



Plan Ahead for Summer Camps

Page 8



Village Sketchbook Old Friends

Page 9

LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

MONTAGUE CENTER

MONTAGUE CITY

TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 28

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 12, 2012

Leverett Proposes 3% FY'13 Budget Increase

BY DAVID DETMOLD – “This will not necessitate an override,” finance committee chair Don Gibavic told a crowd of about a dozen citizens, and a dozen more department heads and town officials, at an FY'13 budget hearing Tuesday night at town hall. “We snuck through again this year.”

The budget that will be brought to the April 28th town meeting calls for a 3% (\$157,333) increase over last year's \$5,177,791 allocation for operating town departments and the schools.

After months of nail biting over an anticipated Proposition 2½ override, the finance committee and selectboard put those fears to rest on Tuesday, saying the basic departmental needs for the town and schools could be met (barely) within the constraints of Leverett's levy limit.

Even so, the tax rate per thousand dollars of valuation will continue its steady climb in Leverett, from \$15.80 in 2010, to \$16.20 in 2011, to \$17.77 in 2012, to an estimated \$18.73 next year, which translates to an expected hike of \$95.82 on a property valued at \$100,000 in FY'13.

Town employees will receive a 2% cost of living increase this year, if town meeting adopts the budget proposals set forth on Tuesday. Teachers at the elemen-

tary school are still in the middle of contract negotiations with the school committee.

But resident Cindy Cormier wanted to know why the parking lot at the elementary school was so full when she passed each morning on her way to work, if the school is only educating 147 students this year. How many teachers and classroom aides are really needed to provide a good education to that many students, Cormier wanted to know.

“Why aren't we right-sizing as student enrollment declines?” she asked.

Members of the school committee responded that state mandates require them to provide educational services to students at the present staffing level. In particular, special needs students require a certain level of classroom staff, and Leverett is obligated to provide it.

School Choice

Leverett school committee chair Farshid Hajir engaged the selectboard in a discussion about whether or not to continue the policy of accepting school choice students from neighboring towns at the elementary school. Each of the 22 school choice students currently enrolled in Leverett Elementary School brings \$5,000 in state aid with them, augmenting the LES budget, but at the

see BUDGET page 14

Occupy Franklin County Presents:

An Economic History Lesson



Professor Gerald Friedman of the UMass Department of Economics spoke at a forum at GCC on April 5th

BY SHIRA HILLEL

GREENFIELD – There was a time when the federal government's tax and regulatory policies encouraged a broader distribution of wealth. But in recent decades U.S. fiscal policy has tilted toward the benefit of society's upper crust – the people who already enjoy the biggest slice of the American pie.

Last Thursday, April 5th, professor Gerald Friedman of the UMass department of economics

spoke at Greenfield Community College about America's current economic situation, how we got to this point, and what can be done about it.

Friedman's talk was sponsored by Occupy Franklin County, a grassroots coalition of people fed up with the growing power of America's richest 1%.

Friedman spoke about rising wealth disparity around the world, and especially in the United States. “We are living in the worst economic crisis facing America, facing the world, since the 1930s,” he proclaimed. “Like the Great Depression... the crisis was caused by the success of the 1% in massively redistributing income to themselves, and it will be relieved only by policies that restore equity in our economy.”

Friedman was a historian before he became an economist, and it was through a historical lens that he explained the trends he said led to America's 2008 financial collapse, the evaporation of some six million jobs and the Great Recession that followed.

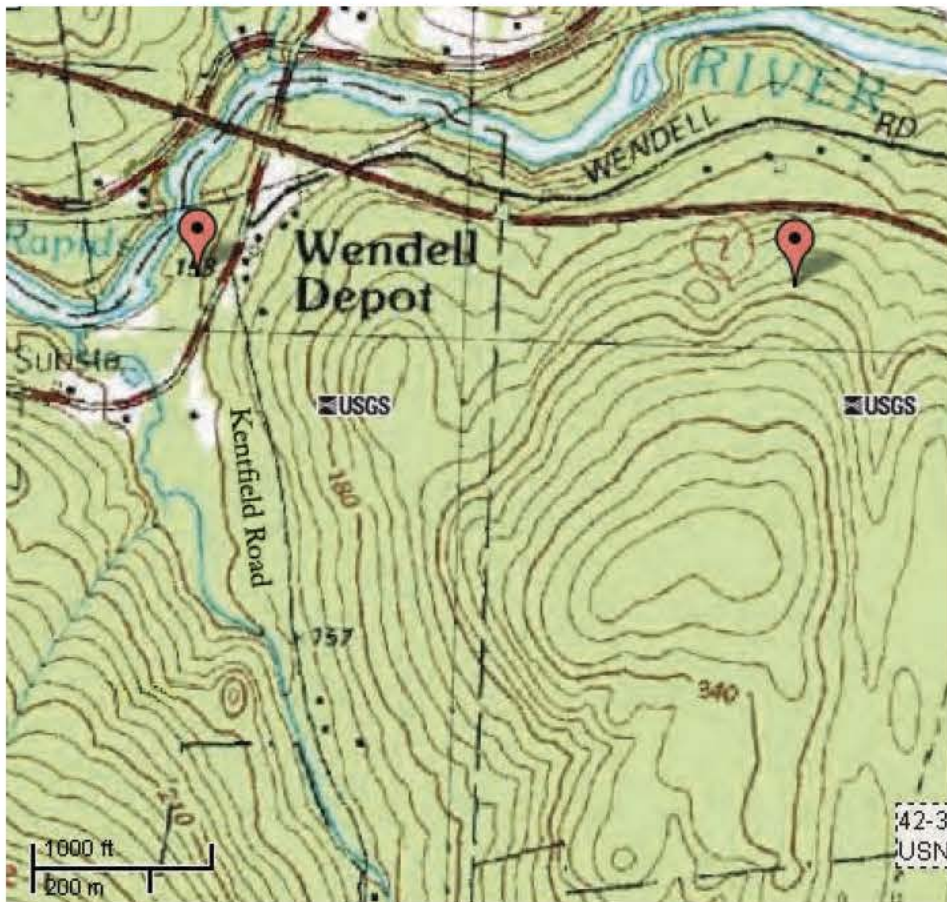
New Deal policies implemented under President Roosevelt in response to the extreme poverty of the Depression were kept as prosperity returned following WWII. At this time, a broad consensus held that government rules are needed to keep capitalism in check. Foundational structures such as Social Security, unions, the minimum wage and regulations on banks were put in place to establish and maintain a redistributive economic state. Social Security was particularly helpful in reducing poverty among the elderly. In the 1970s, the super rich in America paid 70% of their income in taxes. (Today, the top income tax is capped at 35%)

During the New Deal Era, the United States enjoyed the fastest rate of economic growth, coupled with the highest rates of upward social mobility in our history. Average wages rose 2% per year.

see ECONOMIC page 10



Kentfield Road Fire



The tough terrain off Kentfield Road posed a challenge to firefighters on Monday.

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL DEPOT – At about 12:30 p.m. on Monday, state fire marshal Phil Gilmore drove a mile and a half up Kentfield Road to investigate a report of a fire called in by a Kentfield resident who passed by on his travels. He found a rapidly spreading brush fire extending over a tinder dry mountain ridge.

Over the next hour, Gilmore called for mutual aid from Warwick and Orange to Greenfield and Leverett.

According to Orange fire chief Dennis Annear, two men in their 40s from the Somerville area got their car stuck in the mud on Kentfield Road on Sunday night and decided to stay overnight and keep warm by a campfire rather than walk out for help. “At some point in the night, the campfire got out of control,” Annear said, burning

approximately four and a half acres of Wendell State Forest. The fire came within a half mile of residences, according to numerous reports.

Air has been dry for weeks, and the state has declared a Red Flag fire warning. On Monday, the wind was strong and gusty and it pushed the fire uphill from the road until it covered five spotty acres.

Kentfield Road is nar-

row, and steep in places, so responding tankers and engines had to park in Wendell Depot and their crews, 54 firefighters in all, got rides in brush trucks arriving from more distant towns.

What they faced on the scene was a tinder-dry, leaf-littered, uneven slope, thick with saplings and mountain laurel, and so steep in many places that a

see FIRE page 16



The fire, which spread from an untended campfire off Kentfield Road, burned 4.5 acres, said Orange fire chief Dennis Annear.

PET OF THE WEEK Hypnotist Cat



Patches

My name is Patches. I'm a four year old female shorthair cat in need of a home. I am a hypnotist, a magician, a magnetic force. Before you even realize it you'll be drawn towards me...inexorably...irresistably...yessssssss! I've got you now! Pet me, you fool! Listen to my virtues and be amazed: I am, yes, super-friendly, a lap-cat, a clown. I love to play with crinkly things and all sorts of toys, and my favorite toy is (how economical, how brilliant!) a straw! But wait, there's more: I play fetch, yes I do. I like dogs (of course I'm merciless to dogs, but it's all in good fun)! I am Patches! Resistance. is. futile! I'm a member of the Lonely Hearts Club. That means I've been waiting for adoption longer than most of the other kitties here and my adoption fee is 50% off! For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

RECYCLE

BOTTLES & CANS!

Week of April 16th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

32 Bridge Street,
2nd Floor
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday.
(Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)

PHONE (413) 863-8666
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 1/2 Year

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

April School Vacation Week

BY LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE – April school vacation week is a great time to “check out” the Montague Public Libraries. All week the Art-to-Go box will be in the Children’s Room of the Carnegie Library. Children are invited to take home the materials for one craft project per visit, and coloring sheets. Tuesday is a special program, Frogs and Friends, at the Millers Falls Library at 3:30 p.m.

This hands-on program with

Dawn Marvin Ward is sponsored by the Montague Cultural Council.

On Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library is Story Hour with Ruth O’Mara. This fun program for young children includes stories, crafts, songs and snacks. The very popular Music and Movement for young children program is Thursday morning at 10 a.m. at the Montague Center Library with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

School Vacation Special on the Civil War



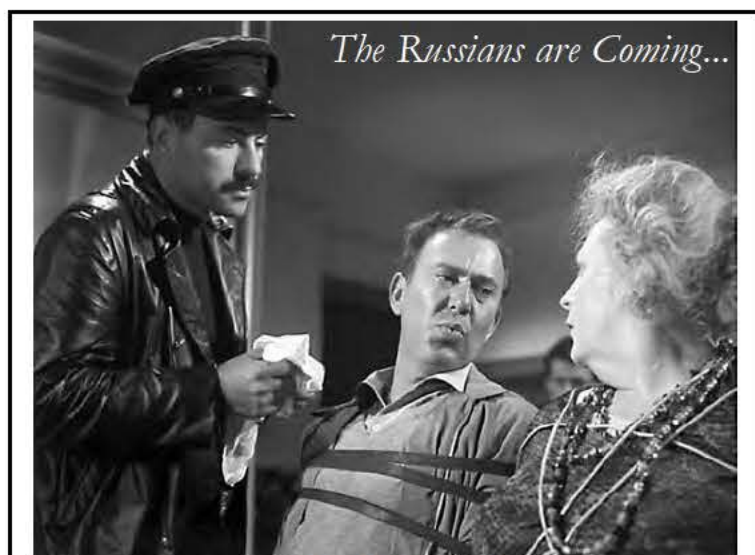
School Vacation Week Special Program on the Civil War: Life in the 20th Maine Brigade: 1863-1865. Wednesday April 18th, at 4 p.m. at the Wendell Library.

Join Civil War buffs Brad Peters and Jan Ross of Erving as they follow the 20th Maine Civil War Brigade through famous battles in the Civil War.

After the talk, participants will examine and handle authentic Civil War artifacts, including swords and muskets.

The program is geared toward upper grade school children, but will also be of interest to teens and adults.

The program is free, and has been made possible by the Wendell Cultural Council.



Sunday, April 22nd, 7:00 p.m.
Wendell Free Library – Free!

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – April 2nd to 6th

GILL-MONTAGUE – Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the 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, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

Monday, April 16th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
12:00 p.m. Potluck & Bingo
No Knitting

Tuesday, April 17th

10:30 a.m. Seated Health Program
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. RAD Class

Wednesday, April 18th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, April 19th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, April 20th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3649. Lunch is daily 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. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

The Erving Council on Aging will host a conflict-resolution workshop. The classes will be led by Mediator and Trainer, Mari Rovang and will occur for four consecutive Tuesday afternoons in April from 3:30 until 5 p.m. Call Polly for more information or to register.

Monday, April 16th



Lenny Stratton, GQ2 rep, presents a check for \$486 to Pam Kelly, Fund Development director at Franklin County Home Care.

SHELBURNE FALLS MA – GQ2 (Guys Quilt Too), a group of seven men quilters, were part of the All Male Review Men’s Quilt show at A Notion to Quilt, March 23rd -25th, 2012.

GQ2 created a quilt to be raffled during the show. Almost \$1000 was raised and was divided between the Franklin

Survival Center and Meals on Wheels.

The raffle quilt, done in a “Round Robin” technique (Round Robin, but done by men) is on a medieval theme. GQ2 quilters who created the quilt are: Vic Allison, Bruce Emery, Danny Graveline, Scott Hutchins, Herb Menzel, Steve Power, and Lenny Stratton.

Correction

In last week’s article about the Swift River School assessment, a reporting error misidentified Gabrielle Voelker and Wayne Hachey as members of the New Salem school committee. Voelker and Hachey are members of the New Salem finance committee, not the school committee. We apologize for the error.

