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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 27

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 18, 2013

## SPRING PARADE RESCHEDULED TO SUNDAY, APRIL 21 AT 1 PM

### Gill-Montague Selects New A Twice-Told Race Superintendent



Michael Sullivan, the Gill-Montague school district selection for superintendent, at the Meet & Greet event for him on Monday, April 8, 2013. Sullivan spoke to community members prior to his interview before the school committee.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

After a long-considered process, the Gill-Montague school committee voted on Thursday, April 11, to select Michael Sullivan as their new permanent superintendent. Immediately following the vote, Joyce Phillips, school committee chair, stepped out to call Sullivan and get his response to their decision. After a few moments she came back to report that he had accepted the offer, pending successful completion of contract negotiations.

Sullivan's salary, according to the ad, will range from \$130,000 to \$160,000 per year. Phillips next informed the school committee, and the public, that the current interim superintendent, Mark Prince, had left the district, and would be on paid leave until the end of his con-

see SUPERINTENDENT pg 5



see RIVER RATS page 3

### Remembering the Turners Falls Victims of Domestic Violence

By DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – In the second week of May, 1989, after three Turners Falls women had been killed over the previous 20 months by their domestic partners and a Greenfield high school student, Sharon Gregory, murdered, apparently by a schoolmate, the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT), the grassroots organization in Greenfield that maintains a women's shelter, held a community Week of Awareness to focus attention on domestic violence. As part of that consciousness raising week, a march was held in Turners Falls, and trees were planted in Peskeomskut Park to memorialize the women who had been killed.

Less than a week later, community members were back at the park, wailing, screaming and crying, mourning the death of another Turners Falls woman – Tracy Shepherd, 27 – mother of a six year old boy, Trevor. Tracy had been killed by her boyfriend, David MacDonald, during the Week of Awareness, and her body left in the woods off Route 63 near the Leverett town line, in a sleeping bag covered with leaves. Rumor had it that MacDonald had strangled her with a motorcycle chain.

It seemed at the time as if the fabric of the community of Montague, which had not known a homicide in over a century, had been ripped

apart and would never be made whole again. Press reports around the country focused on the rash of domestic killings, and Turners Falls became briefly infamous as the per-capita murder capital of Massachusetts.

“It is deeply ironic, if that's even the right word, to find out, after a whole week of education on violence, that here we have another murder to deal with,” protest organizer Debra McLaughlin told the Associated Press at the time. “It's hard not to feel overwhelmed.”

“It's insanity,” women's shelter volunteer Mary Osborne told the A.P. She blamed the violence, in part, on the hard times that had befallen the town, which she characterized as “working class, depressed: the factories are all gone, the people have been stripped of dignity in a lot of ways.”

Former Montague police chief Michael Saharceski asked a reporter from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette rhetorically: “How do you stop it? Do you station police officers in everybody's home?”

The murders began on September 21, 1987, when Vivian Morrissey, a popular waitress at Turners Falls Pizza, mother of two small children, was strangled to death at the bottom of the basement stairs in her home across from the Turners Falls High School by her ex-boyfriend, Gregory Martino. The

see VICTIMS page 9

### Unity Park Construction to Begin April 22



The architect's sketch above outlines the proposed Phase II improvements to Unity Park. Courtesy Berkshire Design Group, Inc.

Among the many new projects are reseeded of both ball fields, a new outfield fence, a fitness path encircling the ball fields, an exercise station, a refurbished basketball court, a butterfly garden, a rain garden, a community garden and a paved parking lot flanking the basketball court. A proposed skate park has been tabled for the time being, but the space for one is still set aside.

By JON DOBOSZ

TURNERS FALLS - Phase II of the Unity Park Construction Project will begin on Monday, April 22. The \$450,000, grant-funded project will entail a re-seeding of both ball fields, a new outfield fence, a new backstop for Field #2, a paved fitness path going around both ball fields with four fitness stations, a refurbished basketball court

and picnic area, community garden, rain garden, butterfly garden, and a newly-paved parking lot adjacent to the basketball court.

Construction is scheduled to continue through the end of this summer, where access to the ball fields will be closed for re-grading and seeding. Most other areas located in the eastern portion of the park will also be off limits during construction. Patrons of the

park should expect limited interruption in the western portion of the park, where the Fieldhouse and new playground are located.

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department has re-located some of their programs for this spring, but the office will remain open throughout this phase. Currently, the department intends to keep their playground program located at Unity Park

this summer, as well.

This project is funded through the Community Development Block Grant, administered by the Franklin County Housing and Rehabilitation Authority. Diversified Construction out of Amherst, MA is the General Contractor.

For questions regarding the project, feel free to contact MPRD at (413) 863-3216 or recdir@montague-ma.gov.



## Pet of the Week

### Take Home A Huntress



## Taz

I am an affectionate girl who prefers the quiet company of other ladies. I love to play "huntress" with my toy mice, and curl up on a lap for some petting at the end of the day. I would love to find a lap of my own!

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

RECYCLE

### PAPER

Week of April 22nd  
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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with any questions.

## Leverett Library News

### Book Discussion: David Toomey

Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Program for Professional Writing and Technical communications at the University of Massachusetts, and one-time Leverett resident, David Toomey will talk about his new book, *Weird Life*, on April 23 at 7:00 p.m.

The March 8 *New York Times* review describes the book as "a breakneck tour through natural his-

tory, encounters of an impossible kind, researchers as weird as the organisms they pursue that leads the reader to wonder where science ends and fantasy begins."

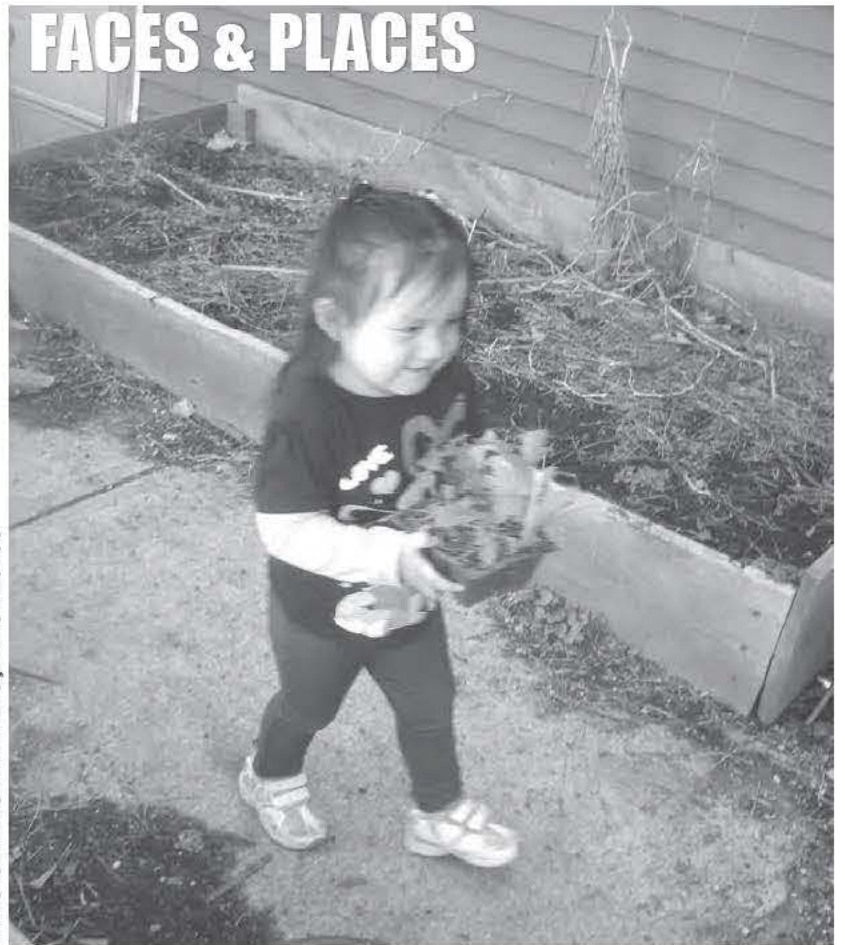
Want to practice and improve your Spanish in a casual environment? Join the Spanish Conversation Group at the Leverett Library every Tuesday through the end of May, from 5 to 6:15 p.m.



Johnnie (left), Ethan (center), and Pamela, hard at work at a children's gardening workshop at the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls.

CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTOS

## FACES & PLACES



Jocelyn carefully carries a plant to the garden at the Brick House. The workshops were provided during school vacation week.

The Town of Gill will be street sweeping Gill's Riverside neighborhood during the week of April 22. Sweeping will occur between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. The exact date is weather-dependent.

Attention Montague Precinct One town meeting members: A pre-town meeting meeting will be held on April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Montague Center Fire Station, to discuss the warrant articles for the annual town meeting.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER High Blood Pressure



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. If you have high blood pressure, aren't you better off just taking old-fashion water pills instead of all these fancy drugs?*

Water pills (aka *diuretics*) are the oldest and best studied of the drugs used to treat high blood pressure (aka *hypertension*). Diuretics help the kidneys flush extra water and salt from your body and decrease blood volume to lower pressure.

There are three types of diuretics: thiazide, loop and potassium-sparing. They work in different parts of your kidneys.

In the years since water pills were the drugs of choice for hypertension, the pharmaceutical companies have developed a variety of medicines to keep your pressure in check in ways that are different from the mechanism of diuretics. These include beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, ARBS, calcium channel

blockers, vasodilators, alpha blockers, and renin inhibitors.

So, what should you take if you have high blood pressure? Ask your doctor.

Treating high blood pressure can be tricky, because patients react differently to anti-hypertensive drugs. Sometimes, doctors have to find the right combination of *several* drugs to lower blood pressure.

Now we get into the issue of money. Diuretics are cheap. The newer anti-hypertensives are comparatively expensive.

