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YEAR 12 – NO. 29

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 8, 2014

Leverett Town Meeting Approves All Articles; Relief At Unchanged School Assessment

By KATIE NOLAN

On Saturday, the Leverett annual town meeting approved the fiscal year 2015 budget of \$5,588,179. Among the many articles voted on were the school budget, a major conservation land purchase and two non-binding resolutions against drones and fracking.

Alternative Assessment?

At 9:40 am, 40 minutes after assistant moderator Fay Zipkowitz gavelled the meeting to order, the news everyone had been waiting for regarding whether Shutesbury would approve the alternative assessment came in.

When it was announced that the Shutesbury town meeting had unanimously approved the alternative method for the Amherst-Pelham Regional School district high school/middle school assessment, Leverett meeting members burst into applause.

If Shutesbury had vetoed the alternative method, Leverett's regional school assessment would have increased by over \$100,000, requiring reworking of the entire FY'2015 budget.

Later in the meeting, Leverett voters also approved the alternative
see LEVERETT page A4

State Gives Energy Award To Housing Authority For Installing Pellet Furnaces

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Housing Authority received on Wednesday, May 7 an award from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for their conversion of two heating systems at properties they own from oil-powered to thermal biomass systems.

The heating systems at Keith Apartments in Turners Falls and Highland School in Millers Falls were converted this spring from low-efficiency oil-burning systems into extremely high-efficient and renewable pellet-based heating units which also heat the water.

Among the state officials who traveled from the eastern part of the state to present the award were DOER Commissioner Mark Sylvia, Rob Rizzo, DOER's bioenergy program manager, James Arthur Jemison, deputy undersecretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Betsy Harper, energy project coordinator for HCD, and Debra Hall, HCD's sustainability program developer.

Commissioner Sylvia, in his remarks to those gathered for the ceremony, noted the importance of the conversion: "Costs, comfort and reducing greenhouse gasses are all

see AWARD page A5



State officials converge on Turners Falls to admire the new heating systems in the basement at Keith Apartments.

It's Unanimous: Montague Town Meeting Backs Unity Skate Park

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

Eleven-year-old Cecilio Sanchez, speaking to Montague town meeting members on Saturday, May 3, summed up the need for Turners Falls to have a skate park quite succinctly: "I think we need this park so kids can be more active."

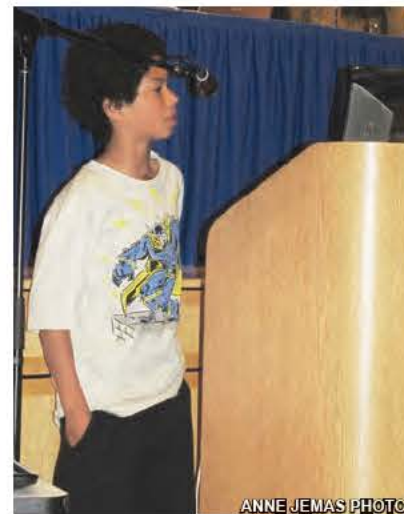
Town meeting agreed. When the vote came a few minutes later, not a single dissenting voice was heard.

And so, after 16 years of hoping, planning and organizing, Montague can at long last hope to see a permanent skate park built as early as next spring at Unity Park.

The appropriation allowed for the town to borrow up to \$400,000, with the expectation that 68 percent of this maximum amount would be returned to the town from a state PARC grant.

The skate park committee has already raised nearly \$35,000, thus lowering the total to taxpayers to well under \$100,000, and will continue fundraising into this fall.

Unlike many warrant articles voted that day, there was no debate. Parks and recreation director, John Dobosz, spoke first, saying that while Unity Park serves young children and adults, "it does not adequately serve the adolescent population." He went on to urge a yes vote, in the process complimenting



Cecilio Sanchez of Turners Falls speaks in favor of the park.

the Unity Skate Park Committee for their efforts, which he deemed "nothing short of amazing."

Town meeting member David Detmold, an early supporter and organizer of the effort to build a skate park in downtown Turners, evoked the memory of Chris Gallagher and Winter Orion Clark, two 14-year-old boys, who in 1998 with their friends appeared before the Montague selectboard to ask the town to build a skate park. Both lost their lives that summer in the Connecticut River.

Detmold also remembered Greg Ellis, another long-time crusader for a place to skate who died in

see MONTAGUE page A6

Gill Approves Town Warrant Unanimously

By DAVID DETMOLD

The sixty or more voters who turned out for Gill's annual town meeting on Monday evening approved all articles on the warrant unanimously, with the exception of two that the selectboard asked to be passed over.

Moderator John Zywna steered the willing crowd through the shoals of parliamentary procedure with his patent avuncular charm, and got them back out into the soft spring evening before sunset – spending an average of less than three minutes on each article.

Neither the annual report nor the capital improvements committee report was available, so the selectboard asked that articles reading them be passed over.

Only one question was asked when the voters were asked to spend over \$1.4 million to fund all the town departments for the coming fiscal year. That question came from Jeff Suprenant, who wondered if the use of nearly \$88,000 in sewer receipts as part of that appropriation meant that the sewer fund was suddenly flush – with excess cash.

"Don't we wish?" said Ann Banash, looking out over her last town meeting as a member of the Gill selectboard, after a remarkable 21-year run. She explained

the sewer commitment was simply a way of transferring money to the general fund in order to pay the sewer bill.

Next, town meeting was asked to spend even more money – \$1,458,438 to be exact – to fund the Gill Montague Regional Schools. Superintendent Michael Sullivan rose to answer questions, but there were none.

The only article that raised debate was a motion to raise and appropriate \$158,000 to replace the 31 year old roof on the public safety complex. A little more than half of that money is available from free cash or from local property taxes under the limit set by Proposition 2½ – the remaining \$75,234 must be borrowed, contingent on voters townwide approving a debt exclusion override for that amount at the annual town election on Monday, May 19th, from noon to 8 p.m.

That election will take place at the safety complex – let's hope it isn't raining.

Sue Kramer asked whether the new roof would be better insulated than the old roof, but before the selectboard or energy committee could address her question, selectboard candidate Fred Chase rose in the back of the room to ask, "What is the bid on this job?"

Banash replied, "There is no bid yet," explaining that the town needs to have the funds available before the work is put out to bid. "But there are several estimates from roofers, and we are pretty confident this is a good number."

Chase responded, "This is a high estimate."

"The issue is the asbestos," which has been found in one layer of the roof, she

see GILL page A7



Kit Carpenter, chair of the Gill Historical Society, made a motion to name the historical collection at the Riverside Municipal Building in honor of the late Allan D. Adie, Sr.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Merrigan Hired as Police Officer; Bembury Elected to Erving Selectboard

By KATIE NOLAN

At its Monday meeting, the selectboard voted to support police chief Chris Blair's recommendation to hire Patrick Merrigan of Greenfield as a full time police officer at a starting pay rate of \$19.61 per hour.

Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp reported that Franklin Regional Council of Governments approved Erving's plan to sell kitchen compost containers and outdoor compost bins for a discounted rate and then use the funds to purchase more containers and bins.

FRCOG is willing to provide five or six containers and bins to the town up front in order to promote composting. The town will sell the containers for \$8 and the bins for \$45.

Selectboard members Eugene Klepadlo and Margaret Sullivan discussed ways to decrease illegal dumping in town, especially a spot on Old State Road, where "the pile is getting bigger and bigger" according to Sullivan. Chief Blair was asked to investigate.

The selectboard members suggested installing anti-dumping signs and approved installation of motion sensi-

tive cameras in problem areas within the year.

Sharp noted that the town's fine for illegal dumping is \$3,000.

Votes closed at 8 p.m. on Monday in the town election.

William Bembury of Church Street was elected to a 3-year term on the selectboard, defeating William Pease of North Street by 161 to 59 votes.

224 voters, or 21% of registered voters, cast ballots in the May 5 town election.

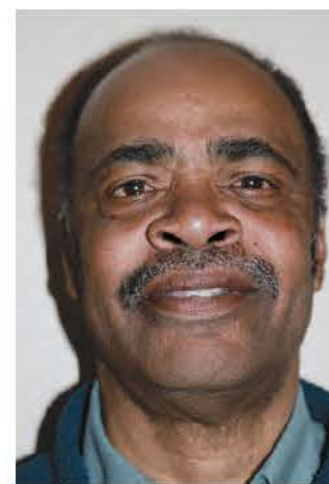
In other contested races, tree warden candidate William Lemieux, with 126 votes, beat out Jeremy Klepadlo who garnered 76 votes.

Bruce "Cyd" Scott topped Son Hui May 148-58 in the race for the Board of Health.

Mackensy Bailey, with 119 votes, won over Son Hui May who received 84 votes for the three-year library trustee position.

In the race for two seats on the planning board, William Morris got 140 votes and Son Hui May, 101, to beat Tim Cronin, who trailed with 68 votes.

As of press time, there was a tie in the race for the second of two three-year seats on the recreation commission. Renee Tela received 176 votes, but Michele Turner and Son



William Bembury

Hui May each got four votes.

Chad Gagne, running unopposed for the two-year recreation commission, received 182 votes.

Victors in other uncontested races were Beth Palmquist who received 189 votes for the three-year assessor position; Margaret Sullivan who got 158 votes as treasurer; the two-year library trustee position went to Peter Rory-Clark who received 183 votes.

Richard Peabody, with 181 votes, was elected moderator. Eric Semb, with four votes, and Son Hui May, with six, will both be serving on the school committee for three years.

Arthur Kaczinski was elected constable with 176 votes.

Eugene Klepadlo has been elected selectboard chair.

The Montague Reporter

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Thank You Montague!

Last week on this page we asked Montague town meeting members to vote yes on the skate park appropriation.

At the time we were hopeful that the article would pass. That it would pass unanimously was beyond even our wildest dreams.

So this week, we want to say thank you to town meeting for their vote on moving to bring the Unity Skate Park from a hope and a concept into a firmer and bolder reality.

We also want to thank parks and recreation director John Dobosz for his true engagement and support of this project. Kudos, also, to Chief Chip Dodge for his “100 percent” backing of this project. Town planner Walter Ramsey, the selectboard, and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio also deserve praise for their leadership and willingness to make the skate park at long last happen.

And without the amazing and tireless Unity Skate Park Committee, it’s unlikely there would even have been a vote at town meeting.

Much work still needs to be done. We cannot yet count on 68 percent of the funding coming in from the PARC grant. We are keeping our fingers crossed, and trust that there will be many sets of eyes carefully reviewing that application before it is sent in next month.

What we can count on is our community, which has shown at

every turn in this long road that it is firmly behind kids having a safe place to skate, rollerblade or BMX bike in Montague.

We have been more than a little overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, in terms of time, energy, and cash, that our community has expended on this terrific and important effort. As of today, more than \$35,000 has been raised to help fund this project.

And we know that the skate park committee – including Bryan Dolan and Sara Pearson, whose names we misspelled in last week’s editorial on these pages – is not about to rest on its laurels.

Indeed, they feel the momentum as they never have before and are already organizing the next fundraisers and organizing to keep the park moving forward.

Talks have already begun with suppliers for “in kind” donations of materials and labor, to further reduce the project’s cost. The PARC grant is on the drafting table. Meetings are being arranged to strategize the next phases.

By next spring, we hope to hail the groundbreaking. By next fall, we could be watching our kids skating in Unity Park.

None of this would be happening without this community that truly cares about its young people and the future for them and for us all.

Thank you, Montague!

Local historian Ed Gregory thought of us when he came across this editorial in the Turners Falls Reporter; our namesake paper, published over 135 years ago.

Some things change quite a bit, and some, it seems, never do.

Thanks Ed!

We have carried an almost unbearable burden in publishing a paper in this village for the past four years, yet have done so cheerfully.

However, many of our influential citizens having finally become acquainted with our circumstances, have generously come to our assistance, with kind expressions of good will (which are truly and gratefully appreciated by the writer) and substantial offerings, by the aid of which this paper will shortly be placed on a good basis, when the editor hopes to gain heart to do his work manfully, and much better.

That he has been able to publish

a paper that has attained a national reputation, surprises no one more than himself, considering what he has had to contend with.

In order to pay his bills, he has been obliged to act as job printer, pressman, compositor, errand boy, bill collector, news-gatherer, local editor, editor, and business manager, and has had to entertain spring poetry contributors, solicitors for charitable objects, and thoughts of poor house.