PLEASE SHOP LOCALLY.

Support our advertisers,
and thank them for
advertising in the
Montague Reporter

REMINDER

To the Residents of
Montague Center Per order
of The Montague Center
Fire Department There is
to be **NO DUMPING OF
BRUSH OR OTHER
BURNABLE DEBRIS** At the
site of the July Bonfire on
Station Street

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?

www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

**Feel Like a
Brand New Person!**

With a Haircut
at **Ed’s
Barber
Shop**

74 Avenue A • 863-2085
Crew Products • Gift Certificates

“56 Years on the Ave”

**WE HEAT
FRANKLIN
COUNTY**

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service

MACKIN FUEL TRUCKING
SAND & GRAVEL

(413) 773-3622



Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – The fourth annual Gill-Montague partnership community awards celebration will be held on Wednesday, April 25th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Montague Elks Club, 1 Columbus Ave. in Turners Falls. This event features a free dinner, activities, and awards to youth and unity service. Pre-registration is required. Call Kara or Cate at (413)863-3604, or send an email to pd@gmpartnership.org

On Saturday, April 21st, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick invites volunteers of all ages to lend a hand with **DCR Park Service Day**. With local help, park facilities will be spruced up, beaches cleaned, trails cleared and maintained, flowers planted, and more. These valuable resources belong to all of us, and we can all take pride in them. Pick a park, give a day and make a difference. Local state parks participating include Erving State Forest, Wendell State Forest, and the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Online registration is now open at www.mass.gov/dcr/parkserve.

Artspace, in Greenfield, is seeking Franklin County **string players** (violin, viola, cello and bass) players, ages 8 to 18, to participate in the first annual string celebration on a date to be announced. To register for the String Celebration Day, call Artspace, (413)772-6811 or email info@franklyarts.com.

Join staff members Suzy Polucci and Kelly Broadway of the **Community Crisis Response Team** on Friday, April 13th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in celebrating poetry month. Bring poems, prose, or other short writings, either original or others' works, that have helped you find meaning in your path to healing, to share with others. The event will be

held at 277 Main Street on the fourth floor in Greenfield. Registration is requested by calling (413)773-5090, and refreshments will be provided. The Community Crisis Response Team provides free healing arts programs and other support to people affected by crime-related trauma in Franklin and Hampshire counties and the North Quabbin region. To learn more, please visit www.taketimetohel.org

The Trinitarian Congregational Church of Northfield invites friends and colleagues of the Reverend Lloyd Parrill and Dottie Parrill to a concert of sacred music in honor of **Reverend Parrill's retirement**. The concert will be held on Saturday, April 14th, at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary, and will feature local musicians presenting a selection of the Parrills' favorite hymns. A reception will follow the concert. For more information, please contact Chris Harris at (413)498-2133.

Swing your partner eastern-style, in a **square dance** on Saturday, April 14th from 8 to 11 p.m. at the United Church of Bernardston. The Falltown String Band provides the music, and Bill Wiles calls the squares. Everyone is welcome from beginners to veteran square dancers. Soft-soled shoes are requested. Admission is \$10 per person. The United Church of Bernardston is located at 58 Church Street.

Four college **acappella groups** will perform on the stage at Greenfield High School. The Dartmouth Aires, fresh from their recent performance at Lincoln Center and having returned from their NBC "Sing Off" competition in Los Angeles, will return for their 16th consecutive appearance. Joining them will be the Smith College Smiffenpoofs, and Amherst College's Bluestockings and Zumbyes.

Support the Partner Agencies of the United Way of Franklin County and enjoy an evening of great entertainment. Call the United Way at (413)772-2168 or email info@uw-fc.org to purchase advance tickets. Greenfield High School is located on Lenox Avenue; the concert starts at 7:30 p.m.

A small **Ruminant Conference** will be held at Shelburne Fellowship Hall, Shelburne on Saturday, April 21st from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop is sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Sheep Breeders and will include sessions on feed, nutrition, health, diseases and preventions.

For registration please email kmlablanc@yahoo.com, or call Kim at (413)262-2730. For farming novices, ruminant animals have multiple chambers in their stomachs for digestion, and include not only sheep and cattle but also bison, deer, moose, camels, pronghorn and llamas. So for all the prospective camel breeders out there, this one's for you!

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net

Miss Representation

Award-winning film challenges media depictions of women and girls.

In one week American teenagers spend 31 hours watching TV, 17 hours listening to music, 3 hours watching movies, 4 hours reading magazines, and 10 hours online. That's 10 hours and 45 minutes of media consumption a day. What do they learn about gender in that time?

Miss Representation, an award-winning documentary that challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, will be shown at the Cape Cod Lounge, on the first floor of the UMass Amherst Campus Center, on Wednesday, April 18th at 8:00 p.m. The film, written and directed by Jennifer Siebel, has won numerous national and international film awards, and was an Official Selection of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival.

Miss Representation exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. In a society where media is the most persuasive

force shaping cultural norms, the collective message that our young women and men overwhelmingly receive is that a woman's value and power lie in her youth, beauty, and sexuality, and not in her capacity as a leader.

Women have made great strides in leadership over the past few decades, but the United States is still 90th in the world for women in national legislatures. Women hold only 3% of top positions in mainstream media, and 65% of women and girls have eating disorders.

Stories from teenage girls and provocative interviews with prominent politicians, journalists, activists, and others – including Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Margaret Cho, Rosario Dawson and Gloria Steinem – build momentum, as *Miss Representation* gives media literacy a much-needed gender focus, and asks viewers to think about the effects of the images they see on women and girls' ability to see themselves and be seen as leaders in society.

This Week on MCTV: Starhawk

BY CINDY TARAIL

MONTAGUE – Starhawk, author and environmental activist, has for many years been a prominent leader in feminist and Earth-based spirituality movements. She spoke recently at the Second Congregational Church in Montague Center.

Robbie Leppzer, Paul Richmond, and Janet Masucci, a member-producer at MCTV, captured her talk in the video, "An Evening with Starhawk, Celebrating the Heart and Soul of the River Valley Community."

Masucci said, "Starhawk offers insight into the finer points of collective group process, using spirit to nurture relationships to hold a community together, as members try to do the good work they envision in the world."

Masucci noted that some Greenfield area residents had been inspired by Starhawk's

novel, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, to work toward "a sustainable, healthy and equitable community" by forming a group, the Five Rivers Council. After some difficulties, group member Joshua Dostis of New Salem invited Starhawk, "to come to speak for healing, insight and closure." Masucci said that while the Five Rivers Council has disbanded, groups such as Greening Greenfield and the Transition Town Movement are actively pursuing a sustainable future. Similar groups may benefit from Starhawk's perspectives and suggestions.

Masucci expressed thanks to the Reverend Barbara DeLisle for hosting Starhawk at the Church.

Local community groups are asking MCTV for video crews. Volunteers interested in working on those crews can contact MCTV at (413)863-9200 to help videotape library events, local farming, the Gill-

Montague Partnership Community Awards Celebration, the Turners Falls Block Party, in-studio interviews, and more.

Aspiring videographers can access training, equipment, and peer support at MCTV. Visit vimeo.com/mctvchannel17 to view locally produced videos on demand and check out the program schedule at montaguetv.org.

Visit: vimeo.com/mctvchannel17 to view locally produced videos on demand.

WENDELL COUNTRY STORE

"It's just a stone's throw from reality."

Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods
Beer - Wine - Liquor

MON - SAT 7-9, SUNDAY 8-8
978-544-8646

Lockes Village Rd.
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 / WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.

54 Main Street
P.O. Box 729
Greenfield, MA 01302

Avalanche • Colorado • Suburban • Tahoe • Equinox • Traverse • Vans

Ron Sicard
Sales Representative

Bus. Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746

SAWMILL RIVER ARTS

at the Montague Mill
(413) 387-2885

Open Thurs. - Sun.
noon - 6 pm

A Fine Art & Craft Gallery

Good Dirt Pottery Studio

38 Main Street, Montague
413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com

Local Farmer-Owned

Shop with your neighbors
Support local agriculture

Products for your animals,
home, farm, garden & yard

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

IN GOOD COMPANY

SKILLED, INTENTIONAL COMPANIONSHIP
FOR ELDERLY AND OTHERS

SITA LANG 413-834-7569
HOSPICE TRAINED, CPR CERTIFIED

Community Yoga & WELLNESS CENTER

beginners welcome

www.Community-Yoga.com

change your body
change your mind
change your life

The Montague Reporter

Editor David Detmold Patricia Pruitt	Layout & Design Claudia Wells - Art Director Janel Nockleby Shira Hillel Sarah Duprey - Intern	Photography Claudia Wells Joe Parzych
Editorial Assistants Hugh Corr Shira Hillel Gloria Kegeles	"The Voice of the Villages"	Distribution Manager Don Clegg
Circulation Janel Nockleby	Founded by Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold August, 2002	Technical Administrator Michael Muller

Saving Energy, the Environment, and Your Tax Dollars

MONTAGUE – It's getting to be a habit. The town of Montague is setting and following a course of environmental stewardship, to the benefit of the planet and the welfare of its residents.

The town has one of the higher recycling rates in the state, thus reducing our trash removal costs as well as conserving resources. We were in the first group of towns named by the state of Massachusetts as Green Communities. As part of a plan to reduce municipal facility energy use by 20% from 2008 levels, the town has implemented \$348,976 worth of energy efficiency improvements to the town hall, the Carnegie Library, and the public safety complex. These projects were mostly funded by grants: \$155,000 by the Green Communities Program, \$150,000 by the Energy Efficiency block grant program, and \$45,470 from a town appropriation.

The program under which these improvements were undertaken, an energy performance contract with Siemens Building Technologies, is contractually guaranteed to save the town \$430,741 in energy costs over the course of the next 20 years. It will also prevent 97 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere annually. That is the equivalent of 1.2 tanker trucks' worth of gasoline.

Montague's new public safety facility is a model of energy efficient design, and its geothermal heating and cooling system is a proven success. The lower energy bills will benefit our town operating budgets for years to come.

The town hall has converted to an efficient gas boiler, and, thanks to new insulation, the heat in town hall now stays longer in the occupied portions of the building instead of rapidly escaping through the attic. The Franklin County Tech School has also stepped up to the energy-conservation plate, with new high-efficient boilers

and controls providing significant annual savings.

You don't have to look far to see evidence of conservation and green technology in use elsewhere in town: solar collectors abound, including on the office building of our wastewater treatment plant, where they heat a good deal of the water used for staff showers and other needs. Much more is hidden in walls and attics as residents improve the comfort and efficiency of their homes with air sealing and insulation upgrades.

Thanks to the ongoing MassSave program, many residents have been – and will continue to be – able to make these home improvements with minimal out-of-pocket costs. Many houses in town have been on the nationally-recognized Green Buildings Open House tours, sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association. You can also see grassroots efforts, such as education for efficiency by the energy committee, and volunteer crews turning out to weatherize library and Grange buildings.

All this work is vitally important in positioning Montague as an attractive place to live and work in the area. We hope you'll celebrate with us the accomplishments of residents and the town to date, and join your neighbors in creating a greener, more efficient, and more affordable community.

–**The Montague Selectboard**

Chris Boutwell, Pat Allen, and Mark Fairbrother, chair.

This editorial was prepared with help from the Montague Energy Committee.

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

Montague Reporter

**58 4th St Turners, 01376
reporter@montaguema.net**

Sign Me Up!

- ☐ \$20 for half year subscription
☐ \$25 out-of-area subscribers

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

THIS IS
THE TIME
OF YEAR TO
SECURE
YOUR
TRASH
CANS...



JESSICA LARK N ILLUSTRATION

...BEARS ARE
LOOKING
FOR ANY
TREATS
THEY CAN
GET!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Knotweed Can be Safely Controlled

The reference to my mention of knotweed control at a recent Wendell selectboard meeting in the Montague Reporter was so concise it did not accurately convey what I said.

We have done a lot of research on methods of controlling this invasive plant, and based on the information collected I personally believe

knotweed can be safely controlled with careful use of certain herbicides by a professional with expertise in habitat restoration. Doing so, I believe, is in the best interests of local ecology.

I stated that any decision about using herbicides to control knotweed along town roads would be up to the selectboard.

Also, because this is a sensitive topic, rather than bringing experts up to discuss this with the selectboard alone, it would make more sense to invite them for a public meeting on the topic.

– **Marianne Sundell, chair
Wendell Open Space
Committee**

Back to Health, Back to Work

I can't say thank you enough to all my friends and supporters who wished me well while I recovered from a series of health problems. The healing properties of friendship, combined with the excellent care I received from many talented and dedicated medical professionals at Cooley-Dickinson Hospital, has sped my recovery.

A special thank you goes out to my partner, Bryon, and my friends and neighbors who helped me with meals, transportation and any number of errands that I could not do myself. And so, thanks to the efforts of many people, I have resumed my regular duties on Beacon Hill as of April 2nd.

Although I continued to work

by phone these past couple of months, nothing beats getting into the thick of things at the State House, believe me.

I hope everyone will know how very grateful I am for the opportunity to represent this area in the State Senate.

– **Stan Rosenberg
Amherst**

Back in the Day in Millers Falls

BY DAVID YEZ

MONMOUTH, IL – Thinking back to my youth in the 1950s, I'd say, "Life was much simpler. We didn't get bored, even if we just sat on a bench in downtown Millers Falls."