One significant study found that generic diuretic pills that cost pennies a day worked better for patients with high blood pressure than newer drugs that could be as much as 20 times as expensive. Because hypertension affects tens of millions of Americans, this finding had the potential to save the health care system billions of dollars.

But, following the release of the findings, the percentage of patients taking the cheaper diuretics barely increased.

"In the current health care system," Pauline W. Chen, MD, a columnist, wrote in *The New York Times*, "clinicians are rewarded for doing and ordering more. Pharmaceutical and medical device firms reap fortunes from physicians' or-

ders, and a single change could cost them billions. Studies that endorse anything less than another expensive procedure or a newer and more expensive medication or the latest device are often destined for failure or a protracted struggle against drug and device companies that are willing to put up a costly fight."

A large group of medical experts known as the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure recommends that most people try thiazide diuretics as the first choice to treat high blood pressure. If diuretics by themselves don't lower your blood pressure, your doctor may recommend adding newer medications.

The following are some blood-pressure treatment recommendations from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health:

\* If you need to begin drug treatment, you should definitely try a diuretic first.

\* Beta blockers are another option to begin treatment, especially if you're younger than age 60 and do not have diabetes or peripheral artery disease.

\* If you need multiple drugs to control your blood pressure, make one a diuretic.

\* If you have angina (chest pain from heart disease), you may need to take a calcium channel blocker. It should be used along with a diuretic.

Diuretics are generally safe, but do have side effects. The most common side effect is increased urination. For most people, this side effect improves within a few weeks of taking a diuretic.

People who take diuretics may also have too much potassium in their blood if they take a potassium-sparing diuretic, or too little potassium in their blood if they take a thiazide diuretic.

Send your questions to  
fred@healthygeezer.com.

### Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Edison Ovalle-Bartolon

Grade 8

Calley Hubert

### SPRING CLEAN-UP

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### Senior Center Activities - April 22nd to April 26th

#### GILL-MONTAGUE

Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter.

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

#### Monday 4/22

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo

#### Tuesday: 4/23

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Wednesday: 4/24

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

#### Thursday: 4/25

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
12 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch  
Friday: 4/26  
10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Writing Group

#### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

#### Monday, 4/22

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
12 p.m. Quilting

#### Tuesday, 4/23

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
Wednesday, 4/24

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday, 4/25

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Posture Perfect  
12 p.m. Cards  
Friday, 4/26  
9 a.m. Bowling  
9:30 a.m. Sit and Knit

#### LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

#### WENDELL

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





JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled By **DON CLEGG**

This Saturday, April 20 might be a rainy day, but there is plenty to do!

From 9 to 11 a.m., the First Congregational Church of Montague at 4 North Street in Montague Center, will offer the workshop, **"Yoga for Gardeners: Working the Soul. Experience"**. This is a unique opportunity to blend the love of gardening and the intention to honor and care for the earth. Explore ways that yoga can deepen the joy of gardening. Learn valuable gardening principles while practicing ways to protect your body from injury. The workshop will be led by Jenny Tufts, a certified Kripalu yoga teacher and master gardener. No yoga experience is required. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat, if you have one. Donations accepted.

From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., enjoy a **bird's eye view of the local community** at Greenfield Savings Bank, Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Join pilot, Ed Gregory, as he flies us on an aerial photographic journey beginning in Turners Falls, flying to Gill, Greenfield, Deerfield and back to Turners Falls. Gregory will present a Power Point flight so neither boarding pass nor carry-on luggage is necessary. If wind conditions are right and the flight returns earlier than scheduled, Ed has many other entertaining presentations for your viewing pleasure. GSB will provide light refreshments while Gregory provides the comradeship. Bring a friend and reserve your seat by calling (413)-863-4316. Stand-by room also available.

At 11 a.m., come hear the **"As You Write It"** writers read during their encore debut of **"As You Write It: A Franklin County Anthology Volume III"** at the Greenfield Public Library on Main Street, Greenfield. Local writers Rosalie Bolton, Estelle Cade, Patricia Carlisle, Lillian Fiske, Frances Hemond, Dorothy Hmieski, Robin Panagakos and Joseph A. Parzych will read new tales of growing up and living life large before cell phones, computers, laptops or wireless, as well as going on trips to Australia, working as a nurse, joyriding at age 15, war games, finding the perfect bridal gown and other surprises. This event is sponsored in part by Massachusetts Cultural Council grants from the towns of Deerfield, Gill, Leverett, Montague, Northfield, Shelburne and Wendell. Refreshments will be served.

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Finally, from noon to 5 p.m., there will be a **moving sale** at the Thrive Project, 37 Third Street in Turners Falls. Thrive is leaving its space for financial reasons and is raising money for its coffers by selling stuff off at very reasonable prices: furniture, pillows, lamps, books, CDs and LPs, appliances, instruments, a projector, television, t-shirts, office supplies and more, including a ping-pong table. Stop by to buy, donate, or just say hi and show your support for the continuance of Thrive's mission of adult mentorship.

Due to Saturday's forecast, the **Franklin County spring parade has been rescheduled for Sunday, April 21, at 1 p.m.** The route, setup times, etc. all remain the same. The parade will make a three-mile loop, beginning at the Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue. It will take a left onto Montague Street, travel to the end, and turn left onto Turnpike Road. The parade will go past the Turners Falls High School, and take a left onto Millers Falls Road. At Scotty's Convenience Store, the parade will turn left onto High Street and end back at the Sheffield School.

Volunteers are invited to a **Turners Falls Block Party and Heritage Festival Planning meeting** on Wednesday, April 24, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Burrito Rojo, 3rd Street, in Turners Falls. The committees are seeking community-minded and fun-loving volunteers. This meeting will be focused on fundraising ideas. There's a place for everyone to get involved and bring a friend. Downtown business owners are encouraged to drop by with your good ideas and know-how. Please call (413) 325-1164 for more information.

Greenfield Community College will host a **College Visit Day** on Thursday, April 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Main Campus, One College Drive, in Greenfield. Prospective students and their families are invited to learn about the admission process, explore the variety of degree and certificate programs GCC has to offer, and realize the many transfer opportunities available to earn a baccalaureate degree. End the day with lunch and live music. For details about the event and

to sign up visit [www.gcc.mass.edu/admission](http://www.gcc.mass.edu/admission) or call (413) 775-1801.

Leverett Public Library presents Jennifer Couturier of **"We Tell Tales"** on Thursday, April 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. "From Seed to Plate" is a garden of stories from all around the world that focus on the farm, the crop, and the important connection we have with our environment. This interactive story telling performance is great for children of all ages.

Join Edie Field and friends for **"Legend and Lore"** at Leverett Town Hall on Thursday, April 25, at 7 p.m. for a program of historical tales and scientific fact about **"ye old fish pond"** in Leverett center. All are welcome to this free event.

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a **Psychic Fair** on Saturday, Apr 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Lake Pleasant post office. For more information, contact TNSA's website, [spiritualallianceusa.org/](http://spiritualallianceusa.org/)

On Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Turners Falls High School Theater, the Gill Montague Education Fund will present **"UnionJack"** for their **9th Annual Gala**. Featuring the look and sounds of the 1960's British Invasion era, "UnionJack" takes you back to the days of The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Kinks, Hollies, and the Searchers. You will follow the history of the British Invasion from the early days of "Beatlemania" through the end of the decade.

The Gala is dedicated in memory of Sandra L. Miner, President of the GMEF since 2006. Ticket locations include Scotty's Convenience Store, World Eye Bookshop or call Sandy at TFHS (413)863-7296 and at the GMEF website - [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org). Advance tickets are \$10, and those available at the door \$15.

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

Attention Montague Precinct  
 One town meeting members: a pre-town meeting meeting will be held on April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Montague Center Fire Station to discuss the warrant articles for the annual town meeting.

**Attention Lapsed Loyal Montague Reporter Subscribers:** If your subscription to your paper has expired, please renew. Rates are \$25 for walking routes, \$30 for driving routes, \$50 for mail subscriptions. Send checks to us at 58 Fourth Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. If you have any questions please call us at 863-8666.

**RIVER RATS** from page 1

By **JOSH HEINEMANN** and **KATIE NOLAN**

Josh Heinemann and Katie Nolan have competed together in the Athol to Orange River Rat Race for six years. Despite being Rat partners and life partners, they wrote separate accounts of the April 13, 2013 race. Katie's account is in italics.

*Josh and I spent the cool and windy first Sunday in April washing sap buckets and lids and stacking them to dry. Our plan was to practice for the River Rat Race after we were done, putting our faithful red canoe into the Millers River for the first time since fall. Then, Josh's pager sounded the Wendell fire department tone: brush fire in New Salem, a mutual aid call for Wendell, Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving, Montague, and many other local fire departments. Josh rushed off, and spent four hours with the other firefighters, cutting fire lines into the forest soil to slow the spread of the 10-acre fire and putting out hot-spots by flooding them with water.*

*When he came home, soot in his beard and smelling of smoke, he ate the lunch he missed by answering the fire call, and was ready to pack the canoe on the truck and get to the river.*

The story is that the River Rat race began with a 1963 challenge among friends to race canoes from the Silver Front Bar in Athol to the Lion Den Bar in Orange. The first race involved 6 boats, started with a warm up at the Silver Front and ended with congratulations and consolations at the Lion Den. Alcohol was not the point of the race, but neither was it discriminated against. My first race was the 15th annual race and I have entered every year but one since then. Between 250 and 400 boats enter each year; 2013 had 329 entries.

The early River Rat Races were held on the first Saturday in April. For our first race in 1978, my partner and I got into the boat and slid from the snow into the water like a toboggan. The early April date conflicted with the Westfield Whitewater Race until the two race committees got together and changed the

schedule so one person could enter both races. When that happened, people who had chosen the more serious Westfield race could enter the Rat Race and they did, with their 18' long narrow tippy 30-lb racing boats that move like arrows through the water. It is something to see, but their boats are not good for much more than going fast on flat water. The Rat Race evolved into two races, the racing boats and the rest of us who maybe got on the water once before race day, or maybe did not, locals, UMass students who thought it might be fun (maybe not a good idea for a first date), neighbors competing against neighbors in whatever canoe they have.