He has received insult upon insult from all quarters, some of which, although not intended as such, (we will say in charity,) made wounds that time is slow to heal.

By no one is the ugly side of human nature seen so often, as by a newspaper man, and nowhere is it felt so keenly as in a little village. We repeat, we are surprised that the REPORTER has been heard of outside of Turners Falls.

Heavy at heart, without a dollar to his name, and a rich man de-

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A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR:

On the topic of thanks, the *Reporter* would also like to shine a light on a business that serves as a quiet, diligent and generous part of our support base.

About Face Computing, located at 151 Avenue A here in Turners Falls, serves as our main source of tech support. They are often able to make time on very short notice to come troubleshoot when we run into problems.

Veronica Phaneuf, Brian Faldasz, and Dana Faldasz volunteer their time and resources to keep us running week to week.

Capable, friendly, non-judgmental, and unflappably calm, they provide a great example of a small business giving back to their local community.

Our operation may be held together by duct tape and shoestrings, but knowing we can always run a few doors down to About Face whenever a computer won’t talk to a printer, or won’t turn on in the first place, keeps us soldiering on.

If you encounter technical difficulties of your own, we highly recommend them. Thanks guys!

manding interest at the door, has the writer left a clumsy old hand press to pen a sketch that would be copied and re-copied until it had been read by tens of thousands of people.

The man in the circus who can keep up half a dozen knives at once, gets a large salary, and we have often thought that our ability to do numerous things at once, and cheaply, we could do well to hire out as patent stove shaker with the numerous attachments.

In that capacity we might be used by others to stir up a bed of live coals, but then we shouldn’t have our pride wounded by being scolded for attempting to do right by the average fellow-being.

All pleasantry aside, we are glad to say that the REPORTER next year will be a better paper, worthier of the place in which it is published.

Turners Falls REPORTER
November 13, 1878

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

Montague Reporter

177 Ave. A, TF, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Letter to the Editors

Elementary Separation Not A Good Idea

As a former member of one of the committees that a few years ago decided to combine Hillcrest and Sheffield into one elementary school, I found the *Reporter* article on the last school committee meeting a bit depressing.

The current school committee seems to have gone back to the old “two school” model without serious consideration of why the school district abandoned it in the first place.

After lengthy public discussion, and a review of the research, most of us concluded that the rationale for a separate school at Hillcrest had no basis in the educational literature or common practice.

A so-called “early childhood” system in the lower grades contradicts the direct experience of the vast majority of schools, which have broad K-to-5 or -6 grade spans.

There is virtually no research supporting the view that you need a separate curriculum or culture or behavioral norms or building for kids in the lower grades.

Granted, there is not much literature on the subject, because it is not a controversial issue in the field of education. Almost no one advocates breaking up the elementary grades into separate schools as a matter of education policy. (The grade span debate, such as it is, has been centered on the middle schools.)

You rarely create a two-school elementary system unless the configuration of existing buildings requires it. So this is really an example of buildings driving educational policy. That is the reality here, due to past decisions.

In my opinion, creating a separate school with an “early childhood” rationale makes a bad situation worse.

Why? For one thing, the transition from the lower to upper grades, particularly when you have encouraged separate school cultures, is an invitation to enrollment and school choice losses. Parents are invited to make another decision about what school they want their children to attend, which can be very stressful

under the “two-school” model.

One reason for this is that you lose the value of the many positive interactions between older and younger kids, which most elementary students experience, replacing this with the self-fulfilling prophecy that the “little ones” will be bullied by the older kids.

The two-school model creates a climate of fear, which I heard from both parents and teachers in this particular case.

There is also the problem of accountability, or lack thereof. Under the old two-school system, Sheffield alone was blamed for low third grade test scores and declared “underperforming” under the federal No Child Left Behind law. This, by the way, was the first step on the GMRSD’s journey to Level 4.

Hillcrest was not accountable at all, which raises the question of whether this decision is consistent with state policy.

I understand there are serious problems of student behavior and communication which led to this decision. Apparently no one was empowered to make important everyday decisions at Hillcrest without consulting the principal at the Sheffield building, who was often not available.

These problems certainly needed to be addressed, perhaps with stronger administration at Hillcrest. But there were very serious behavioral and communication problems under the old “two-school” model as well, which was one of the reasons we abandoned it.

No doubt I will be criticized for even raising these issues, being “negative,” and thus encouraging school choice losses. It is certainly true that what is done is done. Hopefully the district will be able to address the very real problems caused by the “two-school” model. But it would have been nice to have had that conversation before, not after, the decision was made

Jeff Singleton
Montague

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

There will be a **used book sale at the Carnegie Library** in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thousands of books, including mysteries, suspense, non-fiction, and children's, and VHS tapes will be sold at \$2 a bag. Audio books and DVDs will be \$1 each.

The proceeds go to the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries, who help support the three libraries and their programs. The sale will be held in the basement of the Carnegie Library. For more information call 863-3214.

In celebration of Mother's Day, **American Girl Doll "Mommies"** are invited to a morning tea at GSB in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 10, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. hosted in partnership with Tabitha Martinelli.

Ms. Martinelli is a lover of American Girl Dolls and has many helpful hints for hair, skin and clothing care. She also promises there will be an activity for mothers to make a free gift for their dolls. Feel free to come and share your dolls and stories with other American Girl Doll lovers!

No reservations required. For

questions, call Christina or Kerri at 863-4316.

Pothole Pictures in Shelburne Falls will screen on May 16 & 17 at 7:30 p.m. the new documentary **Food For Change**.

The film, by award-winning director Steve Alves, is a feature-length documentary film focusing on food co-ops as a force for dynamic social and economic change in American culture.

The movie tells the story of the cooperative movement in the U.S. through interviews, rare archival footage, and commentary by the filmmaker and social historians.

The film also shows how the co-op movement strengthens communities where they are located.

Director Steve Alves will be present to answer questions and talk about the film.

The **Turners Falls Fishway is open for the season** starting on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11 through Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday through Sunday.

The fishway is located at the Turners Falls dam just behind town hall, 1 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. This facility shows you what fish look like underwater as they swim upstream via the fish ladder, which

allows fish, including shad, lampreys, and a few Atlantic salmon to bypass the dam and return upstream to spawn in the spring.

The fish ladder is open for public viewing during the height of spawning season.

The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls also begins its **Spring/Summer schedule** on May 11. The center is open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For program info, call 863-3221 or visit www.greatfallsdiscovery-center.org.

The Oncology Department at Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Joel Gordon, dermatologist, will co-sponsor a **free skin cancer screening** on Friday, May 16, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at BPMC in Greenfield.

During the screening, Dr. Gordon will examine new growths that are less than one year old, as well as old growths that have changed in color, size, shape, or pain level. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited.

To register, or for more information on skin cancer prevention and detection, call Baystate Health Link at (413) 773-2454.

The **Bridge Of Flowers annual plant sale** is Saturday, May 17, at the Trinity Church's Baptist Corner lot, Main Street, in Shelburne Falls. Rain or Shine!

Hundreds of perennials divided from the bridge, and annuals, wildflowers, books, art and gifts. All proceeds benefit the Bridge of Flowers, info at (413) 337-4316.

Thomas Memorial Country

Club, Turners Falls, is hosting 2 fundraising golf tournaments on upcoming weekends.

The 1st Annual Ralph C. Mahar Regional High School Open Golf Tournament is Saturday, May 17.

The K-9 Tournament to benefit the Montague Police dog is Saturday, May 24.

Both events have a 9 a.m. start. For more info call Chet at (413) 659-3061, or the Country Club at (413) 863-8003.

Join the **Nolumbeka Project** at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, on Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for the annual Day of Remembrance of the infamous Great Falls Massacre on May 19, 1676.

The program will include a ceremony, video presentation, and conversation. Soups and other refreshments will be on sale.

Following the event, there will be a walking tour of the Wissatinnewag property in Greenfield. Please dress appropriately. For more information go to nolumbekaproject.org or phone (413) 773-9818.

Monday, May 19 is **election day in Gill and Montague**. Next week we'll be reporting on the Gill Candidate Forum, featuring selectboard candidates Fred Chase II and Gregory Snedeker, which was held May 6 at Town Hall in Montague. Michael Nelson is running unopposed for the Montague selectboard.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Struggles Again With Barns And Parking Bans

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard revisited two seemingly minor issues on Monday, May 5, that quickly turned contentious.

One involved where to park on Seventh Street, and the other centered on where to place two barns in a field on Hatchery Road. One might argue that these were examples of "small town politics."

On the other hand, one might also argue that small local issues can in fact raise bigger policy questions.

Take your pick — but no one seemed to leave the meeting entirely happy.

First, the barns. Lisa Adams, who lives on Hatchery Road, has been trying to get Selectboard approval to rebuild two barns which burned to the ground in April.

A town bylaw allows property owners to rebuild "non-conforming structures" that have been destroyed in this manner even if they are in a town right of way.

The state building code, however, does not allow the town to issue a building permit to rebuild a structure in a right of way.

There is also a good deal of confusion as to why and whether the right of way is in fact 66 feet, or three "rods" in the language of the rather archaic nineteenth-century map.

When the issue was last discussed, the Selectboard divided on the broader question, deciding to get another legal opinion.

At the May 5 meeting, Lisa Adams reappeared on the agenda

armed with a number of maps she had been sent by the town planner as evidence for the historical origins of the right of way.

The Selectboard was quickly bent over their table trying to decipher the maps, which showed a very different Montague road network in the early nineteenth century.

In fact, one of the maps was apparently not of Hatchery Road at all, but of Mineral Road, which is several miles to the northeast.

Not only did the town seem to have provided one wrong map, but, Adams argued, three rods does not equal 66 feet, but approximately 49.5 feet.

None of this confusion did much to calm the tension surrounding the issue, with the Selectboard majority inclined to allow the Adams to rebuild their barn within the right of way, and town officials, particularly Building Inspector David Jensen, opposing the idea.

The board finally approved a motion to give the Adams a special "license" that would allow them to construct a barn within the right of way, but could conceivably be revoked in some future circumstance.

Then David Jensen objected that the state building code, which he is duty bound to enforce, does not allow him to issue a building permit to build the barns.

"Well, then we don't have to reappoint you at the end of June," responded Mark Fairbrother, suggesting Jensen as a town employee is duty bound to take orders from the Selectboard.

Jensen then stated that there was

another solution: simply change the right of way.

This led to another motion stating that town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio should investigate this idea and raise the issue with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, whose approval will apparently be necessary.

Next was the Seventh Street parking ban, which has been discussed and revised at two meetings over the past month. For the past year parking has been allowed on the southwest side of the street, where Our Lady of Peace Church is located, and banned on the northwest side.

Residents on the latter have complained of not being able to park in front of their homes, while the church has a parking lot, spaces on other adjacent streets and church goers are capable of walking across Seventh Street on Sunday.

At the last meeting a "compromise" was reached, whereby parking would be allowed on the residential northeast side up to T Street and then allowed in front of the Church.

It seemed like a good idea, but Police Chief Chip Dodge returned to the board on Monday night declaring the alternating scheme a failure. Motorists were confused and behaving in a dangerous manner.

He said he had also inspected the area and found what he thought was a very good parking space next to Charlie Choleva's house on a side street.

Mr. Choleva has been one of the more vocal critics of the northeast side ban and was in the audience. He pointed out that those on the northeast side of the street were "tax-paying residents," but that "there are people in town that have more weight..."

Library Director Linda Hickman said she had counted the number of spaces in the church parking lot and found there were 48.

At this point Chief Dodge stated that he "didn't want to be here tonight. If I could have called in sick, I would have."

Michael Nelson then called on the town to investigate the possibility of creating angle parking on Avenue A to increase the number of spaces available to the library.

The Selectboard then voted to reinstitute the status quo (a north-east ban), much to the dismay of the Cholevas, who left the meeting declaring, "It's not fair."

Police Chief Dodge also discussed the hiring procedure for the resource officer who will be assigned to the Franklin County Technical School. Dodge requested that he be allowed to bring forward a final candidate, as opposed to the Selectboard interviewing a number of applicants as is generally the case in police hiring. The board agreed.

Dodge also read a letter of commendation to police officers who investigated the recent Hatchery Road barn fire.

In other developments the board approved a number of requests from RiverCulture Director Suzanne Lomanto for the use of property for several local events, including the annual block party. The party will be on August 2 and will take place at Unity Park; the kickoff parade will begin at K Street.

