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One More?  
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 25 also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell 75¢  
EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES APRIL 4, 2013



## April: Life Emerges Anew From Its Shell

CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

*These week-old turkey polts stared calmly, quietly, at our visiting photographer. Diemand Farm, of Wendell, has been exploring new business strategies since scaling back their egg production. When they shear their sheep, the wool goes to a statewide wool cooperative called Baaay State Blanket, where it is carded and spun in Millbury and woven in Grafton. Scarves and blankets made from the wool are available at their farm store. Peter Diemand has also been making beautiful, functional wooden bowls for sale at the store. Visit Diemand Farm at 126 Mormon Hollow Road, Mondays through Saturdays.*

## Portrait of the Closing of DiPaolo's Ristorante



PATRICIA PRUITT PHOTO

*DiPaolo's rooster surveys the view from home.*

By PATRICIA PRUITT

**TURNERS FALLS** – It's Monday, April 1: April Fools Day. Walking down to Avenue A I realize I still can't imagine how DiPaolo's could close. I read the *Recorder* article in Saturday's March 30 issue. I know closing is a fact. I want to talk to owner Denise DiPaolo

who, along with the great cooking of Chef Hilton Dottin, created an artfully appointed space out of a near-derelict, cave-like building back in 2005, opening in 2006 to great appreciation from all who ventured in to give it a try. Now at the door of the Ristorante,

see DIPAULO'S page 6

## Brick House Break-In



CICLOVIDA PHOTO

*The Brick House runs a teen center and hosts community events in the old firehouse on 3rd Street.*

By SHIRA HILLEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – The wave of theft that has plagued downtown businesses in Turners Falls this winter has now spread to affect service providers as well.

Sometime between Saturday night, April 23 and Sunday morning, April 24, The Brick House was broken into and burglarized. Among the items stolen were several staff laptops, musical instruments from the teen center (bass guitars and a midi keyboard), an audio mixer, and a bass amplifier.

The Brick House, a community center on Third Street that runs a teen drop-in center, hosts community events and workshops, and connects many other resources and services to people around town, offers its programs free of cost. Every year, they serve over

250 youth and over 100 adults, primarily residents of Montague's five villages, Gill, Irving, and Greenfield.

According to Jared Libby, the Brick House's director of operations, "The equipment from the recording studio – stuff teen participants use regularly – hurts more than the laptops, because that impacts our ability to provide programs and services. The missing mixing board means we can't have music shows."

"We aim to provide an open space. We want to give people use of our stuff. So, it feels violating to just have the stuff taken," said Libby.

In its written statement about the crime, the organization describes the loss as "particularly difficult, since the theft of musical instruments and sound gear means a direct impact on our youth participants, who used this equipment daily."

"We can't replace all the equipment until at least July 1st, when the new fiscal year starts. We didn't budget for these losses," continued Libby. They are hoping to get some money back from their insurance after their deductible has been met.

Libby said that the Montague police have been very helpful. He also said, "We are lucky to have neighbors that look out for us. They've called us in the past when they've seen suspicious people. About five years ago, the last time we were broken into, our neighbors called the police and the burglars were caught."

The organization is asking for help replacing the items, either through donations of money or of equipment.

They will also take a "no questions asked" policy toward the return of any stolen items.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEBULLYPROJECT.COM

By SHIRA HILLEL

**SHELBURNE FALLS** – On Saturday, March 23, people filled Memorial Hall to see the Pothole Pictures screening of *Bully*, the 2012 documentary about one of the most important educational and social issues of our time.

Following the film, one of the filmmakers together with staff and students from Mohawk Trail Regional High and Middle School led a panel discussion about efforts to curtail bullying in their community. Cynthia Lowen, writer and producer of *Bully*, Lynn Dole, Mohawk Trail principal, assistant principal Joey Kotright-Clark, and students such as Tyler Jenkins, a junior at Mohawk Trail, were among the panelists.

Many people feel that kid-on-kid malevolence has become a kind of epidemic, given the prevalence of cyber-bullying and, in particular, the unnerving stories of teen suicide that have dominated the headlines in recent years.

Audience member Dagen Julty commented, "Kids reflect the larger society, and they learn early on that *might is right*."

Kotright-Clark said, "We live in America – we have a bully culture. This is a constant battle."

We are never too young to experience angst and alienation, certainly when suffering mental, emotional and physical abuse and powerlessness against degradation. Bullied victims

often endure daily teasing, repeated put downs, frequent harassment, humiliation, intimidation, various forms of threats, physical assaults and are victims of vicious rumors and social exclusion.

According to a 2011 report by the National Education Association, approximately 160,000 teens skip school every day because of bullying. And 1 in 7 students in grades K-12 is either a bully or a victim of bullying.

The tragedy of young people driven to suicide by bullying, sometimes called "Bullicide," has become an altogether too familiar association with the subject. The 2010 death of Phoebe Prince in South Hadley made lawmakers take notice, and spurred national dialogue. The "It Gets Better" campaign that focuses on LGBT youth after the 2010 suicide of Rutgers University freshman, Tyler Clementi, gained national prominence and was even backed by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Cyber bullying, bullying in an online environment, is another aspect of this problem. According to Kotright-Clark, "Of the cases I've seen, the overwhelming majority happen online or have an online component to it." He and his staff grapple with the question of how to teach appropriate online communication.

The extreme loneliness and anxiety experienced by victims is one of the

most painful consequences of bullying, and has been documented to lead to PTSD, which many never fully recover from. It is also, in some ways, a cause of it, since it is almost always socially isolated children (the new kid, the fat kid, the gay kid, the sexually active kid, the strange kid, the weak kid) who are singled out and become targets for mistreatment. Adults often fail to protect their vulnerable charges.

When asked why bullies bully, kids on the panel said that bullies are not happy. They can't regulate their emotions, and take out their frustrations on others. They reasoned kids get into middle school and feel uneasy in this new transition. They tease each other and while they are "kind of joking," it may go too far. Their motivation is to say, "I'm cooler than you – I'm top dog." But while the research does show a correlation between bullying and aggressive personalities and the desire for social power, bullies have many different motivations, and there is no one reason for the behavior.

In spite of its title, the documentary film is really about the victims, their parents and the grown-ups in charge who let them down. Filmmakers Lee Hirsch and Cynthia Lowen chose as their subjects five youths from different parts of the country,

see BULLY page 7



## Pet of the Week You Are Feeling Very Adopt-y.



### Garreth

I've been told I'm a very handsome guy. I'm a beautiful gray cat with the most sparkling green eyes. If you think you've seen these eyes before, you may have been looking at my brother Griffin. If you are looking for a pair of cats, we're the perfect pair for you. We are also happy to go home as single cats to two loving families. Dogs, cats, and kids are all okay with me.

For more information on adopting me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dvphs.org.

## Wendell Free Library Film *Searching for Sugar Man*



*Searching for Sugar Man* (PG-13) tells the incredible true story of Rodriguez, the greatest '70s rock icon who never was. After

being discovered in a Detroit bar, Rodriguez's sound struck two renowned producers, and they signed a recording deal. But when the album bombed, the singer disappeared into obscurity. A bootleg recording found its way into apartheid South Africa and, over the next two decades, he became a phenomenon there. The film follows the story of two South African fans who set out to find out what really happened to their hero.

This free screening will be held on Sunday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

For more information, contact Douglas Dawson at (978) 544-7762 or ddawson@post.harvard.edu.

## Erving Public Library Family Adventures in Reading, and Bottle Cap Crafts

On Saturday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Erving Public Library will host Family Adventures in Reading with storyteller John Porcino.

This free program is intended for ages six and up and will be held at

the Senior / Community Center in Erving. Register before attending.

Sunday, April 7 is Craft Day at the Erving Public Library from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Bottle cap art is the theme. Come to this free event and use your imagination!



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. My wife insists on buying nothing but crunchy brown bread because she says it is good for us. I'm a bit skeptical about this, and suspect we are victims of hype to sell this kind of bread. What do you think?*

I presume your wife wants to get whole grain bread to put more fiber into your diet. Whole grains are cereal grains that include bran, the germ, and the kernel core known as the endosperm. Bran is a tough, fibrous outer layer, which is a source of fiber.

Before the Industrial Revolution, grains were not processed. These grains gave us fiber (a.k.a. roughage), healthy fats, vitamins, minerals, plant enzymes, hormones, and hundreds of other beneficial plant compounds.

The late 19th century invention of industrialized roller mills changed what we got from grains. Milling strips away the grain's bran and germ, making it easier to chew and

digest.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends reading the Nutrition Facts label on packages and choosing whole grain products with a higher percentage of fiber.

Consumers have to be cautious about what they buy to get fiber. The USDA warns that foods labeled with the words *multi-grain*, *stone-ground*, *100% wheat*, *cracked wheat*, *seven-grain*, or *bran* are usually not whole-grain products. Look for *whole grain* on the package.

Also, color is not an indication of whole grain. Bread can be brown because of molasses or other added ingredients. Again, check the ingredient list to see if a product is from whole grains.

How much fiber is enough for a healthy diet? The American Dietetic Association recommends 25 to 35 grams of fiber a day. If you want a precise, personal estimate for fiber intake, you can use a fiber calculator provided by the University of Maryland Medical System. Go to: [www.healthcalculators.org/calculators/fiber.asp](http://www.healthcalculators.org/calculators/fiber.asp).

There are many health benefits to eating whole grains:

- **Bowel health:** By keeping the stool soft and bulky, the fiber in whole grains helps prevent constipation and diverticular disease, which is characterized by tiny pouches inside the colon that are easily irritated and inflamed. Softer stool also reduces



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Many readers ask what founding editor David Detmold has been up to. Joe Parzych caught up with him on April 1, sitting on a trunkful of ammunition, which he described as "the best defense of our constitutional liberties," and proudly sporting a National Rifle Association sticker on his car. Unless Joe put the sticker there and the trunk is still full of old newspapers. Our sources become unreliable this time of year.

## Gill Energy Fair

Gill has been elevated to a Green Community and has been awarded a \$139,900 grant to spend reducing Gill's energy use and promoting sustainable practices.

The Gill Energy Commission is planning an educational Energy Fair at the Gill Town Hall this Saturday, April 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon to kick off a campaign to reduce energy use in town.

There will be exhibitors and

demonstrations of ways to track and reduce energy use, develop a more sustainable lifestyle, live more comfortably, save money, and reduce your carbon footprint. There will also be a Farmers Market outside on the Common.

For more information, contact Gill Energy Commission members Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or Pamela Lester at (413) 222-9674 or visit [www.gillmass.org/energy.php](http://www.gillmass.org/energy.php).

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

### Whole Grains and the Benefits of Fiber

pain from hemorrhoids.

- **Longevity:** A report from the Iowa Women's Health Study linked whole-grain consumption with fewer deaths from non-cardiac, non-cancer causes.

- **Cardiovascular disease:** Eating whole grains substantially lowers cholesterol, triglycerides, and insulin levels. Any of these changes reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease.