**An Osprey, a Rainbow and Herons**

Most of our practice this year was shoveling snow, but we did get on the water for three short paddles, and one time we saw an osprey.

*Our tradition for Rat Race practice is to put in at the finish line at the Orange Environmental Park boat launch and paddle upstream, against the current, then turn and paddle back downstream. Usually, for the first practice, it's raining or hailing or snowing, but we had sun as we drove to the boat launch. The canoe slipped easily into the water, and we pushed off from the finish line. I felt joy in being alive and paddling on the open water. The sun disappeared and the rain started, but it was just spring rain, welcoming us to the river for another season. Not far from the launch we startled an osprey. Otherwise, we were alone on the water, but I paddled hard, competing with imaginary racers. "Why are you working hard?" the more relaxed Josh asked. "This is just a warmup." I slowed my pace and we paddled upstream about halfway to the start, then turned around to paddle back downstream. The sun appeared through the clouds, low in the west, shining golden and mysterious through the pines on the shore and then nearly blinding us when we passed by the pines. There had to be a rainbow: we turned the boat back upstream and there it was.*

see **RIVER RATS** page 6

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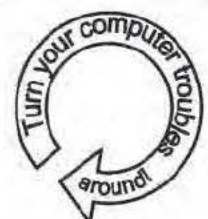
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# The Montague Reporter

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## The Boston Marathon Bombing: "Look for the Helpers"

The flags should not be flying at half-mast again. Three people, including eight-year-old Martin Richard, 29-year-old Krystle Campbell and Lingzi Lu, a Chinese university student, should not be dead. 170 people – 17 in critical condition, and 41 in serious condition – should not be injured.

Outrage, sadness, sympathy and fear are among the many emotions we are feeling. But not disbelief. Not after Aurora and Sandy Hook, not after Oklahoma City where 168 people, including many children, were killed in the 1995 bombing. Not after the twin towers went down in New York City.

Unfortunately, America is more and more a place where senseless violence is becoming a regular occurrence. But to become accepting of these heinous acts is to surrender ourselves and our own humanity. To confront the murder of innocents we must come together as people. We can refuse to accept that murder is normal. This week, as in so many other weeks, we need to feel that Martin Richard and Krystle Campbell are ours: our children, our siblings. We need to mourn their deaths as we would mourn the passing of those closest to us. We need to stand up to terror, to violence, no matter where or how it occurs. That is our job as a

humane people.

There is no way to make sense of this, nor make sense of the murder of four women in Turners Falls 25 years ago, nor understand how or why kids get gunned down daily in crossfire on city streets. Each death diminishes us as human beings. The only way to regain our footing is to affirm peace, to denounce violence of all kinds. Or as Mahatma Gandhi reminded us: "Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat, for it is momentary."

What isn't momentary is the courage of the hundreds of people who rushed in immediately after the explosions to do what they could to assist those in need. They upheld our true values that will endure long after blood has been spilled on the streets, long after the murderers have been brought to justice. They represent who we are, and who we have always been. They remind us of our humanity, and that good is far more present than evil.

After December's shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary, many shared this quote from the late Fred Rogers of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"



C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### Inch by Inch

By ELIZABETH WARREN

My brother David has always had the special spark in our family.

Like our two older brothers, David served in the military. When he got out, he started a small business -- and when that one didn't work out, he started another one. He couldn't imagine an America where he wasn't living by his wits every single day.

Year after year, my brother paid into Social Security. He never questioned it. He figured he was paying so that he -- and a lot of other people -- could have a secure retirement.

Today my brother lives on his Social Security. That's about \$1,100 a month. \$13,200 a year.

I'm telling you my brother's story not because it's unusual, but

because it's like the story of so many other people. I can almost guarantee that you know someone -- a family member, friend, or neighbor -- who counts on Social Security checks to get by.

That's why I was shocked to hear that the President's newest budget proposal would cut \$100 billion in Social Security benefits. Our Social Security system is critical to protecting middle class families, and we cannot allow it to be dismantled inch by inch.

The President's policy proposal, known as "chained CPI," would re-calculate the cost of living for Social Security beneficiaries. That new number won't keep up with inflation on things like food and health care -- the basics that we need to live.

In short, "chained CPI" is just a fancy way to say "cut benefits for

seniors, the permanently disabled, and orphans."

Two-thirds of seniors rely on Social Security for most of their income; one-third rely on it for at least 90% of their income. These people aren't stashing their Social Security checks in the Cayman Islands and buying vacation homes in Aruba -- they are hanging on by their fingernails to their place in the middle class.

My brothers and I grew up in an America that invested in its kids and built a strong middle class. An America that allowed millions of children to rise from poverty and establish secure lives. An America that created Social Security and Medicare so that seniors could live with dignity.

We can't chip away at America's middle class and break the promise we make to our seniors.

## NRC Annual Assessment of Vermont Yankee: Open House and Q&A

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will host an open house at Brattleboro Union High School, Multi Purpose Room on April 30 from 5:30 to 7 to discuss Entergy's performance at Vermont Yankee during calendar year 2012. Following the open house, the Commission will host a Q&A session during which members of the public will be able to ask questions regarding "our role in ensuring safe plant operation."

The NRC's 50 mile radiation "ingestion pathway zone" around Vermont Yankee includes 1.5 mil-

lion people, the Green Mountains, the eastern Berkshires, the Mohawk Trail, the Monadnock range, countless waterways, and hundreds of farms, but "stops" at the edge of the Quabbin reservoir.

All potentially affected residents are invited to attend and take advantage of the opportunity to question the NRC directly.

NRC Meeting Contact is Ronald R. Bellamy, Ph.D., Chief, Projects Branch 5. He can be reached by phone at (610) 337-5200, or by email: Ronald.Bellamy@nrc.gov

## Letter to the Editor

## MCTV Responds to the Community About Technical Problems with Broadcasting the School Committee Meetings

MCTV cablecasts live programming about local government, schools and cultural events, programming that the community cannot get anywhere else.

Recently, viewers have been concerned that two GMRSD School Committee meetings, on January 8th and 22nd, as well as a meeting held on April 11 to interview candidates for Superintendent, were cut off during their live cablecasts.

MCTV allots a certain amount of air time based on the meeting agendas and meeting history for these live broadcasts, and pads those esti-

mates, more than doubling the projected meeting times with air time.

MCTV apologizes for the cut-off of live broadcasts. The station has created a plan with the School Committee to set up communications and technical coordination to make on the spot programming changes in the event that meetings are taking significantly longer than expected.

MCTV invites viewers to call the Station Manager, Dean Garvin, at 863-9200 with information about specific programs, dates, and times that concern them, and talk with the

Manager in the hope that problems can be understood and addressed.

All School Committee and Selectboard meetings are re-cablecast multiple times in their entirety and are available on demand online shortly after the meeting dates. Check the website at [montaguetelevision.org](http://montaguetelevision.org) for program listings, key information, and on-demand viewing.

— Cindy Tarail  
Outreach and Communication  
Coordinator, Montague  
Community Television

## Very Light Turnout for Montague Democratic Caucus

MONTAGUE – Only 13 registered voters turned out for the Montague Democratic Caucus for town offices. There were no contested seats. The following will appear on the May 20 town-election ballot: Christopher Boutwell Sr., incumbent selectman; Debra Bourbeau, incumbent town clerk; Patricia Dion, incumbent tax collector; Teresa Miner, incumbent assessor; John Murphy, incumbent Soldier Memorial trustee; Karen Latka and Cynthia Tarail, library trustee incumbents and Karen Casey-Chretien, Montague Housing Authority Board. Albert Cummings, who received nine votes as a write-in candidate for the Board of Health, will also appear on the ballot.



With no seats contested, this year's Caucus was a small gathering.

**WE WELCOME  
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Montague Reporter

58 4th St Turners, 01376

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

**U.S. Casualties  
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Wounded	Deaths
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# All Articles Approved Unanimously at Turners Falls Fire District Meeting

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

## New Well Will Be Pumping Water by Next Spring

A light turn out of around thirty registered voters unanimously approved all articles at the annual meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District on Apr 16. The big ticket item this year was \$935,000 for the construction of a new well at the Hamnegan Brook site that will include permitting, engineering and construction of pump houses. The site is near Lake Pleasant on Green Pond Road. According to Mike Brown, superin-

tendent of the Turners Falls Water District, the appropriation will be funded by a two percent loan for 20 years from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The process has been a long one. Brown stated that the search for a new water source began in 1999. Since then, test wells were drilled, and in 2004 a report on the test well pumping was completed. 2005 saw a preliminary design, but due to concerns of the Department of Environmental Protection, further modeling was necessary in order to assure the

DEP that the brook would not be affected. A new well and treatment design was in place by 2008 and in 2009 a ten-inch production well drilled. The Water District secured DEP approval in 2010.

Over the last few years the Water District has refined the design, cleared trees and brush from the area, and is now ready to begin the pump house construction, connections and upgrades. The department also intends to retrofit the existing Lake Pleasant pump station into a station for pH adjustment, emergency chlorination, and other treatment processes. Brown noted that most of

the work was done in-house. Had they bid out the jobs, the cost would have been around \$400,000; instead the work was done for approximately \$127,000.

"The water quality is excellent," said Brown. When on line, the pump will generate 1000 gallons a minute. The water district supplies drinking water for the residents of all the villages except Montague Center.

### Other Votes

Other items approved at the meeting were \$24,270 for an ambulance and ambulance services, \$30,000 for the purchase of a new Fire Department vehicle, and \$30,000 to grout

leaking Well #1. Other articles, totaling \$64,000, included funding for tires, electrical panel upgrades, turnout gear, vehicle conversion, sick leave and vacation pay for the Fire Department, and storage tank maintenance and sick pay at the Water Department.