Next, Michael Nelson registered for the annual spring parade, which will take place a year from now.

Finally, Bruce Hunter of the Regional Housing Authority came before the board to get approval for disbursement of \$27,124 for the Unity Park Improvements Project.



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LEVERETT from page A1
method.

Selectboard member Julia Shively said she was grateful to Shutesbury for their vote.

Elementary school committee member Kip Fonsh remarked that this was not the end of the issue, and that the regional towns would “continue to have a conversation about the assessment method going forward.”

With this major matter settled, town meeting resumed to tackle the issues assistant moderator Zipkowitz had placed before the meeting at 9 a.m.: reports from the school committee’s sustainability subcommittee, the affordable housing trust, the broadband committee, and from the selectboard about the five residential wells contaminated by the town’s former landfill.

As these reports were being filed, voters continued to stream into the Leverett Elementary School gym, some stopping in the cafeteria to buy coffee and doughnuts from the Friends of the Library.

Reports

In discussions of the conservation land purchase and the FY’15 budget, the word sustainability was used often. The question underlying most of the articles was: Can a town of under 2,000 citizens expect quality fire, police, public works and school departments and sustain itself as a thriving community using only property taxes?

The sustainability subcommittee’s report provided the pattern for many of the day’s discussions.

Subcommittee chair Sarah Dolven said that the school committee created the sustainability committee to consider the declining enrollment at LES, built for 200 students, now serving 120, with 20 school choice students.

She said that the subcommittee hoped to engage all town departments to talk about maintaining a stable school population and the high quality of a “great great school.”

Dolven noted that town property taxes are high and that town population is aging, with over a third of residents over the age of 65.

In a town relying primarily on property taxes for revenue, approximately half of the land is under Chapter 61 (forestry) or conservation protection.

The subcommittee’s handout noted the challenges to sustainability as: tax base limited to residences/high property taxes; restrictive zoning laws; aging population; increased need and cost for town services; increased budgetary strain; and lack of affordable housing.

Dolven asked residents to consider “the big picture” in making decisions for the town and encouraged people to attend monthly sustainability committee meetings and noted that the next meeting is Monday, May 19.

Barbara Carulli of the town’s Affordable Housing Trust reported that the trust had approved a covenant to help eligible buyers who want to move to Leverett by filling the gap between the purchase price and an affordable price.

She said such housing would have a deed restriction to make them “permanently affordable”, creating a “reservoir of affordable housing in town,” and encouraging young families with children to live in Leverett.

Selectboard and broadband committee member Peter D’Errico reported that the Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project was “moving along

on schedule,” with WMECO and Verizon contractors starting the “make ready” work preliminary to installing the fiber network. He reported that an ISP has not been selected yet.

Selectboard member Rich Brazeau reported on the five residential wells contaminated by the former town landfill. Brazeau listed options for a resolution: extending the North Amherst water line to the neighborhood and drilling new water supply wells.

Brazeau said that the town may apply for US Department of Agriculture or Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection grants to help pay for drilling new residential wells outside the contaminant plume.

Selectboard member Julie Shively said the regional agreement working group is developing the regional pre-K to 12 school agreement, which is expected to be ready for a regional school committee vote in October.

The agreement would then be sent to town meetings for approval. School committee member Kip Fonsh commented, “This is one of the most important decisions the town will be making collectively.”

Cave Hill Road Conservation

Article 4, purchasing 101 acres on Cave Hill Road for conservation land for \$210,000, including up to \$10,000 in additional costs, highlighted the conflict between protecting treasured natural resources while potentially reducing the tax base and increasing costs to individual property owners.

Mary Alice Wilson of Rattlesnake Gutter Trust spoke of the one-time chance for the town to buy the forested property atop Cave Hill, while slides of its beautiful woods, streams and rocks flashed on the screen behind her.

Phyllis Herder said, “You need to walk it, it’s exceptional and adds so much to the town.” She predicted that the conservation area would be a “selling point that will earn us some wonderful people.”

Jim Perkins remarked that most studies show that residential property taxes don’t pay for the cost of town services used by residents. He called the purchase “a very good investment that builds the real capital of the town.”0

“Much as I enjoy the beauty of this town, we are at a critical point,” said Kip Fonsh.

Brooke Thomas reported that the property currently brings in \$3,600 in property taxes, and that with a house built on a proposed residential lot carve-out on the property, the estimated tax bill would be \$6,400. He said that Rattlesnake Gutter Trust picks properties carefully and that this property did not have great development potential.

Fonsh spoke against the acquisition, saying, “I think the town of Leverett is at a critical juncture” in regard to sustainability. He said that before he could support the acquisition, he wanted to see “real deep consideration” of how the town can maintain its current level of services while taking land out of the possibility of development.

Fonsh suggested waiting on the purchase until the town had com-

pleted its sustainability discussion. “Much as I love the beauty of the town, we are at a critical point,” he said.

Wilson replied that, although she understood Fonsh’s concerns about sustainability, the town would lose the option to purchase the land at the end of May.

Ken Kahn said while he disagreed with Fonsh, “we all have shared values.” Kahn agreed that affordable housing, taxes and an aging population are important issues, but that the Cave Hill property represented “an exceptional parcel of land that comes up only infrequently.”

Tom Wolff noted that this would be the highest amount the town has ever spent for conservation land and that the town could end up “in real trouble as far as the school and fire department.”

Chris Nelson said he was opposed to the town buying more land. He noted that the conservation commission is responsible for managing town land and that it could not afford to manage existing town land.

Saying, “I’m old and live on a fixed income,” one woman asked, “Is another piece of land going to bring people into Leverett?”

Another resident said he was conflicted. “It’s a great piece of land...but we need to keep sustainability in mind and coordinate future investments in a strategic way.”

Ray Bradley spoke to the question of the town’s sustainability, saying that household broadband under FTTH project will transform the town, allowing businesses and entrepreneurs to set up in Leverett.

With people still lined up to speak, the question was called and debate was cut off. The article passed with a paper ballot vote of 169 to 46.

Budget, Elementary School

Most of the FY’2015 budget was approved unanimously, with few questions or concerns about individual items, except for the elementary school budget.

Fincom members said they were concerned that the elementary school budget has increased as the number of students has decreased.

Steve Nagy of the fincom asked, “What did we spend per pupil last year? Did we get our money’s worth?” He asked the school committee to provide regular reports on school spending.

Fonsh noted that the school committee is very transparent and would welcome members of other boards to meetings. He said that the school committee receives an updated report on school spending each month that could be posted on the town website.

Outgoing school committee chair Catherine Brooks said, “There are 100 Leverett children in the school – how do we keep going? You need one teacher for each grade. It’s hard to combine grades and meet standards.”

She added, “Where do you cut? Technically, we could get rid of art, gym and music. I would welcome ideas on how to save money. We all need to get involved in this conversation.”

Dolven called education “the best investment we make,” and invited townspeople to attend school committee and sustainability meetings to continue “this important conversation.”

Fincom member Nancy Grossman noted that it was important to understand all the pieces of the

puzzle and to remember “the quality of education supports our property values.”

Newly elected school committee member Jean Shilac said she welcomes the discussion of school finances because working on a common vision – “what we value and what we keep” will determine where town is going in the future.

Other Articles

The assessors asked the town to approve \$13,000 for an expert consultant, but said they could not discuss why they needed the expert, because it was a matter of executive session. Assessors chair Jim Hicks said he was not in favor of classified information, but that it was necessary in this situation. The article passed unanimously.

Articles forbidding the use of drones and opposing a natural gas pipeline passed by majority votes.

A resident questioned whether the proposed \$36,000 police cruiser would be hybrid or biodiesel.

Capital planning committee chair Richard Roberts said the plan was for a gasoline-powered cruiser, because hybrids were not appropriate for the terrain in Leverett. He added that, although it would be an 8-cylinder engine, it would use only 4 cylinders when idling.

The article passed by a majority, 141 to 4.

The meeting approved \$16,766 for repair and/or replacement of LES roof and windows. The project was initially funded at \$564,248, but the final cost with overruns was \$581,014. Once this amount is paid, the town will receive state matching fund reimbursement. Brazeau said that the town will also receive \$49,999 from the architect for errors and omissions in the work done.

Drones

An article restricting the use of drones passed by a hand vote of 40 to 29. The article forbids the town from operating drones in Leverett airspace in a manner violating the constitutional rights of residents and affirms that landowners and

tenants have control over their airspace.

The article also asks Congressman Jim McGovern and Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey to introduce resolutions to end extrajudicial killings by armed drones, and to make restitution for injuries, fatalities and environmental damage resulting from drone use.

Proponent Beth Adams provided a history of drone attacks on civilians in Afghanistan. She said that the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act will revise the rules regarding air space, defining a “public right of transit” at ground level, rather than at the current 500 feet above ground.

Ann Ferguson called US use of drones for killing “immoral.” Citizens opposed to the article said it was unclear and poorly written, included too many issues (foreign policy, privacy, air space, and military policy), but did not include a definition of drones.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline

Although not in the path of a natural gas pipeline proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, the majority of Leverett voters agreed that the town opposes the TGP natural gas pipeline, and any pipeline in the Commonwealth carrying gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing.

The town is also on record as supporting Massachusetts House bill #3796, which protects drinking water, public safety and personal health from hydraulic fracturing and instructing state legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take action to disallow projects like TGP’s pipeline.

Town Elections

Town officers were nominated from the floor and elected, all by unanimous voice vote. (See sidebar.)

Lunch and Adjournment

The meeting recessed for lunch a little after noon. After the break, Zipkowitz, saying her voice was fading, turned the meeting over to former moderator Gary Gruber.

Town meeting ended around 2:30 pm, with Dolven getting in the last word for sustainability – an invitation to continue the sustainability conversation at the next sustainability subcommittee meeting, May 19 at 6 p.m. at LES library.



LEVERETT 2014-2015 TOWN OFFICERS

Assessor (3 years) Cathryn Ford	Library Trustee (1 year) Lisa Werner
Assistant Moderator (3 years) Fay Zipkowitz	Planning Board (5 years) Van Stoddard
Board of Health (3 years) Fay Zipkowitz	Planning Board (5 years) Tom Ewing
Constable (2 years) Tom Masterton	Moderator (3 years) Larry Farber
Constable (3 years) John Swartz	School Committee (3 years) Cheryl Bonica
Finance Committee (3 years) Ann Delano	School Committee (2 years) Allen Mulley
Finance Committee (3 years) No nomination.	School Committee (2 years) Jean Shilac
Library Trustee (3 years) Chris Condit	Selectboard (3 years) Rich Brazeau
Library Trustee (3 years) Joan Godsey	Tree Warden (1 year) Will Stratford

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Turners Falls RiverCulture's May 15 "Third Thursday" To Focus on the Natural World – and How We See It

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – The 15th is as early in the month as a third Thursday comes, and this month's downtown Third Thursday event snuck up on us fast.

Turners Falls RiverCulture is hoping to draw a crowd for its second Third Thursday event of the season with a theme, "The Nature of Things," that ties together the natural world with the ways we explore and understand it.

"There's something here that nearly everyone will find interesting," says Third Thursday mastermind and RiverCulture director, Suzanne LoManto.

Indeed, the theme stretches neatly from science to art – the former represented by fish migration and a thirty-foot Doppler radar truck, on loan from UMass's Microwave Remote Sensing Laboratory.

Scoring the truck was a coup: "UMass is one of only a couple universities with this level of instrumentation," according to LoManto, who says the other ones are generally used to track tornadoes.

The radar demonstration will be held on First Street, behind Town Hall and near the Fishway, which is open every year from Mother's Day to Father's Day and will be open during Third Thursday.

"This particular event is educational," says LoManto, "with opportunities to go in the fish ladder, and ask engineers questions about radars, and what they do, and why."

"I really hope some kids come and see this radar and think, 'Maybe I'll be an electrical engineer!'"

For those interested in a different way of viewing the river, Beth Reynolds will be hosting a nature photography workshop and walk.

Bring a camera, along with a few lenses and a tripod if you'd like, and join Reynolds on a river walk. Space is limited – call (800) 859-2960 to register.

Four other sites are hosting events as part of the evening's festivities, with storefront installations to check out along the way.

AWARD from page A1

part of what you did here."

He went on to note that renewable pellets, unlike oil, are produced in the local economy and therefore keep the money in the community.

He also complimented Montague on already being a green community with a proven commitment to a green energy future. "It starts and ends locally," he said.

