Offices in our own local area support the food drive, so give them a call. The **Turners Falls Post Office** delivered more than 5,000 lbs of non-perishable food items to the Franklin Area Survival Center in 2013.

Our reporter **Lee Wicks** has decided to donate fifty copies of her novel, *Some Measure of Happiness*, to the Montague Reporter. They will sell for \$10 apiece, and the entire amount will go to the newspaper.

The book, which is set in the fictional town of Cooper Hill, VT, was inspired by the rituals and sense of community that characterize Montague. Send her an email at wickswords@yahoo.com and she will find a way to get a book to you. You can also pick one up at our office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls during business hours.

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Franklin County Home Care Corporation Serving Franklin County and the North Quabbin Area

CASE MANAGER

Full-time (35 hrs) - Assist elders maintain independent living in the community. Conduct home visits, complete needs assessments, develop and monitor client centered service plans. Must have excellent communication and documentation skills. Bachelor’s Degree required.

REGISTERED NURSE: ADULT FAMILY CARE PROGRAM

Full time (35 hrs) for program serving elders and individuals with disabilities and their caregivers. Requirements include nursing assessment skills; ability to develop plans of care; advocacy skills; ability to educate clients and caregivers; and ability to work autonomously. Degree and community and/or geriatric nursing experience or previous work with DDS/DMH preferred. NO NIGHTS, NO WEEKENDS, 11 PAID HOLIDAYS OFF.

Both positions require computer proficiency and the ability to drive and travel throughout the service area to visit clients in their community setting. Submit resume and cover letter to efoster@fchcc.org. Review of applicants will begin as received and continue until positions are filled. AA/EOE

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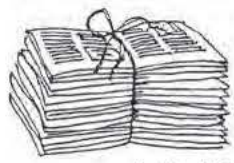
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PAPER
Week of May 5
in Montague



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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 4/18/14

Grade 6
Madeline Williams

Grade 7
Noel Kocsis

Grade 8
Snejana Lashtur
Brandon Chapin

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Gets New High Speed Internet

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The agenda for Wendell's April 23 meeting was long, but the meeting was short; much of the agenda was no more than passing on information.

The most exciting development came near the end of the meeting when selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that the MBI middle mile internet connection is established in town, and a true high speed wireless signal is being distributed to town buildings and to homes near the center.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the improvement over Hughes Net is phenomenal, and Pooser added that there will be no artificial slow down, as Hughes Net gave, as punishment when their arbitrary daily downloading limit was exceeded. He thought the town should keep its connection with Hughes Net for a month or two as bugs are worked out of the new system.

With a true high speed connec-

tion Brian Morton, the town accountant, may be able to do his work here instead of at the FRCOG.

Road Repair Monies

Following a long winter, Massachusetts has established a Rapid Recovery Road program to help towns repair potholes, broken pavement and frost heaves in roads.

At the April 23 meeting, town coordinator Nancy Aldrich told board members that Wendell's share of that money is \$28,560. Work has to be contracted by the end of June, completed by the end of September, and the grant application has to be in by the end of October, 2014.

Elections and Appointments

Board members signed the warrant for the town election, which will be held Monday, May 5 from noon to 8 p.m. There are no contested races, although a write-in campaign is possible.

Long time moderator Kathy Becker is stepping down, and her able deputy moderator Kate Nolan

has taken out nomination papers for the moderator position.

Board members also signed appointment slips for election officials, and for two new members of the recreation committee, Danika Tyminski, who teaches fifth grade at Swift River School, and Kimberly Sobieski, who teaches Pilates.

They signed an auctioneer's license for Ted Lewis to serve at the town's auction of surplus property, which will be held at the highway garage this Saturday, May 3, at 10 a.m.

Miscellaneous Business

Mahar Regional high school extended an invitation to selectboard members for the 2014 graduation ceremony, June 6, at 6:30 at the school. Aldrich said she could get tickets.

Keller said that building engineer Jim Slavas thinks that a glycol flushing of the office building heating system can safely be deferred for another year or more. The other board members concurred with that opinion.

Aldrich said that over the past months she has collected eight requests for house numbers from homeowners, along with questions about when the numbering would

start again. Keller said he would contact fire captain Asa De Roode about gathering a crew together for that work.

Aldrich hopes to get the town newsletter out in May and include in it a request for more designs for a Wendell town flag. So far two people have submitted a total of eight designs. Board members decided that voting could be done at Old Home Day rather than at town meeting, where viewing may be difficult, and where other business will dominate.

Mahar's principal Tari Thomas has offered to meet with the selectboard and finance committee, but neither group saw a pressing need for that. Keller said he could talk with her directly about any concerns.

Aldrich said that the aluminum flagpoles that hang from telephone poles along Lockes Village Road and Wendell Depot Road, are hollow and bend, and she suggested replacing them with wood poles.

If the town buys five new flags the sixth flag is free and she suggested that the town replace worn flags six at a time on a rotation as they wear out.

Flags are put up for Memorial Day.

Wendell: Town Election and More

The annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 5. The polls are open from noon to 8 p.m.

Please remember to vote! Come show support for your neighbors and friends by casting your ballot for those nominees who stepped up for the first time to serve the Town, and the candidates for re-election who are hoping for your continued support.

The ballot includes nominees Nina Keller, Board of Health (to fill a vacancy); Shay Cooper, Board of Health (3 years); Kathleen Nolan, Town Moderator (1 year); and Joel Sears, Cemetery Commissioner (3 years).

It also includes the following candidates for re-election: Daniel Keller, Selectboard (3 years); Chris Wings, Assessor (3 years); Gretchen

Smith, Town Clerk (3 years); Penny Delorey, Tax Collector (3 years); Carolyn Manley, Treasurer (3 years); Nan Riebschlaeger, Planning Board (5 years); Peter Zera, Tree Warden (1 year); Geoffrey Richardson, Road Commissioner (3 years); Johanna Bartlett and Jessalyn Zaykoski, School Committee (3 years); and Judith Putnam and Sylvia Wetherby, Library Trustee (3 years).

If you will be out of town on Election Day, don't forget to obtain an absentee voter application before noon on Friday, May 2.

The Town Clerk office is open from 9 a.m. to noon on May 2, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, May 5.

Monday, May 5 offers a grace day (i.e., no late fee imposed) for any dog owner who failed to license

PUBLIC AUCTION TOWN OF WENDELL

10 a.m., Saturday, May 3, 2014
Highway Garage, Wendell Depot Road near Center

1976 Fire Truck Ford LN8000 (tank & pump need repair); 2003 Ford F550 Truck, 4 wheel drive, diesel 6.0 (rear axle problem); 2 Portable generators, 3 Pumps, 2 Extension ladders; Roof ladder; Step ladder; 2 Brass backpack pumps, Various fire hose; Hand tools; Office furniture; Scene lights; Steel, aluminum and carbon fiber air tanks; Military water cans; Creeper; Copper tubing, Computer monitors; Paper shredder; Much more.

their dog by April 1.