The requested special appropriations totaled more than \$1 million this year, a figure that will take the district's proposed expenses for FY'14 from \$2.3 million to \$3.4 million.

No money was returned to taxpayers to offset the district fire taxes.

## SUPERINTENDENT page 1

tract. According to Phillips, Prince left after the April 2 school committee meeting. She said the decision was "mutual," and that he would be paid his regular salary until his contract ends on June 30.

As they sat down to contemplate the choice before them, everyone on the school committee agreed that all three candidates for the superintendent position were outstanding, well-qualified individuals.

### Who Is Michael Sullivan?

Sullivan began his interview, held on Monday, April 8, with a statement focusing on what he would like to accomplish as superintendent and why he thought Gill-Montague would be a good fit for him. Sullivan, a native of Western Massachusetts who lives in Northampton, has a long history as a teacher, working 14 years as a social studies teacher at JFK Middle School in Northampton, with an additional two years before that teaching social studies at Westmoreland Elementary School in New Hampshire. He was Assistant Principal at Northampton High School from 2004 to 2006, and then Principal at Glenbrook Middle school in Longmeadow, Massachusetts from 2006 to 2011. He has been in his present position since 2011 as Assistant Superintendent of Learning for the Longmeadow school district.

All of his statements regarding his work, past and present, were very positive. He stressed that it was not dissatisfaction that led him to apply for the position, but a desire to do more and contribute to lives of children. Sullivan said he would like to help the district improve to where all the kids succeed. He said the school district is a good fit for him: he likes the size, and said the people here are down to earth, care about their kids, and are hardworking. He met a lot of the students on his visit and said, "The kids I've met are great." He comes to the area for outdoor sports like canoeing and camping.

### The Interview

Sullivan listed five things he felt were important about his leadership style. The first was having strong, trusting and authentic relationships. As a leader, he said, you have to bring your experience and be open and honest with your co-workers and staff. He said competence is im-

portant, as is doing your work well. He also emphasized the importance of integrity, and modeling integrity for others. Clarity was also on his list. He said, "It's really important to know what your goals are. You need clarity if you're going to ask people to work for you, so you have to be clear and know what you want."

Sullivan also emphasized the need for good communication. In discussing his ability to develop a budget, he said he's worked closely with his current superintendent. He majored in business and accounting at the University of Massachusetts. He said the tension that can exist between towns and a school district over budgets is natural. What's important, he noted, is to make a clear case for what you're looking for with a lot of detail and gain the trust of the towns by being as efficient as you can, and finding ways to demonstrate good will. He said he was aware of the district's budget compact, and felt it was "absolutely critical" to the budget process.

Sullivan said he felt when you begin work in a new district, you need to spend a lot of time talking and listening. "You need to really hear how kids feel, what parents have to say." On the AIP, he said it was a very important plan but that it might in some cases be too much too soon. He said he would want to engage the district in a vision/mission plan for moving the district forward, but wouldn't want to do that right off. It would have to be done collaboratively and over time.

Asked about public relations, and building the image of the district, he said it was important to attend sporting events and be visible at all school events. He added that he has a lot of technical knowledge, curriculum alignment, and use of data that can contribute to understanding how to help students do better. "What kids need are strong connections with adults, so as we 'march forward' getting all kids to improve test scores, we should note the social importance and not lose sight of the value of time spent by teaching staff with students."

### The Discussion

In beginning the final discussion, Pat Corriera of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) suggested the members discuss the pros and cons of each candidate and then see where everyone stood when they were done.

After that, they could take a straw poll before going to an official vote or have a free discussion, then take a vote. Corriera also said that they needed six votes to confirm a candidate (similar to what they need to vote a budget), but when school district attorney Russell Dupere arrived, he said they just needed a simple majority of five votes. Corriera said the members should discuss the candidates so the community could hear their thinking, but should stick to professional criteria.

The discussion process began with members listing pros and cons of the candidates. Leslie Cogswell of Montague said she liked that Sullivan had a passion for education and that he had experience building a budget with his superintendent. Another factor in his favor was that he had roots in the area. Misty Lyons of Montague said she was very impressed by that too. She also noted that he had an accounting background, and that it seemed like anyone could approach him and he would be welcoming. She did not feel it was a weakness that he "works too hard," his answer to what were his weaknesses. Jane Oakes of Gill said he had a lot of good qualities, and liked that he makes informed decisions.

Joyce Phillips of Montague stated that Sullivan was strong in working with curriculum and data but she had concerns with his budget experience. She said, "He has to feel that this is what he wants." Jennifer Waldron of Gill said she definitely liked his answers on leadership, and that he has an accounting degree, and went to UMass; she liked what he said about earning trust, as well as looking for ways to cut costs. As to his weaknesses, she was concerned that he said the AIP was a good plan but maybe needed refining. "We all worked so hard. I don't want someone to come in and change things." Another concern was that Sullivan might not be not so strong in collective bargaining.

Shelly Clark said she was impressed with Sullivan's collaborative leadership style and that he was a very good presenter. She agreed with others that the "AIP refining" statement felt a little funny to her. It also seemed that others had been pushing him to apply. Marge Levenson of Montague said of him, "He's a thinker, direct, articulate." She said she wants someone who's

inclusive. "I want a steward."

The school committee had a lot of good things to say about Maureen Ward, the candidate from New Hampshire. She had extensive experience as a superintendent. She was confident, goal oriented. She repeatedly said she felt it was important to live in the community. Waldron said she liked that she talked a lot about collaboration, and was eager to "celebrate small achievement." The largest concern expressed by members was that she hadn't "done her homework," didn't know about the compact, and didn't seem to know much about the community.

Patricia Gardner also had a lot of strong support and admiration among school committee members and many members of the staff. She received a lot of praise for her skill as Turners Falls High School principal. They expressed appreciation for all the changes and improvements she's made at the high school, and her interview was viewed as very strong. The hesitation was about her experience, with some members expressing the opinion that she wasn't ready to be superintendent. She was described as smart, and as a great cheerleader for the district. Oakes said Gardner inspired her. Waldron said she was growing in her position, and had great potential.

### The Decision

There was an apparent expectation at the end of this discussion that the conversation would continue, but Michael Langknecht, member from Montague, quickly made a motion to select Sullivan as their new superintendent. Waldron seconded his motion.

This surprised some, and there was a moment of trying to step back. Phillips asked if there was a need for more discussion first, and

as there seemed to be, Waldron said she would withdraw her second. Phillips asked Langknecht if he would withdraw his motion. Langknecht said he had the impression this was what the members wanted, but if he misread things, they could vote it down. He said he would not withdraw his motion.

So the vote proceeded, ending with a 5 to 4 vote in favor of Sullivan. Voting yes were Langknecht, Brown, Lyons, Waldron and Cogswell. Voting no were Clark, Oakes, Phillips and Levenson.

In a procedure agreed upon at the beginning of the meeting, the members then voted unanimously to support Michael Sullivan as the next superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

The next school committee meeting will be on April 23, 2013 at Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m. Sullivan is expected to attend that meeting to hear a report by Lynda Foisy of the DESE.



## Poets Wanted!

to submit original poems. Please email: poetry@montaguereporter.org for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

*No prior experience necessary, at least as a poet.*

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

### Illicit Meat Vendor Eludes Authorities

<b>Tuesday, 4/9</b> 6:15 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Prospect Street. Removed.	same. Owner picked up.	Ledges. Climber fell. Assisted on scene.
<b>Friday, 4/12</b> 1:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 call at Lester Street residence. No one on premises.	<b>Friday, 4/12</b> 1:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 call at Lester Street residence. No one on premises.	<b>Tuesday, 4/16</b> 1:45 p.m. Report of possible domestic disturbance on Moore Street. Found to be verbal only.
<b>Wednesday, 4/10</b> 2:20 p.m. Welfare check at Mountain Road residence. Found to be fine.	<b>Saturday, 4/13</b> 1:30 p.m. Returned lost dog to Lillians Way residence.	2:30 p.m. Report of solicitor without permit in Moore Street area, selling meats from truck. Unable to locate.
<b>Thursday, 4/11</b> 7:11 p.m. Lost dog reported seen on Lillians Way. Located	<b>Sunday, 4/14</b> 3:15 p.m. Medical emergency at Farley	

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 17, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Erving Police Station Forging Ahead

The Erving police station project is moving forward. Baltazar Construction of Ludlow, MA is jacking 60 feet of 36" steel casing under Route 2 to accommodate an 8" sewer pipe. The job involves a pit 30 feet deep on each side of the road. The jacking pit, lined with steel sheeting, is located in the middle of River Road where it intersects Route 2. Chris Tobolski is job superintendent for Baltazar Construction.

### Wendell Comings and Goings

The selectboard appointed Paul Sullivan to the board of assessors

at the request of other assessors. Sullivan is running unopposed for the position in the town's May 5 election. Police officer Charles Ricko submitted a letter of resignation effective June 1. he has been hired to work full-time as a sergeant for another Franklin County police department.

### Exploring Montague's Vernal Pools

Annemarie Averill and her six-year-old daughter Katharine are enthusiastic tour guides to the world of Montague's vernal pools... On a romp in the woods off Dry Hill Road, Averill was hopeful we would have a good day for frogs, and we did. The wood frogs made a kind of quacking sound reminiscent of a tiny duck. The peepers, with their high-pitched chirrup, added to the lovely chorus.

### Watch Out For The Big Bunny!

If you happen to be driving through Lake Pleasant on Saturday, April 19 and see a large, human-sized bunny doddering around, don't be frightened. It's not a genetic mutation. It's the patron of the Easter Egg Hunt that the Lake Pleasant Women's Club arranges for the kids in the village each year.

### Editorial: 6 Months Along

With this week's issue, the Montague Reporter is six months old. It has been a largely volunteer effort to date, built from scratch with hard work by a lot of people, many of whom are your friends and neighbors. If you like the paper, say thanks to the local business owners who advertise in the Reporter. They need your support.