- **Diabetes:** In people with diabetes, fiber can slow the absorption of sugar and help improve blood sugar levels. A healthy diet that includes fiber may also reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

- **Cancer:** The data on cancer are mixed, with some studies showing a protective effect and others showing none.

- **Weight control.** High-fiber foods generally require more chewing, which gives the body time to register when you're no longer hungry, so you're less likely to overeat. Also, a high-fiber diet tends to make a meal feel larger and linger longer, so you stay full for a greater amount of time.

To get more fiber in your diet, include whole grain products, fruits, vegetables, beans, peas, nuts and seeds.

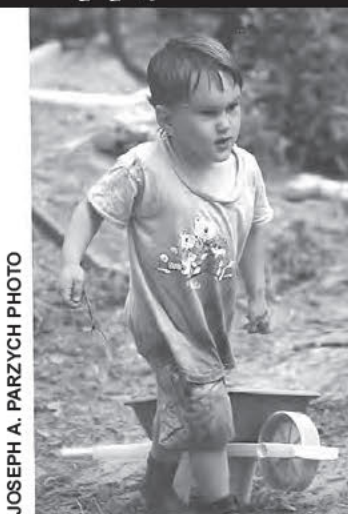
Fiber supplements such as Metamucil, Citrucel and FiberCon help, but getting your fiber from foods is better because supplements don't provide the variety of fibers,

vitamins, minerals and other beneficial nutrients that foods do.

Warning: Fiber supplements can influence the processing of some drugs, such as aspirin, warfarin (Coumadin) and certain anti-seizure and antidepressant medications. Fiber supplements may also reduce blood sugar levels, which may require an adjustment in medications or insulin if you have diabetes. Don't take fiber supplements before consulting your health care provider.

Send your questions to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com).

## Happy Birthday



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Joey R. Parzych, who has often contributed photography to the MR, has April 1st as his birthday.

## Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6  
Holly Tetreault  
Grade 7  
Makaila Billiel  
Grade 8  
Alison McKenna  
Tommy Bocharnikov

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No paper last week of December.

**PHONE (413) 863-8666**

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## GILL-MONTAGUE

### SENIOR CENTER

Gill/Montague Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street in 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. Kerry Togneri is meal site manager. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call (413) 863-9357. Leave a voice message on the machine if the center is not open.

**Sunday, 4/7**

1 p.m. Writing Group Book Launch & Reading

**Monday, 4/8**

8:30 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

NO Knitting Circle

AARP Tax Aid by Appointment

**Tuesday, 4/9**

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Painting Class

**Wednesday, 4/10**

8:30 a.m. Foot Clinic by

Appointment

10 a.m. Aerobics

11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, 4/11**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

1 p.m. Pitch

**Friday, 4/12**

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

## 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: 4/8**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12 p.m. Quilting





JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## Compiled By DON CLEGG

In conjunction with the “**Where I Live**” community arts project in Turners Falls, artist Nina Rossi will paint panoramas of Avenue A “live” at Nina’s Nook in Turners Falls throughout the month of April. Stop in to be curious and possibly get painted into a street scene. The Nook is open Wednesdays and Thursdays 4 to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 1 to 6 p.m., and by appointment: (413) 834-8800. The store is located at 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls next to the Black Cow Burger Bar. Visit [www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com).

The **Little Free Library** in front of Nina’s Nook on Avenue A in Turners Falls has more books going out than coming in. It’s becoming a strain to refill it. Nina Rossi wants to remind people to return the books they borrow back, or donate books.

As **Greenfield High School** prepares for the ground breaking of the new building, the yearbook storage room is being cleaned out. Book years range from 1931 to 2012, but not all years are available. Right now, yearbooks are for sale for \$20 each. Contact Tara at [tarclo1@gpsk12.org](mailto:tarclo1@gpsk12.org) or Suzanne at (413) 772-1356 for details, or stop by the Greenfield High School from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. daily to browse. Funds raised will be used to help future students who can’t afford a yearbook to have one.

The Giant Western Massachusetts **Remote Control Flea Market** will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Franklin County Technical School, in Turners Falls. Remote control cars, planes, helicopters and boats for demonstration and sale.

Come sample a bit of Scottish heritage right here in downtown Turners Falls at Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. **Tartan Day** is the celebration of Scotland’s Declaration of Independence in 1320 and is similar to the Fourth of July. There will be Scottish desserts to sample as well as information on Scottish culture, clan information and a schedule of upcoming Scottish events in New England. This free community event will be hosted by the Clan Donald, one of many Scottish-American family associations. No reservations are required. Drop in and discover your Celtic roots.

The Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls

will be filled with colorful paper “quilts” and **story quilts** created by students from four area schools during April and May. Art, history, and literature converge in this exhibit, inspired by traditional New England-style quilts and African American story and improvisational quilts – and the quilters who made them – to celebrate the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association’s **2013 Big Read** of “Their Eyes Were Watching God”. The public is invited to a free family-friendly opening reception on Saturday, April 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Discovery Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays until May 18 when the center will be open daily. Admission is free.

Art teachers at public schools in Greenfield, Bernardston, and Northfield led students in grades K-7 in explorations of the various quilting styles. Sixth grade students in Bernardston and Northfield used cloth, paper, and glue to create individual sections of group story quilts. K-3 classes at The Discovery School at Four Corners, and 6th and 7th grades at the Math & Science Academy, both in Greenfield, incorporated papers they decorated with oil pastel and watercolor, handmade paper, buttons, and wallpaper to create a medley of paper designs inspired by story quilts and both traditional New England and improvisational quilt style.

Leverett Crafts and Art Center, 13 Montague Road, presents “**An Artist’s Journey**” a forty year retrospective of the works of Jean Kozlowski of Northfield, with an open reception on April 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. Koslowski has worked in pencil, scratch board, oils and presently in watercolor.

Green River Zen Center at Montague Retreat Center, 177 Ripley Road, Montague Center is presenting “**Introduction to Meditation**” Sunday, April 7, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Led by GRZC teachers. Call (413) 256-1594 in advance.

Union 28 Community Network for Children presents: “**Feeding Children in the Early Years: A Healthy, Nutritious Approach to Eating with Young Children**” a workshop held at the Leverett Elementary School Library, 85 Montague Road, Leverett on Monday, April 8, 6 to 8 p.m. The workshop will provide parents with tools to provide the best food

choices for their children, advice on how to deal with power struggles, difficult eating behaviors plus focus on facts and myths surrounding sound nutrition practices. Contact the CNC Office at (978) 544-5157 or [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com).

As the sun begins to set, the stage is ready for the woodcock to perform his **courtship flight**. This unusual bird, also known as the Timberdoodle, performs an air-born ritual accompanied by a variety of unique sounds. Join Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center naturalist Kim Noyes on Tuesday, April 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for a spring tradition. This program will begin with an indoor introduction, followed by a twilight walk to experience the courtship flight of the woodcock. Dress warmly, wear boots and dark clothes, bring a blanket to sit on, and binoculars if possible. Be prepared to sit quietly outdoors for 30 minutes. This free program is appropriate for ages 10 and older. Call to pre-register at 1-800-859-2960.

Montague Community Cable Annual Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. MCTV is seeking energetic people knowledgeable about business development, fundraising, legal matters, or local networking to join the Board of Directors. For information visit [montaguenv.org](http://montaguenv.org) or call the station, (413) 863-9200.

**Zydeco Connection** will play a night of Louisiana zydeco, blues, two-steps and waltzes at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Friday, April 12. Enjoy the beautiful wooden floor for those who just can’t sit still and have to get up and dance. The place was rocking last year. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Mostly Mohawk, a Shelburne Falls **chamber music** group, gives its inaugural concert at the Wendell Free Library on Sunday April 14 at 4 p.m. The musical program, spanning three centuries and three different styles, includes Mozart’s *Divertimento in E flat*, a sextet for winds; Alexandre Tansman’s *Suite pour Trio d’Anches*, for oboe, clarinet and bassoon; and Dvorak’s *Serenade in D minor*, Op. 44 (9 winds, plus cello and bass). Doors open at 3:30 p.m. For information call (978) 544-3814 or visit [www.facebook.com/Mostly.Mohawk](http://www.facebook.com/Mostly.Mohawk).

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

## Urgent meeting of the Gill, Riverside Cemetery Association

Monday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls Safety Complex Community Room

All parties interested in the welfare and continuation of the Riverside cemetery should attend this meeting.

## Legal Notice

The Erving Board of Selectmen, as the Local Licensing Authority, will hold a Public hearing on an application to transfer the liquor license held by Ralph Semb d/b/a French King Bowling center, 55 French King Highway to Erik Semb. The public hearing will be held at 6:45 p.m. in Erving’s Town Hall, 12 E. Main St. on Monday April 22, 2013.

Erving Board of Selectmen  
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• Sunday, April 7, 2-3:30 p.m.:

Instruction on posture, breath, concentration methods, mental training, and the journey of awakening. Refreshments to follow.

• Sunday, April 14, 4-7 p.m.:

Curious about Zen, or a committed practitioner looking for community? Come see our beautiful zendo space, enjoy hors d’oeuvres, and chat with teachers and sangha members. Optional meditation instruction from 5 to 5:30, followed by a question-and-answer period.

177 Ripley Rd., Montague

Contact: [dantikapm@gmail.com](mailto:dantikapm@gmail.com) 413.256.1594

## The Montague Congregational Church

## Sugar Supper

Saturday, April 6th 5:30 p.m.

Cornbeef hash, baked beans, Harvest beets, coleslaw, homemade bread and donuts,

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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

## GUEST OP-ED

### This Spring's Teachable Moment

By KARL MEYER

There's a watershed opportunity for teachers investigating migratory fish this spring. It's the final season classrooms will raise Atlantic salmon eggs from a massive federal hatchery program, dismantled after 46 years. It's a chance to teach kids that "extinct," in evolutionary biology terms, means exactly that: gone, forever. It's a profoundly simple lesson, with ramifications that can be fully grasped in a week. I'm hoping teachers will put a living dinosaur of a fish in that salmon's place – one still here, though teetering on the edge of extinction these 46 years: the federally endangered Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon. As teachable as T. Rex, this marvelously adapted, 3-4 foot fish has survived for 100 million years.

On April 20, 1967, two federal agencies and four states signed the Cooperative Fisheries Restoration Compact for the Connecticut River. It specifically targeted American shad and blueback herring, plus salmon – extinct here since Darwin's birth in 1809. Within two years its emphasis had overwhelmingly veered to conjuring up a new salmon. Still, with a little help shad and herring populations blossomed. Combined runs reached 1,000,000 fish in the 1980s, then dropped precipitously. Bluebacks are now rare as hen's teeth.

By 1975, what was then the Federal Power Commission had heard testimony that Long Island Sound had warned to a point that might prevent cold-water salmon from entering rivers in its basin. The climate had changed. Still, in 1980, MA and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) officials insisted a series of salmon ladders be built, leading all migrants into a power canal at Turners Falls. It failed instantly, yet skewed logic continued.