Finally, a reminder that Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, starting at 10 a.m. We are expecting the largest turnout in years.

Your participation can make a

difference. Please come join the fun and do your part to keep the Town running in good order.

For more information about the election, absentee voting, or annual town meeting, please call (978) 544-3395 x 102.

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PIPELINE from page A1

thus the survey, as necessary to "meet the increasing demand for clean-burning natural gas in the northeastern United States."

A frequently-cited case which found the DPU had the right to order a preliminary pipeline survey is "The Town of Carlisle and others vs The Department of Public Utilities (1968)."

In that case, Carlisle and some of its residents challenged a DPU pipeline survey order, in part on the basis that it was in effect part of an eminent domain taking process.

The Suffolk County Court found that the survey was not part of a public taking under the law, but was related to the implementation of "government policy," presumably energy policy.

The DPU website discusses the process by which a company would

petition for a preliminary survey, and by which those who oppose that petition may intervene.

The case begins when an applicant files a petition with the DPU's Siting Division. They are required to "publish a notice of its proposal to construct the project in at least two newspapers having a reasonable level of circulation within the community," mail it to the affected parties, and post it in the city or town hall.

The siting division will then schedule one or more public hearings, "generally within the city or town where the facility is proposed."

Those opposing (or supporting) the project may intervene in a number of ways. They may ask questions or make comments at the hearing itself, receive information or file briefs as a "limited par-

ticipant," or present witnesses, file briefs and cross examine witnesses as an "intervenor." An intervenor may also appeal a final decision.

According to the DPU, "all participants are strongly encouraged to give thoughtful consideration to the method of participation they pursue. You are urged to consult an attorney to best evaluate your legal rights in a proceeding."

The permitting process in general can be an arduous one for pipeline companies without strong state and local support.

In 2008, TGP withdrew a proposal for 2.4 miles of pipeline construction in the town of Wakefield due to the "protracted permitting process."

It was reported at the time that state, not local, permitting was at issue.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Ambulance Contract; Police Interviews

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard signed a two-year contract with MedCare Emergency Health to provide ambulance service on the west side of town. MedCare, one of the largest emergency medical providers in Canada, acquired the former Bay-state Health Ambulance (BHA) ambulance service in January.

BHA has provided service to the western half of the town, while the Orange Fire Department ambulance provides service to the eastern half of town.

According to fire chief Philip Wonkka and selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo, who met with MedCare representatives to discuss the transition in emergency medical services, there will be no change in the level of service provided.

Klepadlo, the board's liaison with the police department, will join the committee that interviews the four candidates for the recently advertised full-time police officer position.

The selectboard decided to accept a Massachusetts Department of

Environmental Protection recycling grant, organized through Franklin Regional Council of Governments, for \$499 worth of equipment, in the form of 9 composters and 18 kitchen compost pails.

The board will decide how to distribute these items. Suggestions included: free on a first-come, first serve basis; free by lottery; or sold at discount, with the proceeds used to buy more units for sale at discount.

Town coordinator Tom Sharp will contact FRCOG for more information about the possibility of obtaining more composters at the discounted price.

The board decided not to pursue a grant for additional automated external defibrillator (AED) units. AEDs diagnose and provide electrical therapy to treat heart arrhythmias.

The town already has two units at each fire station, units in the four police cruisers, and one unit at each of the four town buildings: the Erving School, the senior/community center, the department of public works, and town hall.

COFFEE from page A1

America.

But Cycon was not satisfied with that. "Coffee companies giving us a couple of thousand dollars in charity, without changing their fundamental relationship with the growers," just didn't cut it for him. So Cycon embarked on an experiment to prove that "business could really be a participant in justice in the coffee lands."

Cycon pioneered "fair trade" coffee: working with indigenous communities to organize growers into cooperatives, who would determine for themselves what a fair price for their labor and product should be.

Not only does Dean's Beans "guarantee that we will never pay less" than the cooperatively determined fair trade price for coffee, the company often pays considerably more, regardless of the prevailing worldwide minimum price for coffee as determined by the New York Board of Trade, where coffee futures are bought and sold.

Dean's Beans only buys organic coffee, a commitment which makes a difference to the health of small farmers, who otherwise deal with the third most heavily pesticide-laden crop in the world.

"DDT, malathion, paraquat – pesticides that are heavily regulated or banned here in the US – are allowed in the coffee fields," said Cycon, as he showed slides of young children carrying open buckets of pesticides to apply to the crop.

Moreover, Dean's Beans returns six cents for every pound of coffee the company sells to the producers in the form of profit sharing, to be invested in development projects determined by the producer coops themselves, with technical support from Dean's Beans.

Cycon pays his own employees – ten of them in all, who still work out of the Orange "beanery," now doubled in size to 13,000 square feet – a starting wage of \$12 an hour, and he pays 100% of their health insurance, no co-pays, no deductibles.

Yet two decades on, his company enjoys \$4.5 million in annual revenues, and grows at a steady 6 to 8% a year without the benefit of any formal marketing – an obvious success despite or because of what Cycon himself freely admits is a "radically different business model."

"Business can be a powerful agent of social change if it chooses," Cycon told a group of fewer than a dozen Leverett residents who turned out to hear him speak, and to watch a slide show of his coffee producing partners in 12 countries around the world last Thursday evening.

"Every community we work in, as part of our business relationship, we do development work. We work directly with the community on programs they choose. It's not something the Coca-Cola's of the world generally do," said Cycon.

"We don't go through intermediaries," said Cycon. "We go and visit. We send interns for a couple of months. We get to know the culture. We find out, 'What are the things that are preventing you from reaching your development goals?' We listen."

And in the end, the farmer cooperatives manage their own programs. So the work Dean's Beans funds tends to outlast projects founded by international aid programs, subject as they are to the whims of donors and the constantly changing imperatives of disaster relief, war and refugees, pestilence and famine.

In Nicaragua, Dean's Beans helped set up the Ben Linder Cafe in Leon, the first coffee roaster retailer in the country.

That business was founded to provide accessible employment for people with prosthetic limbs – victims of landmines sown by the US-backed Contra rebels during the war to overthrow the Sandinista government in the 1980s. Mines were sown by the thousands, often in the coffee fields, where they lie in wait to claim more victims.

Dean's Beans' profit-sharing program funds healthcare for women in Guatemala, through a village bank operated by the cooperative, and has branched out to form a girls' empowerment organization called CHICA, the first of its kind in that region.

Cycon's company is working with local farmers on a reforestation project in Peru, setting up a revolving loan fund to build wells in Ethiopia, which according to local lore is the original homeland of coffee.