### RIVER RATS from page 3

We had two more practices – more cold air and gray skies, but we saw great blue herons flying overhead, heard a beaver slap, and, on our last evening practice, we heard spring peepers calling. Each time, as well as observing wildlife, I paddled as fast and strong as I could. I'm not a natural competitor, in fact I avoid competition of any sort. But somehow, because the event is called a race, I feel compelled to put whatever strength I have into doing it.

On race day, we fueled up on pancakes and 2013 maple syrup with our almost-4-year-old granddaughter Rowena and our daughter-in-law Kim. They would be at the finish line, waiting for us to come in. And here was an important reason to compete well, despite the nagging fear that I was so out of shape that I wouldn't be able finish the race at all. I wanted to meet Rowena's enthusiastic expectations for this exciting event called a canoe race.

### Under the Branches

We started at #183, a position that put us just upstream of a tree that leaned out from the bank directly in our way. The starting cannon went off, and somehow we fit underneath it inside the branches.

Our starting position, drawn by lottery the night before the race, was 183. The competing boats line up along the south bank of the river, in numerical order. Twenty minutes before the start, Josh and I slipped into the fast-moving current and paddled until we saw boat 181, positioned just under a large over-

hanging branch. We pulled in, also under the branch. The paddlers in 181 were a father and teenage son, first time racers, in a canoe that started a slow leak as we waited for the cannon shot that signals everyone to paddle furiously. That branch worried me – in the chaos at the start, it would be easy to run the boat into the branch and tip. Proving that my worry was well-founded, a low numbered boat passed by near the middle of the river, and was pushed by the current toward the branch. The bow paddler glided by, missing the branch, but the stern paddler was caught underneath it. He lay back flat and wasn't hit head on, but the underside of the branch scraped hard against his face.

Waiting for the cannon, we talked starting strategy with the paddlers in 181 – how to get by the branch without hitting it or tipping over. Five minutes before the start, boat 182 appeared, paddled by two energetic young men. They came downstream fast and started to maneuver in between 181 and our boat. The current caught them, and the stern paddler grabbed the branch to steady himself, pulling the boat over. The rescue boat appeared immediately, fished the men out and brought them to shore upstream.

In minutes, the soaking wet men were on the path along the south bank with their boat, trying to push it into position. As they worked, the bow paddler stepped into a soft spot in the bank and was suddenly up to his waist in the river, but the two persevered and got their boat into the water. Clambering into the boat, they realized they had positioned it backwards, bow to the bank and stern to the water. They didn't appear to be sober. They

decided to pull the boat back onto shore and position it correctly. They got the boat out as cannon went off. The blank space 182 had just vacated was wide open, giving us a path past the overhanging branch. We were out into the middle of the river, moving downstream as fast as we could paddle, and didn't see 181 or 182 again.

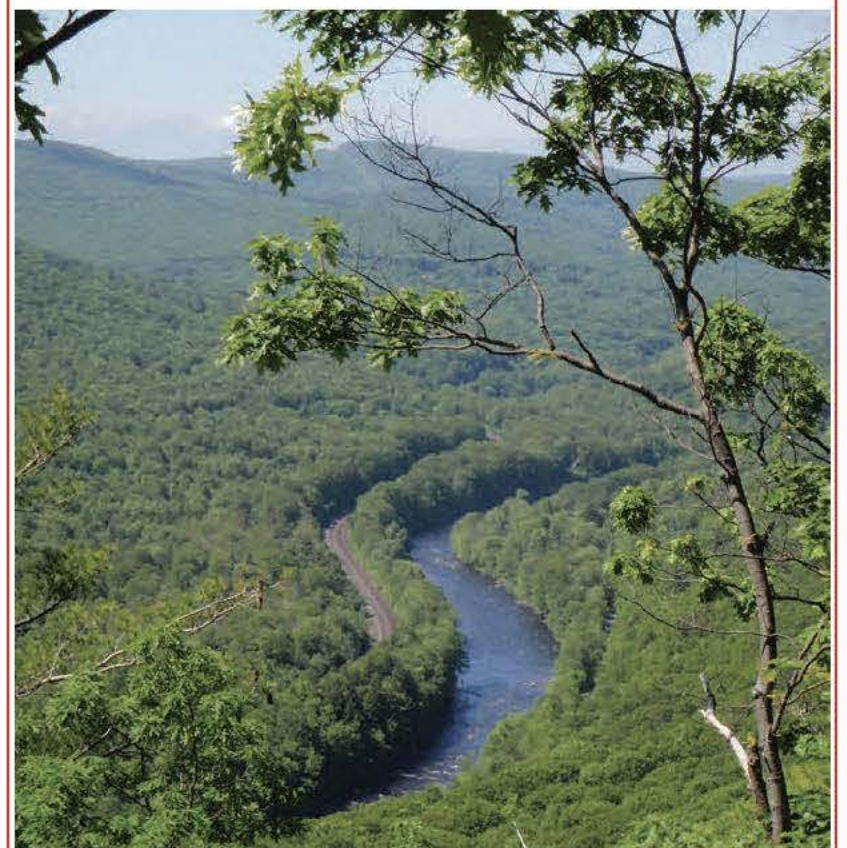
### Chaos and Tangles

At the Athol bridge, we passed two swimmers, holding onto each end of an upside down canoe, but there was a boat between us and them and I could not reach over to help them. Then we passed two women sitting in a right-side-up boat that was filled with water. They looked puzzled, as if they were trying to decide their next move. But the rush moved us past them before I could even think to help. The first mile is a chaos of tangled boats that I try to pick a path around, and then when the tangles thin out, we just paddle as hard as we can to the finish line, trying to catch the next boat in front of us. The last mile always has a headwind, but this year there were no whitecaps and I think we edged a half-boat-length in front of the boats on either side of us.

Racing boats take half an hour to finish. We took an hour.

Reporting on a race that you're in is impossible, you don't see it at all – your attention is on your arms, shoulders, breath, the paddle, the jams of canoes ahead, other branches hanging over from the shore. I did notice that there were more boats than usual this year, and more jams, but Josh's steady steering got us through. And once we were in the crush of the race,

## Fitness Hike on the New England National Scenic Trail



Spectacular views await you from the Mc&M trail and Northfield Mountain.

The woods should be bursting with birdsong and late spring wildflowers on this 5.5 mile hike along the trail formerly known as the M-M trail. On Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center staff will lead the hike which begins in the town of Erving and travels through hemlock forests to the oaky woods on the ledges above the Millers River with a view of the River and east to Mount Wachusett. The group will then continue to Briggs Brook above the village of Farley, where a connector trail leads to the Northfield Mountain trail system.

A second viewpoint atop the Mountain looks north to Southern

Vermont with a view of the Northfield Mountain Station upper reservoir. Hikers will finally descend along the scenic Rose Ledge foot trail to the Northfield Mountain Visitor Center.

Participants will meet at Northfield Mountain and carpool to the hike start location and should wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes, and bring lunch, water and trail snacks to enjoy along the way. Long pants, sleeves, a hat and bug spray may also be desired. People who participate in aerobic exercise three times per week or more will be a good fit for this program. This free event is for ages 12 and older. Pre-register by calling Northfield Mountain at 1-800-859-2960.

there was no fear of not finishing, only the determination to paddle, paddle, and get to the finish as fast as possible.

Josh likes to pick particular boats to compete against. Early in the race, he picked a boat paddled by a father and teenage daughter as competitors. We paddled almost even for a while, then they pulled ahead, then we pulled ahead. Near the finish, Josh noticed a low numbered boat paddled by two Wendell firefighters ahead of us. "Let's pass them!" he called. We paddled hard, sneaked up on them, and passed them before they noticed us.

### Race Results

Our family members who were watching from the shore told us we came in long after the winners, but

near the front of the second wave of arrivals. With help, we lifted our boat over the stone wall behind the Orange Fire Station, drank our Irish coffee while we watched the later boats arrive, and then began preparing for an after-the-race family cookout.

Rowena and Kim and Kim's mother cheered for us as we passed the finish line. I think we won.

By the end, 302 boats finished the race. Adam Gelinas and Shane McDowell, paddling a real racing boat, came in first. We came in 133rd. The Wendell firefighters came in 134th and the father and daughter 137th. Boat 181 (father and son) came in 208th. Boat 182 was not listed as finishing.



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## Montague Business Association Grant Deadline May 1

*What would you like to make happen in Montague?*

**MONTAGUE** — Montague Business Association members can request funding for projects that support, promote and develop Montague's businesses. MBA members are invited to apply for grants to foster projects that support, promote and develop Montague's businesses and that have the potential

to enrich and strengthen our community as a whole.

The grants are intended to pay for supplies purchased or other expenses for a specific project or event. Funds will be dispensed on a reimbursement-only basis, and only after the project is completed. Grants are not intended to pay for wages, labor or per-

manent equipment. Applications are due May 1, and announcements will be made in July. Download a grant application from the Documents page.

Questions? Contact Lynne Rudié, chair of the grant program subcommittee, at 863-2091, or AT [lynnrudié@verizon.net](mailto:lynnrudié@verizon.net).

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Juvenile Trespassers at School

**Monday, 4/8**

12:12 p.m. Accident with property damage, Salvation Army parking lot. Services rendered.

7:36 p.m. Domestic disturbance, Hillside Avenue. Investigated. 11:39 p.m. Loud noise disturbance, Central Street. No police service necessary.

**Tuesday, 4/9**

6:17 a.m. Vandalism, Fourth Street. Investigated.

9:04 a.m. Domestic disturbance, Fourth Street. Peace restored. 9:27 a.m. Fire alarm, Sheffield School. Referred to other agency.

9:49 a.m. Animal complaint, Stevens Street. Unable to locate.

11 a.m. Vandalism, Coolidge Avenue. Report taken.

1:46 p.m. Larceny, Fourth Street. Report taken.