In 1983 Congress renamed the restoration The Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. It continues today.

Those extinct salmon had only visited here – the southern tip of their range, for a few centuries. Importing eggs from Canada and Maine, the program proved futile, costing millions annually. It left the real problem for native shad, herring and endangered sturgeon – a broken Connecticut River, quietly untended. Those species had returned here for thousands of years. Bony-plated sturgeon had been vacuuming-up freshwater mussels eons before the present valley took shape.

On March 11, 1967, the shortnose was listed as "endangered" in the original Endangered Species

Preservation Act. No one knew how they'd survived, or how many remained. Shortnose were sometimes landed downstream of the 1849 Holyoke Dam; and a few were recorded upstream below Turners Falls. By 1980, researchers discovered embryos and larvae upstream – proof shortnose spawned somewhere below Turners Falls.

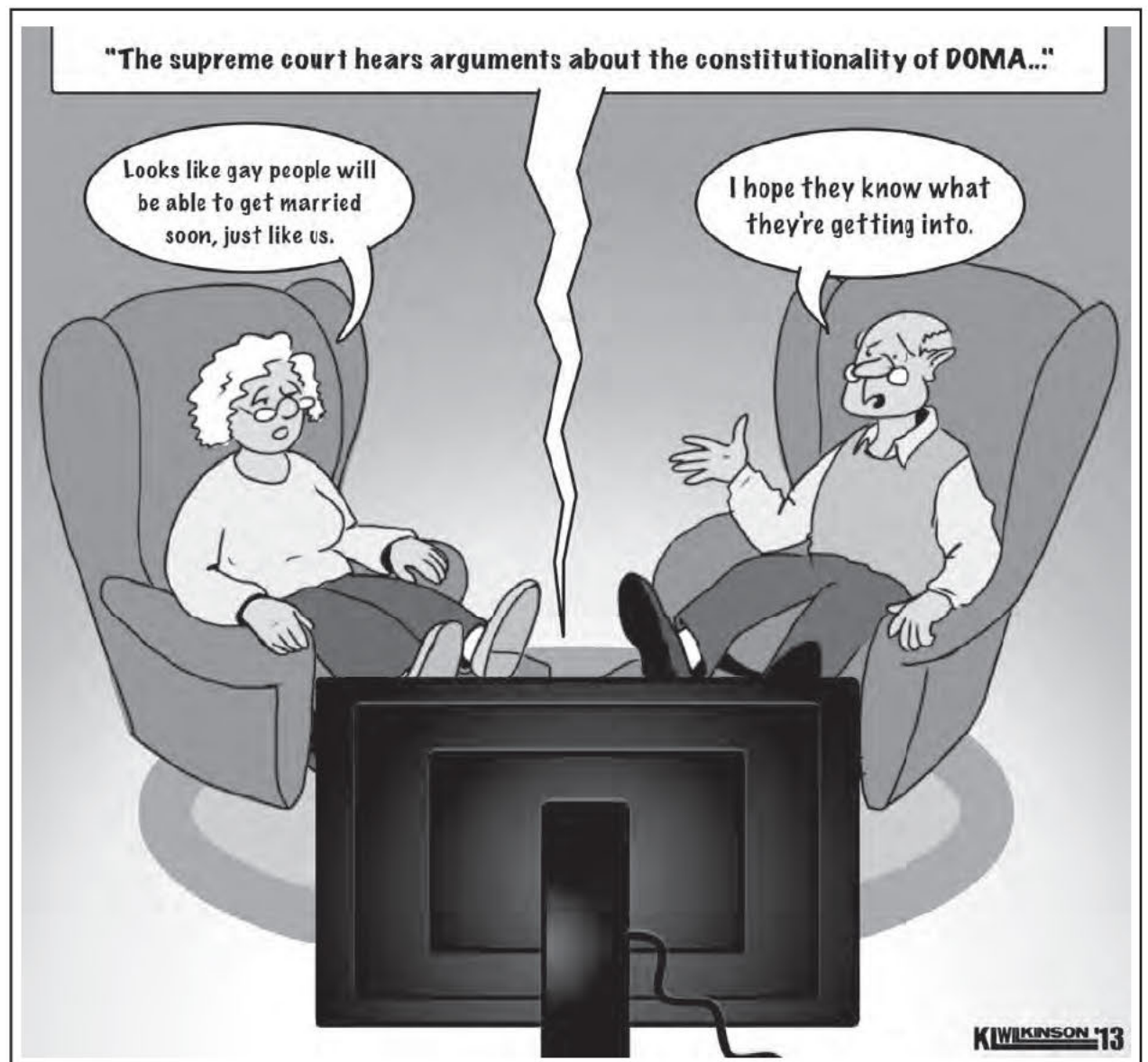
Beginning in 1990, Dr. Boyd Kynard and colleagues began 17 years of continuous federal and state-funded sturgeon research. Kynard ultimately uncovered the structure of the population, its migratory patterns, and ancient spawning grounds. A key finding established that all shortnose head upstream to an ancient spawning pool between Greenfield and Turners Falls known as Rock Dam. Less than 2,000 survive today. They exist in two groups of a single genetic population, separated over 150 years ago by the raising of Holyoke Dam, which luckily had left some adults upstream with access to spawning. Fish trapped downstream were out of luck.

Today, the bulk of the population lives in the river below Holyoke Dam. Known as "reproductive nulls," some 1,500 sturgeon linger in a forced limbo created by agencies charged with protecting them. If one manages to slip into Holyoke Gas & Electric's (HG&E) fish lift for a spawning ride upstream, it is trapped and pointedly dropped downstream – per orders of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Surviving for 40 years or more, adults will repeatedly attempt to pass the dam until, genetically unfulfilled, they expire.

NMFS, MANHESP and USFWS claim this protects sturgeon from being sliced up in HG&E's turbines, if they return downstream after spawning. All the while HG&E is five years in violation of license agreements mandating construction of safe downstream fish passage. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has done nothing to enforce environmental statutes that were key to Holyoke receiving a new hydro license in 1999.

Today, some 300 sturgeon cling to life upstream of Holyoke. An unknown number are adults. Some attempt to spawn near Rock Dam each spring (females spawn once every five years). According to Kynard et al, success is far from guaranteed. Unregulated flows emanating from FirstLight's Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls dam and canal imperil that endangered process.

Annually, spawning fails 79 percent of the time at Rock Dam;



KWILKINSON 13

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

## Letter to the Editor

### Support for Joan Wickman

*The following letter regarding school regionalization was sent on March 13 from the Wendell finance committee and selectboard to Union 28 superintendent Joan Wickman.*

We are writing to express our particular appreciation and support for the outstanding efforts of you, Michael Kociela and your staff with respect to the regionalization initiative of the Amherst-Pelham-Leverett-Shutesbury Regional Planning Board.

Your comprehensive and objective responses to the board's initial questions stand in stark contrast to the largely generic, subjective and non-specific responses of the other entities, at least as quoted in the consultants'

reports. That the Education Plan dismissed your comprehensive presentation of the performance of Union 28 with a "see Appendix 15" note speaks clearly to the Plan's biased presentation.

We are particularly pleased with your point-by-point follow-up response that so effectively addresses the gross biases and deficiencies of the reports.

It may well be that Leverett and Shutesbury decide that it is in their best interests to further regionalize with Amherst-Pelham. Those decisions should be based on a sober analysis of the full range of impacts, both positive and negative, as well as consideration of other viable options for ensuring the viability of our treasured elementary education

programs.

Your extraordinary work is invaluable in advancing a community dialogue in which the voices, which are so condescendingly dismissed in the reports are allowed full expression and respect.

— With warm regards,

The Wendell Selectboard and the Wendell Finance Committee

Christine Heard  
Daniel Keller  
Jeffrey Pooser  
Jim Slavas  
Michael Idoine  
Douglas Tanner  
Garrett Sawyer  
Christine Fontaine

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### Discord on School Custodial Budget

By DAVID DETMOLD

The Leverett selectboard seems to have set their sights on a top-to-bottom housecleaning at the Leverett Elementary School, from the superintendent's office to the janitorial closet.

As plans advance for a three town pre-K through 12 regionalization effort between Amherst, Pelham and Leverett – a move that would put Amherst superintendent Maria Geryk in charge of the Leverett Elementary School, and leave U-28 superintendent Joan Wickman picking up the pieces with the elementary schools of Erving, Wendell, New Salem, and (perhaps) Shutesbury -- the selectboard spent most of an acrimonious budget hearing last Tuesday, March 26, defending their plan to relieve the Leverett school committee of the responsibility of hiring custodians for the elementary school, and

transferring all school maintenance budget lines and responsibility to the selectboard.

The selectboard is seeking efficiencies in the purchasing of janitorial supplies and maintenance tasks across all town buildings, especially in light of the fact that some systems, like the public water supply and septic system, service not only the school but also the library and public safety building, and require special training and certification to operate.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau told the school committee members who were present at the hearing, "We're probably going to find you another half-time [custodial] position, because it's needed. The town funds maintenance of that building. We're going to hire people who know how to run those systems. If it's in our budget, the school committee can't cut it out of the budget. Every time we try to do something at the school, we get a raft of email from the superintendent [Wickman] saying we can't do it. Everything is a confrontation, and it shouldn't be. But when I walk in

the cafeteria and my feet stick to the floor, I wonder: will the cockroaches be coming next?"

But various members of the school committee raised objections to the off-the-cuff nature of the proposed change, which they said had not met with prior approval of principal Anne Ross, in whose hands the operation of the school ultimately resides. Committee chair Dawn Sacks said, "We haven't seen any documentation on how this is going to work," and she wondered whether a future selectboard would feel disposed to cut the custodial budget or alter maintenance schedules without consultation with the school committee.

Ross said, "I've always tried to be a responsible administrator of the school facility for the townspeople and the school children. This is a significant budgetary change. I think both sides need to sit down at the table and talk together."

School committee members pointed out that they had been reluctant to cut the third half-time custodial position, and had only

see LEVERETT page 6

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and 29 percent of the time at a default site just downstream. Fertilized embryos are also killed when waffling flows flush them out, or leave them parching on river banks. For many years, no young are produced.

Laws ignored, habitats decimated, river groups mum: it's a blueprint for extinction. Yet, amazingly, our dinosaurs persist. It's this spring's teachable moment. Anyone up to a challenge?

*Karl Meyer's Wild Animals of North America won a 2008 Teachers' Choice Award for Children's Books. He lives in Greenfield. Read more at: [www.karlmeierwriting.com](http://www.karlmeierwriting.com)*

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Montague Reporter

58 4th St Turners, 01376

[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)

**U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan**  
as of 4/2/13

Wounded	Deaths
17,674	2,193





# Dear Clio,

I am 41 years old. All my life I have known I wanted to have children. I went to college and got a good job. During that time I was waiting for the right man to come along so I could start my family. He never did. I started to worry and then to make excuses why I couldn't go to my friends' weddings. Then, a little more than a year ago, I realized I was pregnant. I was ecstatic, even though I had only been dating the baby's father a few months.