Today, I observe many people checking their cell phones or I-phones frequently, no matter where they are. How did we sur-

vive back then?

We sat on our front porch and talked among ourselves, we talked to the neighbors sitting on their porch across the street. We raised our voices slightly and talked about anything and everything. We lived on Franklin Street, which slopes from Main Street down to the Millers River. Many nights during the summer we sat on our porch and watched it rain. During heavy downpours, a small stream would start flowing down the street. I can still hear the sound of the rain and see the torrents of water streaming down Franklin.

On summer days, I would sit on our front porch and listen for the steam locomotives coming from the north and south. We lived one block from the Central Vermont Railroad tracks. The Boston and Maine tracks were close to the uptown area. With

this convergence of railroads there was always plenty of train traffic in Millers Falls.

A single locomotive would often be dropped off from a train heading south on the Central Vermont tracks where it would be switched to a side rail to wait for the next northbound freight to St. Albans, VT.

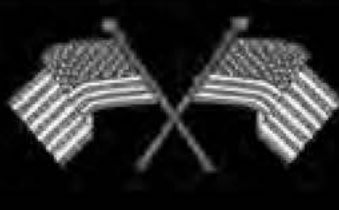
During the wait, the engineer and the fireman, in their bib overalls, would bank the engine with coal, and walk one block to Bill's Luncheonette for a bite to eat. Along the same street was Elmer's Hardware Store.

My father would often send me "upstreet" to get some fasteners or other items from Elmer's. The transactions were simple. I gave the man cash; he punched the keys on the cash register, gave me the change and away I went. No receipts or the large amounts of paper you get

see MILLERS FALLS pg 13

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 4/12/12

Wounded: 15,332 Deaths: 1,932



GUEST EDITORIAL

Can Fukushima Happen Here?

BY HATTIE NESTEL

ATHOL – It is now more than a year since the Fukushima nuclear reactor catastrophe of March 11th, 2011.

The events at Fukushima should leave no doubt that nuclear power is unconscionably dangerous.

In the United States, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversees the safety of nuclear power plants. However, the NRC offers nothing to reassure us that nuclear power can operate here without a Fukushima-style disaster.

Three Fukushima reactors melted down in March, 2011. They spewed high levels of deadly radioactive toxins into the air, water, and food chain. A dead zone with a 12-mile radius surrounds the meltdowns and will be in place for an estimated half century or more. Radiation has banished at least a hundred thousand people who will never be allowed to return home in the face of the poisoning of their land, air, water and food chain.

Twenty-three US nuclear reactors have the same flawed design as those that devastated Japan. Two of those US reactors are dangerously close to us in Western Massachusetts.

Vermont Yankee, only five miles from Northfield, and Pilgrim in Plymouth put Massachusetts residents constantly at risk of evacuation. If Plymouth melts down, Boston is gone forever. Here in the North Quabbin, we are well within the potentially toxic zone of a Vermont Yankee meltdown.

Fukushima was a highly prized agricultural area, much like parts of Western Massachusetts. It is now forbidden to eat staples like rice, beef, and vegetables grown there. Children can no longer drink milk from thousands of cows. Fish and seaweed are also dangerously poisoned and prohibited for human consumption.

Fukushima's children register high levels of thyroid radioactivity from iodine 131. Their bodies show high levels of cesium 137. These radioac-

tive isotopes are carcinogens and put children at high risk of developing leukemia, which has a five year latency period.

Within ten days of the disaster, Germany shut down eight of that country's oldest reactors, and vowed to close the remainder of its nuclear reactors within ten years. Other countries have cancelled contracts to build new reactors and have shuttered existing ones. Japan once had 54 operating reactors – all but one have now been shut down, perhaps permanently if the Japanese people prevail. Siemens, a major international corporation, has announced it will not build more reactors, and instead will invest in safe and sustainable technologies like wind and solar.

But the US government has not followed the prudent trend. Instead, Vermont Yankee, itself a GE Mark 1 reactor of the same age and make as the reactors in Fukushima, received a 20-year license extension within ten days of the Fukushima meltdowns. Pilgrim is also on the cusp of NRC relicensing approval.

Groups and individuals in Massachusetts and Vermont have undertaken widespread protests, letter-writing campaigns, and have been lobbying their governors and legislatures. It is our democratic process that must win out over multibillion-dollar corporations that jeopardize our lives and the future of our children.

On Saturday, April 14th, beginning at noon, there will be a rally on the commons in Brattleboro to hear US senator Bernie Sanders and Vermont governor Peter Shumlin endorse shutting down Vermont Yankee. Those attending may take a bus for \$10 each from Wendell (call 978-544-3758 to see if any seats are still available); North Quabbin residents have planned carpools (call: 800.215.8805 for more info).

Please take time to write to Governor Deval Patrick, State House, Room 280, Boston, MA 02133 and let him know you want both Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee shut down.



A Brave Firefighter Gone

Theodore Graveline in action in the mid-1970s.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – Theodore (Ted) Graveline, firefighter, artist, author, and longtime resident of Gill, suffered a stroke on the morning of Friday, March 30th, after visiting his wife Edie's grave in the West Gill Cemetery.

He was taken by ambulance

to Franklin Medical Center, and flown from there to Mass General, in Boston, where, at the age of 83, he passed away on Monday, April 2nd, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his son Joe, of Northfield, seven daughters: Tina Graveline of Greenfield, Theresa Schuetze of Shelburne

Falls, Theodora Kelley of Shelburne Falls, Jeannie Graveline of Greenfield, Edith Lloyd of Greenfield, Lorraine Gadault of Bernardston, Dorothy Moser of Maryland; 14 grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and two more on the way. He is predeceased by his daughter Judy Whitney, his first wife, Tina, who died in 1971, and Edie, who died in December of 2008.

A member of the Gill Congregational Church, Ted Graveline read the Bible while he visited his wife Edie's grave each day. On the day he was stricken, ten steps from her grave, he had been reading the Gospel according to John, Chapter 9, which tells the story of Jesus restoring sight to a man born blind, as the disbelieving Pharisees wonder how such a miracle could be worked by a man unknown to them. "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world," says Jesus to the blind man.

Ted had cared for Edie's grave, and arranged to purchase a used wrought iron fence for the entire cemetery, which is so close to the Oak Ridge Golf Course that it had been known to attract errant golfers seeking stray shots in the rough among the stones. He painted the fence himself, and arranged to have the Gill

see BRAVE page 10

THE RAY MASON BAND SPRINGS UP AT THE WENDELL FULL MOON COFFEEHOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2012, 7:30 P.M.
\$6 - \$15 (978) 544-5557

Polish up your dancing shoes and bring a friend out for an evening of delightfully accessible rock and roll. Longtime valley favorites the Ray Mason Band offer a reliably charming take on life and music, with clever wordplay and funky rhythm.

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse is located in the Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, offering a great opportunity for music fun and dance always in support of a good cause. This show will benefit your nonprofit community newspaper: The Montague Reporter!

Open Mic begins at 7:30. For Open Mic sign up directions and further information please visit our website: www.wendellfullmoon.org



The Ray Mason Band, benefit for the Montague Reporter

PLACE YOUR BIZ CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Power Town Apartments

152 Avenue A
PO Box 48
Turners Falls, MA
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:

HallKeen Management, Inc.

rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

5 BANK ROW (RT 5&10)
GREENFIELD, MA
413 - 772 - 1968

4 OLD SOUTH STREET
DOWNTOWN
NORTHAMPTON, MA
413 - 584 - 9868

2 LOCATIONS • USED & DISCOUNT BOOKS
OPEN DAILY • RAVENUSEDBOOKS.COM

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE

Your Automotive Answer

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS

TELE: (413) 772-8862 **U-HAUL**

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner

MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph: (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354

Montague BOOKMILL
Open Daily 10 - 6

413-367-9206
www.montaguebookmill.com

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY

30 Montague St.
TURNERS FALLS

413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143
www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**Finance Committee Opposes 13% School Budget Hike**

BY KATIE NOLAN – On April 5th, the Erving selectboard finalized the warrant for the May 9th annual town meeting, including an \$8.98 million FY'13 budget. The budget includes a 2.5% cost of living adjustment for town employees and no changes in employee health insurance payments.

Finance committee members Daniel Hammock and Dennis Wonsey reported the finance committee is recommending all the money articles, with the exception of the Erving Elementary School budget.

Hammock said the finance committee would prefer a 5% increase over the FY'12 school budget, rather than the 13% (\$256,712) increase proposed by the school committee. The school committee is seeking a combined elementary and secondary school budget this

year of \$3,430,463.

The expected cost of educating Erving's upper school students would actually decline by \$20,000 under the committee's proposal. The main driver for the proposed increase is the increased cost of educating special needs students at the elementary school, with the school committee calling for the creation of three new positions: a special education teacher, a Title I teacher, and a speech and language pathologist, along with more hours for an occupational therapist to help meet the educational needs of a growing population of special needs students.

The town meeting warrant will be published in the Around Town newsletter and sent to households in Erving between April 25th and May 1st.

In other business, the board responded to a

request from Ralph and Erik Semb for a waiver of a \$4,938 building permit fee for their proposed Dunkin' Donuts and convenience store at the corner of Route 2 and Semb Drive, across from their French King Entertainment Center. Erik Semb had argued for the waiver at an earlier board meeting, saying the planned convenience store would bring in more tax and lottery revenue for the town.

However, after receiving a petition from treasurer's clerk Julie Wonka with 15 signatures opposing the permit fee waiver, the board encouraged the Sembs to instead apply for tax increment financing (TIF) instead.

Under the TIF program, the town can grant tax breaks to promote development of a property based on the increased valuation of a property after it is developed.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**An Invitation to Celebrate the Civil War**

BY PATRICIA PRUITT Genevieve Fraser opened the Gill selectboard meeting on Tuesday, April 10th, with an invitation for Gill to join the greater Quabbin-area celebration of the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War on July 4th, 1862. Fraser explained that although the war had begun a year earlier, it was originally fought by volunteers. President Lincoln formally asked the state of Massachusetts to

provide money and men to fight the war on the Fourth of July, 1862.

Fraser noted the celebration of the Civil War's sesquicentennial will go on for five years, but she is about the business of inviting as many of Orange's neighbors to celebrate at the Orange Town Hall on July 4th, 2012, and the weekends before and after that date. On the Fourth itself, a Wednesday, the occasion will include read-

ings from Civil War era diaries, letters from the lost Quabbin towns, writings by Mark Twain and other 19th century writers and historical figures. A Civil War Quilt contest has been organized, along with an 1862-style cookout, and other events.

Lincoln – The Musical, written by Dr. Michael Riccards, historian and past president of Fitchburg State College, will be presented

see GILL pg 12

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**New Hoops for Outdoor Tippling, New Fangled Open Meeting Law, and 29 Motions**

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

Event planners for some of Montague's popular events have new hoops to jump through if their celebrations include outdoor beer tents. But town staff and counsel have been researching ways to allow the fun to continue while obeying state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission regulations.

On Monday, the selectboard voted that businesses already holding a liquor license will now need to apply for a real estate license through the town of Montague (templates are provided) in order to serve alcohol on a sidewalk (adjacent to their establishment, for example) at a

specific date and time. This would allow businesses to work around ABCC regulations which require that businesses which already serve alcohol on their premises can't do so anywhere else under their own business name. Previously, special one-day liquor licenses were granted through the ABCC via town local licensing authorities, such as the Montague Selectboard. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio explained that sidewalk use procedures would now be managed through a town-administered real estate license procedure, which would clearly define the premises of a business for

special events.

But, it is unclear to this writer how this process impacts events such as the Montague Soapbox Derby. The Rendezvous, for example, has traditionally provided a beer tent (and hamburgers). So would the Voo now obtain a real estate permit designating an area of Unity Park as their business for a day? And what about outside vendors providing beer tents in parks with no establishment, per se, such as Berkshire Brewing Company at the Franklin County Pumpkin Festival?

In a follow up conversation, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio see MONTAGUE pg 11

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**School Committee Approves Town Assessments MONTAGUE'S SHARE OF G-M COSTS TO RISE BY 3.64%**

BY ELLEN

BLANCHETTE – Shelly Clark of Montague is the new school committee member, filing the seat left vacant recently by the resignation of Emily Monosson.

Clark will only serve until the town and school district elections on May 21st, at which time a newly elected permanent member will fill the seat.

In a brief statement to the committee before they voted her on, Clark said she wanted to work with the members as a team, and help the district move forward in a positive way.

As all other candidates

had withdrawn prior to the meeting, Clark was sworn in immediately after the committee voted unanimously to select her.

Kristen Boyle, member from Montague and committee secretary, stepped out into the hall with Clark to swear her in, after which she took her seat, looking very pleased.

Interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom informed the committee they had narrowed the search for a new director of student services to one person, an announcement to be made soon.

The proposed assessment numbers for the

FY'13 school district budget were presented by Jennifer Coscia of Management Solutions (the district's new provider of business management services), and accepted in a unanimous vote by the school committee.

The district's total proposed FY'13 operating budget, adopted by the committee previously, is \$16,567,640.