3:11 p.m. Brush fire, area of the wildlife management signs, Millers Falls Road. Services rendered.

3:37 p.m. Burglary / break-in, Green Pond Road. Investigated.

4:39 p.m. Hit & run accident, Park Street. Investigated.

**Wednesday, 4/10**

6:19 a.m. Person well-being check, Powertown Apartments. Investigated.

9:54 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

for trespassing and resisting arrest, at Turnpike Road.

10:23 a.m. Arrested a 36-year-old man on Central Street for assault & battery with a dangerous weapon, in response to a 911 call.

10:26 a.m. Larceny, Massasoit Street. Advised of options.

11:05 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED], on Millers Falls Road for operating to endanger, failing to stop for police, and speeding.

11:45 a.m. Larceny, St. Kazimierz Society, Avenue A. Report taken.

11:50 a.m. Larceny, X Street. Report taken.

5:25 p.m. Accident with property damage, Franklin County Tech School. Services rendered.

**Thursday, 4/11**

12:57 a.m. Open door or window, Jarvis Pools, Unity Street. Investigated.

12:04 p.m. Animal complaint, Riverside Drive. No police service necessary.

6:57 p.m. Larceny, Food City parking lot. Services rendered.

9:39 p.m. Accident with property damage, Hair By Phase One, Fifth Street. Citation issued.

**Friday, 4/12**

12:35 a.m. Person well-being check, village of Turners Falls. Returned to home.

1:16 a.m. General disturbance, Seventh Street. Advised to contact police if repeated.

9:07 a.m. Chimney fire, Turnpike Road. Referred to another agency.

9:50 a.m. Larceny at a camp on Woods Drive. Referred to an officer.

10:08 a.m. Larceny at F.L. Roberts. Referred to an officer.

11:22 a.m. Accident with property damage, Food City parking lot. Services rendered.

4:39 p.m. Domestic disturbance, Avenue A. Unable to locate.

10:53 p.m. Neighbor disturbance, Second Street. Peace restored.

11:06 p.m. Domestic disturbance, Turners Falls Road. Peace restored.

**Saturday, 4/13**

1:40 a.m. 911 call concerning neighbor disturbance on Fifth Street. Removed to hospital.

9:22 a.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

for misdemeanor breaking & entering, trespass.

12:51 p.m. Larceny, Ristorante DiPaolo, Avenue A. Services rendered.

3:16 p.m. Trespassing, Hillcrest Elementary School. Unable to locate.

3:54 p.m. Issued summonses to a 16-year-old and a 13-year-old on disorderly conduct and trespassing charges, Sheffield Elementary School.

9:28 p.m. Burglary / breaking & entering, Laurel Lane. Advised of options.

**Sunday, 4/14**

7:14 a.m. Environmental incident, Farren Care Center, Montague City Road. Services rendered.

5:00 p.m. Trespassing, Industrial Boulevard. Unable to locate.

### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Medical Marijuana Dispensary Proposal Heard; Two Camperships Awarded

By JOSH HEINEMANN

It was not on the printed agenda, but the April 10 Wendell selectboard meeting opened with Peter Fisher, Peter Gallant, and Pam Richardson meeting the board as citizens in favor of siting a medical marijuana dispensary, and possibly a production facility in town. The selectboard took no action but listened to reasons favoring the idea, and made a few comments.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said, "I'm not sure Wendell is appropriate," being as remote as it is, but board member Jeoffrey Pooser said that a number of townspeople have asked for his support of a resolution encouraging a dispensary.

Fisher said that the town's remoteness and low population might work just as well in favor of a dispensary or production, because Wendell's bureaucracy is small, and opposition may be less fervent than in neighboring towns; the expertise needed for growing is probably here. He said it would suit him not to have to travel to Northampton to reach a dispensary. He offered a progression of state initiatives that decriminalized possession of small amounts in 2002, allowed medical use in 2012, and will make, he said, marijuana completely legal by 2016.

One qualm that selectboard chair Christine Heard had was that such a dispensary might play into Wendell's reputation as a "hippy" town.

Gallant said the issue should be talked about at least, but the combination of dispensary and production could provide a dozen "green" jobs, and would fit well with other alternative therapies that are practiced in town, like massage and body work, herbs, fasting, and sweat lodges.

Pooser agreed to work on an article for the annual town meeting. The legal path to establishing a dispensary is long and intricate, to prevent people from enjoying any part of the process.

#### Dog Hearing

Cindy Freeman spoke first at the dog hearing that included her neighbors Brian Jones, and Don Richardson,

and arriving a few minutes later, dog officer Maggie Houghton. Freeman admitted that her dog had his third strike and had to leave town, and said that what she wanted was three weeks to find a place out of town for the dog, because the first place she lined up fell through.

Heard thought three weeks was too long. Jones agreed, and said that he wondered what he would find each day, when he came home. On the day that brought this third hearing on, he came home and found two dead chickens and a third that is recovering from puncture wounds. The dog also chases, but does not otherwise harm, Richardson's cows.

Keller said that under the new dog law, the town can order Freeman to take one of three choices with a dog deemed dangerous: She can muzzle the dog, euthanize him, or keep him in a secure enclosure, with either a hard floor, or a fence dug two feet into the ground, and get a \$100,000 insurance policy on the dog.

Freeman said she would contact the Husky rescue league, and asked for time to keep the dog home a week. She said she could not afford to keep him in a commercial kennel and was hoping the dog could go somewhere where her son can see him.

When asked, Houghton said she recommended putting the dog in a commercial kennel immediately to stay for 10 days while Freeman contacts the Husky rescue league. Heard said that Freeman should come to the next selectboard meeting to report what she has done.

#### Other Business

Before even hearing talk of a medical marijuana dispensary, the selectboard signed an appointment slip making Don Bartlett a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Sixty five days passed with the ZBA taking no action on a garage construction request, and so the variance was allowed automatically. Heard said she did not think there was a problem with neighbors objecting to the project, but still with a ZBA clerk checking mail regularly, and a full component of members, the ZBA might have held a public hearing and gone through

proper channels.

Heard said that the conservation commission has awarded the Audubon campership to 12-year-old Tabi Hamilton, who hand-wrote an essay on the importance of nature. An anonymous donor gave a campership to 9-year-old Melina Coy, who submitted the second entry.

Town Counsel sent the selectboard a letter offering their attendance at the annual town meeting, but board members agreed that was unnecessary and would be expensive.

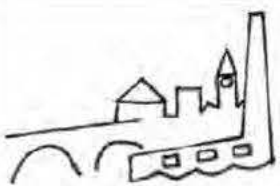
Finance committee members Doug Tanner and Michael Idoine met the board to discuss their concerns about the town's food security effort, which seems to be overseen by several boards: the agriculture commission, the energy committee, Good Neighbors, and possibly the community garden committee. Tanner mentioned payments by the town that would benefit only a few residents, like an energy committee support of hay and compost delivery for the 2012 growing season.

Tanner added that he wanted to clear up the muddy line between legitimate town responsibilities and things outside the town's concern. He said it would feel better to him if the town had a clear idea of where it was going.

Judy Hall got independent nonprofit status for Good Neighbors, which makes them an entity independent from the town which means they are not held to observing open meeting law. Good Neighbors is ready to pay to have stairs improved to the front upstairs room of the town hall so they conform to code, and then they can use the room just as any other independent organization may use town facilities.

#### Rabies Clinic

The Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, at 10 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls is having a rabies clinic on Saturday, April 27, from noon to 2 p.m. to help animals living in Gill and Montague get vaccinated. The cost is \$17 per animal. All dogs must be on a leash, cats in carriers.



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## Montague Cable Advisory Committee Releases Comcast Survey Response

By GARRY EARLES

MONTAGUE — Montague's Cable Advisory Committee wants to thank all the Montague residents for their overwhelming response to the cable survey that was sent out last June to over 4000 Montague addresses. We received over 300 completed surveys for an astounding return rate of 7.5%, a true reflection of the interest Montague residents have about their cable services.

The committee sorted the returned surveys by precinct (Montague has 6 precincts) and then placed each precinct response in alphabetical order by street name. That way we could get a clear picture of residents' concerns within the area of the town where they reside.

The charge of the committee is to review and negotiate the required cable contract (usually a 10 year term with the current contract expiring in August 2013) between the cable provider (Comcast) and the town, on behalf of the residents.

The contract is for cable television services, not phone and internet, and it provides the town with money solely from Comcast's television revenue. Obviously, though, once someone has Comcast's television service, they can "add on" phone and internet services.

The money Montague re-

ceives goes to support Montague Community Television, the organization that provides local access television coverage of school committee meetings, selectmen's meetings and local events such as the block party, Pumpkinfest and the soap box derby.

The committee has no control over what Comcast charges for anything and what television channels they offer. Nevertheless, the committee will be addressing those issues and more in our ongoing negotiations with Comcast.

The following comments highlight the overall survey results and the issues to be addressed.

**SERVICE:** Despite some outright "disgust" leveled at Comcast, those who have Comcast services (television, phone or internet) are quite satisfied with their service, deeming it reliable (overwhelmingly rated 3-4, with 4 being the highest). While reliable service is not a problem, being able to get service is.

There are significant areas of Montague that are not "wired for service," requiring residents in those areas to patch together services from various providers for phone, television and internet. Getting additional areas of the town wired is a top priority of the committee.

We fully intend to address the lack of service in certain areas of town that are hampering

Montague's economic development, especially in regard to home-based businesses that rely on internet access. We are also well aware of how a lack of appropriate internet access can hamper a student's education. Ultimately we want to see all of Montague wired for broadband access.

**CHARGES:** We are also concerned about how Comcast charges for its services. There seems to be no rhyme or reason as to how charges are levied as residents are paying different amounts for the exact same service. We want Comcast to provide consistent pricing guidelines. Remember, however, we have no control over fees! We do, though, want Comcast customers to know exactly what they get and for how much, specified in a written contract.