Jemison said that part of the goal of the partnership between HCD and the DOER was to reduce energy use and reduce the cost of maintaining historic assets.

"This benefits everybody," he continued. He also stressed that with so many federal cuts to basic programs, including housing and communities, lowering the cost of heating buildings was a highly creative solution to cope with fewer dollars in the till.

Rizzo, who oversaw the installation of the new heating systems remarked that the elegant new biomass furnaces, built by Maine Energy Systems, would deliver more even heat and plentiful hot water at a fraction of the cost of the old oil furnace. "Everybody wins," he said.

At Third Street Studios, located at 36 Third Street, there will be a group exhibition of crafts and art, as well as a performance at 7 p.m. by Turners resident Neil Young Cloaca, who performs composed and improvised electronic music as Brompt Treb.

Whether Young Cloaca's set will sound more like science or nature has yet to be determined as of press time.

At the Discovery Center at 2 Avenue A, Jerome Noonan's *Postcards from a River* visual montage will run on a continuous loop, and Ed Gregory's photo exhibit *You've Seen Them Before... But Not Like This* will be shown.

Down the street at Nina's Nook, at 125A Avenue A, there will be a reception for Tiffany Heerema's collage show which has been running this month.

And even further down, at the Montague Reporter offices at 177 Avenue A, our columnist David Brule will be signing, selling, and reading short pieces from his new book, *West Along The River 2*. Join us here anytime between 6 and 8 p.m. We will have light refreshments.

In four of the storefronts on the Avenue, RiverCulture is showcasing art by local artists and photographs by Hallmark students and faculty.

Check them out on the block from 106 to 112 Avenue A.

A final installation will run at 104 Avenue A. Titled "Sonation," this sound installation invites listeners to compare the improvisations of cellist Vernon C. David with native bird sounds.

"I hope people come," says a busy and excited LoManto. "Downtown is starting to look different than it did even a month ago."

"I want people to see the positive changes that are happening, and sit and have a meal, or just have an ice cream at the end of the street at Twisters."

"It makes a big difference for downtown businesses."

The two pellet furnaces at Keith Apartments and the one pellet furnace at Hillside School work very much like standard pellet stoves.

The difference is in the quantity of pellets burnt, and the combustion rate. Pellets are fed into a huge hopper through a chute from outside the building. The furnaces then "call" for the pellets, which are delivered in small batches.

"The furnaces burn very hot, but so cleanly that ash only needs to be emptied every month or so," said Rizzo.

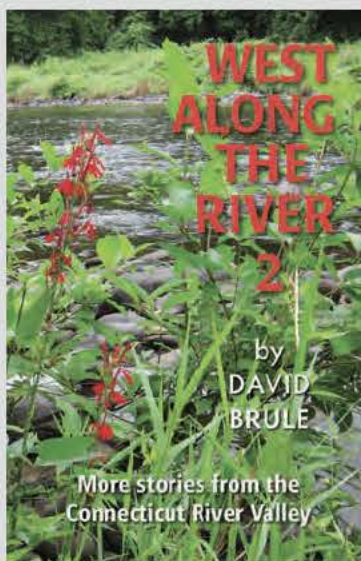
Debra Hall explained that since 2007 HCD has been working on "greener solutions" for housing authorities across the state.

"We've focused on utility use as the costs associated with energy use can be crippling for local [housing] authorities," said Hall, adding that \$2 million had been set aside to help housing authorities reduce their energy use.

On hand to receive the award were Bella Dickerman, Executive director of the Montague Housing Authority, and board members Stanley Zera and Paula Girard.



Book Release Party: West Along The River 2



In conjunction with Third Thursday in Turners Falls, **Thursday, May 15 6 to 8 p.m.**

Author and Montague Reporter columnist David Brule will be reading from his new book, *West Along The River 2: More Stories from the Connecticut River Valley*, at the Montague Reporter office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls. **Refreshments available.**



Copies of the book will be available for \$20. Books 1 and 2 available together for \$35. Sales to benefit the Montague Reporter. First run – limited edition!

"Conversations about Dementia" Offers Tips for Caregivers

Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC) and the Alzheimer's Association are partnering once again to offer family caregivers and loved ones of those with dementia another free educational opportunity.

"Conversations about Dementia," Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 1 – 3 p.m. at 330 Montague City Road in Turners Falls, will offer attendees tips to help with family conversations.

Presenter Melissa Grenier, LCSW and Program Coordinator at the Springfield regional office of the Alzheimer's Association, will hold a discussion about the ways we can have honest and caring conversations with family members about difficult topics when you are caring for someone with memory problems. Actual family caregivers will talk about these challenging issues via video as well as recommendations for what to do next.

Get directions at www.fchcc.org/directions.htm or by calling (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259.

Pre-registration is required. Please call (800) 272-3900 or visit www.alzmass.org/aspcalendar to register.

Free Tick Testing

Spring time means the return of ticks. This year, residents in ten local towns will have access to free Lyme Disease tests for those ticks, thanks to a grant awarded to the Cooperative Public Health Service.

The Boards of Health for Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe and Shelburne are members of the Patrick Administration's Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant program.

The grant funds the participation of the towns in a Tick-Borne Disease Network established by the Laboratory of Medical Zoology (LMZ) at University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

The lab can analyze a tick submitted in almost any condition.

Visit www.TickReport.com.

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week ending 5/2/14

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Aspen Keel

Grade 7

Kallie Ryan

Grade 8

Kyle Kucenski
Samantha Wegiel

Wendell Annual Town Election Results

All Wendell races were uncontested this year. A total of 112 voters cast ballots, which equaled 17 percent of eligible voters.

Below is the list of candidates and the number of votes each candidate received. Both the school committee and the library trustees had two openings.

Selectboard,
Dan Keller: 108

Board of Assessors,
Chris Prunier Wings: 107

Town Clerk,
Gretchen C. Smith: 110

Tax Collector,
Penny Delorey: 110

Treasurer,
Carolyn U. Manley: 110

Board of Health,
Nina E. Keller: 108

Board of Health,
Shay W. Cooper: 104

Planning Board,
Nancy J. Riebschlaeger: 89

Moderator,
Kathleen W. Nolan: 110

Cemetery Commissioner,
Joel A. Sears: 101

Road Commissioner,
Geoffrey T. Richardson: 107

School Committee,
Jessalyn Lee Zaykoski: 102;
Johanna B. Bartlett: 104

Tree Warden,
Peter S. Zera: 103

Library Trustee,
Judith N. Putnam: 108;
Sylvia A. Wetherby: 108

Wendell Town Auction Nets \$7,071

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On Saturday, May 3, Wendell auctioned off surplus property. Almost 40 people came, and bidding was spirited. Ted Lewis was auctioneer.

Bidding moved from the fire bay where out-of-date material was deposited, to upstairs, where there was furniture, to the highway bay with hand tools, and then outside where a dump truck that needs a differential sold for \$4,600, and old Engine #1 with a leaking pump and tank raised \$1,400.

Pre-1987 hoses that are not allowed were sold in three lots: 1-1/2", 2-1/2", and 3" for drainage and irrigation.

The bidding went fast for ladders, also too old for NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards but still serviceable. They sold for as much as \$50, still not bad for a \$700 ladder rated to hold 750 pounds.

Terms were cash or check, and take material off the

premises within 48 hours or make arrangements.

Almost everything was gone the next day. The town made \$7,071.



HEINEMANN PHOTO

There was serious interest in fire department surplus.

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Public Health

Testing free for residents of Cooperative Public Health Service
towns: Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Hawley,
Heath, Leyden, Monroe and Shelburne



MONTAGUE from page A1

a car accident this past January. "They aren't here today," said Detmold, "but their families are."

Montague police chief and town meeting member Charles Dodge III said the skate park had his 100 percent support. "We really care about the youth in our community," he said. "This will show them we are also listening to them."

Bryan Dolan, a skate park committee member, fervently urged town meeting to vote yes. Showing a slide of a hypodermic needle, he implied that this kind of activity could be the alternative "if kids aren't given a fun, exciting, healthy and engaging activity."

Town meeting member Jeff Singleton recalled with fondness watching his own teenage son skateboard.

Skate park committee member Ellen Spring, who along with Dolan has been involved for several years in the effort, noted the importance of young people having a safe and legal place to skate.

Town meeting member Pat Allen, brandishing a colorful hand-painted skateboard deck she'd bought at last week's benefit auction, also urged passage, and recalled Gallagher, Clark and their friends appearing before the selectboard when she was a member.

When the vote was announced, Greg Ellis's four-year-old son, who along with nearly 50 proponents of the skate park sat in the back of the high school auditorium, threw up his arms, and said, "Dad, we won!"

School Budgets Pass

As perhaps a testimony to the ongoing collaboration between the town and the schools, the GMRSD budget of \$8,293,458, as well \$38,000 to upgrade security at Montague schools passed with little fanfare.

Montague's share of the Frank-

lin County Tech School's operating budget, \$682,601, a \$49,058 reduction from last year, also passed with little discussion.

More contentious, however, was the request argued by the finance committee to place the savings into the Franklin County Technical School Stabilization Fund. Ultimately, though, this also passed with more than a two-thirds majority.

Wastewater Appropriations

Town meeting members also voted in favor of a number of other big ticket items including \$2,122,370 for operating the Water Pollution Control Facility and their pumping stations. But aging and broken sewer lines and equipment will continue to be major items in the budget. \$3,000,000 in long-term borrowing was approved for financing the engineering, design and construction for the replacement of two sewer pump stations located at First Street in Turners Falls and Poplar Street in Montague City.

Town meeting also said yes to \$75,000 for the inspection and sewer line cleaning of Canal Street lines and \$175,000 for lining sewer lines on Industrial Boulevard, Millers Falls Road, Crescent Street, and other unspecified roads.

Although there was considerable back and forth on these items, with amendments offered to make the wording more exact, town meeting members were obviously convinced that the money was necessary and would be better spent now to avoid catastrophe in the future.

Capital Expenditures

Members voted in favor of several capital purchases including \$15,000 for police equipment including tasers, bulletproof vests, firearms and other items; \$8,200 to fund computer equipment for town departments and \$9,500 for software for the assessor's office.

The DPW's requests for \$43,325 for lease payments on a dump truck and \$75,000 for repairing and purchasing new vehicles also easily passed. \$15,000 to heat and maintain the former Montague Center School building, an increase of \$5,000 over last year, also received a unanimous yes vote.

Employee Salaries

The salaries of elected and appointed officials, totaling \$8,136,058, passed with little discussion. Town meeting also approved two other articles that sought additional money to fund the implementation of collective bargaining agreements.

The first funded the Town of Montague Employee Association for \$62,724 for FY'15, with increases to be paid retroactively to July 1, 2014. The second appropriated \$44,469 to implement an agreement with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 for FY 2015. Increases would also be paid retroactively to July 1, 2014.

Special Town Meeting Articles

At the special town meeting, that took place before the annual town meeting, members agreed to appropriate \$81,779 for upgrading the drainage and stabilization of a slope off of Millers Falls Road, \$12,000 for the veterans' benefits budget, \$8,334 to repair navigation hazard lights just outside the perimeter of the airport, and \$10,000 to augment the Henry Waidlich Conservation Fund.

Liquor on Sunday Mornings

Town meeting also gave permission to the selectboard to authorize on-premises liquor license holders to sell alcoholic beverages between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon on Sundays, the last Monday in May and on Christmas Day or the day following.