For the town of Montague, the total district school assessment would come to \$7,850,604, an increase over FY'12 of 3.64%.

see SCHOOL page 12

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

Now Delivering Propane



COUNTRY OIL
SINCE 1966
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

Prepaid & Budget Programs Available
CALL for Details

Air Conditioning Service & Installation

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

Leaf Busters



Gutter Cleaning and Repairs,
Spring Cleaning, Power Washing,
Lawn Maintenance and Odd Jobs

Call for a FREE Estimate

Justin Hanecak
413-512-1553

Hartnett Plumbing



Water Heaters, Drain Cleaning,
Remodeling, Repairs

"We give you a place to go"

184 Jacksonville Road
Colrain 413-624-0044

Serving all of Franklin County
Mass. License #13175

PLOW FRAU & BOW WOW

CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING

"Putting Your Used Goods to Good Use"



413-834-PLOW (7569)
Sita Lang

Snow plowing, too!

NEEDFUL THINGS



SELLING QUALITY USED FURNITURE AND COLLECTIBLES

~ NEW ITEMS ARRIVE WEEKLY! ~

Open Monday-Saturday • 413-774-7430
199 Deerfield Street (Rtes. 5 & 10), Greenfield

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KUSTOM AUTOBODY

MA Reg #RS2066



48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

About-Face Computer Solutions



151 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
(413) 863-5447

Full Service Repairs, Network Setup & Repair, Sales!

www.about-facecomputers.com

Turn your computer troubles around!

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner



The Best Hiding Place in Town

48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR



General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station
Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)



MONTAGUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

THE MONTAGUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS, PROMOTES AND DEVELOPS MONTAGUE'S BUSINESSES. IT ACTIVELY PARTNERS AND COLLABORATES WITH THE COMMUNITY AND PROMOTES MONTAGUE'S LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH.

COME JOIN US!

About-Face Computers
 AH Rist Insurance
 Axarus Environmental Consulting
 Between the Uprights
 Lauralyn J. Brown, DVM
 Carriage House Designs
 Community Yoga & Wellness Ctr.
 Couture Brothers
 Cruise & Travel Co.
 FCHCC
 Freedom Credit Union
 Gallery at Hallmark
 Good Dirt Pottery
 Great Falls Discovery Center
 Greenfield Savings Bank
 Harbor Dogs
 Holly Givens Communications
 Holy Smokes BBQ
 It Figures
 Jay K's Liquors

Jim Martineau
 Judd Wire
 Kostanski Funeral Home
 Loot
 Lynne Rudié Graphic Design
 Montague Reporter
 Montague WebWorks
 Nina's Nook
 Pipiones Sport Shop
 Rachel Roy
 Renaissance Painting
 The Rendezvous
 Ristorante DiPaolo
 Room to Maneuver
 Simon's Stamps
 Simply Computing
 Southworth Company
 The House on the Hill B & B
 Turners Falls Pizza
 Turners Falls RiverCulture

MAKING MEMORIES

Bridal & Event Sampler

Saturday, April 28 1-3 p.m.

Free • 15 Exhibitors • Door Prizes

GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK
 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls



FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME CARE
 HELPING ELDERS, CAREGIVERS &
 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES LIVE BETTER LIVES
 Since 1974 • www.fchcc.org

About-Face Computer Solutions

Computer Sales & Service
 15 years in business

Now at 151 Avenue A in Turners Falls
 (413) 863-5447

CARRIAGE HOUSE DESIGNS

ONE-OF-A-KIND ITEMS AND GIFTS
 HOUSE PLAQUES ■ PET MEMORIALS
 10% DONATION TO ANIMAL WELFARE ORGS.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
 ■ WWW.SIGNEDINSTONE.COM ■

EILEEN DOWD ■ JACK NELSON



Now powered by RocketFusion

413.320.5336 info@montaguwebworks.com
 make the web work for your business

LYNNE RUDIÉ
 GRAPHIC DESIGN

EVENT PROGRAMS
 CORPORATE ID

413.863.9406 ★ lynnerrudie@verizon.net



*You shred
 the paper,
 we shred
 the pork!*

Corner of
 Second St. & Ave. A

Great Things Are Happening:

2ND ANNUAL MONTAGUE SPRING PARADE
THIS SATURDAY—APRIL 14TH @ 1PM

STARTING AT SHEFFIELD SCHOOL ON CROCKER AVE.
 FROM THE AWESOME FOLKS WHO BRING YOU THE PUMPKINFEST
 SEE FACEBOOK.COM/MONTAGUEPARADE FOR INFO AND ROUTE

GILL-MONTAGUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY AWARDS CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25TH, 6PM-8PM

Annual community Dinner and Recognition of Youth and Adults
 who have contributed through community service

www.gmpartnership.org

MBA PRESENTS:

GET READY TO SHRED!

Thursday • April 26 • 3-7 pm
 38 Avenue A at 2nd St. (opposite MCTV)

Shredding services donated by Valley Green Shredding

DONATIONS WILL BENEFIT MCTV

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, CALL STEPHAN @ 863-4373

Summer Programs for Adventurous Young People



LEE WICKS PHOTOS

Kids having fun at Wolf Tree Programs in Montague.

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – Got Kids? Now is the time to plan for the long summer break.

Come June, school children fling down those backpacks and take a deep breath of freedom. But the long hot days lose their luster after a while, and children acclimated to a busy daily schedule can get bored and lonely – never a good combination.

Here in Franklin County there are wonderful options for summer programs, from sports camps sponsored by local recreation departments, and the YMCA in Greenfield, to a circus camp just over the border in Brattleboro, to music and performing arts options.

Wolf Tree Programs in Montague and Journey Camp with Sarah Pirtle, located at Woolman Hill in Deerfield, are just two among the many unique and lesser-known opportunities for families hoping to fill long summer days with life enhancing experiences for their children. Included below are a few helpful websites to guide your summer choices.

Wolf Tree Programs is an exciting option for children hoping to explore the woods and streams while learning wilderness survival skills and primitive

technologies. In this program children can take a break from computer games, TV, action figures, and worrying about scoring a point for the team, and learn about rope making, safe fire making, wildlife tracking, shelter building, and flora and fauna identification.

At Wolf Tree, they get to muck around in the woods and streams, turn stones over to see what lives beneath them, and appreciate the complexity of the natural environment. In addition to summer day camp, Wolf Tree offers vacation camps, opportunities for homeschoolers, in school presentations, and a number of adult workshops, making it a community-wide resource for wilderness education.

The Wolf Tree programs are designed to foster children's curiosity in a fun, safe and non-competitive environment, says Neill Bovaird, the program's founder and director. "Experienced and engaging instructors help them learn essential leadership and team building skills, develop confidence, and become stewards of the land and local communities," he added.

The Wolf Tree website at www.wolftreema.com contains testimonials from parents who believe that Neill Bovaird and the

other instructors at Wolf Tree have had a lasting and positive influence on their children's lives.

Bovaird said, "Our program is designed for children to feel more comfortable in nature and learn about the natural world. It is also

about character building. The core of what we do is to help kids develop self-confidence, leadership skills, team building skills, positive communication skills, respect, responsibility, and healthy approaches to growing up."

Journey Camp with Sarah Pirtle proclaims itself as, "A Place to be Yourself." Now in its 19th summer, the camp fosters community building through creativity and awareness of the natural world. Sessions are offered in Deerfield and also for Hilltown families at the Taproot Commons Farm in Cummington. Girls' weeks offer a chance to build a village in the woods, enter into a story created by teen leaders, and participate in workshops to help each girl value herself.

There are also sessions for boys and girls featuring games, hikes, singing and story time beneath the fabled Story Tree at Woolman Hill. And there's a four-day teen leadership camp for girls 12-18 years old that includes two overnights in bunks and cabins.

Pirtle is an award-winning educator and musician who has worked for 30 years with Educators for Social Responsibility, a national group that helps educators create safe, productive learning environ-

ments. For additional information and registration forms go to www.sarahpirtle.com and click on Journey Camp.

Here are a few more helpful websites for parents planning ahead for their children's creative and recreational summer enrichment:

1) Go to summer-daycamps.com and type in the 413 area code.

2) Go to kidscamps.com and search by state. This search engine also allows you to list your favorite activities and other preferences.

3) The CISA listing of local farm-based summer day camp programs can be found at buylocalfood.org/page.php?id=264.

4) Visit amherstma.gov and type "camps" into the search field. People working in Amherst might want to check out these offerings.

5) At hilltownfamilies.wordpress.com/suggest-an-event-or-group-activity/camps/ there is a great discussion about camp experience with parent comments and recommendations.

6) yellowpages.com/greenfield-ma/day-camps is the "Yellow Pages" for local camps.

7) The Montague parks and recreation department has not yet posted a listing of summer programs. Check there soon!



Journey Camp at Woolman Hill in Deerfield.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

**Serving Home Grown
Farm-inspired Food & Drink**

H & O

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

BRING IN YOUR OLD INK CARTRIDGE,
Purchase A New Ink Cartridge for \$20 or more
& **Receive \$2.00 OFF**
or Purchase Same For Under \$20
& **Receive \$1.00 OFF**

BAKER
Office supply

310 Main St., Greenfield 774-2345

Mike and Tony's Pizzeria
@ the Green Emporium
Thursday - Sunday 5 - 9 p.m.

**fabulous dining,
great music, neon art,
full liquor bar,
and the best pizza!**

www.greenemporium.com Colrain Center
413-624-5122

**CELEBRATING
WOMEN
125
years
AVON**

TO BUY OR SELL

413-863-9472
1-800-258-1815
nbernie@comcast.net

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

Diemand Farm

- Farm Fresh Eggs
- Whole Roasting Chicken
- Pot Pies
- HomeMade Soups
- Desserts

**Laying Chickens
for Backyard
Flocks for sale
by appointment**

Products Vary Weekly

Farm Store Hours: Monday - Friday 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday by appointment only

Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

Village Sketchbook

Old Friends

BY DAVID BRULE

TURNERS FALLS — On an April morning like this, restless as we are through an early non-Spring after a non-Winter, not to mention the evenings spent drumming fingers on the arm-chair impatiently waiting for the Red Sox to get their act together, this tale presented itself just the other day over early morning coffee. It's a rambling yarn of Old Friends, an old photograph, and a chance meeting in Deerfield. So if you'll indulge this writer, you'll see how this all came together.

Well now, the above picture has been lying upstairs in the bureau drawer with many others for maybe 30 years or so, and it goes even farther back to the 1950s, when many of us in the picture were, let's say, young and carefree. I've been wanting to use it in a story for a while now, but only the other day found the words to go with the picture.

As it so often happens to those of us who still haunt our hometown, and as you well know, this Valley of ours can seem nowadays quite overgrown and crowded, and yet still spin out one of those chance meetings that make it actually a small world.

This story involves that picture, a visit to the Wells-Thorn House in Old Deerfield, and a trip into the past.

It so happens that a week ago, just before Easter, we were taking a group of French exchange students to Deerfield as the second stage of a school unit on early colonial New England. The day before, we had visited Plimouth Plantation where the visiting students had interviewed members of the Wampanoag Tribe, descendants of the People of the First Light who had been living for millennia in the place the English later called Plymouth when the so-called Pilgrims declared it so. We also spoke with the actors who portrayed those early English settlers, inside the stockade, living much as the first Pilgrims had lived,

although these modern re-enactors only had to put in a work-day of 9 to 5.

The following day, we were in Deerfield to visit the Pocumtuck homeland, which became the frontier town of Deerfield. As you may know, the members of several Native American tribes and a contingent of French officers and militia had carried out a raid of revenge on Deerfield on February 29th, 1704. I have to admit, it was with no small pride that I evoked my own ancestral ties to some of the French-Canadian officers as well as family ties to some of the Abenaki tribesmen who participated in the effort to chase away the English.

The tribal people wanted their land back, while the French were involved in a wider war with the English, on a planetary scale. The French and the English were always going at it somewhere. In fact, in 1776, if it weren't for French money and officers (don't forget Lafayette!) we might well still be part of the British Commonwealth.

"The enemies of my enemies are my friends," the old saying goes. But that's a story for another time. Back to Deerfield.

The Wells-Thorn House is the perfect place to get acquainted with the various periods of the settlement and the later prosperous development of Deerfield. It was during this visit that the revelation happened that helped put this story together.

Our guide graciously and patiently moved us from room to room, passing from decade to decade, from survival to prosperity of the Deerfield town, all within the walls of this one house. As we finished the visit, ready to go off to the open-hearth cooking demonstration, our guide took me aside and revealed who she was: Marcia Schule, *née* Beaubien. After I caught my breath, you still could've knocked me over with a feather!



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID BRULE

Cub Scout gathering in Turners Falls, circa 1954. We see Brian SanSoucie, Terry Sicard, Jimmy Higgins, Paul Garrand, David Brule and.... Who else can you spot?

The years raced away and I suddenly saw a person whom I hadn't met since the mid-'60s. (As an aside, and if you were in town back then, you'll remember the Beaubien service station that occupied the now-empty lot on the corner of 3rd Street and L. Our same Mr. Beaubien, the former owner, is now retired and comfortably ensconced in the sunny climes of Florida, far from the icy winters and crankiness of stubborn vehicles and their owners.)

Now Marcia Beaubien Schule, besides being a highly regarded guide in Old Deerfield, and a retired teacher, is also the sister of an old friend, Billy, a member of my old gang. A popular kid in our Class of '64, he was an able athlete, a football and track star.

But there's a tragic side of the story too. For those who knew him, his name also inevitably evokes Khe San, Dak To, and Viet Nam. For that's where he perished back in 1967. The emotions associated with those events are too personal and too sad to dwell upon here. And it was already so long ago.