Funds have also been provided to purchase water buffalo in Sumatra (one water buffalo can weed and fertilize a hectare of land a year, about the size of an average coffee plot) and coffee depulping machines in Papua New Guinea, where roads are scarce and coffee often rots on remote airstrips, waiting for the next missionary plane to transport it out.

Depulping machines reduce the weight of the coffee cargo by 80%, increasing profitability for the producers, and helps prevent fermentation from setting in before the coffee can be flown to market.

Cycon is an intense guy, slight, not tall, with crisp white hair, and a diamond stud in one earlobe. He speaks crisply, too, with self-deprecating humor and a caustic flair. He talks like someone who has drunk a lot of coffee in his day.

His business model is beginning to catch on, but slowly. "Starbucks promises 3% of its coffee is fair trade. That's like saying, 'You, you, and you, we'll treat you fairly. The rest of you, hit the road,'" said Cycon.

He speaks with pride of the work his company is doing to forge a path to a sustainable economy in a world beyond Wall Street.

Others in the room get swept up in his vision for a just relationship between the farmers who grow coffee and the coffee drinkers of the world, who consume the fruit of their toil at the rate of two and a quarter billion cups each day.

The 25 million coffee producers of the world have worked hard for our coffee break. Dean's Beans is working for their chance to make a break from poverty to a healthy, sustainable future.

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For more information, go to deansbeans.com.

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Erving Elections: Monday, May 5

Don't forget to vote! Contested races for selectboard, planning board, board of health, tree warden and library trustee.

Erving Town Meeting
Wednesday, May 7

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving voters will consider a fiscal year 2015 budget totaling \$9 million at the May 7 annual town meeting. In addition, voters will decide whether to adopt new by-laws for the water department and the council on aging and whether to allow construction of a gas station in town.

Under recurring expenses, the FY'15 budget includes \$3.1 million for general government expenses (town administration, fire and police departments, highway, library, and parks and recreation), \$2.6 million to fund Erving Elementary School, \$990,476 for secondary education tuition and expenses, \$380,833 for Franklin County Technical School.

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

Article 38 proposes to place \$835,759 in the stabilization fund.

Onetime expenses included in the warrant are \$100,000 for road work on North Street, Church Street and High Street, \$30,000 for a generator for fire hall #2 and \$25,300 for a highway leaf collector.

An article placed on the warrant by a citizen's petition initiated by Ralph Semb asks the town to allow "the development and construction of a gas station and car wash located on land in the Town of Erving."

In a cover letter attached to the

petition, Semb wrote that he would like to "proceed with planning and construction of a gas station and car wash on our property located at 63-65 French King Highway and Semb Drive."

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

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

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

Article 27 asks the town to grant the library board of trustees the authority to apply for, accept and expend state grants for a study of the current and future needs of Erving's library and to transfer \$25,000 from free cash to match a state grant for a library feasibility study.

The meeting will be held at Erving Elementary School on Wednesday May 7, at 7 p.m.

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GILL from page A1

\$50 over last year, as the tax rate is anticipated to rise about 26 cents per thousand dollars of valuation.

Decreases in school assessments coupled with the return of \$34,623 from the regional school's excess and deficiency fund will allow the town of Gill to sock away about \$69,000 in an educational stabilization fund, in anticipation of leaner times to come.

Upgrades to the kitchen at the Gill Elementary School are also planned, to the tune of \$15,000.

The Gill-Montague Regional School District has asked the town of Gill to reform a regionalization study committee, and has made similar requests to the towns of Montague and Erving.

Those three committees, if set

up, could join together in a regional education planning board to discuss the future of the regional school district.

The impulse for that study may be coming from Erving, as the future of its regional elementary school district – Union 28 – remains in doubt, and is subject to upcoming town meeting votes in Leverett and Shutesbury this fall, where a plan to regionalize K-12 with Amherst and Pelham is moving forward.

Among the other items Gill voters will act on in a 29-article warrant is a motion to name the Gill Historical Collection in the Riverside Municipal Building the "Allan D. Adie, Sr. Historical Collection," in honor of Allan Adie's vision and hours of dedication in preserving the history of Gill.



Gill Elementary Awarded Recognition for School Breakfast Program

The Gill Elementary School is one of only 179 schools statewide to successfully complete the Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge.

From October 2012 to March 2013, the Gill Elementary School increased student participation in the School Breakfast Program by over 35%. In doing so, The Gill Elementary School seized the opportunity to prevent hunger from negatively affecting student success.

The Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge is a competition among school districts statewide to increase and sustain student participation. Schools, like the Gill Elementary School that increase and sustain a 35% increase by December 2014 will be recognized statewide.

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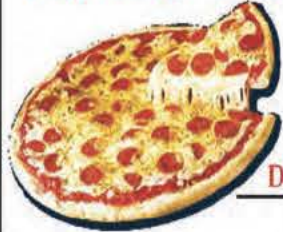


Gerald Collins writes: "Me at an Estancia (ranch) in Patagonia, and located just a few miles outside of Bariloche, Argentina. As you can see, I don't leave home (Casa Grande, Arizona) without it. See you all in May! Gerald (Jerry) Collins, TFHS Class of '52"

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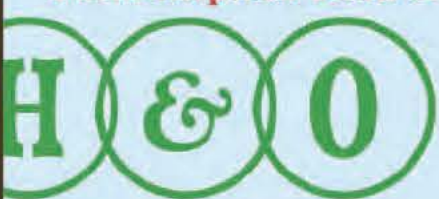


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WEST ALONG THE RIVER: TURNING WINTER INTO SPRING

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – This is always a chancey, dicey business, this winter into spring thing. Winter has really not wanted to let go this year.

We can always be fooled into thinking it's finally over, like back on April 2. There was one glorious day when we really knew it was finally Spring.

The Red Sox were getting ready to open down in Fenway, the kids up the street were getting out

ter, by singing and trilling from every branch and perch.

Red winged blackbirds gurgled their *oak-a lee!* from the tops of the trees, bobbing and swaying in the breezes.

The high running river races and rushes, wrapping itself around the bend that encloses our stony pasture lands, as it also rises and threads its silvery way through our woods.

The recently arrived woodcock winnows russet from among the leaves of last fall, the phoebe lilts through the yard, teetering and wagging his tail from the clothesline.

Everything seems to be telling us (shhh!), you know *what*. We don't dare pronounce the new season's name however, because as soon as we do, winter will come right back happy to play a cruel trick on all of us.

And sure enough, the snow fell and lingered a few days just last week. It smothered the daffodils, bending their heads, covering the crocus blades in two inches of white. Remember when we called this the poor man's fertilizer?

But the sun did its work, and the snow faded reluctantly, and the robins are back bobbing on the bare lawn listening for the sound the earthworms make, just down there below.