Great Falls Middle School 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 6:

First Honors: Hailey Bogusz, Cameron Bradley, Karissa Fleming, Josy Hunter, Eliza Johnson, Joseph Kochan, Lilia Kocsis, Nicholas Lacey, Tucker Millane, Kaitlyn Miner, Chantelle Monaghan, Alyson Murphy, Emily Sisson, Abigail Waite, Madeline Williams
Second Honors: Alden Courtemanche, Shelby Jordan, Colby Mailloux, Brian Poirier, Lucy Spera, Brody Trott, Connor Waitkus

Third Honors: Mirela Cioclea, Jonathon Fritz, Gram Hancock-Pezzati, Mason Kucenski, Courtney Lacosse, Max Leh, Korey Martineau, Anthony Peterson, Lyuba Sankova, Alyah Sutton, Tevon Sutton, Owen Toal, Jordan Welsh

Grade 7:

First Honors: Samantha Bocon, Ryan Campbell, Dominic Carme, Kyle Dodge, Rodney Duteau, Cailyn Gobeil, Rebecca Harrell, Jenna Jacobsen, Anna Kochan, Jacob LaBelle, Emily Minor, John Putala, Keltyn Socquet, Sarah Studlien, Holly Tetreault, Sarah Waldron, Hannah Welles

Second Honors: Madison Adams, Jared Bergmann, Lindsey Bourbeau, Kayleigh Curtiss, Garrett Martel, Tyler Noyes, Ethan Shilo-Draper, Cassidy Wozniak

Third Honors: Reilan Castine, Andy Craver, Owen Darling, Reagan Fiske, Katherine Garcia, Logan Kordana, Mireya Ortiz, Kallie Ryan, Ayden Stacy, Ivy Watroba

Grade 8:

First Honors: Hannah Bogusz, Madison Chmyzinski, Elias Collins, Amanda Cooke, Sienna Dillensneider, Sahaley DuPree, Chloe Ellis, Hannah Graves, Maya Hancock-Pezzati, Samantha Kolodziej, Carlie Kretchmar, Kyle Kucenski, Snejana Lashtur, Simon Lorenzo, Abigail Loynd, Aliyah Sanders, Madison St. Marie, David Tricolici

Second Honors: Branden Chapin, Kylie Fleming, Daniel Momaney, D'ahnee Smith, Kaeden Socquet, John Wheeler, Samuel Yolish

Third Honors: Jacob Desbiens, Peyton Emery, Alex Gheorghita, Tabitha Hamilton, Kylee Mason, Kayli Messinger, Hadyn Patenaude, Riley Staiger, Nicholas Taylor, Jeremy Towle, Rachel Tucker, Samantha Wegiel

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Pizza, Soft Drinks, and a Comprehensive Service Analysis

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Franklin Regional Transit Authority will begin a new process to review its fixed routes this month with “community conversations” on public transit in the region.

According to the FRTA’s public outreach flyer, the goal of these conversations will be “to learn more about how public transit decisions are made in Franklin County and offer your opinion on how we can make it even better!”

Four public forums are scheduled to kick off the process. The first is from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Monday, May 12.

The second is at 12 Olive Street in Greenfield on Wednesday, May 14, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The third is at 53 Main Street in Shelburne Falls on Monday, May 19, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The final one is at 121 East Main Street in Orange on Tuesday, May 20, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The announcement noted that “beverages and pizza will be provided at each of the meetings”.

The FRTA is a regional transit system composed of 38 towns and the city of Greenfield. It currently has six fixed routes serving nine of those towns, and a “demand response” system providing “curb to curb” services to the elderly for a small fee.

The FRTA also contracts with state human services agencies to provide transportation for their clients. The state is considering consol-

idating these services which means the FRTA may lose these contracts, which fund approximately half of the transit authority’s budget.

The FRTA proposed a series of changes in its fixed route system last fall but encountered strong opposition to the elimination of Route 23, the direct route from Montague to Amherst. The authority was also criticized for not including member towns in the planning process and for its inability to explain how towns are assessed.

Meanwhile, the state has approved new transportation legislation that not only increased funding for regional transit but also requires transportation authorities to undertake a “Comprehensive Service Analysis” (CSA), a data-based assessment of their systems, along with an exploration of alternatives.

There has also been a good deal of grassroots organizing by a driver-initiated group called Transportation Justice, which has called for weekend fixed route services and for surveys of riders and potential riders. Currently, FRTA only runs fixed routes during weekdays.

The result of all this activity is a new process that emphasizes public outreach and a data-based analysis to determine the level of transportation need in the region. The FRTA is coordinating this effort with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), which is co-sponsoring the public forums.

The FRCOG has its own regional transportation planning process, a Regional Transportation Plan that is updated every four years. The last

version of this plan was completed in 2012, so the Council will begin work on an update this fall. This does not focus on buses alone, but includes roads, bike usage and potentially rail links.

According to Megan Rhodes, a planner for the agency, COG will “take a comprehensive look at transportation needs, issues, facilities and potential funding over a 2-year time horizon.”

Rhodes states that “much of what we learn from the Community Conversations will provide the basis for the transit portion of that plan.”

The FRTA is holding four upcoming forums seeking public input on the region’s bus services. Several other transportation studies are beginning.

On top of all this, the FRTA has hired a consultant to evaluate and explain the current system for assessing member towns’ charges for services.

According to transit officials, the actual formula that determines these assessments is hidden “in the back” of the computer program and thus is difficult to explain to local officials. To add to the mystery, local transit charges are subtracted from state aid calculations on what are known as

“cherry sheets” and are not part of the normal local budget process.

The consultant, who is working on a more transparent design, is scheduled to report at the end of June. His report may also help reduce confusion about how state levels of funding for local transit are calculated, another little-understood aspect of the system.

A colorful “project overview” flyer describes the Comprehensive Service Analysis. In the first phase, a consultant will “gather data” from May to October of this year.

From October to January 2015, the CSA team will “compare existing services to demand,” and for the following three months it will “develop options and alternatives to improve service.”

In April and May 2015, “final service recommendations and alternatives will be proposed.”

According to Rhodes, a key part of the CSA process will be to convince the state that rural areas like Franklin County need more public transit.

“The other aspect – the FRTA, we and the consultants all feel very strongly on this point – is that we need to make a case to the legislature that the FRTA needs more funding in order to provide a system that could actually work for everyone,” said Rhodes.

“We need to show that Franklin County has a lot of unmet transit needs that, if funded, could increase ridership across all income classes and groups of people.

“This information will come primarily from public input.”

GILL from page A1

replied. The asbestos is non-friable, so it does not need special precautionary methods to remove, but it will cost extra to dispose of properly, Banash said.

Chase said he would nevertheless like to see an engineering report on the roof and added, “I’m not against the project, but I would like to see a firm estimate.”

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington offered a cost breakdown of the \$158,000 being requested, saying estimates from local roofing contractors had pointed toward a removal and replacement cost of \$85,000, to install a tapered membrane roof with a positive pitch toward the roof drains, an improvement in design over the old roof.

Architectural design, bid documents, change orders, control of construction and related issues are expected to cost \$54,000, with an added \$4,400 for procurement bonds and advertising, and \$14,000 set aside for unexpected contingencies that may arise during the course of construction, such as the discovery of rotted decking underneath the leak prone old roof.

This summation seemed to satisfy all the voters in the room, because the motion passed unanimously, after energy consultant Bart Bales responded to Kramer’s question re-

garding insulation by noting that the new roof would be installed according to the strict energy saving regulations of the Massachusetts “stretch building code,” which town meeting had adopted in a previous year, to qualify as a Green Community.

When Gill received that status, in December 2012, the Department of Energy Resources gave the town a grant of \$139,900 to be used for further energy saving measures.

On Monday, town meeting decided to apply the large majority of those funds (a little more than \$13,000 has already been spent on bike racks at town buildings, energy saving workshops, and an anti-idling device for one police cruiser) toward overhauling the heating systems and adding insulation at town hall and the Riverside Municipal Building.

The plan, as presented by Claire Chang, would involve adding “air source heat pumps” as well as insulation at both buildings, while leaving the current oil fired boiler at town hall to provide heat for the second floor, and back-up heat for the rest of the building on the coldest winter days, and replacing the 33 year old boiler at the Riverside Building with electric baseboards for back-up heat.

Town meeting approved spending \$25,000 of town funds to advance this plan.

Voters also agreed to name the historical collection at the Riverside Building in honor of the man who did the most to organize that collection: Allan D. Adie, Sr.

Kit Carpenter, chair of the Gill Historical Commission, paid tribute to Adie’s tireless work in collecting and preserving Gill’s historical artifacts, for editing the second volume of the History of Gill, and for the “tremendous contribution” he made to the town of Gill. “A plaque and sign on the door will commemorate his caring and dedication to the town.”

Up until his death in 2012 at 96, Adie was a regular presence at annual town meeting, and in the pause before the unanimous vote was called, it seemed voters were listening for him to raise his polite but persistent voice from the back of the room asking what the measure would cost, and whether the honor was really necessary.

Bill Tomb, of Boyle Road, felt the motion did not go far enough. He asked the town to consider naming the entire Riverside Building after Allan Adie.

A motion carried to put another \$69,000 into the town’s education stabilization fund, bringing the total of that rainy-day account to more than \$138,500.

Another approved putting \$2,500

into a newly created account to fund post-employment benefits for town workers, a modest down payment on future liabilities for retiree health insurance.

Finally, town meeting paused before adjourning to honor Ann Banash for her long and dedicated service, first on the school committee, and later with seven consecutive three-year terms on the selectboard.

With a mixture of emotions in her voice, Banash thanked the voters from her long accustomed position at the center of the town hall stage.

“It really has been an honor and a privilege to be here. I’ve loved almost every minute as a selectman.

If I could stand the winters, I never would go away. This is the first town meeting I’ve approached without trepidation.”

And with her typical lack of self regard and concern for the well being of the town, Banash urged everyone in attendance to tune in to the live televised forum held Tuesday, May 6, on MCTV, to hear the two candidates vying for her seat – Fred Chase and Greg Snedeker – discuss their ideas for the future of Gill.

Gill’s election will be held May 19. See next week’s issue of the Reporter for a full report on Tuesday’s debate between Chase and Snedeker.

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SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTOS



Two businesses on Avenue A in Turners Falls have recently moved southwest along the Avenue. At left, what was once Jay K's Liquors at 59 Avenue A has expanded and changed its name, becoming Connecticut River Liquors at 123 Avenue A, the former location of Tognarelli Heating & Cooling. At right, art maven Rodney Madison's shop Madison on the Avenue, which sells first-hand art as well as second-hand and found objects, has left its space at 102 Avenue A, on the corner of Third Street, for one just next door at number 104. Rumors are swirling about the fate of the corner storefront.

To Be Useful And To Help Others

On Sunday, May 4, the members of Erving Girl Scout Troop 40052, under the direction of troop leader Laura Bezio and Mr. Leo Parent, replaced the flags at Highland Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day.

It was a blustery day with some sprinkles, but the girls were happy to help!

At right: Scouts Catherine Bezio and Emma St. Hilaire, both of Erving, hold on tight to the flags.



LAURA BEZIO PHOTO

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DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Above: Turners Falls pitcher Mackenzie Phillips in the windup. Coach Gary Mullins achieved his 500th career regular-season win as Turners beat Pioneer 8 – 2 Monday night on the Indians' home field.

Below: Jenna Putala's teammates greet her at home plate. Jenna slammed a two-run homer on her first pitch after returning to the team from knee surgery. Turners went on to win 14 – 2 against Athol on May 2.

The Mummers Come To Town

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Philadelphia Aqua String Band returned to Turners Falls High School to perform at the Gill-Montague Education Fund's 10th Annual Gala.

The string band has been in existence since 1920, and participates every year in the Philadelphia New Year's day Mummers Parade.

This year's new captain of the Aqua String Band, Ken Maminski, emphasized the importance of family in talking about the intergenerational nature of the band.

Maminski said there were over seventeen father-son combinations in the band. He said they are one big family. This year the Aqua String Band marched with 63 members.

Captain Ken and his side-kicks, Gary Stalford and Jeff Wiedemer, dressed up for the crowd at the TFHS theater in their fancy mummers' outfits covered with sequins and beads, and did the traditional strut while the band played everyone's old time favorites.

Ken said, "Mummers like to entertain and put a smile on your face." And entertain they did.

With a slightly different approach than his predecessor, this captain highlighted the music of the string band itself, as they played songs like, "Oh, You Beautiful Doll" and "You Are My Sunshine" while the entertainers danced through the



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Aqua String Band Captain Ken Maminski (center) praises the performance of two of the younger members, Brenan Flarity on the accordion and Andrew Maminski on the saxophone. Captain Ken is dressed in his farm costume. Additional band members shown in the background.

room dressed in costumes in the farm theme. They changed costumes several times.

Two young members of the band offered a solo performance. Andrew Maminski on saxophone and Brenan Flarity on accordion played John Denver's "Country Road" backed up by the string band, as Captain Ken listened proudly. He had two sons performing in the band for this performance.

Taking a turn to honor the Irish, the band played "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" and "Tura, Lora, Lora." The band leader, Corry Riddle then moved to honoring veter-

ans with "Boogie, Woogie, Bugle Boy of Company B." The veterans in the audience were asked to stand so they could be recognized for their service to the country.