Now we have a beautiful baby girl, and we are not married yet. We are still dating, but to tell the truth, we don't have a lot in common. Also, he is not much help with the baby or other chores around my house. He loves the baby, though, and is sweet with her.

So I have been looking for the perfect guy for 20 years. Now I have someone in my life who is definitely not the perfect guy. Still, he is my

baby's father, and I want to give it every possible chance to work out. My question is this: should I let him move in? Should I marry him, even though I am worried it won't work out?

Sincerely,  
Single Mama

Dear S.M.,

Congratulations on your beautiful baby! How lucky she is to have a mother who wanted her so much! Perhaps her father will be less attentive and nurturing than you would wish. Maybe he will not be the type to read bedtime stories or help with homework, but even so, he will be important to your daughter. She will look to him to know who she is and where she came from. She will relish his attention, even if

he is stingy with it. Even absent parents are very present in the lives of their children. Kids want to know who their parents are, even if other adults in their lives wish that the parent would just disappear. Kids treasure pictures of absent parents. They become like detectives, trying to learn everything they can about them. They create fantasies about how life would be with that parent around.

So I think it's safe to say, whether you marry this man or not, he is in your life until death do you part. You and he will be partners in what will probably be the most challenging and also rewarding job you will ever do. The question is not do you want him in your life, but how to make that work as smoothly as possible.

You are willing to give the relationship a chance. Assuming that he is not abusive to you or your child, I absolutely support you. It sounds to me like you realize this will take patience and energy. Maintaining a good marriage is always hard work, but never so

hard as when there is a young child in the house. Parenting strains our financial and emotional resources, leaving us with less patience and energy for our partners. I admire your willingness to try.

We all look back on failed relationships and ask, "Why did I waste my time?" or "Why didn't I see the warning signs?" Nonetheless I believe that each failed relationship has something to teach us about ourselves and about relationships in general. Plus, if you can make this work, that would be really wonderful for you and your daughter.

On the other hand, you are saying you have reservations. Therefore I would not advise you to get married right away. Divorce is expensive and awful. If the relationship does not work out - after all, half of first marriages end in divorce — you want the separation to be as easy as possible for you and your daughter.

Since you have already had a baby out of wedlock, it probably won't shock anyone if you move in

together. You seem like a practical person, and as you said, you have a good job. So don't trap yourself. Divorce is hard on children; we all know that. I would argue, however, that living with parents who fight all the time is worse. Can you move in together on a trial basis, in a way that would be easy to get out of, should you find you cannot live together harmoniously?

S.M., I admire your dedication to creating the family you always wanted. No matter what happens, you have the child you always dreamed of. Your baby's father is not the perfect guy, but then neither is anyone else out there. It's hard to be perfect. Maybe he instead will be a partner who is willing to work as hard as you are, who will grow with you, and who knows in his heart that your family is worth the effort.

Yours,  
Clio

Email your letters to Clio to  
editor@montaguereporter.org.

# What Became of Them?

By LYN CLARK

There comes a time each spring when, regardless of the weather, I start to think about my wardrobe, if such a motley group of garments can be so called. Oh, I do have some respectable outfits left behind from my working years, mostly classics in gray and black, relegated to the far end of the closet – waiting for... what?

Anyway, it's time to switch the seasonal garb around again, which usually consists of simply changing their positions in the working closet. I've been avoiding the storage closet, dauntingly chock-a-block full of all manner of things, some untouched since I moved here eleven years ago.

All this heavy thinking got me to recalling some articles of clothing that have slipped away over the years, but have never been forgotten, favorites that I still yearn for, and some not-so-favorites – mistakes,

really. What became of them?

1940, Connecticut: An Easter bonnet my mother insisted I wear – It was ghastly. Even at six, I knew it just wasn't *me*, a frightful confection of white straw and flowers. I put up a terrible fuss, but to no avail. I was mortified. Glad that one never reappeared.

1945, Connecticut: The yellow wool vest for school I adored – a Christmas gift. First wash in too hot water and it shrank to nothing, a good lesson I never forgot. Did we throw it out? I think there were tears.

1949-54, Connecticut: What ever happened to the full-length, black velvet capes lined in white satin that the girls in my family wore over our gowns to our formal dances in winter? For that matter, what happened to the dances? Do they still have the same ones for the elite teens, designed for well-brought up young ladies to meet eligible young men from good

families? There were always two or three "balls" around the holidays, the young men in tuxedos or tails, we girls on display in our over the elbow white gloves, corsages on our wrists. So how did I end up with a Sicilian artist? And why don't I still have one of those elegant capes?

1952, Montana: A very cool aviator-style jacket made of khaki whipcord. I wore it on the dude ranch where I worked caring for the owner's toddler, especially on brisk mornings at daybreak, riding with Chuck, the wrangler, up into the north quarter to round up the horses to bring back to the corral. Ah, that was a summer! I still have the beautiful hand-tooled belt with my initials on it that Chuck gave me, which, alas, I can no longer wear, my shape not quite as sylph-like as in those long-ago days. I so wish I still had that jacket. I wonder if one of my sisters...?

1954, Washington, DC: I was visiting my roommate, and her

three gorgeous brothers. It was cherry-blossom time, the air was soft and seductive, and I found in a perfect little boutique the perfect little dress: It was made of a light, cotton lawn in a soft bluey-green paisley print, sleeveless with a boat neck, long-waisted - echoes of the flapper-era – with a flirty, twirly skirt. I could have still worn it today, and would have, but I wore it so much and with such pleasure, that I completely wore it out. I cried when I had to relegate it to the rag bag.

1955, Massachusetts: Back then women still wore dresses and gloves into the city. I wore slim black pants, black boots, and a black poncho that I had made over a black turtleneck. A little girl stopped me and asked with awe: "Are you a model?" Made my day, let me tell you! Where *is* that poncho? Now, *that* shouldn't have worn out...

1965, Cape Cod, Massachusetts: A pale green sheath topped by a pale blue batiste over-dress that floated when I danced creating the colors of spring. I was chaperone at the high school prom, and showed

up with not one, but two dates. Scandalous! The other teachers just knew I was a loose woman, and this just proved it, didn't it? I can't find that one, either.

1968, Amherst, Massachusetts: My children still laugh about the mustard mini-dress with a plethora of decorative zippers that I wore with go-go boots, not my best choice. Mustard was never my color, although the go-go boots were certainly *me*. I wonder how I rid myself of that little disaster. Or what became of the boots?

1970, Bermuda: Ah, that delicious cream-colored eyelet over cream-sheathed mini-dress that I wore on the plane. Where in the world did it get to? It was just plain heart-stopping gorgeous. What did I do, spill wine on it? Probably; it was *that* sort of dress, but why can't I remember? Long-gone to dress heaven, I suppose, or someone else's closet... I just haven't a clue.

I guess it's time to empty out the storage closet and open some old dusty boxes. Who knows what surprises await me? Oh, please, not the mustard dress...

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Four Kinds of Excitement at Food City Plaza

Monday, 3/25

1:42 p.m. Burglary & breaking and entering, the Brick House, 3rd Street. Referred to an officer.

6:00 p.m. Brush fire in the area of the bike path, near Montague Machine Co. Arrested [REDACTED] is on a default warrant.

9:10 p.m. Threatening harassment at [REDACTED] 4th Street. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 3/26

12:00 p.m. Trespass notice at Powertown apartments. No police service necessary.

3:30 p.m. Fight on 3rd Street

at L Street. Investigated.

5:04 p.m. Assault on K Street. Summons issued for violation of a restraining order and aggravated assault & battery.

5:27 p.m. Accident with property damage at Senior Center on 5th Street. Advised of options.

6:16 p.m. Threatening harassment at [REDACTED] Grand Avenue. Services rendered.

7:39 p.m. Assault on [REDACTED] Grand Avenue. Investigated.

Wednesday, 3/27

8:56 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from Franklin County Home Care Corp. on Montague City Road. Found to be an

accidental dial.

9:40 a.m. Restraining order violation on Turnpike Road. Summons issued for violation of an abuse prevention order.

5:58 p.m. 911 call for an outdoor fire at [REDACTED] Oakman Street. Services rendered.

7:05 p.m. Water rescue at [REDACTED] Poplar Street. Services rendered.

Thursday, 3/28

8:59 a.m. Officer wanted at People's Bakery on 16 Bridge Street. Peace restored.

12:05 p.m. Larceny at Food City. Services rendered.

6:04 p.m. Robbery at [REDACTED] 3rd Street. Summons issued.

6:27 p.m. Accident with property damage at Turners Falls Pizza House on Avenue A. Report taken.

Friday, 3/29

1:20 a.m. Initiated investigation of suspicious automobile at Montague Town Hall.

1:34 a.m. Initiated investigation of suspicious automobile in alley off 4th Street.

1:44 a.m. Initiated motor vehicle violation summons in vicinity of [REDACTED] 4th Street. No inspection sticker, unlicensed operation.

3:36 a.m. Domestic disturbance at 7th Street. Arrested 46-year-old man of same address for domestic assault and battery.

9:02 a.m. Domestic disturbance

at Hillcrest Homes. Peace restored.

7:13 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Bridge Street. Arrested Greenfield man, age 50, for domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Saturday, 3/30

12:20 a.m. Loud noise disturbance at [REDACTED] S. Prospect Street. Summons issued.

1:45 p.m. Animal complaint at Food City plaza. Services rendered.

3:20 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], in the Food City parking lot for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Sunday, 3/31

8:20 a.m. Loud noise

disturbance in area of Food City. Services rendered.

5:46 p.m. Hit & run accident on Avenue A at 4th Street. Report taken.

6:10 p.m. Burglary / breaking & entering at [REDACTED] Millers Falls Road. Referred to an officer.

Monday, 4/1

8:19 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED], again, this time on Unity Street, for operating a motor vehicle with revoked registration, suspended license, and no insurance.

8:39 a.m. Domestic disturbance on 11th Street. Arrested a 58-year-old man for domestic assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and threat to commit crime.

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 3, 2003: News from the *Montague Reporter's* archive.

### Two Principals Given Notice

Bob Mahler, for ten years the principal of the Gill Elementary School, and Anna Garbiel, the GMRSD's most senior administrator, for 22 years the principal of the Montague Center School, have been given notices of non-renewal of their contracts. At a Tuesday afternoon meeting, members of the personnel subcommittee defended their decision as a necessary move brought on by fiscal constraints, and nothing more, in front of a crowd of parents and teachers, and the two principals themselves.

### Phantom Windmill of the Opera

N.L. Construction found the huge mural of a windmill when they gutted the Colle Opera House

for construction. Mary Winsky, of Deerfield, called the *Montague Reporter* to say she had a photo of the windmill that had, no doubt, inspired the paper... Winsky's father, Blaze Skzypek, built the windmill to grind corn and barley he raised on his Millers Falls farm. The Skzypek windmill was the only one in Western Massachusetts, according to Winsky's brother, Raymond.