Keeping track of winter into spring has been a task of sorts over the past forty years of our life in

see SPRING page B4



Northern Pileated Woodpeckers –
Phloeotomus pileatus abieticola

their bikes and skateboards, and the neighbor was out washing his car in the yard. Upstairs, we were flinging open the bedroom windows at noon.

It was that glorious day in April when the birds thanked this house for getting them through the win-



this the same thing as macular degeneration?

First, a bit of biology...

The lens in the front of your eye focuses light on the retina in the back of your eye. The lens is like the one in a camera, and the retina is like film. The space between the lens and retina is filled with the *vitreous*, a clear gel that helps to maintain the shape of the eye.

The macula is at the center of the retina in the back of your eye. The retina transmits light from the eye to the brain. The macula allows us to perform tasks that require central vision such as reading and driving.

A blurred area in the middle of your vision is a symptom of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a leading cause of vision loss in Americans 60 years of age and older.

AMD comes in two forms – wet and dry. Wet AMD occurs when blood vessels behind the retina start to leak and raise the macula. Dry AMD occurs when macular cells break down.

A macular pucker is scar tissue that has formed on the eye's macula. Like AMD, a macular pucker can blur central vision. Another symptom of macular pucker is seeing straight lines as wavy or bro-

ken.

People with a macular pucker might have difficulty seeing fine details and reading small print. They might also have a gray area in the center of vision, or even a blind spot.

Vision does not get progressively worse for most people with a macular pucker. Severe vision loss is uncommon. It is not unusual for someone to have puckers and still have normal vision. Usually, macular pucker affects one eye.

As we age, the vitreous slowly shrinks and pulls away from the retinal surface. In most cases, there are no serious adverse effects. However, sometimes there is damage to the retina's surface. As the damage heals, scar tissue is formed. When the scar tissue contracts, it causes the retina to pucker.

Sometimes macular pucker is caused by an injury or a medical condition, such as diabetes, that affects the eye. Macular puckers can sometimes form after eye surgery.

Macular pucker is also known as epiretinal membrane, preretinal membrane, cellophane maculopathy, retina wrinkle, surface wrinkling retinopathy, premacular fibrosis, and internal limiting membrane disease.

In many cases, the symptoms from macular pucker are mild, and don't require treatment. People usually adjust to mild visual distortion. In rare cases, surgery is required.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com

We Know What's Killing Our Pollinators...

By TOM SULLIVAN

THE PATCH – I have to admit that Neonicotinoid is not yet a household word. It takes its time mellifluously sliding off the tongue. But within the matter of a few short years, if we don't act quickly, it may prove to be the one word we utter when we open our refrigerators.

I hate using a scare tactic, yet this one class of chemicals has me more worried than GMO's and Round Up ready crops. For the wellbeing of our children and their children's children, I guess I feel like an uncle or a grand pop.

Neonics, as they are commonly called, are a class of systemic pesticides that kill every insect that nibbles, bites, or sucks on any part of a plant that is being "protected" by them.

In the short run, plants under the cloak of a neonicotinoid, show no signs of attack. In the mean time, the insects we depend on for pollination services, bees who feed nectar and pollen to their young, are dying. And, the birds that feed their young insect larva are numbered as well. In the not-so long run, it's a sad story.

I've been up at night asking myself, "who is in charge here"? You might hear me shouting, for crying out loud, "Are there any adults looking out for the children?"

In case you didn't catch it last year, there were two devastating pollination events that shook my confidence that we have anyone

watching the store of human prosperity. But before we go there, during this year's first and the largest pollination event, in the California almond orchards, 80,000 honeybee hives were seriously harmed, deeply shocking commercial beekeepers.

One thing these losses have in common is neonicotinoids. Turns out that many almond orchardists disregarded handling instructions by batch-mixing a number of neonic products, effectively killing 2 billion honeybees.

Beekeepers, trying to recoil,

ing lot out near a Target store.

Bumbles were loudly buzzing on 55 linden trees. The owner's landscape company responded to fearful shopper complaints by spraying their handy pesticide dinotefuran, sold under the brand Safari.

The scattershot left 50,000 bumble bees sprawled under the trees. The sight of so many bees writhing on the ground shocked other customers, who called for help.

Ahead of other responders, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation – luckily headquartered less than 25 miles away in Portland – came to the rescue. Because Xerces have expert entomologists on staff, they were able to accurately calculate the numbers of affected bumbles, and their presence likely kept officialdom from sweeping facts under the manhole cover. To be fair, state wildlife biologists were able to

confirm Xerces' numbers.

Thankfully, we have defenders who know what is happening, can name the cause and take action to alert the citizenry, who used social media – and eventually, the *New York Times* and *Time* magazine caught wind. Still, I find many people have not heard of neonicotinoids, which makes me wonder, more, about our national watchdog newspapers and television reporters.

The next North American pollinator massacre occurred just 5 days after the Wilsonville event on

see NEONICS page B4



KAREN ARNOLD / PUBLIC DOMAIN

AROUND TOWN IN TURNERS FALLS



Town clerk Deb Bourbeau serves up snacks alongside David Detmold of the skatepark committee during last Saturday's Silent Art Auction benefit for the Unity Skate Park. The event, held at River Station on Third Street, raised more than \$5,200 for the park.



Above: Sandy Bailey and Stone Cold Fox played the skate park benefit at River Station.



John Landino sat in with Hair Peace during April's Third Thursday event at Madison on the Avenue. Grass Path and the Lentils also played.



A benefit dinner for this newspaper packed the Great Falls Harvest restaurant on Third Street on Tuesday. Thanks to all who turned out. We had a great time!



Right: This week a group of students from Northfield Mount Hermon spent a morning giving a spring cleaning to the boardwalks of Turners Falls. For the fifth year in a row, NMH students picked up trash along the paths, raked leaves, and shoveled debris to restore safe and pleasant walkways in the village. The project is part of the school's yearly day of community service.

Pet of the Week



“PORKY”

Are you looking for a loving boy who just can’t get enough of cuddles? Someone who is quiet and sweet and loves head scratches?

I’m the cat for you! I may seem shy when you first meet me but give me a day in home and I will be running to greet you at the door!
I’m not a huge fan of other cats so I would probably be happiest as the only feline in the family.
Don’t be afraid of my FIV status, as long as I stay relaxed inside I can live just as long as any other cat. Come on in, I’m sure I’ll steal your heart before you know it!

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

Senior Center Activities
May 5 through 9

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 not open.