Probably the most appreciated portion of the show was when they played the polka. Audience members were invited to join Gary, Jeff and Ken in dancing to the polka and also doing the Mummer's strut. Keeping with tradition, the string band closed with "Four Leaf Clover" and "Oh Them Golden Slippers" leaving a smile on the faces of everyone as they applauded and bid them farewell.



ANNE JEMAS PHOTOS

Above: Sara Pearson, Ellen Spring and Bryan Dolan of the skate park committee are stunned after a unanimous Montague town meeting vote approved funding for a permanent skatepark at Unity Park. **Below:** From left, Anthony Ellis, John Ellis, Melissa St. Lawrence, Sarah Yazdi, Avery Yazdi, and Joanne Bascom celebrate the decision in the halls of Turners Falls High School.

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ENERGY CORNER

Update Your Old Heating System, Get Big Bucks Back – With a 0% Loan, To Boot!

By SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE – The Mass Save program is offering a sizable rebate for qualifying homeowners who replace their functioning old boiler or furnace with efficient new heating equipment, but you need to act before the fall.

That may seem a ways away, but eligible equipment must be installed by October 31, after you have gone through a bunch of necessary hoops that will take some time.

“If you have a functioning boiler (30+ years old) or furnace (12+ years old), your equipment may be eligible for an incredible rebate” of “up to \$4,000 on a new efficient boiler, or up to \$1,000 on a high efficiency furnace,” says Mass Save.

You may also be able to cover the out-of-pocket costs for your new system, with a 0% Mass Save HEAT Loan.

The devil is in the details, and, to get you started, here are some of the specifics from the Mass Save Early Heating Equipment Rebates web page:

Customer must request a Mass Save Home Energy Services Program Site Visit between April 15 and September 30, 2014, prior to replacing their boiler or furnace. Customer must be offered a rebate form prior to replacing the equipment.

Completed rebate form and supporting documentation must be submitted by October 31, 2014.

see **ENERGY** page B4

Musing on Mother's Day

By LEE WICKS

In my family, my dad got to be the hero of our childhood. He was a survivor of the Spanish Flu, a hard working product of the Great Depression who dropped out of school to sell newspapers on the subway, a successful business owner, and one time “Mayor of First Avenue.”

He came home each night from his grocery store on New York City’s upper east side, filled with

father’s mother whose stories are not often told.

My mother’s mother came to New York City from a mining town in Pennsylvania when she was just out of high school. She worked as a cigarette girl in a restaurant, and one night sold a Muriel Cigar to her future husband.

They named their first-born daughter Muriel (my Mom) to honor the occasion. My maternal grandfather did well importing shirt buttons from France for the



WICKS PHOTO

Clockwise from top left: the author's grandmother Ada Roberts, her mother Muriel Brockmann, and Ali and Jeannette Wicks-Lim.

stories of the rich and famous. Meanwhile my mother was reminding us to clean our rooms, stand up straight, wash our hands before dinner, and do our homework.

She got the necessary cards and flowers on Mother’s Day, but she did not get the adulation my father received. He worked six days a week, twelve hours a day. She was always there.

I think of her each Mother’s Day – she died in 2006 – and I also think of her mother and my

garment industry in New York, but lost all his money when the stock market crashed in 1929.

This plunged him into an emotion depression, and for years he barely left the house. Who held the family together? My grandmother took in washing, rented rooms in their house, and begged the grocer for soup bones to feed a dog they did not have.

Yet years later my mother and her sister and brother loved to tell stories of their dad before the

see **MOTHERS** page B6

Active Seniors in Cuba: The Joy of Living Club

By ANNA VIADERO

Old city buses recycled from China rush down the cobblestone streets of Santa Clara, Cuba. Transportation in the form of donkey cart taxis (they hold 9 people) and “urban taxis” – private cars that pick up people willing to pay for a ride – are close behind.

There’s noise, dust and exhaust until I step inside the door of the Joy of Living Club, a place where local retirees gather to play games, enjoy dancing, and plan trips and presentations to other senior communities in the area. They preserve traditions of their lives and work to keep one another active and productive in their “golden years”.

In the corridor that leads to the meeting space, Moreno and others are playing Cuban music to welcome our Road’s Scholar group (www.roadsscholar.org). My husband Joe and I are here in Cuba on a people to people tour that introduces us to many aspects of Cuban life from this senior center to art academies, public schools and hospitals.

Today Rafael (81), Moreno (78), Lutgardo (76), Guillermo (88), and Eugenia, Nenita, and Martika – the ladies who prefer to keep their age a secret! – are excited to tell us about how Cuban seniors shape their days.

This club began 31 years ago because retired professors from Santa Clara University, gathering informally in local parks, realized they needed the company of their peers. They wanted to socialize, to preserve memories of their youth and continue to support their community.

Thanks to permission from the Cuban government and support from the Cuban Association of Artists (ACA), the Joy of Living Club began and has grown strong. Their meeting place is an ACA location – a place where artists of all ages, including these seniors, can gather to socialize and to sell handicrafts to supplement their incomes and projects.

Today there are 120 members in The Joy of Living Club, aged 68 to 92. The club has a president and board of

see **CUBA** page B4



VIADERO PHOTO

Eugenia, Martika and Nenita demonstrate The Language of the Fan.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Why's My Mouth Dry?

urinary incontinence, allergies, high blood pressure, depression, diarrhea and Parkinson’s disease. Also, some over-the-counter medications often cause dry mouth.

Dry mouth can also be caused by cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, nerve damage in the head or neck, the autoimmune disease Sjogren’s syndrome, endocrine disorders, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, anxiety disorders and depression.

Sjögren’s syndrome can occur either by itself or with another autoimmune disease such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus. Salivary and tear glands are the major targets of the syndrome. The result of the syndrome is a decrease in production of saliva and tears.

The syndrome can occur at any age, but the average person with the disorder at the Sjögren’s Syndrome Clinic of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is in his or her late 50s.

Women with the disorder outnumber men 9 to 1.

In addition, tobacco, alcohol (in beverages and mouthwash), drinks with caffeine, snoring and breathing with

your mouth open can aggravate dry mouth.

If you think you have dry mouth, go to your doctor or dentist. Your doctor may adjust your medication that is suspected of causing the problem. Or, your doctor may prescribe a medication to stimulate saliva production.

There are other ways to improve saliva flow. Try sugar-free hard candy or chewing gum. Avoid lemon-flavored hard candy, because it makes saliva acidic, increasing the possibility of tooth decay.

You can also sip water regularly, try over-the-counter saliva substitutes, avoid breathing through your mouth, and use a humidifier in your bedroom.

If you have dry mouth, you have to pay greater attention to your teeth. Brush your teeth with an extra-soft toothbrush after every meal and at bedtime.

If brushing hurts, soften the bristles in warm water. Floss your teeth gently every day. Always use toothpaste with fluoride in it.

If you have a sweet snack, brush right away.

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



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Spring continues in fits and starts: a couple of splendidly warm, sunny days then a cold, damp spell necessitating the woodstove. But this is our version of spring. It comes and goes, then suddenly it is summer.

For all of these reasons, the best and the brightest of flowers all have a short lease on life. We note the flowering on the quince, the apricots and the apples, then they are gone. The daffodils last a bit longer depending on the temperature; the forsythia, ditto. The bloodroot is up in the woods. The lilacs rush from bud to blossom and last but a week.

On one fine, recent temperate day we weeded the asparagus and strawberry beds and spread composted manure. The rains came and were followed by the first glimpses of asparagus tips.

This is the third year for this new bed and we will be able to harvest as much as we want. The new spears are fat and hardy unlike the tenta-

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

New England Spring

tive new original growth. It has been hard to wait, but letting the new fronds go to fern and then to seeds has paid off. Once established, an asparagus bed will go on producing asking only for weeding, fertilizer and the removal of asparagus beetles: A small price to pay for a tasty, easy to grow perennial vegetable.

Not so, the strawberries. The first season we snipped off the flower blossoms, encouraging all of the plant energy into the roots. Then we set out the runners to fill in the bed. This year we will pick to our hearts’ content if we provide protection from the birds.

The following year we can expect a smaller crop and then it will be time to start a new bed, preferably in a new location. It’s probably simpler and cheaper to go out to the farmer’s patch and pick our own each year, but it’s an undeniable pleasure to walk out in the dewy grass of the morning while still in our pajamas and pick a bowlful to eat out of hand or on our breakfast cereal.

Last year the deer and the woodchuck forced us to set in a three foot, buried wire fence

to protect the vine crops: beans, squash, tomatoes as well as the tasty sweet peppers.

It did the job, keeping the varmints out and providing additional aerobics for the gardener. Others can stand at the edge of the fence, swing a leg over, and enter the space.

Too short for this maneuver, I was forced to set up a step stool on the outside, climb it, plant a hiking stick and swing in. It’s a good thing we’d laid out black plastic to hold up the temperature for these heat loving crops and to keep out the weeds.

I admit I didn’t make the climb too often except at harvest time. However, this season, I will be favored with a gate. A fine wooden one has been built, and I’ve been treating it with a brown wood stain which should extend its life. The heavy work will be digging the holes for two gate poles and then cementing them in.

After that, the gate can be hinged on and put to use. There’s no real hurry, it won’t be until at least Memorial Day weekend before the tomatoes and peppers are ready to set

see **SPRING** page B2



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. My mouth seems to be a bit dry most of the time. Does this mean anything?

Everyone experiences dry mouth occasionally. We get it when we are under stress. But if you have dry mouth all or most of the time, you need medical help. The medical term for this condition is *xerostomia*.

Symptoms of this problem are: saliva that seems thick, sores or split skin at the corners of your mouth, difficulty speaking and swallowing, bad breath, a change in your sense of taste, increased plaque, tooth decay and gum disease.

Most xerostomia is related to the medications taken by older adults rather than to the effects of aging. More than 400 medicines can affect the salivary glands.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Two DUI Arrests; Breaking & Entering

Monday, 4/28

1:50 p.m. Report of low-hanging wire on Gunn Street. Found to be a phone line. Advised phone company.

5 p.m. Report of larceny of firewood on North Street.

10:30 p.m. Disturbance reported at a Northfield Road residence. Found to be verbal only. Subjects separated for the night.

Tuesday, 4/29

7:15 a.m. Report of a possible crash on North Street at the Northfield town line. Found to be a disabled motor vehicle.

8:45 a.m. Report taken of

illegal dumping on Pleasant Street.

10:30 a.m. Unknown subject left message regarding vehicle being broken into at Farley Ledges. Report taken.

5:20 p.m. Criminal application issued to [REDACTED], for operating a vehicle with revoked registration, no insurance, and no inspection sticker.

Wednesday, 4/30

3:30 p.m. Officer at West Main Street to keep the peace with landlord and tenant.

Thursday, 5/1

11:50 a.m. Assisted on

scene of medical emergency on Lillians Way.

1:30 p.m. Took report of breaking and entering at French King Highway.

6:45 p.m. Checked on possible illegal dumping at French King Highway.

Friday, 5/2

1 a.m. Alarm at Christina's Restaurant. Checked.

9:50 a.m. Report of harassing text messages. Advised sender to cease.

10:45 a.m. Mutual aid to Montague PD for altercation between two male subjects on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

4:11 p.m. Report of erratic operator on Route 2.

4:55 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating under the influence, marked lanes violation, and failure to display license plate.

Saturday, 5/3

1:30 p.m. Took report of a motor vehicle crash at Lester and River Streets.

7:57 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Forest Street.

Sunday, 5/4

12:54 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating under the influence, second offense, and marked lanes violation.

Senior Center Activities
May 12 through 16

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 5/12

9 a.m. Foot Clinic

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise

NOON Pot Luck & Bingo

1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

Tuesday 5/13

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (new time)

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 5/14

9 a.m. Foot Clinic

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise

11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting

Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/15

9 a.m. Tai Chi

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 5/16

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

WEWELL

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.

SPRING from page B1

out.

Meanwhile, in the sunroom the tomato plants have started to take off. I must admit to rushing the transplanting of some babies before their root systems were fully developed. These plants continue to look peaked and undersized.

The more mature ones enjoyed the move to larger pots and the switch to adult food. These are sturdy, with dark green leaves, and a height which suggests one more move up to a larger pot before the final transplant into the garden soil.

The timing of this move out to the garden can be tricky. We'll try to harden the plants up a bit as they will be moving from temperatures in the seventies and eighties in the sunroom.