### Wendell Town Coordinator Comes and Goes

The search for a new town coordinator is on again, as Donna Walters recently submitted a letter of resignation several weeks after starting the job. Walters cited lack of office equipment and furniture as her reason for leaving. She said she feels awkward asking the town for extensive investments in this tight budget time, and does not have the tools required for the job.

### Glimmers of Hope in the Budget Gloom

According to Montague Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, the town hopes to realize an additional \$30,000 in savings by asking Town Meeting to rescind a number of previously approved capital improvement projects, including an unspent \$5,000 for a sewer valuation, and \$3,500 that would have gone to replace the Town Hall's ancient air conditioning system.

### Editorial: Abandoning Our Principals

These cuts are tearing at the very fabric of our community. At a time when the district is looking for leadership at every level, it is more important than ever to value the proven administrators who have become an integral part of what makes the system work – and work well – for our children and their parents.

### DIPAOLLO'S from page 1

DiPaolo is directing the move of furnishings and art work out of the dining rooms. I don't know if readers are aware that DiPaolo was for a time a community organizer in Millers Falls. Those talents of bringing people together to achieve improvements for their community were very evident in the restaurant; her wait staff were all from Montague or surrounding towns. The art work on the walls was by Valley artists; the vegetables she served were from a local farm.

In preparation for opening, DiPaolo and Dottin invited friends and neighbors to wine tastings and small dish samplings of what might appear on the menu. You felt like you were part of the crew making it happen and you were excited, looking forward to the opening. After she opened, she regularly hired local musicians to play during dinner hours. She herself was always hospitable, always ready to make sure that her diners were

comfortable. During its seven years serving delicious food, DiPaolo's was a source of pride for the town as were, and are, the other businesses that opened in the past seven years.

"It was a good run ... I'm sad and proud, too," DiPaolo wrote to friends about her decision. "I've filed for bankruptcy. We just couldn't keep it going."

DiPaolo explained that the last three years were increasingly difficult. Who can measure the exact toll the bridge construction took on town businesses? DiPaolo thinks there was some decline in customers due to the bridge. But she also thinks the economic recession has hit people at all levels to varying degrees. An elegant dinner in a congenial setting is likely to be a casualty of less disposable income. While things economic are supposedly looking up, improvement has been slow to trickle down. It is no small feat that DiPaolo's held on until now.

DiPaolo has no doubt the future will hold something interesting and satisfying. She put a great deal into the Ristorante, so closing causes her both sadness and some relief. She allows that sleeping has been difficult. The decision to close hung in the air, waiting for someone to decide. Now the decision is made.

On her lawn at home sits the big black rooster that recently graced the walkway to the restaurant. It looks very bold there.

DiPaolo believes you have to be positive and live big. Those two qualities, I know, will be part of what comes next. Thank you, Denise DiPaolo and Chef Hilton Dottin.



### LEVERETT from page 4

done so under budgetary duress, when the selectboard once again asked for a level funded school budget at the outset of the last fiscal cycle. The school and town shared one facilities manager, John Kuczik, for a year or two prior to that. Last year Kuczik, who has the experience and certification to run the shared systems, resigned from the school position while remaining the town's building maintenance supervisor.

During that trial run, Ross raised complaints that Kuczik was spending a great deal of his time

managing projects at the other town buildings, while the town hall was undergoing significant renovation, and the library geothermal system was being overhauled.

With town meeting approaching in just a month's time, an effort will be made to negotiate a new division of maintenance and custodial duties among Kuczik, Ross and town administrator Margie McGinnis, to see if a consensus can be reached.

Other than that, outgoing finance committee chair Don Gibavic said the town had prepared a budget that allowed for a \$100,000 increase

at the regional school, a \$30,000 (or so) decrease in the elementary school (due to the consolidation of two sixth grade classes into one next year), 2 percent salary increases for town employees, and no need for a Proposition 2 ½ override. The omnibus budget will rise by 2.1 percent, or \$111,798, to \$5,446,922.

Gibavic said, "I think we are in a good position. You look at Amherst, and they're talking about laying off ten to twenty teachers. We're not there. This town has been here 200 years before we came along. We'll just do our best to solve the problems of today."

After the school committee members departed the hearing, the selectboard decided to add more money to the budget (upwards of \$20,000, with the exact amount to be determined) to hire a third half time custodian at the school.

A lengthy roundtable followed with the capital improvements committee, during which the problem of "vehicle creep" was aired. It appears the police department may get used to having three cruisers instead of the two that are on the capital improvements schedule, and the fire department, which some time ago received a free vehicle from the Department of Defense, which was converted to become the rescue vehicle, and has now become part of a \$100,000 request to the capital improvements committee, without the knowledge of the selectboard.

Chief John Moruzzi, in a memo to that committee, said the rescue vehicle "responds on 99 percent of our calls," and has become an essential part of the department's fleet.

Highway boss Will Stratford backtracked on a previous suggestion that the town invest in repairing the six wheel dump truck that is scheduled for replacement

this year, saying to do so would be a waste of the money invested, due to advancing rust. Also, the quote for replacing the dump truck has risen by about \$30,000, to \$140,000. The selectboard proposed taking the extra \$30,000 from free cash, which was recently certified at \$276,325.

With what is now planned for spending on special articles and the omnibus, the town expects to wind up FY'13 with about \$95,000 remaining in free cash, and about \$350,000 in stabilization, although those estimates may change before town meeting.

The town of Amherst has requested a hike of \$1,250, or 5 percent, in what Leverett is paying for ambulance service (now \$25,000 annually). The selectboard countered with an offer of \$500, or 2 percent, and instructed McGinnis to enter into discussions with Sunderland and Baystate Ambulance about alternative ambulance services.

Erica Hollingsworth has been hired at \$13.61 an hour to take the place of departing transfer station attendant John Ketchum, whose brother Mike is hoping to leave his job at the transfer station as well, as soon as another replacement can be hired.

Four or five wells will be tested soon on private land off Teawaddle Hill Road, as the selectboard continues its search for less expensive alternatives to piping water up from Amherst to provide potable water to a half dozen or so households down gradient of the town's former landfill, where private homes have been faced with fluctuating levels of contaminants in their drinking water in recent years.


The town has paid for bottled water and ongoing testing at a number of these homes, and a long-term solution to the problem is sought.



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## As You Write It: a Franklin County Anthology, Volume III

Come hear the As You Write It writers read during their encore debut of *As You Write It: a Franklin County Anthology Volume III*, edited by Laura Rodley, on Sunday, April 7 at the Gill Montague Senior Center on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Turners Falls. The free reading begins at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Local writers Rosalie Bolton, Estelle Cade, Patricia Carlisle, Lillian Fiske, Frances Hemond, Dorothy Hmieleski, Robin Panagakos and Joseph A. Parzych will read new tales of growing up and living life large before cell phones, computers, laptops or wireless, as well as going on trips to Australia, working as a nurse, joyriding at age 15, war games, finding the perfect bridal gown and other surprises.

This event is sponsored in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Grants from the towns of Deerfield, Gill, Leverett, Montague, Northfield, Shelburne and Wendell.

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# In With The New: Madison on the Avenue



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

Rodney Madison's shop opens this weekend on 3rd and A.

By SHIRA HILLEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – Have you seen the teaser signs that say “Coming Soon” in the windows of the space formerly occupied by Arnie’s Thrift Store on Avenue A and the corner of 3rd Street? Well, it’s true that something new is going into that old space.

The brand new business occupying 102 Avenue A will be a store called “Madison on the Avenue,” a play on the name of the owner, Amherst resident Rodney Madison.

The shop will sell vintage art collectibles and household items. “I want my goods to speak for themselves,” said Madison, reluctant to categorize his wares in too much detail.

Like his predecessor in the space, Madison finds his used merchandise mostly at auctions, house clean-outs, tag markets and flea markets. “I have strong personal taste,” he says, “and I choose nice goods.”

His merchandise – chrome bar stools, African sculptures, oil paint-

ings, a wooden chest – seemed to confirm this, as mellow music filled the room.

While Madison previously worked in various schools throughout Western Massachusetts, he’s been collecting and selling stuff all his life. “Since I was a kid, I used to do it with my old man in the Chicago area. I always made extra money that way.”

Madison doesn’t just want to sell used items; he’d like his shop to showcase local artists as well. “I would love to feature and sell local artists’ work.” He plans to have a section of the store devoted to local painters, glassblowers and ceramists.

“Turners has a lot more going on than I was previously aware of,” he commented, looking pleased about his choice of location.

Madison on the Avenue will have a grand opening this Saturday, April 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. Madison will also keep his shop open during the downtown “Where I Live” art walk, which takes place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. next Thursday.

## MONTAGUE DEMOCRATS TO HOLD TOWN OFFICE ELECTION CAUCUS

Montague Democrats will hold their caucus to select candidates for Town Office elections on Thursday, April 11 from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room of the Town Offices, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Successful candidates receive the

party nomination to appear on the Monday, May 20 town election ballot. Voting is by paper ballot.

Only registered Democrats may run in this, what amounts to a primary election for local offices.

By the Democratic Town Committee’s vote following

the 2003 caucus, registered unenrolled voters also may vote in the Democratic caucus. No absentee balloting is allowed.

Below are term expirations. Incumbents so far having filed intention to run in Democratic caucus are marked with a \*\*.

OFFICE	TERM	INCUMBENT	PARTY
Selectman	3	Christopher M. Boutwell, Sr**	Dem.
Town Clerk	3	Debra A. Bourbeau**	Dem.
Treasurer/Tax Collector	3	Patricia A. Dion**	Dem.
Assessor	3	Teresa A. Miner**	Dem.
Bd. Of Health Member	3	Jay DiPucchio	Dem. <i>not running</i>
Park & Rec. Comm.	3	Linda Ackerman	Unenrolled
Tree Warden	3	Mark A. Stevens	Unenrolled
Library Trustee (3)	3	Karen Latka**	Dem.
	3	Cynthia Tarail**	Dem.
	3	Juanita Caldwell	Rep.
Soldier Memorial Trustees (Veteran)	3	John Murphy**	Dem.
Montague Housing Authority	5	Edward Zewinski	Dem. <i>not running</i>

The first floor meeting room of the Town Office is wheelchair accessible by elevator entrance at the rear of the building, or by the front door.

For more information, call or write to Democratic Town Committee Chair, Jay DiPucchio at 35 Central Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376-1326 or (413) 863-8656.

## Turners Falls: Coach Mullins Named “Grand Marshal” for Spring Parade

**MONTAGUE** – Turners Falls High School softball coach Gary Mullins has celebrated his team’s victory as state champions on multiple occasions. But on Saturday, April 20 it will be Mullins himself who receives a high honor when he is awarded the title of Grand Marshal in the 3rd annual Franklin County Spring Parade.

Michael Nelson, Chairman and organizer of the parade, said: “The amount of spirit that has returned to the sports program at TFHS during the Mullins era is incredible. You would be hard pressed to find someone in town who doesn’t smile

about their famous high school softball team. The town is very proud of the young ladies who continue to win this title and their champion coach who makes it happen”.