Monday 5/5
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 5/6
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (new time)
Noon Lunch
Wednesday 5/7
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 5/8
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 5/9
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

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

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 5/5
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 p.m. Intermediate Quilting
Tuesday 5/6
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday 5/7
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo
Thursday 5/8
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
12:30 p.m. Cards
Friday 5/9
9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).
Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Large Bear; Profanities; Subjects on Bridge

Monday, 4/14
8:40 a.m. Report of turkey, deceased, in travel lane of Route 2 and Old State Road. Same removed.
Tuesday, 4/15
12 noon Disabled motor vehicle reported on Old State Road. Same towed.
4 p.m. Motorist reporting tree down at Wendell Road and Route 2A. Dispatch advised.
8:30 p.m. Call from Northfield Road resident: large bear in yard.
Wednesday, 4/16
8 a.m. Two-car crash on Route 2 in Erving Center. Assisted state police.
3 p.m. Report of loose dog at Routes 2 and 2A. Animal ran into woods. Unable to catch.
Thursday, 4/17
12:35 p.m. Report of male subject on French King Bridge. Assisted on scene.
Friday, 4/18
10:25 p.m. Report of female subject on French King Bridge. Assisted subject.
Saturday, 4/19
8:55 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at Park Street residence. Separated parties for the evening.
Sunday, 4/20
11:50 a.m. Report of trampoline in roadway on River Street. Removed same.
Monday, 4/21
3:40 p.m. Report of suspicious male subject hanging around Veterans Park, using profanity. Subject advised to leave park area.
7:10 p.m. Caller reporting suspicious activity at Erving Elementary School. Located two juveniles damaging property. Parents called, report taken.
Tuesday, 4/22
11:50 a.m. Illegal dumping at Moore Street residence. Report taken.
12:05 p.m. Windows smashed at Old State Road residence. Report taken.
Wednesday, 4/23
5:20 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from North Street residence. Found to be phone issue.
3 p.m. Illegal brush fire at French King Highway. Erving Fire Chief handled.

5:20 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at Forest Street.
7:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and malicious destruction of property under \$250.
Thursday, 4/24
12:15 a.m. Report of large party on Warner Street. Same dispersed.
1:45 p.m. Officer at East Main Street to assist with property retrieval.
2:15 p.m. Report of tree falling on electric wires on Mountain Road. Assisted with traffic while National Grid repaired wires.
4:30 p.m. Old State Road resident reported a telephone scammer pretending to represent the IRS.
6:30 p.m. Domestic disturbance at French King Highway. Found to be verbal only. Report taken.
9 p.m. Report of no electricity or running water at Mountain Road residence. National Grid advised, and fire department assisted.

Friday, 4/25
12:15 a.m. Suspicious vehicle parked at French King Bridge. Found to be all set, moved along.
9 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on West Main and Mountain Roads. Not a hazard, making own arrangements.
Saturday, 4/26
1:45 p.m. Domestic disturbance reported on Forest Street. Found to be verbal only. Separated subjects and took report.
2 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for a court warrant.
7:30 p.m. 911 hangup call at French King Highway residence Found to be a young child playing with the phone.
Sunday, 4/27
12:15 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Moore Street.
8:02 p.m. Landlord/tenant issues at Northfield Road residence. Tenant left.

Great Falls Farmers Market Opening May 7

Spring is here at last! Soon we will be enjoying fresh greens, asparagus, strawberries, and other delights from our local farms.
Join us at the Great Falls Farmer’s Market, opening on May 7. Sponsored by the Montague Agricultural Commission, the Market happens every Wednesday rain or shine on the lawn next to the Discovery Center, corner of 2nd St. and Avenue A in Turners Falls, from 2 to 6 p.m.
We will have some new vendors this year, music and special events. Look for more information each week on Facebook.
The market is also recruiting vendors of locally grown or produced products. There is a set-up fee of \$5 each week, and vendors are not obligated to be there every week.
Community organizations are also invited to set up displays – no fee! For more information contact Donna at: (413) 687-1288, or greatfallsfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Gill Energy Commission
“Electrify Your Bicycle”
Workshop

On May 10, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Gill Town Hall, the Gill Energy Commission will be holding a free “Electrify Your Bicycle” workshop with Peter Talmage.
Talmage will explain the different ways in which a bicycle can be converted to electric power as well as the costs and the sources of products. As part of the workshop participants will convert one bike.

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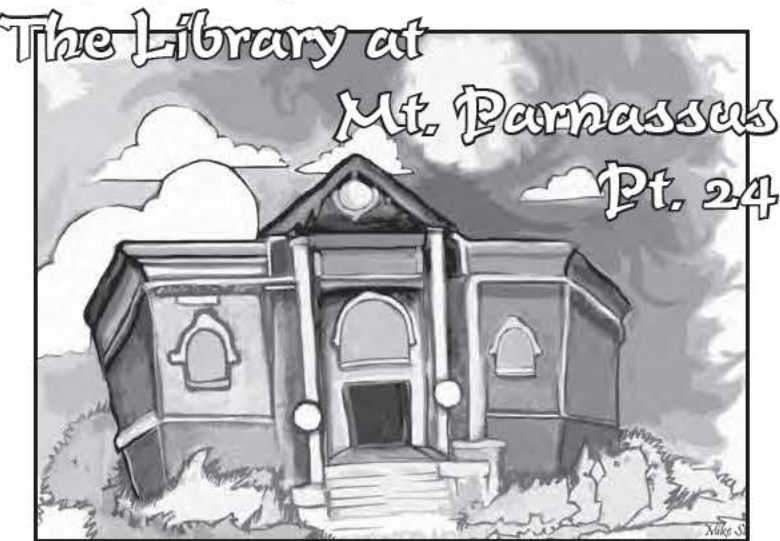
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The latest report from town meeting brings upsetting news about the escalating cost of repairs to the library's front steps. But Tony is beyond caring.



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

Balancing two cups of tea, I scrambled back into the reading room, leaving Melantha glowering atop her perch behind the main desk.

In the far corner of the room, Orville was sitting in his usual chair, tapping one foot rapidly on the floor. His other leg, crossed at the knee, jounced up and down, up and down, in rapid motion. He was rocking back and forth in his seat, his thin arms wrapped tight around his birdlike frame.

“Got the jitters, Or?”
“Sh-sh-sh... Shit, yeah.”
“What’s eatin’ you, man?”
“Aaaugh. I g-got bad nerves. Bad nerves, Otis.”
“Is it Melantha?” I whispered. “Is she bothering you?”
“Not j-j-just... n-n-no...”
“What then?” I put a cup of tea down on the table next to Tony. I hoped the steamy aroma might help to bring him round.

“W-w-women in g-general,” said Or. “I hate it when you guys t-t-talk about women.”

“OK, Or, don’t worry about it. We’ll drop the subject. We don’t know a thing about it anyway. Would you like a cup of tea?”
“Na-na-na... No thanks, Otis. M-m-ma... M-m-ma...”
“Caffeine makes you jumpy?”
“That’s right.”