But the remembrance of that story is one of the reasons why I coaxed the photograph of Old Friends out of the drawer to have another look at all of us

when we were Cub Scouts that night, 60 years ago. Many of us in the photo are still here, others have passed on, each with a story associated with life and death. All that was totally unknowable, of course, when we posed for the picture, back in the '50s, when everything was possible. Old pictures are like that. Maybe it's better to see us as we were then, fresh-faced kids, the gang from The Hill, from Down the Hill, and from Downstreet. And we'll leave it like that.

Now, if there's to be a postscript to this story, it'd go like this. The other day, sitting in the office at Mark's Auto, in walked classmate Eddie Demers. Later on the same day, I crossed paths with another classmate, Tommy Currier, on his way to the post office. To my question, "How's it going?" both had answered with the same optimism. Eddie chuckled, "Still standing!" And Tommy had shot back a cheery, "Still

vertical!" Now that's a motto we can all live by. It's for sure a life-

affirming slogan on this spring day, for the Old Timers that the Old Friends have become.



1914 Bungalow
for sale in
Turners Falls

\$162,000

www.
32parkstreet
.com

OPEN HOUSE!
April 21, 1 - 4pm

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR \$12.00 PER WEEK.

mww **ROCKET FUSION**
Montague WebWorks . com
Now powered by RocketFusion
413.320.5336 info@montaguewebworks.com
make the web work for your business

Patty Smythe
Licensed Massage Therapist
Myofascial Release
Sports Massage
Auto Accident
Insurance Accepted
50 Chapman Street • Suite 5
Greenfield
413-774-0517
pattysmythe@hotmail.com

Dennis L. Booska Phone & Fax
Dennis L. Booska, Jr. **413-863-3690**
Booska's Flooring
169 Avenue A, Turners Falls **Tile**
Lino
Member **Carpet**
The Flooring Network.
www.couturebros.com
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

TURN IT UP!
MUSIC & MOVIES
BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

Your Local **STIHL** Dealer
413-367-2481
Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.
Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague
Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

COLDWELL BANKER
UPTON-MASSAMONT REALTORS
DONALD J. MAILLOUX
GRI
Recognized Top Producer
(413) 665-3771 x104 Office
(413) 834-1524 Cell
(413) 423-3810 Home
don@cbumr.com E-mail
4 Elm Street, South Deerfield, MA 01373
www.cbuptown-massamont.com
Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated.

from **ECONOMIC** pg 1

Wages and productivity grew together.

As Friedman summarized, the return of broad prosperity did not signal social harmony. In the 1960s and 1970s, workers wanted not only higher wages, but also more power. "Power to the people," was a catchphrase of the times. Social upheaval, worker strikes and political demonstrations abounded.

In the 1970s, the Neo-Liberal Era ushered in a backlash of *laissez-faire* attitudes toward business: tax cuts, free trade, open markets and deregulation. This era launched a global counterattack against the New Deal social order, a counterattack which remains remarkably successful to this day.

By the mid-1970s, the number of corporate lobbyists in Washington DC had exploded. Tax cuts on capital gains – a policy tailored to the vested interest of the ultra rich – began during that time.

In 1964, the effective federal tax rate on capital gains was 25%, rising to a peak just under 40% in 1978. Today, the top capital gains rate is 15%.

Meanwhile, inflation adjusted wages for the lower 80% of American workers have essentially flat-lined in recent decades. The minimum wage was frozen under President Reagan, meaning the take home pay of workers lost ground steadily to inflation.

The Reagan administration pushed for deregulation and free trade, eliminated trade tariffs, which led, under the Democratic administration of Bill Clinton to the creation of NAFTA, opening American markets to foreign competition.

America at this time witnessed the full-scale exportation of manufacturing jobs, outsourcing factory work to nonunion countries in Asia, and driving down wages in America as more workers compete for fewer available jobs.

In 1970, the average American corporate CEO earned 20 times as much as the average worker. Today, the average American CEO earns 700 times as much as the average worker.

Friedman said the income of the bottom 95% of Americans consists mostly of wages, salaries and government transfers, whereas these comprise less than one third of the income of the top 1%.

The ultra-rich don't earn their money by working; most of their income derives from capital gains and dividends. The Great Recession has not dimmed their prospects. Ninety-three percent of last year's "financial recovery" has gone to the top 1% of the population.

Not content with tax cuts, some of the rich shield their wealth. As Friedman said, "There are only two reasons to have bank accounts in the Cayman Islands. One is to evade taxes. The other is to conduct illegal business. Which is it, Mitt? Or is it both?"

In the Neo-Liberal view, the economy is basically doing fine. We're just experiencing a bump in the road we must move past. President Barack Obama, chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke, and former director of the United States National Economic Council, Larry Summers created the federal stimulus package. While their policies may have saved America from a full-blown depression, they did not address the nation's underlying structural problems.

Friedman put it this way: The government acts from the premise that if people have money, they will spend it. But the rich don't spend the bulk of their money. They hoard it. The super-rich have so much money, they can't possibly spend it all. He gave the example of Paris Hilton, who stands to inherit over \$360 million. Try as she may to be an exemplar of conspicuous consumption, even after spending \$325,000 on a doghouse, she still has a seemingly endless supply of wealth.

Much of the wealth of the ultra rich is sequestered from a productive role in the American economy. But workers today don't earn enough to buy the products the American economy produces, and so the risk of deflation arises.

The pattern of hoarding profits holds true for corporations as well. Friedman retraced the familiar tale of how the federal government invested tax dollars in developing the internet. It's public property, yet companies use the internet as a platform to get fabulously rich. Now, Facebook has over \$1 billion in cash; Google, over \$30 billion. Companies are reaping vast benefits from public infrastructure and investment and then sitting on their cash, rather than spread-

ing the wealth.

According to Friedman, the 'job-creators' argument contends that what we give the rich is the price we pay for their innovations. Yet, other developed countries maintain higher rates of productivity with broader distribution of income.

Picking an example close to home, where Massachusetts has axed investment in higher education in an era of federal deficits and tax cuts for the rich, Friedman talked of the crushing burden of student debt. We have transferred the cost of education, he asserted. The U.S. used to have government-funded education programs like the GI bill; now, Pell grants are slashed in the name of deficit reduction.

Capitalism is about making profits. If we do not redistribute wealth in a more equitable fashion, profit accumulates among the few to the detriment of society at large. America is in full retreat from the concept of readjusting the concentration of income over time. Even the inheritance tax, which would deprive the scions of the super rich of a percentage of their unearned millions, is under unrelenting attack, rebranded as the Death Tax.

Friedman argues that to address society's structural economic problems, we must start by fixing our foundation. We should take a trickle-up, not trickle-down, approach. Rather than giving banks money through TARP and expecting it to trickle down to workers, we should allow money to trickle up from a prosperous majority to the banks by investing in job training, education, infrastructure, and social programs.

The solutions Friedman mentioned included raising wages, creating jobs, investing in Green Energy, giving tax-cuts to working Americans and increasing business regulations.

The goal should be to bring real power to workers and working class communities, he said.

In the current political climate, the Obama administration will not attempt these changes. Friedman said America needs to take up the old slogans in earnest, and organize to take power for people again.

He concluded, "Change starts on the streets. It always has."

BRAVE from page 5

highway crew install it, a task completed just last year.

Ted Graveline was born October 4th, 1928 in Palmer. His father, Joseph, a Palmer firefighter had fought in World War I and came home with weakened lungs after inhaling mustard gas in that conflict, died of pneumonia after fighting a fire on Christmas when Ted was 3.

Ted served as a firefighter for the Greenfield department for 30 years, and self published numerous autobiographical accounts and novels based, in part, upon his experiences there, including *Strike a Second Alarm*, on his signature imprint Fire House Books. Two more generations of firefighters have succeeded him.

After Edie's death, Ted would donate the proceeds from his novels to cancer research. He was a volunteer for Hospice of Franklin County, and for the Friends of Gill.

Part Abenaki, Ted Graveline saw no conflict in being a devout congregant at the Gill Church and also attending solstice gatherings at his son Joe's home in Northfield each summer and winter. He made his own Native American flute

under the guidance of renowned flute maker Barry Higgins.

His son Joe said this week, "My dad never considered himself old. We had lunch together each Monday; he helped me several days a week in my work. He was writing up until the day he died. (Ted Graveline's eighth novel is now being typeset – no word yet on its subject matter.) He loved poetry. He loved to croon and sing."

Stalwart friend and family member, artist, author, Ted Graveline will be missed by all who knew him.

Donations in his memory may be made to Greenfield Fireman's Relief Fund, 412 Main Street, or Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway Street, Greenfield, MA 01301.

**EXCAVATING**

**Fencing - Patios - Walks - Walls Installed - Tree Work
Loam - Compost - Mulch
Stump Grinding &
Septic Systems Installed**

84 Years of Combined Experience

**DEMERS
LANDSCAPING
413-863-3652**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG**Motor Vehicle Accident; Breaking and Entering**

Monday, 1/30 6:17 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Montague Road. Car vs. deer. No injuries except to deer.	to Franklin Medical Center. 12:20 p.m. Depot Road resident reported men taking wood from side of road.	residence. Nothing taken.
Tuesday, 1/31 9:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Farley Road. Car vs. deer. Only injuries to deer.	Thursday, 2/23 6:31 p.m. Person reported vandalism to his car at Depot Road residence.	Saturday, 3/17 1:35 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Center Street. No injuries. Vehicle towed.
Wednesday, 2/7 12:02 p.m. House alarm on West Street. All okay.	Friday, 2/24 10:34 p.m. Motor vehicle accident Montague Road. One person transported to Athol Hospital with neck pain.	Friday, 3/23 1:05 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on New Salem Road. Minor injuries to one individual. Utility pole replaced.
Friday, 2/9 4:30 p.m. Depot Road resident reported having a wheelbarrow and splitting maul stolen from front yard.	Wednesday, 2/29 1:35 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Depot Road. No injuries. Vehicle towed.	Saturday, 3/24 2:45 p.m. 911 hang-up call from Ruggles Pond State building. Gone on arrival.
Wednesday, 2/22 8:35 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Montague Road. One person injured and transported	Thursday, 3/8 9:30 a.m. Breaking and Entering at Depot Road	Sunday, 3/25 8:15 p.m. Breaking and entering at the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station. Two individuals summonsed to court.



[Pam Veith REAL ESTATE]

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
REALTOR, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR

Office: (413) 498-0207 x2
Cell: (413) 834-4444
Home: (413) 863-9166
Home Fax: (413) 863-0218
bedson1@comcast.net

75 Main Street; Suite 105,
Northfield, MA 01360

www.PamVeithRealEstate.com

Renaissance Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.renbuild.net
863-8316

Jonathan Abbott
SSI / Disability Attorney

If you can't work, let me work for you.

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA
In Home Appointments
jabbottesq@verizon.net

It Figures!

Kate McGrath, MBA
Accountant
413-768-9095

For all your accounting needs
Accountant Specializing in QuickBooks
Now accepting new accounting clients

2ND STREET BAKING CO.

Lunch Delivery for orders of \$50 or more
Hot Soup Daily
call ahead for Special Order Cakes

69 2nd Street
Turners Falls
863-4455

Closed Mondays

Tue - Sat 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Check out our Great Lunch Menu
Now Open Sundays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cakes, Pastries, Coffee, Soup and Bread

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS
Men, Women & Children

CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS

Gift Certificates Available
863 - 2022

Marie Castine
Richard DiGeorge (Thursdays)

74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

from MONTAGUE page 6 explained the town had received word from the ABCC in the fall of 2011 that the licensing board intended to crack down on one-day liquor licenses. The ABCC may have felt this was necessary to end certain abuses, such as lack of monitoring of underage drinking in outdoor situations. In many cases, the owners of businesses seeking one day licenses are corporate entities, and the ABCC wants a designated manager to oversee such events, especially if there is no visibility of the outdoor premises from the inside of the business.

The advent of the spring season and prime conditions for outdoor venues for refreshment pushed the town to figure out how to follow the new ABCC regulations, Abbondanzio said.

Town staff would like to help special event planners find the correct bureaucratic path to obtaining liquor and/or real estate licenses, because many special events in town are beneficial to

businesses, residents, and visitors. "We're a yes environment," explained Abbondanzio, meaning the town wants revenue generators (like the Pumpkin Fest, the Soapbox Derby, the Block Party, etc.) to succeed, albeit in a safe way.

In other news, the selectboard gathered in person to determine that allowing remote participation in selectboard meetings and other town committees would not be necessary at this time. Previously, the discussion had been tabled due to the absence of one of the selectboard members. The office of Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley updated open meeting law regulations last year to allow remote participation in meetings under very specific guidelines (the meeting must be audible to all, there must be a quorum physically present, it should be used judiciously for emergencies and disabilities only, etc.).

Montague's selectboard members were wary of possible technical difficulties during remote participation. "Too much could

go wrong," Chris Boutwell said. In theory, "someone could be gone for six months," Pat Allen said. Chairperson Mark Fairbrother admitted to not having embraced some technology yet. "I don't have a cell phone or a web cam," he elaborated. "It's not necessary anyway, and it could delay meetings."

The only member of a town committee, Peter Golrick of the Turners Falls Airport Commission, to have expressed interest in opening all of the town committee meetings to remote participation was unable to attend Monday's selectboard meeting due to an Airport Commission meeting at the same time. There are no new guidelines on how to attend two different meetings at the same time. Allen recommended seeking input from other town committees to see if there was interest in remote participation, and Fairbrother noted that the issue can be revisited any time.