The parade will take place on “the hill” in Turners Falls. It will make a three mile loop, beginning at 1 p.m. at Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue. It will take a left onto Montague Street, travel to the end, and turn left onto Turnpike Road. The parade will go past the Turners Falls High School, and take a left onto Millers Falls Road. At Scotty’s Convenience Store, the parade will turn left onto High Street

and end back at Sheffield.

Nelson encourages residents who live along the route to “fire up the barbeque, have a drink, and relax in the sunshine with friends”. He also reminds houses along the route that there are new competitions this year for “Best Themed House” and “Best Crowd”. The theme of this year’s parade is *Hawaiian Luau*.

Anyone interested in having an entry in the parade can contact Nelson at (413) 522-0712 or michaelnelsonmba@gmail.com. It is free to participate. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/montagueparade](http://www.facebook.com/montagueparade).

### BULLY from page 1

each victimized by bullying. As the movie begins, two of them are dead. Tyler Long, of Murray County, Georgia, hanged himself in 2009, when he was seventeen; Ty Smalley, who lived outside Oklahoma City, shot himself in 2010, when he was eleven.

*Bully* forces you to confront not the cruelty of specific children — who have their own problems, and their good sides as well — but rather the extent to which that cruelty is embedded in our schools and therefore in our society as a whole.

Lowen said of East Middle School, the school they were given the most access to in Sioux City, Iowa, “Bullying had become the norm. It was utterly pervasive and thus, invisible,” to those on the inside.

The filmmakers embedded themselves at East Middle School for a year, and filmed many children, so as to disguise their real purpose, which was to see how student Alex Libby copes with his predicament. He mostly takes it in silence, because he wants to maintain the

fiction that his tormentors are his friends. His father tells him to stand up for himself, but some kids are not fighters.

The school administrators we see, however, cannot be described as alert. (At East Middle School, the vice-principal assures the Libbys that the students on the bus are as “good as gold.”) Their attitude is one variant or another on “Kids will be kids.” Managing huge public institutions, they don’t know how to change the culture they work in.

Attitudes are changing, however. Tolerating bullying behavior could be a dangerous liability for schools; lawsuits have cost some school districts a lot of money. CNN’s Anderson Cooper made a documentary about the changes in attitude rippling across the nation, catalyzed by this documentary, entitled, “*The Bully Effect*.”

There is an expectation that schools be a safe place for youth. There are two different levels in which this problem must be tackled. The more effective strategy is to get the entire school administration and community on board and involved in an anti-bullying approach. The less powerful tactic is to try to teach

the individual to fight on their own.

How should individual kids self-advocate? Advice ranges from: ignore the bully; get an adult involved; practice stinging comebacks to have at the ready, then walk away; attend martial arts or self defense to learn to fight and increase confidence; and finally the “macho dad” recommendation: “punch ‘em hard.” Different strategies work or don’t work with different kids in different situations.

Large group dynamics can be a tricky thing to navigate in a conscious manner. When people do not speak out, and a bully culture is established, a vicious cycle of intimidation is established. We need to speak out, not only because it is the right thing to do, but to protect ourselves and those close to us. When one person is mistreated, and that behavior is tolerated, anyone could be next.

Last year, a group of students from Mohawk Trail traveled to Boston to see *Bully*, and attend a rally. Afterwards, they decided to form an anti-bully youth group council and thus, the bullying prevention student council was created at Mohawk Trail schools.

The students, staff and parents all decided to try to re-engineer their social system to be kinder and less war-like and to try to help kids who are being bullied. Together, they grappled with questions, like, how do we teach compassion? How do we teach young people to speak up and not be “innocent bystanders?” How does the community organize to change the culture?

The panel discussion showed that dialogue is what can change the climate, raise awareness, and let people know that this is not acceptable behavior.

Dole said that when deciding to take this on, the school had to be ready to recognize some unpleasant realities. The Mohawk Trail school district started by adopting the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which gives schools a paradigm to follow.

Mohawk Trail School also has a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class entitled “Peer Leadership.” According to Jenkins, in that class, students are graded on their actions. Two community services are assigned for homework. “You are graded on what’s in your heart,” not on your academic skill.

Dole mentioned Quabbin

Mediation, based in Orange, which teaches a variety of safe intervention techniques through their Training Active Bystanders (TAB) program offered to youth and adults throughout the area. Dole told the audience that TAB teaches participants “how to recognize when harm is happening, and how to figure out how to respond without endangering yourself.”

According to Dole, just telling stories of how people stepped in can give others the courage needed to do so themselves.

Dole told the story of a boy who had undergone TAB. One day at school, he came upon a girl on a staircase landing. She was surrounded by a group of boys who were laughing. He didn’t know any of them but he recognized the look of fear on her face. He reached out his arm, grabbed her hand, and said, “I’ve been looking for you everywhere!” With that he yanked her out from within the group of boys and quickly removed her from the scene.

Brilliantly played and inspiring!



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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Vacant Plant's Future Discussed

By DAVID BRULE

Erving town Administrator Tom Sharp was pleased with what the Erving selectboard were able to accomplish in a short time this past Monday night.

"This week we culminated a months of meetings, so that we were able to wrap things up quickly, even ahead of time." Sharp was referring to a number of issues that all towns face this time of year, but which the Erving Selectmen were able to finish up early.

The warrant for the Annual Town Meeting has already been set and there are few controversial issues on the horizon. Town Meeting will be Wednesday, May 8, two days after elections on Monday, May 6, and a week after the special primary election to be held on Tuesday, April 30 to replace Senator John Kerry.

The key issue at Town Meeting is typically the budget proposal, already discussed and approved by the selectboard and the finance committee. There will be little increase in the funds to

be raised and appropriated for FY'14, which begins July 1. The current budget for FY'13 called for raising \$8,245,956, whereas for FY'14, the selectboard will seek approval to raise \$8,430,570. Taxpayers will see little or no increase in their tax bills. The sum sought for FY'14 will finance recurring expenses such as school maintenance, streetlights, treatment plants POT #1 and 3, etc.

The Erving Elementary School portion of the budget request is \$2,505,125. School officials are commended for holding their budget request to under a 2 percent increase, which drew easy approval from the finance committee thus avoiding what can be contentious discussion.

In other business, the bill for the clean-up of the Usher Plant site was paid off: the remaining balance was \$173,295.11. The total billed the town by J.R. Vinagro Corporation of Johnston, RI was \$563,782 for demolition, removal and clean-up of debris and hazardous material.

The engineering firm of Tighe and Bond has completed

inspection of the remaining Usher building, which the Usher Plant re-use committee seeks to rehabilitate for some future use that would benefit the town. Tighe and Bond, in its extensive report, estimates the cost of stabilizing the building will be in the vicinity of \$385,000 of which \$150,000 will go to rebuilding the roof.

There is currently a survey circulated by the selectboard seeking citizen input regarding the future of the remaining building.

The citizens group formed two years ago, the Usher Plant re-use committee, which is actively seeking to find a suitable use for the site, met with the conservation commission earlier in the evening. They sought clarification on the role the Wetlands Act, the Riverfront Protection laws, the Natural Heritage Habitat Protection Act, and floodplain regulations would have on the site's future use.

They then attended the selectboard meeting to express their concerns over the progress and process for the re-use of the Usher site.

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Custodian Controversy Continues

By DAVID DETMOLD

As a major effort advances to move the Leverett Elementary School out of the purview of superintendency Union 28 and into a new elementary region with Amherst and Pelham, while teacher salaries are under negotiation, teacher evaluation protocols being implemented, and new safety measures coming into force in the wake of December's Connecticut school shooting, the Leverett school committee instead devoted much of their time on Monday, April 1 to talking about who should order toilet paper and hire and fire custodians.

It may have been April Fools Day, but the struggle over elementary school janitorial authority has become a serious proposition in Leverett, with competing budgets advancing toward a showdown at next month's annual town meeting – one moving school building maintenance authority and janitorial duties to the selectboard and the town's facilities manager, and the

other retaining that control at the elementary school, where it currently resides.

If the selectboard's version of the budget passes, principal Anne Ross told the school committee, "It will be as if we don't have control over our own house." She offered the hypothetical example of the school running low on toilet paper and having to get permission from the town facilities manager to order more. "It doesn't seem efficient to have it done by the town," she said.

But selectboard member Peter d'Errico pooh-poohed the notion the town would shortchange the school on basic supplies, or that custodial schedules and supervision of the janitors would not continue to satisfy the school principal. "I can't believe the facilities manager would not be concerned that there be enough toilet paper," he assured.

D'Errico warned the committee not to bring a competing budget to the town meeting floor. "To suggest an alternative budget should be proposed to town meeting is

damaging to the town," he said.

School committee member Aaron Osborne hotly disputed that charge. "People disagree all the time," he said, as a fundamental principle of democracy. Speaking of the school committee as a whole, he said, "We've been clearly backed into a corner. There has been no negotiating at this point. You've talked of efficiency. But no one can pin that down. We should be purchasing [supplies] jointly now." Osborne added, "To have everyone at town meeting magically agree on everything is even more unheard of."

Committee members Catherine Brooks and Sarah Dolven urged people to find common ground. Brooks said, "I'd like to see a good effort on both sides, with the town's budget number and Anne [Ross] having the authority she needs." She called for "a little flexibility and give and take, so we don't have to have a floor fight at town meeting where nobody knows which way it's going

see SCHOOL page 9

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Unity Park: 100 % Handicapped Accessible, With a Butterfly Garden! No Joke!

By PATRICIA PRUITT

Despite meeting on April Fools Day, the Montague selectboard was all business regarding Phase 2 of the Unity Park Renovation project. The board voted by majority to award the construction contract to Diversified Construction of Amherst, the lowest bidder of the eight bids submitted, in the amount of \$400,060.

Among the improvements the town can look forward to by the fall are two reseeded softball fields, with new homerun fencing; the larger field will also get netting 40 feet high and 100 feet wide to protect cars and passersby from high flying balls. There will be a new asphalt parking area on the east side of the park, and a fitness path with fitness stations. In addition

to all the activity areas, at the end of Phase 2, the park will be 100 percent handicapped accessible. A butterfly garden and rain garden will add to the ecological quality of the park as well.

Moving on to other business, the board signed the election warrant for the state primary to elect a senator to replace John Kerry in the Senate. The primary will be held on Tuesday, April 30 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Polling places are as follows: Precinct 1, Montague Center Fire Station; precinct 2, Highland Apartments; precincts 3 & 4, Hillcrest Elementary school; precinct 5, Turners Falls Senior Center; precinct 6, Public Safety Complex.

Saturday, April 20 is the date for the 3rd Annual Franklin County Spring

Parade. Contact Mike Nelson at (413) 522-0712 to help or for information.

Also on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the annual fundraiser for the Relay for Life Tollbooth will be looking for donations in their usual spot at the intersection of 3rd Street and Avenue A.