I gave the other cup of tea to Eddie. He was standing by the window, staring blankly out into the night.

Eddie’s face was white. There was no need to repeat Melantha’s baleful verse to him. By a trick of the acoustics in these vaulted rooms, it was hardly possible not to overhear any word spoken at the main desk, regardless of where in the library you happened to be standing when it was spoken.

Just then, Cadmus shook out the page of the Attic Times and began to read aloud, in a funereal voice, from a follow-up article on the subject of the planned repairs to the library stairs.

In Mt. Parnassus, voters at the special town meeting on Tuesday approved an article brought forward by the finance committee for additional funds to repair the front steps of the library. The sum originally allocated failed to attract any bidders.

An emergency meeting of the finance committee was held on

Monday evening, authorizing an additional expenditure of \$16,082, to be transferred from the stabilization fund.

The motion was made by Woodbridge Brown, seconded by Mrs. Robinson, and approved unanimously.

The figure seemed incredible. “I can’t believe this.” I called over to the lobby, “Is this true, Melantha?”

“It is true,” I heard her intone. “Then... that’s absurd! Of all the crazy things. If only Tony was awake to hear about this.” I gave him a little shove.

“Hey, Tony, wake up; you gotta hear this!”

“Wrong,” said Klee. “He couldn’t care less.”

“He’s better off not knowing,” said Eddie gloomily, looking out the window.

“Let’s lay him out on the table,” said Cadmus.

“What?”

Klee walked over and lifted Tony bodily out of his chair in one motion and laid him full length on the reading table.

“Wait. What are you doing? He just needs some rest, that’s all. He’s out of it.”

“Entirely,” said Cadmus, folding the paper.

Ulysses flapped over and settled on the far side of the reading table. He landed on a copy of Gravity’s Rainbow, by Tony’s feet, and ruffled out his feathers.

Cadmus began to go through Tony’s pockets, and the others gathered round and rummaged through his coat and knapsack, pulling out small personal items: matches, keys, a tattered neck strap for a saxophone, a pocket mirror.

Ulysses turned his head from side to side, examining each object as it appeared in turn.

“Leave him alone!” I cried. “Buzz off,” growled Klee.

Eddie looked over at me and shrugged his shoulders. “He’s as alone as any one of us,” he said.

Over in the far corner of the room, Orville moaned.

“Let’s hope he has some change,” said Cadmus.

“Melantha!” I called. “They’re rifling through Tony’s pockets.”

Melantha looked over at me. “Control yourself,” she said sternly.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Illegal Tattoos, Poker, Fireworks; Imaginary Meth Lab

Monday, 4/21

11:19 a.m. Dead raccoon in garage on Greenfield Road. Referred to animal control.
3:02 p.m. Plates and title reported stolen from a vehicle in the alley between Fourth and Fifth streets overnight. Plates located in Pesky Park near the bandshell, tagged, and held for registered owner.

3:47 p.m. Lock box containing a bottle of Trazadone and a bottle of Oxycodone reported stolen from a G Street apartment. Report taken.

4:13 p.m. Caller reporting unattended DPW truck running in reverse with its lights and backup warning on. Responding officer found truck #3 with its dump body raised. Issue taken care of.

6:41 p.m. Report of unauthorized tattoo parlor being run out of a second floor apartment on K Street. Caller concerned about health hazard. Board of Health and landlord have been made aware. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 4/22

1:40 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant and charged with resisting arrest.

2:50 p.m. Complaint regarding an ongoing problem with vehicles traveling from Cross Street onto Turnpike Road not stopping for stop sign. Patrols will be on alert.

7:43 p.m. Call regarding suspicious person sitting on guardrail on South Prospect Street. Responding officer found that party lives in area, was taking a rest and watching the trains.

7:57 p.m. Vehicle observed driving across grass at Hillcrest Elementary School. Operator spoken to; was chasing after her dog.

7:58 p.m. Anonymous call advising that a party had just left Lake Pleasant and headed to Fifth Street to buy heroin. Investigated.

8:16 p.m. Officer advising of the potential for a fight involving 15 to 16 people near Third and Fourth streets. Parties took off on officers’ arrival.

10:21 p.m. A 40-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with two counts of domestic assault and battery; possession of a Class E drug; and resisting arrest.

Wednesday, 4/23

11:13 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Second Street, reportedly over a gaming system. Peace restored.

2:02 p.m. Report that a

vehicle has been parked in front of caller’s house for two days, and that when caller and husband left their house today, the vehicle followed them persistently. Vehicle traced to private investigator working in area. PI advised of complaint.

4:46 p.m. Anonymous tip regarding alleged drug activity at corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street; three men observed passing small baggies back and forth. Unable to locate.

9:36 p.m. [redacted] arrested on a default warrant.

10:01 p.m. Call alleging drug activity on Central Street. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 4/24

7:50 a.m. Report of raccoon walking in circles under a bush at Lightlife Foods. Responding officer reported that “problem has been taken care of.” Animal control officer advised of disposition.

11:01 a.m. First of three calls regarding trees and branches down on Dell Street, Old Sunderland Road, and Randall Wood Drive. DPW advised.

12:03 p.m. Report of dog locked in a car for hours at Rubin’s Auto. Animal control officer requested that nearby veterinarian perform well-being check on dog. Veterinarian reported that dog was fine.

3:00 p.m. Report of red Firebird doing donuts in the field behind Sheffield Elementary. Officer checked area; damage to field minimal. Gone on arrival.

5:27 p.m. Report of loud verbal argument on Avenue A near Second Street. Responding officers found that argument had calmed down; appears to have been over a basketball game.

9:12 p.m. Request for officer to respond to scene of alleged illegal poker game in Millers Falls. Parties spoken to and advised of options. Building owner unhappy that officers entered his property.

10:26 p.m. Following a hit-and-run at Fifth and L Streets, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (second offense); operating to endanger; marked lanes violation; failure to use care starting, turning, backing, etc.; and wanton destruction of property worth over \$250.

Friday, 4/25

12:04 a.m. Report of fireworks being set off across from Kostanski’s Funeral

Home on Unity Street. Possibly intoxicated male observed on second floor porch making verbal threats and setting off fireworks from porch. Responsible party identified; possible charges pending.

12:09 a.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested on a default warrant.

8:07 a.m. Report of gray playhouse on Fourth Street with a stove pipe coming out of top of structure; there has been talk among residents that this may be a meth lab. Responding officer found nothing drug related: male resident is an artist; artist’s wife reported that occasional smoke seen coming from structure is from his art projects.

9:55 a.m. Report of disorderly male “ranting and raving” inside post office. Gone on arrival.

3:39 p.m. Report of suspected drug activity on Central Street. Referred to an officer.

7:47 p.m. Caller driving in area noticed fire at or near site of recent barn fire on Hatchery Road. Responding officer found that homeowner was burning materials. MCFD on scene.