Last Wednesday, April 4th, town meeting members approved spending up to \$18,000 on a pay

and classification study to help optimize town staffing and compensation at all levels and in all departments. And Monday, selectboard members approved town administrator Frank Abbondanzio's recommendation of hiring Stone Consulting Inc. for that purpose, at a cost of \$16,225. The consultants will start at the end of April and take four to five months to finish, with updates, staff interviews, and meetings along the way.

While the town waits until this fall for results from its pay and classification study, slight adjustments to staffing continue. Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob Trombley has hired a new laborer to fill a vacancy in his staff. And, another police dispatcher has found employment elsewhere in the valley as a dispatcher, but will stay on in Montague on a *per diem* basis. Additionally, selectboard members signed paperwork to allow members of the police department to take civil service exams this spring, such as for police chief and sergeant.

Signatures, signatures, signatures. The selectboard signed forms that allow the town to continue receiving Department of Environmental Protection grant program funds. They signed a three year contract with Baystate Health Systems Ambulance service for emergency services in both the Turners Falls and Montague Center fire districts. They signed an intermunicipal agreement between the town of Montague, the Montague Center Water Commission, and the Turners Falls Water Commission for the installation and maintenance of the Station Street water line in Montague Center. (The new water line was approved at a special town meeting on April 4th, in anticipation of possible "green apartment" development at the Montague Center School.)

Abbondanzio announced that the 2013 fiscal year Chapter 90 apportionment (local transportation funding from the state), is nearly the same as last year at \$502,198.

Additionally, the selectboard see MONTAGUE page 12

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Burglary, Breaking and Entering; Fight in Alley

Tuesday, 3/27

5:05 p.m. Missing person at Coolidge Avenue. Services rendered.
6:22 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Fifth Street. Verbal warning.
10:23 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Federal Street in Millers Falls. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 3/28

7:46 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Federal Street in Millers Falls. Report taken.

Thursday, 3/29

4:26 p.m. Disorderly conduct on Avenue A. Referred to an officer.
8:19 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for violation of an abuse prevention order.

10:32 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Eleventh Street. Advised of options.
Friday, 3/30

2:22 p.m. Disorderly conduct at Franklin Street and East Main Street.
Saturday, 3/31

1:05 a.m. Domestic disturbance on

Avenue A. Services rendered.
2:36 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Crocker Avenue. Services rendered.
5:27 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] on a default warrant.

7:35 p.m. Unattended fire at Thomas Memorial Country Club on Country Club Lane. Services rendered.

11:03 p.m. Loud noise disturbance in alley at Fifth Street. Dispersed gathering.
11:38 p.m. Fight in alley on Fifth Street. Report taken.

Sunday, 4/1

9:32 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Turnpike Road. Peace restored.
1:19 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Federal Street in Millers Falls. Peace restored.

8:15 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Broadview Heights. Peace restored.
11:19 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Franklin Street.
Monday, 4/2

1:09 p.m. Suspicious person at

Peskeomskut Park on Avenue A. Investigated.

2 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for failure to register as a sex offender.
5:57 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on L Street. Investigated.

11:01 p.m. General disturbance at Miller's Pub, on East Main Street. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 4/3

11:58 a.m. Disorderly conduct at Salvation Army Thrift Store on Avenue A. Report taken.

1:30 p.m. ID theft at Chestnut Street. Services rendered.

8:45 p.m. Disorderly conduct on Avenue A. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 4/4

10:42 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Peace restored.

11:35 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Food City Plaza on Avenue A. Services rendered.

12:37 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest on 11th Street.

Thursday, 4/5

1:12 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Unfounded.

3:09 p.m. Missing person reported at Eleventh Street. Investigated.

5:52 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on G Street. Area search negative.

7:03 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Carroll's Market on East Main Street. Services rendered.

8:05 p.m. Assault on Park Street. Advised of options.

Friday, 4/6

3:03 p.m. Assault on Park Street. Report taken.

5:07 p.m. General disturbance at Element Brewing on Bridge Street. Investigated.

Saturday, 4/7

1:03 a.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle under the influence and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle on Turners Falls and Turnpike Roads.

1 p.m. Officer wanted at Subway of Turners Falls on Avenue A. Peace

restored.

1:06 p.m. Trespassing at Railroad Salvage Building on Power Street. Area search negative.

1:21 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Turnpike Road. Investigated.

3:38 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Avenue A. Advised of options.

5:05 p.m. Structure fire on Grand Avenue in Millers Falls. Referred to other agency.

5:18 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for second offense of operating a motor vehicle under the influence and marked lanes violations, on Unity Street.

Sunday, 4/8

11:52 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Avenue A. Advised of options.

Monday, 4/9

11:45 a.m. Missing person at Sheffield Elementary School on Crocker Avenue. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 4/10

4:16 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Federal Street in Millers Falls. Services rendered.

Since 1895

On the Common
Greenfield, Massachusetts
Turners Falls, Massachusetts

McCarthy
FUNERAL HOME

(413) 774-4808
John C. Davis
Director

www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com

**Free Checking!
Free Cash! Free Gift!**

What's not to love?

GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK

282 Avenue A, Turners Falls ■ 413-863-4316
www.greenfieldsavings.com

Member FDIC ■ Member DIF

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.

COMPLETE
SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

Simons & Simons
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury

P.O. Box 9 • Turners Falls
(413) 774-3239 gerrygsimons@yahoo.com

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

THE HARP Irish Seisun Music
Thursday 4 - 7
Friday 9 - 1

GREAT SEAFOOD & GOOD TIMES
163 Sunderland Rd. • Amherst
(413) 548-6900

HARTWOOD TREE SERVICE
Licensed and Insured

Christopher J. Morin, owner
7 Kimberly Lane
Turners Falls

**EXCELLENCE IN
TREE CARE**

413-522-6119

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF
SIZES
THE BEST
PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors
and Artists encouraged to inquire

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

SCHOOL from page 6

For the town of Gill, the total assessment is \$1,408,058, a 1.28% increase over the FY'12 budget number.

The school committee praised interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom for bringing in a budget that builds capacity while keeping to an overall increase of 0.97% in the operating budget.

Joyce Phillips spoke to Ekstrom's ability to develop a budget that is educationally sound, in line with the state-approved

Accelerated Improvement Plan, that still comes close to meeting the goals established by the town and district in the compact for fiscal sustainability. The proposed budget is \$451,000 less than the projections laid out in the compact. Unfortunately, the state, which also signed onto the compact two years ago, has not met the compact's goals for a 3% increase in Chapter 70 aid for the GMRSD.

Ekstrom announced the Gill-Montague district has won a

Green Schools Award. The award recognizes recent programs the district has implemented, including the recycling program, composting, and providing fresh fruit and vegetables in student cafeterias. The district is also proceeding with energy upgrades at the high school.

Ekstrom said Gill-Montague would be recognized at a reception for these innovations at the state house later this year. She praised the work of Amy Donovan, program director for the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, in assisting the district to develop the Green innovations. Emily Monosson and Sandra Brown were also central to the success of these programs, Ekstrom said.

In her report, Ekstrom presented the school improvement plan for Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School. The plan includes, as a first strategic objective, developing a survey to allow student feedback for teachers about the

students' classroom experience, in hopes of giving students more of a voice in their own education.

Other objectives include increasing family engagement with the school committee, using a survey to gather parent feedback. After evaluating those surveys, the schools would develop new ways to get parents participating in school activities.

Other objectives focus on: improving the performance of all students through high-quality instruction and more course offerings; and creating opportunities for students to participate in after school clubs or activities, with an emphasis on expanding and diversifying extra-curricular activities to include academic clubs and clubs emphasizing healthy lifestyles.

Ekstrom said the committee needs to afford more programmatic opportunities and academic initiatives for students.


Singleton asked why the issue of declining enrollment wasn't included in this plan, to

which Ekstrom responded that because this is a building-based plan, and the issue of enrollment is a district-wide issue, it was not included.


School committee chair Michael Langknecht said he is still waiting to hear from education commissioner Mitchell Chester regarding the vote of no confidence (regarding school committee actions) taken by district unions in March.

Jennifer Waldron of Gill said, "I don't want [the teachers] to think we're not paying attention to what they've said."

Marge Levenson said the school committee should get together with union members "sooner, rather than later," to discuss their issues.

After setting up a meeting on Wednesday, April 11th to begin the process of hiring an interim superintendent, the school committee adjourned to go into executive session to conduct collective bargaining or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. 

MONTAGUE from page 11 granted approval to Rendezvous co-owner Chris Janke for the establishment to host a children's birthday party, in the public parking lot on Third Street (no beer tents) on Sunday, April 22nd.

And then there were the 29 motions to approve the 29 articles for the annual town meeting to be held on May 5th at Turners Falls High School. Highlights include an FY'13 town budget of \$7,448,471, an FY'13 Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment of \$7,850,604, a newly updated inoperable or unregistered motor vehicle by-law, a right-to-farm by-law, a request to revisit how the school committee is appointed in the Gill-Montague Regional School District, and a point of clarification stating that corporations are not people for the purpose of urging members of Congress to say as much with a Constitutional amendment. 

GILL from page 6

at the Orange Town Hall on the weekend preceding and following the Fourth, with Fraser serving as musical director.

Gill selectboard member Ann Banash, participating in the meeting remotely, from Florida, remarked she was sure several people in town with Civil War memorabilia would be interested in the occasion.

In other business, there was some discussion of a request from Franklin County Retirement System to increase the base retirement benefit from \$13,000 to \$14,000. Board members noted that this increase was the latest of several past increases; the base was set at \$12,000 in 2010. Annual cost of living increases apply only to the base benefit for retirees, not the remainder of their benefit.

In general the selectboard felt the increases thus far were reasonable, and would thus advise Gill's voting member of the retiree board, treasurer Ronnie La Chance.

Town Hall Construction

Although the March 1st issue of this paper reported the selectboard as putting the town hall office wall construction project "on the back burner," it moved to the front of the range again on Tuesday with an innovative plan

to take advantage of highway department staff member Ed Ambo's expertise and contractor's license. Under this scenario, using highway department personnel to do the bulk of the work, the cost estimate for construction materials would be \$10,000 to build out the walls and create private offices for town hall staff.

But how to accomplish the upgrades to the HVAC system and the electrical system?

Selectboard member John Ward suggested Northfield Mount Hermon might be willing to help with those aspects of the work, as the private school has previously suggested the town should feel free to make inquiries about non-monetary assistance to town projects. The board warmed to that suggestion and decided to pursue it.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington told the board that a state grant to help get a cooperative public health service up and running would be operational on April 28th, somewhat earlier than expected. Board of health (and selectboard) chair Randy Crochier will be the town's representative to the six-town oversight board for this project; Ed Galipault will be the alternate.

The property of Lawrence Krejmas at 444 Main Road, subject of an ongoing enforcement

battle with county health agent Glen Ayers over improperly stored materials, derelict structures, unregistered vehicles, and possible contaminants, has been accepted into the Franklin Regional Council of Government's Brownfields program. Purington informed Krejmas of that development in a face to face meeting last week. Krejmas would have to give permission for soil and groundwater tests to take place on his property, if the COG's Phase I review of public documents about the property provides evidence that tests are needed in order to ensure an adequate clean up of the property.

Finance committee member Tupper Brown, who worked on the compact for fiscal sustainability at the Gill-Montague Regional School District, has asked for a meeting of all parties to that compact on Thursday, April 19th, at 4 p.m. at the GMRSD's superintendent's office, to discuss the assumptions underlying the compact in light of the second year of lower-than-expected levels of state Chapter 70 aid to the GMRSD District.

The towns of Gill and Montague, the school district, local legislators, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education had all signed off on the compact,

paving the way for two years of remarkable budgetary accord between the towns and the district. But the compact was based in part on a forecast for state Chapter 70 funding which has since fallen short.

In a follow-up call, Brown explained the five year compact, agreed to in writing by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, had been based on an initial 4% decrease in Chapter 70 in FY'11 (that figure was anticipated, and accurate), followed by a 2% increase in state aid to the GMRSD in FY'12, and a projected 3% increase in Chapter 70 state aid to the district for the final three years of the budget compact.

As it happened, the GMRSD did receive the initial 4% decrease from the state, but this was followed with a mere 0.54% increase in state aid last year, and a projected 0% increase in the coming budget cycle.


The town of Montague was forced to contribute \$106,503 more from stabilization last year for the district's operating budget than the compact called for.

This year, Brown said, the district's ability to bring in a lower than projected operating budget should avoid the need for higher town assessments, but the implications of lower than projected

state aid for FY'14 and FY'15 place the district's long term fiscal sustainability in doubt.

An article on the May 7th annual town meeting warrant will call for the formation of a committee to study and make recommendations about changing the regional agreement to restructure the GMRSD school committee. A similar petitioned article is on the Montague town meeting warrant, brought forward by advocates who hope to reduce the size of the school committee, and possibly to appoint instead of elect members of that committee.

The agriculture commission will use town hall on Friday, April 27th for another Arbor Day Scavenger Hunt, in hopes of adding the thrill of the chase and the allure of prizes to young people's innate delight in exploring nature. Find out more about the scavenger hunt by calling 863-2850.

The Route 2 bridge over the Fall River, on the border with Greenfield, is about to undergo extensive reconstruction, through 2014. During construction, traffic will be limited to one lane, with police details helping to manage traffic flow. This should provide a delightful counterpoint to the final two years of reconstruction of the nearby Gill-Montague bridge. 