The Newt Guilbault League will kick off its Youth Baseball season on Sunday, April 28 with its annual parade from Turners Falls High School to the ball fields on Montague Street. The parade will step off at 11 a.m. and finish at the ball fields at 12 p.m.

The brief selectmen's meeting finished the evening in executive session, to consider which past executive session minutes may be released, as requested by Jean Golrick.

## NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Final Steps in GMRSD Superintendent Selection

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

On Monday, April 1, the GMRSD school committee met to discuss the superintendent site visits the members completed this past week. They compared notes and prepared questions for the interviews to be held the following week.

The final phase of the superintendent search will include site visits and interviews for each of the three candidates to be held during the week of Monday, April 8. Each one of the three candidates will have a full day to spend at the Gill-Montague school district. A site visit will begin at 9 a.m. and last until 2:30 p.m. with

a tour of the district and an opportunity to meet with administrators, teachers, students, and anyone else they may want. The candidate will get a chance to ask questions and see the community.

From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. there will be a "Meet & Greet" where staff, parents and members of the public can get to know the candidate. Then at 6 p.m. the school committee will conduct an interview held in the Turners Falls High School TV studio. Each interview will last 75 minutes.

Michael Sullivan, the current Assistant Superintendent for Learning at Longmeadow Public Schools in Longmeadow,

Massachusetts will come to the district for his site visit, meet the public and be interviewed on Monday, April 8. On Tuesday, April 9, Patricia Gardner, the current principal of Turners Falls High School will spend the day visiting and meeting staff as a prospective superintendent and then meet with the public and be interviewed. On Thursday, April 11, Maureen Ward, superintendent of the SAU Unit 18 school district in Franklin, New Hampshire, will be the final candidate to visit and be interviewed. Immediately after that interview, the school committee will meet and vote

see GMRSD pg 12

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Minnesota Litterbug Cited

Monday, 3/25

3:00 p.m. Citation issued to

[REDACTED] for littering following ongoing investigation.

Tuesday, 3/26

9:00 a.m. Assisted Gill police with domestic situation on Meadow Street. Verbal warning.

11:40 a.m. Suicidal male in area of Forest Street. Same located and transported to hospital.

3:00 p.m. Motor vehicle crash

on Route 2 at Forest Street. No injury.

Wednesday, 3/27

3:10 p.m. Vandalism at French King Highway. Report taken.

Friday, 3/29

6:40 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on West Main Street. Operator assisted.

8:00 p.m. Citation issued to

[REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and defective equipment.

Sunday, 3/31

1:30 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle reported on East Main Street in area of Route 2 paper mill. Not a hazard; to be removed the next morning.

Monday, 4/1

6:50 p.m. Brush fire near the French King Bridge. Found to be permit burn. Fire department handled.

9:00 p.m. Medical emergency at East Main Street. Assisted on scene.

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**SCHOOL** from page 8

to go." Dolven said, "Ideally, I'd like to see these [custodial budget] lines stay in the school committee budget. But there is only so far our committee can go to make that happen." She called for an "intra-municipal agreement" on school maintenance and custodial supervision, clearly spelled out, that would stay in place beyond the tenure of those currently involved in the various boards and administrative positions.

But Ross had more immediate concerns. "It comes down to what happens on a day-to-day basis in the school." If the selectboard's plan is approved, "it will all be flowing through another entity. It just seems like there will be conflicts around need, priorities, and appropriateness."

The controversy has been slowly building for years. John Kuczik, on a trial basis, assumed a dual role as town facilities manager while remaining head of the school custodial and maintenance crew.

The argument over how much of his salary the town should pay, and how much of his time should be available to the school during classroom hours, never seemed completely resolved before he retired from his longtime position at the elementary school last year. He continues to work part-time for the town, overseeing town buildings and facilities the school shares with other town buildings like the library and public safety complex.

Continuing budget pressure led the school committee to eliminate a third part-time custodial position, in hope that basic school cleaning tasks could be managed by two custodians, while Kuczik, now working solely for the town, oversaw the building's larger maintenance needs. But janitorial staff turnover and complaints about school cleanliness – as well as a belief in centralizing authority for purchasing efficiency's sake – led to the selectboard's recent push to remove all maintenance, custodial and janitorial supplies

line items from the budget they will recommend to town meeting at the end of April. Selectboard members have also expressed a desire to be directly involved in school custodian hiring, given the technical expertise required in running the joint systems.

At a February budget hearing, selectboard chair Rich Brazeau made the point that if the selectboard were in charge, the school committee could no longer cut money or personnel out of school maintenance, although school committee members noted the only other way to save enough to meet the selectboard's bottom-line budgetary goals for the present fiscal year would have been to take money from instruction.

School committee chair Dawn Sacks called for a negotiated solution that would leave the budgetary authority on school custodial and maintenance in the selectboard's purview, while leaving hiring and firing under the authority of the school principal, along with the purchasing of day to

**Town of Wendell Energy Committee**

The Town of Wendell Energy Committee is requesting proposals for the provision of services necessary to provide an ASHRAE Level 2 audit of town buildings. Audits shall provide information and analyses required for an ASHRAE Level II Audit, and shall be sufficient for approval by the Mass. Department of Energy Resources when submitted as part of a Green Community Grant application.

The properties covered by this

audit are the Town Offices, the Town Hall, the Police Station, Senior Center, Salt Shed, town well, Library, and the Highway/Fire Department Garage.

The RFP may be picked up at the Town Offices during normal business hours (Tuesday and Thursday between 9 and 4:30). The RFP may be requested by emailing [nan@itpuzzleworks.net](mailto:nan@itpuzzleworks.net). It is up to the vendor to follow up on email requests. Proposals are due April 23 by 4:30 p.m.

day supplies, and a guarantee that the amount of money currently in the budget for these line items not be reduced in the future without school committee authorization.

Asked whether the selectboard's recent decision to add back a third part-time school custodial position should also be protected by this agreement, Osborne said, "If that is now part of the package, yes."

Following a meeting on Tuesday, April 2, to discuss the school maintenance and custodial budget between Ross, Dolven, Kuczik, Brazeau, and town administrator Margie McGinnis, Ross said, "There isn't anything more to report. We are in process."



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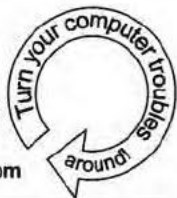
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# The Poetry Page

Poetry Page Edited By Patricia Pruitt  
design by Claudia Wells

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:

Klondike Sound,  
Green Fields Market,  
Montague Dental Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin,  
Carlin Barton, and Michael Muller.

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org).

## The Quickening

A life moves like a river

Swiftly at first, swollen of the spring freshets  
To ease, only a bit  
Past variegated verdant summer pastures washed in endless hues of celadon, primrose, auramine  
And in its time on to the quiet rhythm of autumn days, the near silent ripple of the rising perch  
kissing the shores that nurture the wisdom of old growth stands of oak, cedar and hemlock  
Finally to return to a frozen stop on the clearest longest night under a harvest of December stars,  
Betelgeuse, the sisters Pleiades, Saiph and Bellatrix in Orion, the dog star Sirius,  
Capella, Aldebaran, the fiery eye of the Bull in Taurus  
This journey will bring a change of view, a cloud will die, a flower will grow, a leaf released  
But, never as a loss, only to renew  
And so, as it should be, listening and waiting...always  
The sugar sap lingering in the root of the winter maple  
The crocus hidden just below the thin pearly carpet, soft of the late winters' hold  
A life, ready for the next thaw  
To quicken at the first cry of a newborn child

— Joe Graveline  
Northfield

## The Circle

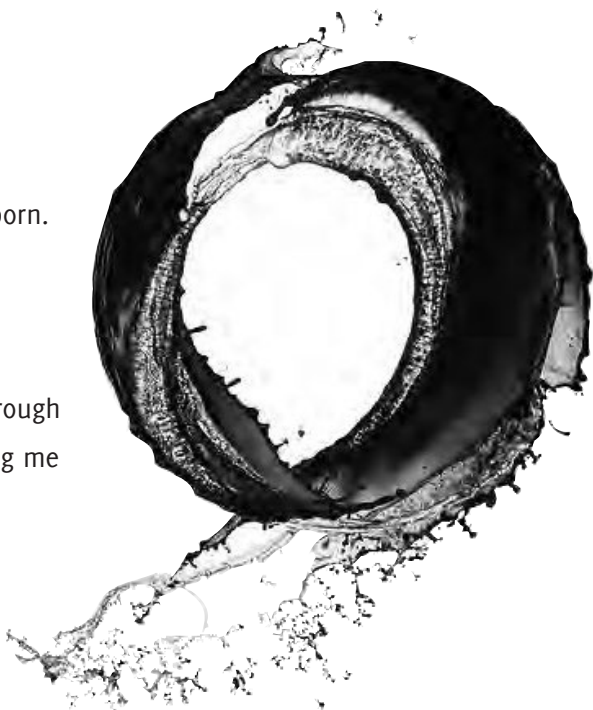
The depth of night  
Of night leaves  
One to depart  
Into day to move  
Into night again into  
Humid day  
Chance is not broken  
Fan leaves cool skin  
Turns in a circle

— Elizabeth Freeman  
Montague

## I Am Connected To Nature

I am here,  
With nature.  
I lean against the tree,  
Planted when I was  
Born.  
The whistling wind gently pushes  
Me from side to side,  
Side to side.  
I shiver,  
And hug the tree,  
Planted when I was born.  
I am with nature,  
With the world.  
Nothing,  
Nobody can break through  
The bubble connecting me  
To nature.  
I am here  
In this world,  
With nature.

— Ella Bathory-Peeler  
Gill



## Little lost — just a Bit

Little (a bit) lost in the moment  
We journey through life.  
We gain and we lose a bit.

Little lost for the moment  
With each step we leave one foot  
In the past, the other in the future.  
Walking through leaves parts behind  
For a short bit of time  
We are in two places at once.

— Elizabeth Freeman  
Montague

## The Naming

Sure an independent angel  
Fell from out the skies one day.  
And she landed in Massachusetts  
On a farm quite far away.  
When other angels found her,  
She looked so sweet and fair,  
They said, "Suppose we leave her.  
She looks so fitting there."

So they sprinkled her with stardust  
To make the Yankee in her grow.  
You'll find no one quite like her  
No matter where you go.  
And when the angels finished,  
she looked so keen and grand.  
What you suppose they called her?  
Sure they called her Diane.

— Richard Andersen  
Montague

## Contributors' Notes

Richard Anderson is a professor of writing and literature at Springfield College and designated "outstanding teacher." He is perhaps part angel himself. Ella Bathory- Peeler, age 11, is a student who naturally enjoys writing poetry twelve months a year. Elizabeth Freeman is an independent business owner and poet with a cat named Buster

living in Montague Center. Joe Graveline is a lifelong resident of Franklin County and has always lived next to a river. In addition to being a singer and songwriter, Joe is president of Nolumbeka, a native American organization. Nolumbeka means 'quiet water between the rapids'. Patricia Pruitt is hoping more of you poets will send in a poem or two for the Poetry Page.