They have been trained to handle overnight in the fifties so on nice warm outdoor days we can set them out for a few hours to ease their adjustment. Memorial Day weekend is the traditional time for setting out tender tomatoes, but

they can wait a bit more if it is cold and wet or very windy.

A little patience in the timing will save the gardener the heart-break of loss of plants to overwatering or cold, windy days. The sweet peppers and delicate squashes and melons and green beans should wait until mid-June when the temperatures are steadier and the soil has really warmed up.

These cooler temperatures of late April and early May are perfect for leaf crops and peas. These tasty plants much prefer the cool to the inevitable summer like heat we'll be having before too long.

Get them in as soon as possible for first spring veggie eating. Those sweet peas with a little butter are like candy even if shelled and eaten right out of hand!

Last fall we took out the old front steps, original I think to the house in 1928. We now have a new sturdy set with a wooden handrail.

For some reason I was loath to discard the old iron railing. It seemed there should be some new use for it and it graced the wood-

pile all through the winter season.

My tidy neighbor found this eventually annoying and asked me more than once why I hadn't brought it to the "dump".

As this season's peonies sent their pink tips up through the earth, I pondered providing some support for what will be a plant top heavy with blossom. In the past we've used folded tomato cages and a decorative scalloped piece of fence.

It turns out that the old iron railing is the perfect length and height for a permanent peony support. Not only that, it looks decorative at the head end of the garden. We'll see what my investigative neighbor has to say about that!

Once I saw a support for roses fashioned from an old iron bedstead. The curves of the metal embellished the drooping vines of the climber. Enjoy the possibilities of reuse, take time to smell the gorgeous blossoms of spring, and, as always, happy gardening!

TEXT TEASERS by MATT LIEFF

c 6 a L r r r Ø 2 uu
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Why the queasy seaman was sent back.

What is he saying? Try your hand at this new game, designed by a local resident. Check page B6 for this week's answer!

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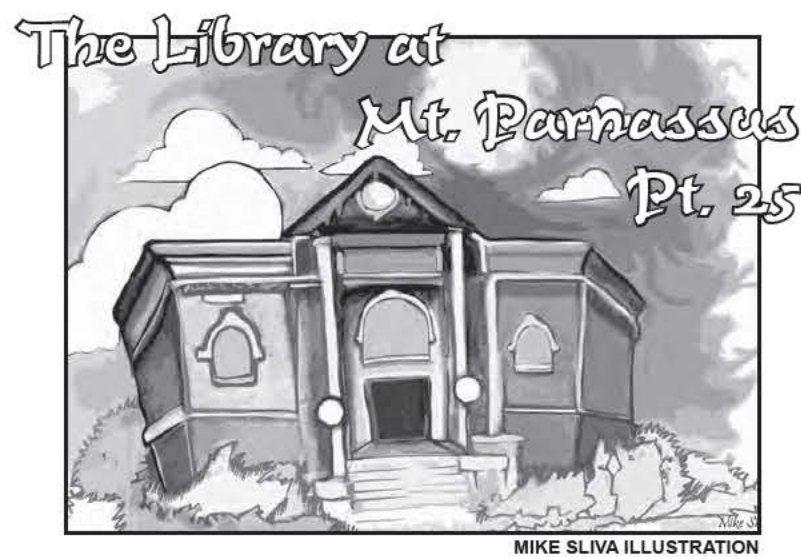
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"They're rifling through Tony's pockets," I cried. "Control yourself," said Melantha, sternly.



By DAVID DETMOLD

Melantha sat motionless behind the main desk, on her stool, wreathed in mist. Her eyes were shining.

I left Tony to the ministrations of the others in the reading room and drifted over to the lobby and looked across the walnut desk at her. Her dress was covered in a bank of fog.

"Melantha. This story about the crack in the front steps. The town meeting vote. It's unbelievable. Certainly it makes sense to take the money from the stabilization fund, but, I mean... for \$50 and a couple of bags of cement I could throw a patch on that crack that would last a hundred years."

She turned down one corner of her mouth.

"What do they need another sixteen thousand dollars for, on top of the twenty-six hundred they approved at the last meeting?"

"The crack goes deeper than they thought," she said.

"But why the fuss? I mean, over a little one-inch crack? Are they afraid some little old lady will catch her heel and trip coming down the stairs with a load of books?"

I considered the physics of this.

"Plane geometry would prevent it. She wouldn't trip; she'd just stand there, pinned to the riser like Ahab on the deck, clutching her tiny stack of Danielle Steele or Anne Rice, a grim figure, beckoning readers to come forth and join her.

"I mean, come on... Eighteen thousand dollars to fill a one-inch gap in the library stairs. It's ridiculous. It's absurd."

"Sh-h-h-h," said Melantha, putting her finger to her lips. "Even if they were to begin the work, they would never complete it, at any price."

"I never even saw a warrant for a special town meeting. Was it ever posted?"

"Yes."

She drew a scrolled up warning from behind the desk and handed it to me. I tried to focus on the archaic legalese, scribbled in a Gothic script in a faint hand, something about field drivers, fence viewers, measurers of wood and bark... what kind of mumbo jumbo was this?

I mopped my forehead with a handkerchief. The steam was rising through the floor vents from the ancient furnace room below. The document I held was practically indecipherable, and getting more smudged

the more I scrolled through it.

I was sweating, and drops of perspiration began falling on the page, or else drops of condensate manifested from the heavy air itself, blotting out entire phrases.

I found my imagination wandering, wondering what the warm, supersaturated air must feel like as it curled its way beneath the desk and twined around Melantha's legs.

Who could focus on improved foundation drainage at a time like this? Melantha was seated not three feet from me, with her hands in her lap, on her tall wooden stool.

I tried keeping it casual.

"Melantha, do you have that book, *How to Handle a Married Woman?*"

"No," she said. "That's out."

But, through the steam, I thought I saw the hint of a smile on her face.

"Melantha... I get all squirrely sometimes when I... Couldn't you help me satisfy... my urge... for some point of reference... to read... to read you better? I mean, after all you are the night librarian, and, though I've never been a fan of mystery, if I could put it that way, so strange and so alluring." This wasn't quite right. "I need your help, Melantha. I need... so much... you know... I seem to have lost my way somehow."

"Would you like a piece of advice?" she asked, in a silky voice. She arched her back and extended her hands slowly above the desktop, where they balanced, poised, amid the cloud cover.

"Please."

"Watch your step," she said, looking straight at me. "Or I'll set you on fire."

She touched her fingertips to the keyboard of her computer. Whether she hit some especially complex command code there, or whether the accumulated heat and moisture in the room had combined with static electricity to foul the keys, the moment she touched them a blue flame shot up her arms and coursed along the contours of her body with a flash, shattering the old wooden stool she sat on, which split asunder with a loud bang; its ancient rungs snapped in two and smoldering.

Melantha rose to her feet and stood there with a half-smile flickering on her face.

I dropped the warning on the desk, and backed out, stammering, through the double doors.

Continued next week

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Oh, The Places You'll Go!

Monday, 4/28
1:03 a.m. Verbal altercation, with broken glass, on Bridge Street. Parties advised of complaint.
8:48 a.m. Ten windows found to be broken at Sheffield School, apparently by someone throwing rocks. Report taken.
10:34 a.m. Caller reported theft of battery from farm equipment on Greenfield Road that he claimed was his; equipment cables also cut. Owner of property on which equipment is located subsequently called to advise that the original caller does not own the equipment, but is dating the daughter of the owner of an adjacent property; furthermore, the actual owner of the equipment had been given ample opportunity to remove it but had failed to do so. Referred to an officer.
10:55 a.m. Party in to station to report having been assaulted at Madison on the Avenue. Suspect spoken to and Mirandized; summons issued.
12:33 p.m. Party in to station to report that while at the Turners Falls Post office, a male party thought she was cutting in line, began yelling and swearing at her, and threatened to follow her home and beat her. Suspect identified; officers will follow up. Report taken.
4:55 p.m. Caller reported that a neighbor on Fourth Street was yelling at her from the roof. Officers spoke to both involved parties; found to be a misunderstanding involving children. All is well again.
5:50 p.m. Suspicious vehicle near railroad tracks in Lake Pleasant. Parties stated they were looking for a spot to fish. Parties given area information and sent on their way.
Tuesday, 4/29
12:45 a.m. [redacted] arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and malicious destruction of property over \$250.
9:00 a.m. Caller reported receiving a voice mail overnight stating that there was a dog "floating between yards" on Meadow Street and acting lethargic. Animal control officer advised.
5:45 p.m. Caller reported being assaulted and threatened by a family member at their place of business. Investigated; caller found to be intoxicated; reported incident determined to be verbal only.

6:49 p.m. Caller reported ongoing issue with speeding vehicle in Lake Pleasant. Referred to an officer.
Wednesday, 4/30
10:24 a.m. Empty prescription bottle reported stolen from an unlocked apartment on Fourth Street. Report taken.
2:31 p.m. Following an altercation at Turners Falls High School, a summons for arrest was issued for a former student.
3:53 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and assault and battery.
7:35 p.m. License and three credit cards stolen from wallet during event at Hillcrest Elementary School. Debit card later utilized for two transactions in Erving. Footage of male party using card captured by store cameras. Report taken.
9:17 p.m. Caller reported that her son was playing with a fog machine, which set off a fire alarm in a Fifth Street apartment building. Referred to TFFD.
11:21 p.m. Unknown small animal under bed in house on Randall Road. Identified as black cat. Animal control officer summoned. Cat removed from house.
Thursday, 5/1
8:58 a.m. DPW vehicle damaged in hit-and-run accident in Cumberland Farms parking lot. Operator of other vehicle identified and found to be disoriented; ambulance responded. Summons issued.
9:17 a.m. Incoming 911 call; after several prompts, a little voice asked "Will you come and arrest my nana?" then attempted to hang up. Female (Nana) got on the line and advised that her grandson was home sick today and was playing with the phone. Sergeant responded and explained to the grandson the proper use of 911.
9:45 a.m. Two calls regarding vehicles damaged in hit and run accidents on L Street. Found to be caused by same vehicle/operator from previous call involving DPW vehicle. Summons issued.
10:28 a.m. Complaint regarding flock of 50-60 goats allowed to run loose on East Chestnut Hill Road eating neighbors' plants and bushes. Owner of goats claimed that a party was supposed to come and take the goats to auction; however, it has been too wet to do this. Owner advised that goats must be penned and secured and

that he needs to make the necessary repairs.
1:13 p.m. Chief Dodge reported receiving complaints that bump on Canal Street bridge was becoming more pronounced, and just experienced this himself; some motorists reported "bottoming out." MassDOT advised; they will send someone out to assess the issue.
2:27 p.m. Driver observed dumping items at town recycling center; when approached and told he would have to pay for any items he dumped, driver ignored employee and drove off. Daughter of driver contacted; language barrier may have contributed to confusion at dump. Advised of proper procedures.
2:29 p.m. Request for officers to check on group of males who had been at corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street for several hours; local business reporting that elderly clients are afraid to come in. Responding officer observed group walking away from area.
3:18 p.m. [redacted] arrested on a straight warrant and also charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and impeded operation.
5:34 p.m. Complaint of train idling for an extended period near Ferry Road; caller concerned that no one is on the train right now. Pan Am confirmed that train was running and empty, but said that train was unable to move due to a part that they take with them when they leave it. Officer advised of call.
9:52 p.m. Second complaint regarding train idling near Ferry Street; caller concerned about ground pollution and air pollution as well as noise. Complaint documented. Caller referred to Town Hall for further information. Pan Am contacted; unsure when train would be moved, but would try to get someone out there to shut it down.
Friday, 5/2
9:30 a.m. Caller reported dispute between herself and her housemate, who was stomping around, playing loud music, and harassing the caller. Responding officer asked housemate to turn down music but was refused; advised caller of options.
10:47 a.m. Following reports of a fist fight in progress at Avenue A and Second Street, [redacted]

was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct, and [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.
11:06 a.m. Report of a male in his 60s wearing a brown sweater running around Spinner Park and apparently having a "bad trip." Subject transported home and spoken to at length.
12:47 p.m. Officer flagged down by parties who had found hypodermic syringes on Avenue A. Services rendered.
3:24 p.m. Caller reported a female friend had stolen \$85 from his girlfriend's wallet while left alone in their car. Sergeant called number on file for subject; spoke to male who stated he would tell her to call MPD. Caller later came to station to report that subject had paid him back; requested that someone from MPD call her to tell her that he had come in and reported that she had paid him back. Subject called back the following day to make sure she did not have a warrant; she was advised an officer would contact her.
5:28 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Bridge Street. Investigated; found to be verbal.
5:47 p.m. Witness report of possible drug deal on Fifth Street. Referred to an officer.
5:48 p.m. Complaint regarding a group of people hanging out on caller's Fourth Street porch, drinking and smoking marijuana. Caller stated one of the males got into a gold Cadillac and was "smoking a fat tie." Officers spoke to four parties who were drinking alcohol and advised them of the complaint.
9:03 p.m. Downtown bar reported receiving two counterfeit \$20 bills. Investigated.
Saturday, 5/3
10:23 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.
11:45 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Dell Street. Peace restored.
12:14 p.m. Caller from Old Leverett Road reported that his tenant's dog had killed one of his chickens and that the same dog had killed a neighbor's chickens in the past. Report taken.
2:01 p.m. Report of 10-12 goats loose on Wendell Road near town line.

see MPD page B4

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CUBA from pg B1

directors. They have elections every 2 years to replace officers, but some, like current president Nana Trista, are voted in again and again. She is serving her 15th year now. Every year in January the club accepts new members. Members pay one Cuban peso (11 Cuban pesos = \$1 US) dues per month and must commit to doing three activities per month with the club.