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU

CONSULT US
PZ

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

Service 7 days a week, visit www.pzinc.com

INSURANCE

French King Bowling Center

Company Parties,
Birthday Parties,
All kinds of Parties!
The Bowling Center —
where FUN happens.

55 French King Highway, Erving

413-423-3047

www.bowling4fun.com

SKIP'S ROADSIDE DINER

POLISH, ITALIAN & AMERICAN FARE

Open 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM Daily · Closed Sundays

Boston Globe States:

**Best Polish Food this
side of Krakow!**

24 French King Hwy @ TF Bridge
863-9991

Site Work

- Bulldozer and Backhoe Work
- Driveways
- Land Clearing
- Septic Systems

Residential and Commercial

L & D Builders

413-648-0110

**REAL PICKLES**

Naturally Fermented & Raw



Now available
at Food City!

www.realpickles.com
(413) 774-2600 Greenfield, MA

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.
fine memorials since 1893

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.

- Gary and Nancy Melen

*We engrave
memories
that last forever*

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

'The perfect remembrance'



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – *Q. I would like my husband to quit smoking. He knows that it's bad for him, but I want all the ammunition I can get to convince him. Can you help me?*

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: The Skinny on Cigarettes

A. Here goes:

Cigarette smokers die younger than nonsmokers. Smoking shortens lives by about 14 years.

Smoking causes almost 90 percent of lung cancers.

Smoking damages the immune system and increases the risk of infections.

Many illnesses in smokers last longer than in nonsmokers.

After surgery, smokers have a greater risk of complications and a lower survival rate.

When smokers get skin wounds, they take longer to heal than those in non-smokers.

Smoking cigarettes causes heart disease. Smokers who have a heart attack are more likely to die within an hour of the heart attack than nonsmokers.

Cigarette smoking doubles a person's risk for stroke.

Cigarette smoking causes emphysema, which destroys a person's ability to breathe.

Smokers commonly suffer from chronic bronchitis.

More than seven million current and former smokers suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the name used to describe both

chronic bronchitis and emphysema. About 85 % of COPD deaths are caused by smoking.

Smoking causes peripheral artery disease that can affect the blood flow throughout the entire body.

Smoking causes many types of cancer, including cancer of the esophagus, larynx, mouth, bladder, pancreas, kidney and cervix.

Smoking causes cataracts.

Smoking makes your skin age faster.

Smoking increases the risk of sexual impotence.

Smoking cigars and pipes causes cancers of the lung, oral cavity (lip, tongue, mouth, throat), larynx (voice box) and esophagus. Pipe and cigar smok-

ers, who often don't inhale, are still breathing the second-hand smoke that surrounds them.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing nearly 440,000 deaths each year.

Because of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke ("second-hand smoke"), an estimated 3,000 nonsmoking Americans die of lung cancer every year.

It's never too late to quit. It doesn't matter how old you are or how long you've smoked. Within minutes of smoking the last cigarette, the body begins to restore itself.

If you have a question, write to fred@healthygeezers.com.

MILLERS FALLS from pg 4 today in some stores.

My friend and I would sit on Equi's corner uptown every Friday night in the summer and watch the steady stream of traffic heading north to the Hinsdale Raceway. Sometimes people would stop at the corner and ask, "Is this the way to Hinsdale?" We would respond, "Follow 63 north and it will take you all the way." Never any boredom on a Friday night.

I remember Father McCormick – we called him Father Mac – stopping by Carroll's Market for the paper. When you greeted him, he was like a breath of fresh air, always jovial and smiling. If a young person successfully completed his CCD lessons, he would make arrangements to take him to a football game at Holy Cross in Worcester. That certainly made our day, to see a college football game.

One of the great opportunities for young people back then was to work in the tobacco fields in Whately. I worked four years picking, and two years as a straw boss. I attribute my work ethic to working

in the tobacco fields and playing athletics when I was young.

When we weren't working tobacco, my friend and I would walk the Boston and Maine tracks going east to a small fishing area called Mink Pond, located directly across the south tracks of the old Millers Falls Paper Company. Along our journey we encountered a pipe secured horizontally in the hill above the tracks from which pure, cold water ran continuously. On a hot summer day, that was always a welcome relief.

Another friend would load

us all into his vehicle during blueberry season, and take us to Wickett Pond in Wendell. It was so quiet at the pond, any sound would resonate around the whole area. The high bush berries were plentiful and the end results so tasty. Do those high bush berries still exist around Wickett Pond?

In the summer, my family and I loved to go to the Saturday afternoon Polish picnics at Green Pond in Lake Pleasant. Swimming was still allowed in the '50s. There was an open field up the hill from the pond for parking, and at the south end the picnic was set

up. A wooden floor was used for dancing. Different Polish bands played throughout the summer. There was ample ethnic food, with soda for the children and peeve (beer) for the adults. A big horse trough held water, ice, and the beverages. I learned to dance the Polka at

those wonderful picnics in the '50s.

This was the time between the wars when living was simple and easy. Those experiences are still alive and precious to me now.



The Second Annual Franklin County Spring Parade

Saturday, April 14th

The parade loop will begin at 1:00 pm
at the Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue

It will go past the Turners Falls High School
and Scotty's Convenience Store

Sponsored by the Montague Cultural Council

Turners Falls Sports Booster Club 9th Annual Fundraising Event A Comedy ESP/Hypnosis Show! Starring Jim Spinnato

Saturday Night, May 5th, 2012

French King Entertainment Center

Pasta Stations provided by Myers Catering

DJ Dancing later with Bobby C

\$30.00 per person

Limited Tickets Available (200)

Past Shows Have Sold Out!

Reservations for Groups of 8 or More

Doors Open at 6:00 / Show at 9:00 p.m.

Raffle Drawings for Bruins, Red Sox and Patriots Items
and much, much, more.

Call for tickets:

Don Mailloux
Coldwell Banker Upton-
Massamont Realtors
413-665-3771, X104
or 413-423-3810, 413-834-1524

or
French King Entertainment
Center, 413-423-3047
Cash, Checks or Credit Cards
Accepted

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MIN). CALL 863-8666

SINCE 1888 159 Ave A Turners Falls
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE
AGENCY, INC.
413.863.4373
www.ahrist.com

BUNDLE UP FOR SAVINGS!

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors
Gerry Devine

106 West Street Hampshire: 586-3161
Hadley, MA. 01035 Franklin: 773-9497

CopyCat Print Shop
Loves You More

Check our other ad in this newspaper

scan this to know more about us

CopyCat PRINT SHOP
We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

(413) 774-3500
greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

Carol's Beauty Nook
29 G Street, Turners Falls
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers
Gift Certificates Available **413-863-2888**

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
WHERE ECONOMY IS KING
AFFORDABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE PRE-OWNED CARS
Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Hyundai

413-774-5517
335 High Street, Greenfield
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture
Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability
WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties
413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. ♦ **413-863-2236**
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT **FREE ESTIMATES**
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

Jack Nelson

- Personalized Pet Memorials
- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

TELEPHONE 413.863.9499
www.signedinstone.com
BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.
65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

Montague Hair Designer
Marilyn Fronckus-Rodden
Experienced Hair Stylist
Welcome To My Home
414 Greenfield Road
Montague
(Near The Montague Book Mall)
413-863-5297
954-857-7919
marilynrodden414@comcast.net

Ferry Meadow Farm - part XXXV

Turners Falls 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL – When I log into work at 9:00 a.m., there's a surprise waiting for me. The bank wants me in Boston on Friday.

I have a bad feeling about this, because no one I work with is going to be in Boston.

I send a message to Diana, telling her I can't be in Philadelphia until Friday night. I will take the train from Boston and get there late.

Pretty soon I am back at Ferry Meadow. I wake up on Marissa's floor, tangled in my blanket. I push the mat I was sleeping on under the bed and walk out into the hallway, feeling disoriented and hungry. I have been asleep for over twelve hours.

I go downstairs, not sure whether it's OK for me to help myself to food from the refrigerator. When I walk into the big room, there is no one there, so I tentatively walk into the kitchen. The door to the deck opens. Marissa and an older woman come across the room toward me.

"Did you sleep OK?" Marissa asks.

"Yeah," I say, smoothing my hair behind my ears. "Thanks."

"This is Brigid," she says, indicating the other woman. "She started this community. Meet Theresa," she says to Brigid.

She holds out her hand and shakes mine, saying, "I think the community started itself, actually, but I have been here from the

beginning."

"So it's your land?" I ask.

"We lease it from a land trust," she explains. "I don't really believe in private property."

I am not sure what to say, as I have never even thought about whether I believe in private property, so I steer us back to the previous subject.

"How did the community start itself?" I ask.

She pulls a bowl of food from the refrigerator and hands it to me. Marissa gives me a fork. "Well, I used to be a teacher," Brigid begins, "but I lost my job. When it came time for my own kids to go to school, we had a choice between a school run by a for-profit chain, or one that was a subsidiary of an insurance company, or one that focused on the

arts, hands-on learning, and the outdoors."

Even though I don't have kids, I can tell the third choice is the good one.

"My kids didn't get picked in the lottery," Brigid goes on, "so a few of us – we were all single-parents – we decided to live together. I ran a little school room, and they took care of the farm. Somehow we managed to squeak by."

"And then more families joined you?" I ask.

"Well, we met Leah and got involved with the community gardening that was happening in Turners Falls. There were people who needed places to live. We worked on getting apartments in town. Sometimes people just squatted in them until we could really acquire a building. A lot of people came to live here, too."

"Wow," I say. "That's great," and I mean it. "I'd really like to help if I can, while I'm here, and after I go home, too," I add.

"You're not staying long?" Marissa asks.

"I don't think I'll need to." I look at Brigid then back at Marissa.

"She knows," Marissa says.

I lower my voice and say, "I plan to get rid of the doppelganger this weekend."

I think they look relieved, and I can hardly blame them.

"While I am here," I say quickly, "is there work I can do at night? So I can earn my keep?"

"Dave can probably give you a job in the Big House," Brigid tells me.

"Dave?"

"You've met him, right?"

"Um, yeah," I say, trying to hide how glad I am to be working with him again.

—Continued Next Issue

BUDGET from pg 1

same time depriving neighboring school districts of \$5,000 for each student who leaves to attend school in Leverett.

Today, half the school choice students attending Leverett Elementary come from Montague, representing an annual loss of \$55,000 in state aid for the Level IV (needs improvement) Gill-Montague school district.

We are discussing "the moral implications of taking money from other towns," Hajir told the selectboard. "We are trying to decide whether to continue with this policy. The school committee has very strong doubts."

Finance committee member Tom Powers said the school committee should not consider reducing the elementary school's revenue stream in any respect without saying how the committee proposes to make up the difference in their budget.

Pam Stone, whose school committee term ends this month, supports school choice. "It's

important to give other communities choice in where to send their kids." But she added, "Next year, we will lose ten school choice [graduating] children. There's no guarantee we are going to replace them. We are looking at a deficit in school choice in a year."

Hajir said next year, when the current double class of fifth graders graduates, and the ten school choice students in that double class graduate with them, the school will also be in the position of laying off the second teacher that has been needed for that double class, for a potential savings of about \$50,000. Because of this, Hajir (who voted with the majority of the school committee earlier this month to make five seats available for school choice students in next year's kindergarten class) told the board on Tuesday that Leverett will have an opportunity to close out the school choice policy without greatly impacting the LES operating budget in FY'14.

From the selectboard, Julie

Shively said, "I have not been against school choice. If we say, 'No,' the other community will not necessarily keep that student. That student will go elsewhere. It helps us build our classroom size. I don't think we can ask the townspeople to pay more and more for fewer and fewer students."

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said, "I don't like school choice. It's robbing Greenfield, Gill-Montague, and some of the other communities."

Referencing other views on the school committee, Hajir said, "The kids who come to our town enrich our school in multiple ways. Diversity is important. It keeps enrollment up."

But finance member Nancy Grossman countered, "The numbers are not predictable... And I'm not sure where the diversity is. The kids who come in, their parents are able to drive them here."

The selectboard called for a public hearing on the issue following annual town meeting.

The school committee will vote again on the issue of school choice in May, at which time, presumably, a new member may have been elected to fill the seat now held by Pam Stone; no candidate has yet announced interest in that nomination.

Teawaddle Road Farm

In other news, the selectboard waived the right to accept 120 back acres of the Mitchell Farm on Teawaddle Road for no fee at some indefinite point in the future, in the event the family trust that currently holds the farm should be extinguished by death of family members or dissolution of the trust.

The selectboard's decision clears the way for the April 28th town meeting to vote on spending \$170,000 of Community Preservation Act funds to provide the town's match for \$237,600 in state Land Grant funds, in order to purchase a permanent conservation restriction on the 147-acre Mitchell farm, in cooperation with the Kestrel Trust.

Had the selectboard not

waived the right to accept the back acres, it would have scuttled the deal and left the door open for the family trust to sell off housing lots along the road, rather than ensure the permanent conservation of the entire acreage, according to conservation commission chair David Powicki.

After William Seruta, a Depot Road resident, delivered to the selectboard a 170-signature petition in support of hunters' rights to use the land if the conservation restriction is approved, Powicki and finance committee member Greg Woodard told the board on Tuesday that meetings have been held with the Mitchell family and the Kestrel Trust to alter the wording of the proposed conservation restriction to allow hunting by right on about half the property, and by permission of the landowner on another 25% of the acreage closer to farm fields.