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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, activities and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Friday Night Karaoke begins on March 1. Free.

**EVERY THURSDAY**

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultz* from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Free.

**ART SHOWS:**

Great Falls Discovery Center: colorful paper quilts and story quilts created by K-8 students.

**LOCAL EVENTS:****THURSDAY, APRIL 4**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series*, featuring *James Arthur & Maya Janson*. 7 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Film screening, *My Business Is To Sing: the unique presentation of Emily Dickinson and her Music*. Producer Ernest Urvater, writer/narrator Susan Snively, and composer Alice Parker will be present for audience discussion and questions. Cash bar; light refreshments. Outreach for Mohawk Trail Concerts. 7 to 9 p.m., free.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 8 p.m., free.

Bezanson Recital Hall, UMass: *Jazz Lab Ensemble*, big band repertoire with new and historical works. 8 p.m., free.

cal works. 8 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Jenn Spingla & Alyssa Kelly*, etch-a-sketch original (folk)-rock. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 7 p.m., free.

Montague Bookmill: *Ephemeral String Band*, old time and early country with close harmony, and *Armand Armonin & Ben Gagliardi*, Irish and beyond. 8 p.m., \$ Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Misty Blues*, blues. 8 p.m.



PHOTOS BY TIM BUGBEE AND WNYC

*This Saturday night, April 6, Glenn Jones of Boston and Daniel Bachman of Philadelphia visit the Montague Bookmill, with two very different takes on the sort of spellbinding fingerpicking guitar music pioneered by John Fahey and Robbie Basho. Don't miss it. Show at 8 p.m.*

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae fantastico!. 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Home Body*, northamptonite dance pop, and *Happy Jawbone Family Band*, brattleborovian joyful shouting. 9:30 p.m., \$

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

Montague Grange: Square dance to live old-time music. All are welcome. 7 p.m., \$ Sloan Theater, Greenfield Community College: GCC Chorus presents *American Choral Music: From Colonial Times to the Present*. 7:30 p.m., free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Sean Ashby*, alt roots rock, with special guest singer/songwriter *Molly Durnin*. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Glenn Jones*, american primitive guitar, and *Daniel Bachman*, similar vein. With 23 Quartet. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

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

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Kusmeskus*, solo rock/folk originals and covers. 9:30 p.m., free.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Five women, one evening: *Wishbone Zoe*, *Carolyn Walker*, *Katie Sachs*, *Christa Joy*, and *Lisa Marie Ellinsen*. 6 p.m., free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Oakes & Smith*, pop folk. 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Moonlight & Morning Star*, old and new rhythm & blues. 8 to 10 p.m.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9**

Bezanson Recital Hall, UMass: *Chamber Ensembles*, woodwind, brass and strings. 7:30 p.m., free.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Ginevra & Nora's Open Mike Cabaret*. 8 p.m., free.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Play reading, 6:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, southern string

band. 8 p.m., free.

Bowker Auditorium, UMass: *Low Brass Fest*, horn, trombone and tuba. 8 p.m., free.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11**

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance music by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12**

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse with *Zydeco Connection*. Handmade desserts available; doors at 6:30 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Dirty Dancing*, 1987. PG-13. 97 minutes. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: *Small Change*, acoustic swing & more, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Equalites*, reggae. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Comedy Show* with the Ha-Ha's and Mosie McNally. 7:30 p.m., \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Dirty Dancing*, 8:45 p.m. Music before the movie: *Shakin' All Over* - 50's & 60's rock hits. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Doug Hewitt Group*, classic rock dance party. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers

Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*, current & classic hits. 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masters of the Groovaverse*, jam thing. 9:30 p.m., free.

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By LESLIE BROWN

March did indeed leave like a lamb and we were not sorry to see it go with its warm days of promise followed by cold days and unwanted snow. Now the real signs of spring: breakfast at the Gould family's restaurant to watch the sap boiling, inhale the scented air and mix the savory saltiness of homemade sausage with the sweet of syrup-drenched waffles; the annoyances of mud season, yet we no longer care to complain; the first crocuses above ground, the hearty early morning bird calls, and the extended light. Even the brown lawn sports tufts of

green.

We light the gas grill for the first time since last season; go a night without a fire in the stove since the sun alone has raised the indoor temperature. We walk without heavy jackets, sit outside for an early baseball game, burn a last pile of brush with the blessing of the fire department. Encouraged by the warmth, sun and balmy air, we take on the edge of the yard with pruners, rakes and the garden cart to trim unwanted growth, clear out the leaves and discover the tops of more daffodils. We put in some good time, and then set out a couple of lawn chairs and toast spring's progress and ours.

On our walk we pass vernal pools, which should soon awaken with peepers whose chant epitomizes the spring season. Every morning early now, the fishermen gather their bait and tackle and climb down to the edge of the river: the wall-eyes

are running. We admire a Mallard and her new duckling. Locally a large bear has been seen in a highly residential area: time to bring in the bird feeders. There will be plenty of food in the wild now and we don't want to encourage the bears.

While the tomato seedlings make progress in the sunroom, it is still nothing short of miraculous to visualize the fully grown plants heavy with fruit they will become in a few months' time.

We've ordered a dwarf tree with three grafted Asian pears. This fruit is occasionally available in local stores but it is always very expensive. The fruit is firm, almost crispy but incredibly juicy and sweet as well as slow to bruise or blemish. Often referred to as the "apple pear" because of its round shape, this fruit originated in Japan, China and Korea. The three variety grafts provide for self-pollination thus allowing the gardener to plant just the one. The Asian pear tree is

not difficult to grow needing only a well-dug hole with composted dirt and regular deep watering. Some gardeners recommend feeding with applications of cottonseed meal to the soil.

Our tree will likely be sent soon and we will have to be patient for a year or two before hoping to harvest our first fruit. Planting a new tree, bush or flowering plant each year adds to the beauty of the yard and new interest for the gardener, rather like buying a new spring garment when you are sick to death of your winter clothes in their somber hues.

This is still a good time to watch your lawn for dead areas or spots without grass and add some new seed. As it is often still frosty overnight, the cold will hasten the cracking of the seed and get your grass growing more quickly. We've also had good luck with the lawn patching material, which is an organic product filled with grass seed and fertilizer. You scratch the

soil where a patch is needed; press the material into the ground, and water. This stuff is handy because it doesn't wash out and needn't be covered with mulch the way you would do with large patches of newly sown seed.

This is a good time to feed your rose bushes. This year I'll be trying a mix of Epsom salts, bone meal, fish or kelp fertilizer and alfalfa or cottonseed meal (1/4 c salts, 1/2 c bone meal, 1/2 c organic fertilizer, and 1/2 c alfalfa or cottonseed meal). The Epsom salts promote enzyme activity in the soil, the bone meal encourages bloom and the rest of the recipe is pure food for healthy plant growth. Weed free the base of the plant and scratch in a few tablespoons of the mix. Then cover with mulch to keep the weeds down and hold moisture.

While you are tending to yard and garden, don't forget to feed yourself with spring tonics. Watch for the first of the local rhubarb and enjoy its stringent tanginess. Take a brisk walk at sunrise. Indulge in a new book of poetry. Sign up for a class and learn something new. Reach out to an old friend. In this season of renewal, do something special to reinvent yourself. Take good care and happy gardening!

### GMRSD from page 8

to appoint the new superintendent.

The public is encouraged to join at the meet-and-greet events on any of the three days to welcome the candidates and get to know them. All the interviews will be open to the public and recorded for broadcast on MCTV.

At the Wednesday, March 27 meeting the school committee set the final district budget for the 2014 school year. The budget had been thoroughly reviewed in previous meetings and passed with a unanimous vote for \$16,968,368.55, an increase of 2 percent over last year's budget.

The school committee usually sets assessments when they pass budgets, but decided this time to do it separately. They voted on assessments at the April 2 meeting. At that meeting, Mark Chapulis of Management Solutions reported they were adjusting the budget numbers further to reflect debt reduction in 2012, reducing the current FY14 budget by \$32,476, to \$16,935,892. Assessments to be presented at town meetings in May were voted to reflect those reductions. The assessments approved unanimously by committee are \$7,985,557 for Montague, and \$1,439,343 for Gill.

Because it conflicts with the Gill town meeting, the June 11 school committee meeting will be rescheduled.



## Town of Montague Board of Health Ordinance

### Regulations Regarding The Poop Of Dogs And Cats

Now that it is spring, the Montague police would like us to remind our readers about a board of health regulation, adopted in July of 2010, pertaining to the collection and proper disposal of pet waste in the town of Montague.

#### Purpose

This regulation has been adopted by the Montague Board of Health for the purpose of creating and maintaining a healthy community.

#### Findings

Exposure to animal feces is not healthy for humans or their pets. Animals that are infected with hookworms and other parasites may pass eggs in their feces. The eggs hatch into larvae and both eggs and larvae may be found in dirt where animals have defecated. Eggs or larvae can get into human bodies when one accidentally eats or has direct contact with contaminated dirt. For example this can happen if a person is walking barefoot or

playing in an area where infected dogs or cats defecated.

a. Dogs and cats can become infected with parasites when infected feces are not picked up and dogs and cats walk through the feces.

b. Improperly disposed of feces wash into rivers and catch basins and pollute our waterways.

#### Requirements

The town of Montague's pooper scooper/dog and cat fouling regulation requires anyone who owns, possesses, or controls a dog or cat within the town limits of Montague to remove and properly dispose of any feces left by said animal(s).

This regulation includes but is not limited to publicly owned land, including sidewalks, streets, parks and tree belts and private property in Montague excluding property owned by and under the exclusive control of the animal owner.

a. Occupants of rental property shall be responsible for collecting

and properly disposing of dog and cat feces left inside or outside rental property for all animals under their control.

b. Proper disposal of feces is required either in a toilet, in a trash container (after being secured in a plastic bag) or in an approved dog/cat composter provided that the unit poses no risk of groundwater contamination. Finished compost consisting of dog/cat feces should not be used to fertilize food crops but may be used to fertilize ornamental plants.

c. Depositing feces in any drain, catch basin or waterway shall be punishable by fine of not less than \$100.00 for each and every offence.

#### Enforcement

This regulation may be enforced by Board of Health members and

their agents, parks and recreation staff, the police department, animal inspectors and animal control officers.

#### Penalties

A person who violates this regulation shall be fined \$25.00 for the first violation. \$50.00 for the second violation, and \$100 for the third and each subsequent violations within a calendar year. Individuals who continually violate this regulation will be subject to a hearing before the Board of Health and may receive a fine of up to \$1000.00.

#### Variance

Seeing Eye and mobility service dog owners are exempt from this regulation.



Montague Reporter on the road: Subscriber Adele Smith-Penniman, of Wendell, studies MR Vol.11#17 on a trip to Cormiers, Haiti. If you're headed out of town this spring, pack an issue to remind you of home, and send us your pictures!

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