**CHANNEL SELECTION:** Many responded with complaints about this issue, such as too many unnecessary channels (e.g. shopping ones) and too many channels they don't even use which raises the issue of being able to pick and choose channels customers want. Unfortunately, we have no control over any of that, although we fully intend to make community sentiments known.

**COST:** Without a doubt, the number one issue for Com-

see CABLE page 10

## NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

### Pat Allen to Step Down in June; Memorial Trees to be Replanted

By PATRICIA PRUITT

Although the word on the street was that Mrs. Allen would leave the board before her term was up, she made the official announcement of her early resignation at the April 16 selectboard meeting, saying circumstances in her life have changed dramatically and she hasn't felt she could give adequate attention to town business from afar. She expressed her hope that a candidate would come forward to fill out the time remaining on her term and to continue on the board for a full 3 year term afterward. Mrs. Allen has been a stabilizing and constructive presence on the board during her five terms as selectperson.

Linda Hickman, Mary Kociela, and Jean Hebden brought forward the plan of replanting the Memorial Trees for Victims of Domestic Violence, commemorating the 4 women killed in 1987-89. (See *Remembering the Turners Falls Victims*, pg. 1.)

The original trees have died over the years. The plan is to plant hardier, more mature flowering trees that are also low maintenance and can thrive in Peskeomskut Park. There will be a ceremony and planting of trees on May 2, 2013 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the park. The board approved the replanting plan unanimously.

In other business, the board moved closer to the annual town meeting on May 4 by placing all the warrant articles on the warrant and supporting all but a public petition aimed at town meeting members.

The selectboard signed the Notice to Proceed and the Owner/Contractor agreement with Diversified Construction LLC on the second phase of the Unity Park Improvement project in the amount of \$400,060. Work is slated to begin in early May.

Linda Hickman, children's librarian of the Montague Public libraries, sought and received approval for two upcoming events in Peskeomskut Park. The first is the Cinco de Mayo event to be held on Saturday, May 4. The second is a puppet show featuring the No Strings Marionette Co. performing *The Three Little Pigs* on Wednesday, Jul 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Airport manager Mickey Longo sought approval for setting up a line item to handle monetary donations made to the airport as contributions toward its planned Aviation Weekend on Saturday June 15 and Sunday June 16 and for any future such donations.

Chief Dodge unfortunately had to extend Richard Suchanek's 111F leave until June 3, with the understand-

ing that officer Suchanek may return sooner than that date.

The Chief also sought approval to set up an assessment center process for the sergeant positions. He noted widespread dissatisfaction among Chiefs around the state with the online civil service exam process, which seems to fail almost all candidates for sergeant, including ours here in Montague. He is confident that the Assessment Center process will identify more than one successful candidate for sergeant here in Montague.

Chief Dodge also addressed the town's Pooper Scooper law and urged dog walkers to avoid fines for not picking up after their dogs. Dog owners, Help keep Montague and all its villages poop free.

Recently Jean Golrick of Millers Falls asked the selectboard to release executive minutes. Last evening the board did so, releasing the following minutes dated: 11/8/10; 4/4/11; 4/11/11; 4/25/11; 5/17/11; 5/23/11; 7/18/11; 11/14/11; and 6/18/12. These are available in the Selectmen's office.

The selectboard then went into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, implementing the new pay and classification study.

### VICTIMS from pg 1

children were still in the home when the babysitter arrived the next morning to find their mother's body.

Less than a year later, in September of 1988, Virginia Ferrer, 27, mother of five, was stabbed to death by her estranged boyfriend, Allan Jose Reyes, father of four of her children, in the alley outside her woodframe house on Fifth Street. The children watched their mother's murder; the entire neighborhood heard her dying screams.

At Reyes' arraignment in Greenfield court, according to the *Los Angeles Times's* account on September 13, 1988, nine women dressed in

black with stockings pulled over their heads pointed at Reyes and intoned, "Your action will come back to you. Every action will have consequences."

After bragging to his friends that he owned a shotgun and planned to shoot his girlfriend with it, around midnight on February 4, 1989, Joseph Demers, 19, did just that, killing 16 year old Catherine Gochinski at close range in their walk-up apartment on the corner of Fourth and L Streets. She had hoped to be a beautician.

Trees were planted in Peskeomskut Park in 1988 and again in 1989 as living memorials to the murder

victims. In 2012, the last of those four trees died.

On May 2, from 5 to 7 p.m., Vivian Morrissey, Virginia Ferrer, Catherine Gochinski and Tracy Sheperd will be remembered, and the entire community is invited to come out in witness to the ongoing necessity of ending domestic violence. Trees will be replanted in Peskeomskut Park, on Avenue A in Turners Falls, to honor these four young women from our town, and countless others who have lost their lives or been harmed by domestic violence.



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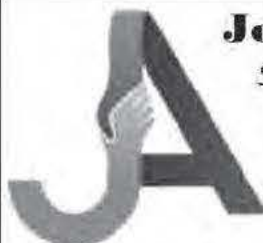
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# Reflections on a Stellar Creative Economy Summit

By P.H.CROSBY

**TURNERS FALLS** – If you are a creative person of any kind, or appreciate creativity of all sorts, and you missed the Creative Economy Summit 4 in Turners Falls a few weeks ago, feel sad.

The event was an eye-opening, “mind-melding,” joyous occasion. This was especially true of the second day, which was more specifically directed at “where art comes from,” versus the first day, also very good, which showcased the necessary, commendable, but sometimes less enthralling business of planning, organizing and stimulating arts activity at the federal, state and municipal levels.

From the opening notes of singer/songwriter Erica Wheeler’s story and lyric in the Shea Theatre about the origins of Turners Falls, a narrative of ambition, perseverance, cruelty, and resilience, and ending in spectacular fashion at the Discovery Center with a dizzying “presi” by theatrical dynamo Linda McInerney (on using creative collaborations between diverse artists and community sectors to fuel a new kind of economic development), the day yielded a startling and gratifying array of talent.

Many of us found ourselves feeling, yet again, how lucky we are to be living in Franklin County when

it comes to creativity, innovation, cultural vitality, and just plain fun.

This was especially true because, between the two fabulous bookends of Wheeler and McInerney, were (among other great offerings) the following:

- an elegant and provocative presentation by Greenfield Community College’s Leo Hwang-Carlos on the “diverse economy iceberg” and mapping the true artistic and cultural assets of a region;
- a mesmerizing workshop by David Arfa on using the power of storytelling to inspire and motivate, whether for social action, fundraising, or business development;
- and a great networking lunch at the happily over-burdened Rendezvous, where one sat down with strangers – from places ranging from Keene, New Hampshire and Shelburne Falls to Westfield and Southwick – and got up friends.

What might you have learned at the Creative Economy Summit that would help you personally or professionally? Perhaps a better question is what would you have taken away to think about, and what would you have learned to ask?

Here are some of the ideas, assertions and questions that are still “top of mind” for this attendee a few weeks later:

- There is an entrepreneurial

opportunity out there for someone who wants to put together art and culture tours of Franklin County

- The art consumer is as important as the artist: are we doing enough to cultivate and appreciate them?

- Is my professional sphere (employment services) doing enough to support or direct unemployed, underemployed, or mal-employed artists toward resources that might help them?

- There’s something called the Creative Index and Culture Count: got to look that up...

- Dee Boyle-Clapp of UMass Arts Extension knows *a lot* about art networks and resources, from the federal level to the state and local levels: look *her* up!

- Creative Ground, Matchbook.com, AFTA, Hireculture, Mass Creative, Fractured Atlas...a wealth of intriguing resources on-line for artists...

- Interesting! Business leaders are among those pushing Massachusetts to put the arts back as a *mandated* part of the curriculum

– to acknowledge them as just as critical as any other part of so-called “core” requirements. Why? Because business has been among the first to discover what happens if young people aren’t challenged to create, innovate, take risks, and work together with a common vision to make something *happen*. They make lousy employees!

- From Meri Jenkins, Program Manager, Mass Cultural Council: “Where something is happening, people will come.”

- And, paraphrased: “Older

people like their culture in buildings; younger people like it in the street: fairs, festivals, and the like. Make it a mix to be successful.”

- And: “Don’t worry if you can’t get teenagers of all sorts to officially participate. You’ll find them there, at the fringe, hanging out. That’s a good thing.”

- Jenkins likes towns that are not necessarily “cool,” but have a “messy edginess” that makes them individual, unique – “where many

see **SUMMIT** page 12

## FOR SALE in ERVING

Sealed bids for a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria black and gray in color, 145,664 miles. Needs a gas tank and rear brakes. Minimum bid \$300.00. Bids will be received by the Board of Selectmen at Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main St, Erving, MA 01344 until May 28, 2013 at 4:00pm. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as “Police cruiser bid”.

All bids will be opened and read aloud at 6:45pm on June 3, 2013 in the Select Board Meeting Room at above address. Specifications are available from Police Chief Christopher Blair at 413-423-3310 X2. The Erving Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals as they deem in the best interest of the Town.

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

## FOR SALE in ERVING

Sealed bids for a 1999 FL 80 truck. 8.3 Cummins engine, 9 speed trans, 70,830 miles, plow and stainless sander. Minimum bid \$10,000. Bids will be received by the Board of Selectmen at Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main St, Erving, MA 01344 until May 28, 2013 at 4:00pm. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as “highway truck bid”.

All bids will be opened and read aloud at 6:50pm on June 3, 2013 in the Select Board Meeting Room at above address. Can be seen at highway garage. Details at 413-423-3354. The Erving Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals as they deem in the best interest of the Town.

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

### CABLE from page 9

cast customers, along with no available service, is that of cost. Again, while we have no control over what a business charges for its services, we can and will discuss with Comcast the “mind-boggling” disparity in their pricing whether it’s for television, phone or internet.