Woodard, who said he had been on the fence about the proposed purchase of conservation rights, said on Tuesday he was

see BUDGET page 16

CopyCat Print Shop
Loves You More

Check our other ad in this newspaper

CopyCat PRINT SHOP
We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

scan this to find us

(413) 774-3500
greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

Simply Computing

Onsite Software Support on PCs and Macs from Windows to Office to QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
863-5030

mww
Montague WebWorks . com

make the web work for your business

michael muller
owner
413.320.5336

28 Center Street
montague, ma 01351
info@montaguewebworks.com

Great Rates, Fully Insured!

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
A Great Financial Partner

BestLocalBank.com
Reach All Locations 772-0293
Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

Brian R. San Soucie
Locksmith - CRL

Serving the Area for over 30 years Certified • Bonded • Insured

We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes

28 Montague Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
863-2471

- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- We Master Key & Re-Key
- Safe Combinations Changed

Nina's Nook

New Exhibit Opens April 5th
"Fervor from the Truth"
Hours: Thurs 4-6
Fri - Sat 1-6

10% off your purchase when you donate a story to the 'Omnium Gatherums' story collection project.

125a Avenue A,
Turners Falls
413.834.8800
www.ninasnook.com

art . craft . design

TNT PRODUCTIONS
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS
We Know Entertainment

- * Free Consultation
- * State of the Art Sound
- * Best Music for all Ages and Occasions
- * Rental Karaoke System

Steven Therien
413-522-6035
www.tntproj.net

PETER WATERS

HOUSE PAINTING

Interior Exterior 978-544-6534 Wendell MA

T.L.C.
URNS LAWN CARE
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.

Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
"Going Away for Vacation? Leave the Lawn Care to Us"

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured

45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ALL THE TIME:

EVERY TUESDAY

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Winterland, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, with Dan, Kip & Shultz from *Curly Fingers DuPre* hosting. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Song Shop Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

ART SHOWS:

NOW through APRIL

Leverett Library: *Photographs from the East Leverett Trails*.

Wendell Free Library: fabric arts exhibition, *Painting with Thread*, by Helen V. Purple of Petersham.

NOW through APRIL 29th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by David Flood* in the Great Hall. Open Fridays & Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



THE LADY KILLIGREW:

*Awesome Beer
Amazing Food*

*Amazing, Awesome
Employees!*

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

NOW through MAY 12th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Fervor from the Truth: Spiritually Obsessive Works* by Edite Cunha, Gina Vernava and more.

NOW through JUNE 10th

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Images from the '50s*, by Martin Karplus. Opening reception 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 13th.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY APRIL 12th

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Signature Sounds presents *NRBQ & Lux Delux*, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Grange: Irish Music, *John Hohl Kennedy & friends*, 6 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Boswell's Books, Shelburne Falls: BosBuzz, *Jane Roy Brown*, reading and discussion, *One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place*, 6 p.m.

Athol Town Hall: *Quest for the Eastern Cougar*, talk, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse featuring the *Amandla Chorus*, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Carrie Ferguson* with Darelle London, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *The Ivy Leaf*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Home Body & Rabbit Rabbit*, electro-pop, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Terrariums*: join us to make a miniature habitat that fits in a jar! Bring any special containers, plants, or rocks that you would like to include, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Turners Falls: *Second Annual Franklin County Spring Parade*, starts at Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue at 1 p.m. Retired police chief Ray Zukowski will be the Grand Marshall this year.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra*, with benefit supper, 4 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, croonin', free, 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Chinese Folk Arts Workshop*, Lively and colorful performing arts troupe presenting traditional Chinese dance and drumming, 3 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lux Delux* with *Dan Blakeslee*, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Tiny Radar* presents *Pile*, *Redwing Blackbird*, and *Bunny's a Swine*, 8 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse*, *Ray Mason Band*, a benefit for the Montague Reporter, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*,



Ray Mason plays at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, April 14th at 7:30 p.m. A benefit for the *Montague Reporter*.

Chicago-style blues, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass Open Jam*, and then 10 p.m. show, both with *Blackjack Crossing*.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15th

Millers River Environmental Center,



Carrie Ferguson plays at Mocha Maya's on Friday, April 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Athol: *Early Birding* with Jeff, 7 a.m.

Montague Congregational Church: *Relay For Life Pancake Breakfast* Benefit, walk is between 8 and 10 a.m., three kinds of pancakes.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals*, a benefit for the *Greenfield Dharma House*, *Katie Sachs* and the *Murmurations*, and then dance party with DJ *Loren Halman*, starts at 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow*, *Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, acoustic trio, warped Americana, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 16th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, free, prizes, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiznite* with Quizmaster Alex, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Harmaniac Brothers*, 8 to 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Karner blue butterflies*. Join *Lindsay Webb*, wildlife biologist, as we learn about the federally endangered butterfly species that resides in the Pine Barrens of Concord, NH. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shana Falana (NYC) & Ryder Cooley*, suggested donations, no one turned away, ambient pop/ experimental/ folk/ multi-media/ musical performance, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, acoustic rock, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20th and 27th

SATURDAY, APRIL 21st and 28th Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Radium Girls*, 7 p.m. Also, Sunday matinees on April 22nd and 29th at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mulholland* with special guest *Seth Adams*, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Empty Banks*, formerly *Nobody's Fat*, & *Michael Graffius*, free, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21st

Umass Amherst Curry Hicks Cage: *31st Annual Pow Wow*, Donations welcome, vendors and food available. Come and support. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pleasant Street Community Garden, Greenfield: *Garden Party*, garden tours, 1 to 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, the dance party, with DJ *Greg2000*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing all of your Johnny Cash favorites, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd

Millers River Environmental Center, Athol: *Early Birding* with Jeff, 7 a.m.

Boswell's Books, Shelburne Falls: Five local poets read from their works: *Margaret Lloyd*, *Henry Lyman*, *Trish Crappo*, *Doug Anderson* and *Annie Woodhull*, 6 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Brick House
COMMUNITY RESOURCE
CENTER
24 3rd Street Turners Falls
VOLUNTEER and INTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

- * Teen Center Coverage: Tues - Sat, 2:30 to 6 p.m.
- * Seeking Facilitators & Volunteers for the Summer Workshop Series

Contact Erin (413) 863-9576
emyers@brickhousecommunity.org

Draft Beer **Fine Wine** **Great Food**

Friday, 4/13 9 - 11 p.m.
Nexus

Saturday, 4/14 9 p.m.
Ottomatic Slim

Sunday, 4/15 7:30 p.m.
Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store
www.DejaBrewPub.com

THURS 4/12 7pm FREE
Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band
(honky-tonk/american/corny jokes!)

FRI 4/13 9:30 \$3
Home Body | Rabbit Rabbit
(indie/pop/electropop)

SAT 4/14 FREE
first, at 6pm: *Lenny's Lounge*
then, from 8:30 on:
Open Bluegrass Jam & show:
Blackjack Crossing

SUN 4/15 6pm (donation)
SUNDAY LOCALS: *Dharma House* benefit: *Katie Sachs*

78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS, MA
RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM
TEL: 413-863-2866

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA

DVD~ MINI DVD~DVC~VHS/VHS
C/SVHS~BETA~REGULAR/HIGH &
DIGITAL 8 MM~HOME MOVIES/SLIDES~
CD'S/REEL TO REEL/8 TRACK/WIRE
AND OTHER FORMATS.

"MULTIPLE COPIES QUICK AS A BUNNY"

WILLIAM & KATHY WHITE (413-773-7747) LAPINE MULTIMEDIA
21 MOHAWK TRAIL BOX 259
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
LAPINE@VERIZON.NET

413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

Animal Crackers

Saturday Fish Special

- Aquarium Plants
- Saltwater Fish & Lots of Critters
- Open 7 Days

Fun stuff for pets and their people.

Animal Crackers
Aquarium & Pet Supplies
44 Deerfield St. (Rte 5 & 10)
Greenfield, MA 413-774-7346

Patrick Smith
CSSL # 100236
Insured

Montague, MA 01351

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:

Toll Free 866-262-5361 413-367-2228
FAX 413-367-2212

The Shedsmith
Custom Made with Local Timber
Sheds and Chicken Coops
Buy Locally

Todd Muller
413-775-3575
theshedsmith@hotmail.com
www.theshedsmith.com

Bryan G. Hobbs
Remodeling Contractor

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Airsealing • Energy Audits
Replacement Doors & Windows • Roofing • Siding
Home Repairs • Spray Foam Insulation

Call Now for Free Energy Audit
413-775-9006

Bryan G. Hobbs
346 Conway St.
Greenfield

FIRE from page 1

person would want a handheld just to stand up.

Through the afternoon, fire-fighters built a perimeter and put out the hot spots. Departments were released by evening; Wendell went home around 6:00 p.m., and Gilmore said state fire-fighters left at 6:30 p.m.

A cold night Monday may have helped extinguish remaining hot spots, but Tuesday's wind brought a note of caution. Nothing seemed to have reignited that day. The hillside was dry and cold, with leaf litter under a thin blackened surface, the inch-thick beech saplings damaged with smoke and heat.

Kentfield Road neighbor Charles and Shay Cooper walked the land on Wednesday and found, in Charles Cooper's words, "rekindling of numerous hot spots smoking and flickering." The Coopers called 911.

At noon on Wednesday, Annear said Wendell firefighters and the state fire marshal had responded to extinguish remaining hot spots.

Despite the forecast for rain showers, Annear warned dry conditions may persist. For residents able to secure burning permits to burn brush, he said, "Don't assume the fire is out just because you can't see smoke... Cigarettes, exhaust systems from an ATV – any spark-producing device is a concern in the woods, because the top layer is extremely dry."

BUDGET from page 14

now inclined to support it, in part because the conserved land will abut a broader swath of conserved land that provides a natural corridor for animals, as well as by right access for hunters on half the acreage.

Seruta, reached by phone after the meeting, said he was still intending to oppose the deal at town meeting. He said the town should not waive the right to a potential outright gift of 120 back acres at some future date, particularly when several of the possible frontage lots, in his opinion, may be unbuildable, as they might not be able to pass a perc test.

"If the town waits, they're going to get unrestricted use. Now they're only going to get the right to walk on the trails. That's how I see it."

RALLY TO SUPPORT VERMONT

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- U.S. SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT).
- VT GOVERNOR PETER SHUMLIN.
- VT ATTORNEY GENERAL WM. SORRELL

WITH MUSIC BY "FENIBO," THE 12-PIECE AFRO-BEAT ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

NOON TO 2 PM.

BRATTLEBORO COMMON

(RAIN LOCATION: BRATTLEBORO UNION HIGH SCHOOL)



CLOSE VERMONT YANKEE NOW

Please Join Us [more info at www.safeandgreencampaign.org](http://www.safeandgreencampaign.org)

Rally to support the democratic will of the people and elected officials of Vermont to shut down Vermont Yankee.

Demand that Entergy immediately shutter Vermont Yankee and begin a thorough, responsible decommissioning of the reactor and clean-up of the site.

VERMONT DESERVES OUR SUPPORT ■ APRIL 14TH

Rally sponsors include: Citizens Awareness Network, Safe & Green Campaign, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance, Nuclear Free Vermont, Vermont Toxics Action Center, Vermont Citizen Action Network, SAGE Alliance, New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Clamshell Alliance, Sierra Club, The Enviro Show, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Beyond Nuclear, Greenpeace, Connecticut River Watershed Council, and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (representing 1,180 Vermont companies).



Paid political ad

The Montague Reporter T's



Perfect Gifts for Any Occasion

Cool cotton gray T-shirts with the understated black logo. Tell the world you subscribe to elegance in fashion and local journalism. All sizes available, from kids to XX-large. Long-sleeved: \$14. Short-sleeved or women's sleeveless T's: \$12. Send check or money order to: Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.



Vegetarian Pizza

- Asparagus
- Black Bean
- Mashed Potato
- Beer Tomatillo**
- Basil + Tomato

Pizza w Meat

- Pepperoni
- BBQ or Buffalo
- Ranch + Bacon
- Other*

Chicken

*Includes Meatloaf Pizza, Acapulco pizza, and Bacon
**w/ or w/o Chevre

Voo Annual Pizza Report



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL (413) 863-8666



LOOT

found + made

Hours: Wed 11-5, Thurs-Sat 11-7, Sun 11-4
4th Fridays of the month until 9

413-863-9500 • loottheshop.com
62 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Turners Falls Pizza House

119 Avenue A
863-8000
We Deliver!



Grinders • Dinners • Beer & Wine
Open 7 days • 41 years on the Ave

It's Pizza Time!

Your LOCAL Solar Energy Experts



GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE

413-772-3122

Advice, Design & Installation

www.SolarStoreofGreenfield.com

Solar Store of Greenfield • 2 Fiske Avenue • Greenfield, Mass

Geni Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • GeniJohnson@Realtor.com

Don't settle for less
Choose a CRS (Certified Residential Specialist)

Only 4% of all REALTORS hold this prestigious designation. The CRS is my badge of expertise and your shield of assurance. Put your trust in the best to get the job done. Whether buying, selling or referring, always choose GENI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.



Geni Johnson & Associates REALTORS
66 French King Hwy., Gill
(413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM

The Gill Tavern

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

Now serving Sunday Brunch! 10am-2pm

www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
326 Main Road, Gill, MA 413-863-9006



magpie

- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com
21 Bank Row, Gfd.
413-475-3570

woodfired pizzeria