8:17 p.m. Report of vehicle driving up and down Dell Street. Officer spoke to operator, a pizza delivery person looking for an address.

11:08 p.m. Another report of high flames coming from cellar hole of the barns on Hatchery Road. Responding officer reported fire had mostly burned itself out.

11:51 p.m. Caller on Fourth Street reported a highly intoxicated neighbor urinating on her own porch and making suicidal threats. Removed to hospital.

Saturday, 4/26

1:10 a.m. Three calls regarding woman yelling and screaming outside building on Avenue A; third caller reported someone was going to break into his apartment and that the woman yelling outside was talking about hurting sex offenders. Multiple witnesses interviewed; no one able to identify involved party.

1:39 a.m. Officer observed “no bridge ahead” sign in the road on the railroad overpass on Turners Falls Road near Swamp Road; possibly left there as a joke. Sign removed.

2:13 a.m. Northampton Control attempted to transfer a call from a female reporting that she was the victim of a domestic disturbance on Avenue A; call lost during transfer. Female

reached via cell phone; advised that she had gotten a ride to H Street and would await police. Officers unable to locate her. Area searched; AT&T contacted to ping cell phone. Area where cell phone last used checked; unable to locate.

12:56 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reporting that she allowed an acquaintance to stay at her apartment overnight and has now discovered a laptop and clothing missing from her home. Report taken.

2:06 p.m. Caller reported being involved in a road rage incident in Lake Pleasant; other operator yelled at/threatened caller; caller responded by threatening that she would have her father kill him. Caller advised of options.

2:07 p.m. Caller reported observing someone jump out of a red Durango on Montague City Road and assault a pedestrian with a baseball bat. Caller observed victim get up and continue walking. All units responded. Durango located and stopped; operator will fill out a statement.

Female victim of alleged attack reportedly left scene in white vehicle. Incident is related to previous report of larceny by an acquaintance on Eleventh Street. Upon investigation, sergeant reports that altercation was verbal and that it is questionable whether any physical assault and/or weapons were involved.

4:48 p.m. Parked vehicles creating traffic congestion/hazard on Seventh Street.

5:31 p.m. Report of intoxicated male walking in Turners Falls Road and falling down. Located and transported from location.

5:51 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance in Montague Center; male allegedly threatened to kill female party and burn their house down. Caller reported that three children were present. Investigated.

10:07 p.m. Complaint regarding loud music coming from skate park fundraiser on Third Street. No loud music heard upon arrival; event organizer advised.

Sunday, 4/27

9:26 a.m. Caller reported being assaulted by a known party. Alleged assailant located. Both parties advised of options.

11:12 p.m. Report that customer smashed a pint glass into the bar at Between the Uprights, then fled. Small amount of damage to bar. Officer checked area; unable to locate.

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SPRING from page B1

this house.

The season's signs are consistent and the migrating birds make it back with surprising punctuality. You can count on the redwings in the third week of February, the grackle cousins just behind.

The wood ducks will whistle through the yard on their way to the pond and river beyond by March 10, then come the fox sparrows and the white-throats.

The woodcock will keep an eye on the Old Farmer's Almanac, timing his arrival in our birch and alder copse to coincide with the Full Worm Moon.

The wall-eyed woodcock didn't get fooled this year however. When that full moon came around, we still had zero degree nights and a half foot of snow on the ground.

The tree swallows were a bit late however. They first kited over the peak of the house on April 10, a full three weeks behind schedule.

We always worry about these friendly little birds, it seems they may be a little too optimistic for their own good about declaring spring.

A deep freeze or an April blizzard could spell deep trouble for them. They're hardy enough though, and could subsist on berries left over on the bushes for a day or two if need be.

The most surprising event has been the season's housing arrangements agreed upon by a pair of pileated woodpeckers, settling in just near the edge of the yard.

They've been whooping and hollering, swooping through the trees, big, brash, red, white, and black birds, joyous and enthusiastic in their courting for the last week or so.

In my 1917 edition of *"Birds of America"*, ornithologist T. Gilbert Pearson writes of the folk-names for this largest of our woodpeckers: we're talking about the *"Lord God Bird"* or the *"Great God Woodpecker"*.

If you've seen or heard this particular species, you'll understand Pearson's reference to the Deity, no sacrilege intended!

To top it off, our favorite bats have made it back again, and just the other warm night, the three of them came winging into the yard, in their familiar flutterby hump-backed way of flying, coursing back and forth over the yard as always.

And I wonder now, is it time to pronounce the name of the season that is so flighty and capricious? Can we really say that it is, well, *Spring*?

For more of David's writings, visit his website: [ancestryplaceandrace.com](#)

The Food-A-Thon is On!

The 11th annual North Quabbin Food-a-thon will be held on Tuesday, May 20, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., in downtown Athol and Orange.

This event unites volunteers from food pantries and meal sites, as well as the community at large, to raise food and funds to support these programs.

The Food-a-thon will be broadcast live all day by WJDF radio and AOTV. This year's fiscal sponsor is the Orange Historical Society.

Fundraising has already begun with donation jars being distributed throughout the area. Food-a-thon day donations can also be made at Hannaford's Market, Walmart, WJDF and the Athol Hospital.

Checks should be made out to "The Orange Historical Society" noting "Food a thon" in the memo, and mailed to:

The Orange Historical society, P.O. Box 28, Orange, MA 01364

Millers River Watershed Council seeks volunteers for 2014 Stream Monitoring

The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) is seeking volunteers for its expanding Trib-Watch and bacterial monitoring efforts on local rivers and streams in 2014. A variety of volunteer opportunities exist at convenient locations throughout the watershed, including:

- * Bacteria sampling bi-weekly (summer only)
- * Stream gauge observations to support flow measurements
- * Macroinvertebrate (bug) sampling to assess biological quality
- * Culvert Continuity surveys to assess fish passage at road crossings

Dates and locations vary.

Visit [www.millerswatershed.org](#) or contact Keith Davies at [watershed@millersriver.net](#) or (978) 248-9491.

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 29, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Gill: No Condos

Plans for a 60-condominium complex on Main Road in Gill hit a snag Monday when the selectboard informed potential developers Kyle Scott and Layne Floyd that the town was planning on exercising their right of first refusal over the 12-acre site.

The selectboard's intent came as a surprise to both Scott and Floyd, who were already under contract with the current owners to purchase the property for \$271,000, nearly \$100,000 more than the property had been independently assessed for.

Under chapter 61B section 9, which deals with a town's right of first refusal regarding recreational land, the selectboard is required "to meet a bona fide offer" if a private offer is made that exceeds the assessed value, which in this case

represents a big difference.