**CONFUSION:** Finally, in reviewing the survey responses it became apparent that many residents do not understand what the Comcast contract is about, what services are available from Comcast and other providers and about the different pricing structures.

That seems to be especially true for our senior citizens who do not understand the technology. While it’s up to each customer/resident to advocate on their own behalf, especially when it comes to what’s paid for any service, the committee wants to help.

With that in mind, and in an attempt to help residents navigate the Comcast maze, the committee intends to arrange a public question and answer meeting to be held in the near future. We will publicize the meeting, so make sure you look for it, and attend if you have questions or concerns about these issues.



### GREENFIELD SCHOOLS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

- Special Education Teacher/Coordinator (Virtual School), 80%
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  - Bus Drivers (2), will train
  - After-School Tutoring Coordinator (new grant program, 12 hrs./wk)
  - TUTORS – for students at home; 10 hours/week
  - Substitutes: Teachers, Bus Drivers & Monitors, Nurses, Educational Support Personnel, Custodians
- www.gpsk12.org  
Apply to: jobs@gpsk12.org

### Help Wanted

PEG Cable Access Staff Person needed. Temporary, part time. Direct and edit video, provide community video production training. Apply by April 30 to MCTV. Info at montaguenv.org.

### LEGAL NOTICE Wendell Conservation Commission

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Wendell Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Wendell Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on a Request for a Determination of Applicability concerning a single family home septic repair on property owned by Peter Reddington located at 281 Jennison Road. The meeting will be held at the Wendell Town Office Building at 7:30 p.m. on May 1, 2013.

Charles Thompson Smith  
Mary Thomas  
Ruth Mazurka  
April 18, 2013

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Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic session*, 10:30 a.m.

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

## ART SHOWS:

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

LOCAL EVENTS:  
THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Poetry reading, featuring *Trish Crapo*, *Margaret Lloyd*, *Henry Lyman* and *Rich Michelson*. 7 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Ted's Jazz Trio* with Ted Wirt. 7 p.m.

The Wagon Wheel, Route 2, Gill: Local folk acts, Paul and Sherry Carpenter, 7 to 8 p.m., and Kim and Sharon, 8 to 9 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, acoustic rock. 8:30 to 11 p.m.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *The Muppet Movie*, their first feature film! 1979. G. 94 minutes. 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: *Whistle-stop*, old-time music. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jim Gilmour*, with special guest *Amanda Rogers*. Singer-songwriters. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater presents *Jesus Christ Superstar*. 8 p.m., \$

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Michael Chorney and Hollar General*, acoustic jazz-influenced americana, with *Wooden Dinosaur*, folksy indie stuff. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and much more. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Haste*, gypsy punx, with brand new local recognizables *Loudville* opening. 9 p.m., free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Community Smokes*, rock

reggae & classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Curry Hall Cage, UMass: *32nd Annual UMass Powwow*. Native American drums, head dancers, vendors galore. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *The Muppet Movie*, 7:30 p.m. Music before the movie: *Beach Honey*, pop. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Chickenyard*, americana, with special guest *Hanging Hills*, indie rock. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater presents *Jesus Christ Superstar*. 8 p.m., \$

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

at Charlemont. Student musicians to open show. 7 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Carrie Ferguson*, folk pop, with special guest *Heather Pierson*, singer/songwriter. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Who'd Da Funk It*, funk, and *Height With Friends*. 8 p.m., \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater presents *Jesus Christ Superstar*. 8 p.m., \$

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bright Lines & Shangri Lips*, rock plus. 9:30 p.m., free.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Montague Common Hall: Quebecois music jam. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls:

*Live from the Metropolitan Opera* in HD: Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. 12 p.m. \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell Town Hall: *Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem*. Benefit for the Montague Reporter! Open mic at 7:30 p.m., headliner at 8 p.m. Dessert. Sliding

scale tickets. Good times.

Turners Falls High School Theater: Gill-Montague Education Fund 9th Annual Gala. With *UnionJack*, British invasion band with hits of the '60s and '70s. 7:30 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jennifer Matthews*, roots singer-songwriter, 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater presents *Jesus Christ Superstar*. 8 p.m., \$

Montague Bookmill: *Fancy Trash*, roots and indie, with *Kevin O'Rourke of Lo Fine*. 8 p.m., \$

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Leah Randazzo/Jeff D'Antona Quartet*, r&b and jazz, originals and favorites. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, chicaggo-style blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 60 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Moose & the High Tops*, '70s and '80s classic hits. 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Art opening for *Halie Theoha-*



Fusing a gypsy sound with a punk rock smell, Haste! play the Rendezvous in Turners Falls this Friday, April 19. Loudville will open. This free show starts at 9 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY HASTE! FACEBOOK

Rockit Queer dance party with *DJ Funkadelic Fern*. 9:30 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Dedicated to Delilah*, '80s pop rock and ballads. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ben Bullington*, singer-songwriter. 2 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Funday* with Marlene & pals. 8 p.m., free.

## MONDAY, APRIL 22

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo night*. Bring your bingo things.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

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

## FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Erin McKeown*, renowned & locally based singer-songwriter. CD release show. 8th Annual Benefit Concert for the Academy

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

The chimney sweep has arrived. True, he lacks the black top hat, and instead, wears Levis and a black sweat shirt, but he is here nonetheless. This annual cleaning is always scheduled in the spring for a discounted cost and because we are nearing the end of the burning season. We'll probably enjoy a few more evening fires into the cool nights of May. Still most days now, a quick run of the furnace in the morning to warm the air suffices until the sun is up. Then the heat pouring into the sunroom moves our small home into high spring temperatures to the delight of the cat and our growing tomato plants.

Despite the frosty nights, the daffodils are starting to open all over the yard, the peepers are caroling their chorus in the marshes and the birdsong in the morning is loud and clear: the Phoebe joins the song sparrow and the Titmouse. The buds on the apple trees are fat and white although still closed. The yard is ringed with green fuzz: the tips of the wild honeysuckle leaves

are opening. Leaf buds appear on the rose bushes and the flowering quince.

The soil in the raised bed crumbles nicely to the touch. Today I'll plant some seeds of lettuce, spinach and radish. These crops love the cool spring weather and can readily tolerate light frosts. We've been eager to get our fingers into the dirt, to start our first plantings and to feel again our connection to the earth in a real way. These plantings will be ready for harvest mid-May before the heat of late spring arrives.

We'll also trim the dead stalks in the asparagus bed, lightly scratch the top layer of soil and fertilize the bed before the spears appear. This is a great time to clean out flower beds and remove any burgeoning weeds so that those blooming beauties will stand out. Don't rush to rake out all the dead leaves, however, left alone they will shade out new weed growth and eventually break down into compostable material.

As soon as the tomato seedlings show their first true leaves, they will be ready for transplanting. Tomatoes are heat lovers so the trays still sit on the warming mats. I plan to buy a large bag of potting soil and warm it in the sunroom before setting out these youngsters into four inch pots. We'll also leave the heating mats on at night since the tem-

perature in the sunroom drops to fifty overnight. These plants like to live at a comfortable 70-80 degrees day and night. Once they have been transplanted we'll start adding a light application of liquid seaweed to their water. I prefer this to buying a potting dirt that has been pre-treated with plant food. It's a very organic fertilizer and the application can be more easily controlled.

In the relative warmth here in the river valley, the signs of spring are strong in the large red buds of the maples, the sight of spring bulbs, and the disappearance of the last bits of snow. Just a few miles up into our surrounding hills spring presents a very different picture.

A Sunday drive soon brought us a few weeks backwards in the season. There is much snow still in the woods and the dirt roads are just starting to thaw into mud season. The wind was sharp as we toured the old family homestead and the small local cemetery. The flowering bulbs were still under the winter's crop of snow; the branches of the maples were gray against the sky. It was all very beautiful at the top of the mountain in its stark way, but we were glad to descend into the new season below, grateful for the warmer temperature and the chance to get into the garden again.

Our brave ancestors traveled

far to perch their homes at the tops of the hills a long way from town and neighbor. When he was a boy, Ken spent some time during summers at the farm of his maternal grandparents. They had no indoor plumbing nor running water, kept a cow and chickens as well as a huge workhorse, grew most of their own food, cut the wood for their heat, rose with the dawn and went to bed shortly after dark. Their lives were truly rooted in the soil, each day in tune with the season.

We part-time gardeners can share in that closeness to the earth and the season without the hardships. Our gardening is more of a hobby than an essential aspect of our existence. We can after all, always run to the store or the market gardeners for what we need. But there is something elemental about watching the rising temperature, the lengthening days, and the change of the seasons. It brings on the itch to put fingers into the soil, to sow seeds and set plants. It feeds our sense of connection to our mother earth and to our own beginnings.

Watch for the sure signs of spring where you live and treat yourself to a bit of one of man's oldest activities: the tilling and planting of crops to eat, to harvest, to store, to feed the body and the soul. Happy gardening!

from SUMMIT page 10

kinds of people rub shoulders and the unexpected can happen..." Sounds like us!

o A sense of place: what is your sense of this place? You have favorite places that others don't necessarily know about. Name them. Treasure them.

o Find a way to pay artists for what you ask them to do. Too often they're asked to do benefits for everyone but themselves.

o Casual "hobbyists" are part of the creative economy, too. Find ways to involve them. It enriches the palette of your offerings and draws in an audience you may be missing.

o In a creative economy, your people are your assets. What can they do? What can you do?

Not a bad idea list to be carrying around in one's head. One for which the follow-

through could be a pleasurable challenge.

These Creative Economy Summits, sponsored by the Fostering Arts and Culture Project, have enriched Greenfield, Shelburne Falls, and Turners Falls so far. Next stop, 2014, maybe North Quabbin?



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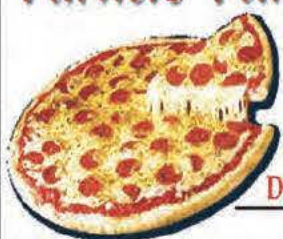
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