"In retirement it's important to get up every morning and do something! Our club is a place for socializing and making a difference and our rules encourage people to get up, get dressed and get here," said Rafael adding that most of the members walk to the club from their homes.

"We walk a lot to stay healthy and active," he says. Like most families in Cuba the elderly live with their children and grandchildren. Salaries (about \$17 US dollars per month per working adult) and social security (about \$9 US dollars per month per retiree) are combined to run the household.

I'm impressed with how fit the members are. I'm surprised at how similar the club's monthly activities are to senior centers in Franklin County — they celebrate member birthdays each month and holidays. They catch up over popular games — Quimumbia (a stick ball game), board games and card games. They practice tai chi.

I love that they are "on a mission" — they travel regularly so they can gather with other senior clubs in the province to socialize and share. Once a month they volunteer as a group at a local orphanage. They collect gifts and necessities for the children, then spend one-on-one time with them at the orphanage for the whole day.

Club members also are committed to preserving cultures and cus-

toms from their lives.

"We rescued danzon from becoming extinct," said Rafael. Danzon is the national dance of Cuba. Its roots can be traced back to 1879. It was created as a simple dance in contrast to other dances that were part of Cuban culture at that time.



Moreno, Lutgado, Guillermo and Rafael greet us with music.

"French contradance was done by the elite. Women wore big hoop skirts and dancers moved in large circles across the dance floor," said Rafael. "In danzon, we dance closer, the man's hand is on the small of his partner's back. When people do it right we say they are 'dancing on a brick' because the moves are small and precise. Today, it is a simple dance that can be enjoyed by people of any age." Another tradition that club members preserve comes from protocol at dances "back in the day".

"Mother's didn't like their girls to go to dances alone so an older chaperone was always sent along. Of course the young people needed a way to communicate around the chaperone so 'the Language of the Fan' was created," said Rafael. Be-

cause of the heat, Cuban girls and women always carried fans. Young girls learned to work the fans in a sign language meant for potential suitors. Fans can be opened or closed and fans have a right side (outside — usually decorated) and wrong side (inside — usually plain).

They have ribs that can be subtly touched to signal a meeting time.

For example, if a girl opened her fan — right side facing out, looked over it at a suitor, turned the fan around (inside facing out) and covered her lips it meant "I like you and I want to dance. The Language of the Fan is wonderfully creative and the seniors had fun teaching us the lost language.

Members of the Joy of Living Club also participate in dance contests across the country. At these events they dress in typical Cuban formal dress.

Women wear long skirts — no shorts or trousers. They manipulate their fans as they stroll to take their place on the dance floor and as part of a greeting to the other dancers. Men wear the traditional shirt of Cuba called a "guaybera" for daytime contests. At night they wear a suit, tie and hat.

Like American seniors, Cuban seniors value their life experience as much as they value one and other. In The Joy of Living club, they make a difference in their communities and in their own day to day lives. When they gather together, they find joy and wonder in looking back while still moving ahead.

Anna Viadero is a writer living in Montague, MA. From 1998 to 2008 she headed "Local Color," a memoir-writing project that collected and published over 600 stories by area senior citizens. Read more at localcolormemoirs.com and annaviadero.com.

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 6, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Interest Pays

An obscure account originally opened by the now defunct Chamber of Commerce has resurfaced after more than 30 years to aid in the World War II veterans memorial fundraising efforts.

The original deposit came from the sale of a small piece of land on the south side of Millers Falls Road that the Chamber sold to Northeast Utilities. Not knowing what to do with the money, they put it in a Greenfield Savings Bank account for later use.

Samuel I. Couture, along with several other descendants of then-Chamber members, decided to finally close the account, which had doubled in size due to interest over the 30 year period.

The donation finished a matching challenge of \$20,000 from Greenfield Savings Bank, leaving only \$15,000 left to raise for the proposed veterans memorial.

100 Sandwiches

A fire sparked by a locked wheel on a passing freight train lit a mile-long brush fire stretching along the tracks from the Farley Crossing of the Millers River

on the Wendell side.

It took 12 departments, 50 firefighters, and 7 hours to finally douse the flames, although it might have been a lot harder had the firefighters not received several deliveries of handmade egg and turkey salad sandwiches.

The food was prepared by Annie, Judy, Mary, and Tony Diemand, local resident Lisa Aubin, and the Wendell Country Store owners Patti and Vic Scutari, who reported having made and delivered roughly 100 sandwiches by the end of the day.

Vinyl

Local drummer and record collector Dana Helems is about to open a used vinyl store at 112 Avenue A called Home Grown Notes, slated to open on May 23rd to coincide with Montague's 250th Anniversary parade.

The store's centerpiece will be Helems 9,000-strong record collection, but he also plans to sell guitar strings, drumsticks, CDs, and an audio repair service among many other things.

The only snag? Helem's ex-girlfriend, at whose house the rest of his collection currently resides.

"I should be able to do that tonight," said Helems.

MPD from B3

Animal control officer advised.

3:45 p.m. Caller reported that his bulldozer caught on fire in a field in Millers Falls; thought he had put out fire with extinguisher, but wanted fire department to respond. Fire out upon arrival. 4:30 p.m. Report of a fight brewing in the alley behind the pizza house. Several individuals spoken to.

4:37 p.m. Caller reported kids on go-

karts and dirt bikes going up and down Fairway Avenue and Walnut Street. Officer advised kids to keep vehicles off public ways. Kids advised officer they were trying to get a dirt bike home with a flat tire.

6:24 p.m. Caller found a marijuana pipe and a package of cigarettes on a play structure at Sheffield Elementary School. Items retrieved by officer.

Sunday, 5/4

12:41 a.m. Unauthorized subjects located

on private property near high tension lines off Northfield Road; gathering dispersed.

2:25 p.m. Caller from East Chestnut Hill Road reported that his neighbor's goats were on his property again today on two occasions. Both times, the caller took photos of the goats on his own property before chasing them back onto their owner's property. Complaint documented and forwarded to animal control officer.



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

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: *Transformagination: the Surreal Collage Art of Tiffany Heerema*. May 1 to June 7. Reception with the artist during Third Thursday event May 15th.

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

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

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Pioneer Valley Citizens Concerned About Drones, film screening: *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars* by Robert Greenwald of Brave New Films, at Green Fields Market, Greenfield, 6 p.m. Discussion following.

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.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Music in Common Presents *The Last Waltz Live*. All-Star re-creation of *The Band's* classic concert film featuring *Revtor Band & Friends*, \$, 7:30 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.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bay Road--Human, All Too Human*, tuba driven rock, funk, world, 9:30 p.m.

Great Falls Coffeeshouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The New American Mandolin Ensemble*, \$, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Coffee and homemade

nice, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Comedy Show with The Ha-Ha's and special guest Girls Night Out*, \$, 8 p.m. Held at the Pushkin Gallery this month.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Snaz*, alt/indie, rock/pop, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, Steve Crow, Peter Kim, and Joe Fitzpatrick, warped americana, 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MAY 12

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nick's Sweet '80s Movie: Risky Business*, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora & Martha's Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, Southern string band, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc.*, reggae, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Turners Falls, *Third Thursday* events various locations, Avenue A.

Montague Reporter, 177 Ave A: meet local author *David Brule* and get a signed copy of his new book *West and Along The River, Part 2*.

Third Street Studios, 36 Third Street: Performance by *Neil Young Cloaca* joyfully uses/misuses busted circuits, collaged beats, cheap effect pedals, and tape manipulation to make idiosyncratic music/non music, 7 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Transformagination: the Surreal Collage Art of Tiffany Heerema*, reception.

baked goods are available. The museum and museum store are open during intermission.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Spring Card-Making* 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Celebrate Spring by making a colorful card. For children of all ages with Angela Rovatti-Leonard.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Metropolitan Opera live broadcast of *Rossini's La Cenerentola*, \$, 12:55 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Citizens Concerned About Drones, film screening: *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars* at Green Fields Market, Greenfield, 3 p.m.

Smith College, Northampton: *Amandla and special guests Spring Concert*. Helen Hills Chapel, 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall: *Gender Role Free Contra Dance*, \$, 4 to 10 p.m. Extended Dance! Experience session 4-5:30 p.m., supper 6-7 p.m., fundraiser for the dance, all level dance 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Carrie Ferguson & Ber-*



The New American Mandolin Ensemble, professional musicians dedicated to presenting original compositions for plucked strings. Great Falls Coffeeshouse performance on Friday, May 9, 7 p.m. will include works written expressly for plucked strings by New England composers.

Great Falls Discovery Center: photography by Ed Gregory: *You've Seen Them Before...But Not Like This*.

Turners Falls Fishway Open! 5-8 p.m., First Street, off Avenue A.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, acoustic rock with Sturgis Cunningham & Klondike Koehler, 8 p.m.



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Wed. 5/14 Rhythm, Inc. 8 p.m.

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(indie, etc.)

SUN. 5/11 Free
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MOTHERS from page B1

crash, his fancy trips to Europe and the gifts he'd brought home. Their mother was "an angel, and so loving" but not remembered as the one who kept them clothed and fed.

My father's mother became a single parent when her husband died at the age of 60. She raised her son while working as a public health nurse in the tenements of New York's lower east side.

She was a suffragette who marched for women's rights, a colleague of Margaret Sanger, and smart enough to buy a brownstone in Park Slope.

While stories of his sea faring father inspired my father to go to sea at the age of seventeen, it was the example of his mother's hard work that developed his work ethic, her nursing skills that saw him through the flu that killed so many, and her confidence in him that fed the self confidence which allowed him to start his own business. She also left him the house after she died, thereby creating lifelong security.

My mom and dad met near the end of World War Two. He could not serve because the Flu had left him deaf in one ear, but he found work, spraying asbestos in the hulls of ships at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. "He came home looking like he'd been out in the snow," my mother said, not knowing that the coughing that racked his body years later could be traced right back to those white flakes.

That became yet another story of his heroism. After the war he worked at the A&P, and saved enough to buy his own store, and sent three kids to college, and got to be the Honorary Mayor of First

Avenue, because other vendors on the avenue respected his hard work and success.

But it is easier to be a success at one thing when there's someone to do everything else. And my mom did just that. In addition to laundry, cleaning, shopping, discipline, and more, she made dinner for my brothers and me every night, cleaned the kitchen, and then started over so my dad would have a hot meal when he came home.

Recently my brother was encouraging his son to excel in school, to honor the Uttmark traditions (our family name), and to strive and succeed like the Horatio Alger our dad claimed as inspiration.

I thought: yes, those are fine lessons, but you will be doing him a disservice if you don't also tell him about the enduring women in this family, and that would include my sister-in-law, who came to New York from Thailand, went to college, started a business, and invested in real estate.

And while he's at it, he could tell my nephew that I returned to college at the age of forty while raising my daughter and working three jobs.

The sentiment of Mother's Day is fine, but it should also include a celebration of strength. Candy and flowers are nice until the candy is gone and the flowers wilt. History is much more exciting, and it just keeps growing.

My daughter is an activist, deeply involved in issues of racism; her wife is an economist fighting for a living wage for all workers. They have a son and a daughter, and this mother's day I am going to start telling them about the mothers who came before.



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