However, the selectboard contended that in the absence of any notification of intended sale they only were required to offer to purchase the land at the "full and fair market value to be determined by an impartial appraisal," as the statute holds.

After some threatening words from the hopeful developers' lawyer and a brief recess, Scott and Floyd expressed willingness to continue conversations with the town about how best to resolve the situation.

The Bridge

On Tuesday area residents gathered at MassHighway's 25% design hearing for the reconstruction of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

The project, which will be put out to bid in late 2005 or early 2006, would utilize the full 24-foot width of the bridge for traffic, replacing the current three-foot sidewalk with a five-foot one

cantilevered off the side of the bridge.

Some skepticism was expressed about the proposed 24-month timeline, summed up by Montague resident John Fox, who said "I'll bet \$20 the bridge won't get done in 24 months." Unfortunately for Fox there were no takers.

Fire Into Art

The front section of the old Turners Falls Fire Station on 3rd Street is being transformed into the "Third Street Village Arts" center.

The space, now owned by the Brick House, will be a space for hands-on arts activities and performances as well as a gallery space.

To help acquaint the local residents with the space organizers are hosting an open house this week to coincide with the first annual Turners' Falls Cherry and Crabapple Blossom Festival that will run for two weeks starting on May 1.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Mutual Aid to Four Surrounding Towns

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Monday, 4/14 4:20 p.m. Report of internet harassment from Boyle Road resident. 6:30 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with motor vehicle crossing Turners Falls-Gill bridge. | Thursday, 4/17 12:24 a.m. Reported jumper on French King Bridge. Removed same for evaluation. 2 p.m. Person reported at abandoned house on Main Road. Found to be clean-up crew. | 5:15 p.m. Officer located an open door at a Mountain Road residence. All OK. 5:45 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with a domestic situation. |
| Tuesday, 4/15 2:15 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with Q5 subject. 3:40 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Mountain Road. Lost subject. 4:10 p.m. Phone scam reported regarding debt allegedly overdue to WMECO. Under investigation. 6 p.m. Fire alarm at Mount Hermon. | Friday, 4/18 7:05 p.m. Reported violation of liquor sale law at Route 2 business. Saturday, 4/19 8:05 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Main Road and Route 2. No injuries reported. | Thursday, 4/24 9 a.m. Oak Street tenant reported harassment by landlord. 3 pm. Passport reported missing or stolen by Main Road party. |
| Wednesday, 4/16 6:30 a.m. Suspicious person parked at Mountain and Main Roads. Operator had stopped to text. 11:10 a.m. Assisted Main Road resident with firearms issue. | Monday, 4/21 7:30 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with suspicious motor vehicle at Erving Elementary. Tuesday, 4/22 12:20 p.m. Verizon truck reportedly causing road hazard at Main and River Roads. Wednesday, 4/23 3:15 p.m. 911 misdial from Stoughton Place. All OK. | Friday, 4/25 8 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Main and Pisgah Mountain Roads. No injuries. Saturday, 4/26 2:50 p.m. Complaint of loose cow on Main Road. Cow put back in field. 3:15 p.m. Additional landlord/tenant complaint from Oak Street. 4:20 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with assault complaint. 9:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with domestic dispute. |

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners

Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

ART SHOWS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Transformation: the Surreal Collage Art of Tiffany Heerema*. May 1 to June 7. Reception with the artist during Third Thursday event May 15th.

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

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series featuring Patricia Fargnoli & Dennis Finnell*, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m. *Booty Nights*, hip hop/soul, 9:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community College Dance Department presents *DanceScapes!* A student/faculty/community dance concert featuring performances in a variety of styles, including jazz, contemporary/modern, ballet, hip hop, tap dance and Middle Eastern. Guest appearances by UMass Tap Dancers, CrazeFaze Dance Crew, KDS Dancers, Stoneleigh Burnham Dancers and Body-

Wave Belly Dance. Held at Greenfield High School, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pamela Means*, jazz/folk/rock, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *John Sheldon: The Red Guitar*, \$, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Ari and Mia*, reference the traditions of Southern and Northeastern fiddle music and the early American songbook to create a realm where their own



Ari & Mia, blend a traditional rootsy grounding with a clear background of classical training. Their stylish and sophisticated music honors the sounds of Appalachian cottages, rural dance floors, and urban concert halls. Ari & Mia perform at the Bookmill, Montague Center on Friday, May 2, 8 p.m.

compositions cross paths with older traditions, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Wing Masters: North American Birds of Prey*. Two presentations, 12:30 p.m. & 2 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square dance*. Old-time square dance, live music and a caller, \$, 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *John Sheldon: The Red Guitar*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Mark Nomad Band*, a highly danceable mix of blues, funk and beyond, 9 p.m.

French King Entertainment Center, Erving: *Comedy ESP/Hypnosis Show starring Bruce James*,

fundraising event for Turners Falls Hockey Team. Must be 18 or older, pasta stations provided by Myers Catering, \$, doors open at 6 p.m. Show at 9 p.m. Raffle drawings for Bruins, Red Sox and Patriots items and more.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heros In Trouble*, Original Crew, classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Montague Center: *Montague May Day Celebration*. Festivities begin around 10:30 a.m. as all are invited to process from the Montague Center post office to the town common.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, indie rock, 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Russell Kaback*, rootsy soulful grooves, 8 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Mid Week Music Spring Series - Flootissimo*, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: Farm and Food Systems faculty member and 2014 David Bird Fellow Abrah Dresdale presents an overview of her recent service learning project in Tamil Nadu, India. Free, 7 p.m. Option tour of GCC's greenhouse at 6 p.m.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Art for Change*, facilitated by Phyllis Labanowski and Jane Beatrice Wegscheider, drop-in, free. More info: www.theartgarden.org, 6 to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: TEDxShelburneFallsSalon, with the theme: *Business for a Better World with Shel Horowitz*, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Deadstring Ensemble*, Flynn Cohen - guitar, mandolin, vocals; Matt Heaton - guitar, bouzouki, vocals; Danny Noveck - guitar, mandolin, fiddle; "a versatile string virtuoso" - Dirty Linen Magazine, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, & Doug Plavin, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *She Bears*, indie rock, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

The Wendell Community Chorus Spring Concert, a blend of world, gospel, pop, traditional, and sing-

a-long songs. Special guests Carrie Ferguson and Moonlight Davis. \$, refreshments, family friendly, children welcome, 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Jazz + PLUS with Juke Joint Jazz + The Equalites*, \$, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mal Devisa and Honeyfitz*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.



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DAVID HOITT PHOTO

FACES

& PLACES

Below: "Book Buddies," a collage by Tiffany Heerema. This piece and others are on display this month at Nina's Nook as part of the show "Transmogrifications: The Surreal Collage Art of Tiffany Heerema." The Nook is located at 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls. See ad on page A5 for hours.



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