

**FILL, RINSE, SPIN  
...AND WORK IT!**

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**FAIR CHEER  
IN WENDELL**

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**LEVERETT SPECIAL TOWN  
MEETING: TUESDAY DEC. 17**

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 12 – NO. 10

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 12, 2013

## Transit Authority Takes Detour on Route Changes

By JEFF SINGLETON

**GREENFIELD** – Last Wednesday, the Franklin Regional Transit Authority's Advisory Board voted to put a controversial set of "fixed route" changes on hold pending a review of its methods for assessing member towns.

The plan, or at least one version of it, had been provisionally approved by the Advisory Board in September but after a good deal of criticism from a few towns, especially Montague, and from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the authority delayed the decision until July.

FRTA Director Tina Cote and assistant Michael Perreault recommended that the board delay the changes in order to implement a "reformulation of local assessments."

Local assessments are the amounts the transportation system annually charges member towns for their services, including the standard routes ("fixed routes") and so-called "demand response" (transportation for elderly residents in response to a specific request).

These assessments account for less than one-quarter of the authority's current revenues.

According to the FRTA website, local assessments are "based on the number of miles served in each town." However, as the debate over the route changes intensified, it became clear that the assessment method was more complex than

this.

Cote noted that in responding to questions from Gill, FRTA staff had difficulty explaining the town's assessment. The agency has distributed a "flow chart," which seemed to show a variety of factors influencing assessments to uncertain degrees.

Cote stated that the goal of the reformulation would be to make the assessments "clear and transparent."

Michael Perreault noted that Pittsfield "has a good formula that can be easily explained... now we really can't see the formulas. It's all in the background."

The assessment formulas, however, were not the main bones of contention over the proposed route changes.

The new route plan, introduced in August, would have produced more targeted routes in Greenfield, for example to Greenfield Community College, to the Corporate Center in the western part of town, and to the new Courthouse.

It would have consolidated the two routes serving Montague and Orange, which sometimes overlap, into a new route that would run thirteen times daily.

And it would have created a new "UMass shuttle" linking Greenfield Community College with a Pioneer Valley Transit Authority bus in South Deerfield.

These changes were generally supported. However the plan would

see BUSES page A5

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## A Hire for Fire?

By DAVID DETMOLD

Members of the fire department study committee met with the selectboard on Tuesday to discuss implementing its principal recommendation: to hire a full-time firefighter, trained as an EMT.

The ad-hoc study committee was formed to advise the selectboard at a time when the five senior members and officers of the call fire department are all at or nearing retirement

age, while the aging of the town's population in general is making it difficult to recruit new firefighters. Work patterns frequently result in no active-duty firefighters being available to respond to weekday calls.

The committee's report noted that nearly half the calls that come into the fire station now are medical calls, while structure fires, which are rare in Leverett – no more than one to three a year – are demanding quicker response times, due to the changing nature of building mate-

rials, which have accelerated the speed with which a modern home can become engulfed in flame.

Selectboard member Julie Shively said, "It's not the concept," of hiring a fulltime firefighter that is the problem. "The concept makes a lot of sense. If we could move money," from other areas of the town budget, "it's almost a no brainer." But with the town spending to within a fraction of the levy limit each year, hiring for a new fulltime benefited position in any department is likely to require an override of Proposition 2½.

see LEVERETT page A3

## Millers Falls Family Fights Off Rabid Fox

By MIKE JACKSON



The fox emerged from the woods next to Lynne and Brian Heath's home on Grout Circle.

The Montague Board of Health issued a public health advisory this week after a fox that attacked a family on Grout Circle tested positive for rabies.

Last Tuesday evening, Lynne Heath went outside to warm up her car. "I was in a rush," she said. "I saw a bushy tail off to the right, and thought nothing of it – I thought maybe it was a cat. And then, lo and behold, a fox was climbing into the car with me."

Though Brian Heath, Sr. thought his wife might be singing outdoors, Brian Jr. was not so sure it sounded right. In fact, the fox, which had a muzzle full of porcupine quills, was chasing her around the yard. She remembers thinking she was being bitten, though it later turned out to be the quills, poking into her upper leg.

Lynne made it inside and closed the door with the fox pinned "halfway in, and halfway out" -- and then it was in their house. She managed to close herself in the bathroom, and Brian Jr. in a bedroom.

Brian Sr. threw "a ten-pound weight" at the fox. The next move was made by the family's husky/malamute

see RABIES page A5

## Turners Falls Study Wins Top Planning Award

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

The Turners Falls Livability Study has garnered a top 2013 Planning Project Award from The American Planning Association-Massachusetts Chapter (APA-MA). The award honors a specific project, bylaw, ordinance, or document of unusually high merit. The Livability Study was one of three chosen to receive this recognition.

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey said in response to the news: "I am delighted that the planners in the state have recognized Montague's planning efforts in the village of Turners Falls. The Steering Committee put a lot of hard effort and long hours into this plan.

"This award is a testament to the effort of the business owners, youth, residents, officials, non-English speakers, and artists who worked together on a unified vision for the revitalization of Turners

Falls.

"Adopted in June of 2013, the plan has already brought on a monthly Third-Thursday event, enticed several new businesses to open up shop, and ushered the advancement of streetscape improvements."

The Livability Study was the culmination of several months of discussion and planning by Ramsey, various groups and individual residents of Turners Falls, and a consulting team led by Peter Flinker of Dodson & Flinker from Ashfield, in conjunction with Ted Brovitz of Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates from Boston.

The study was funded by the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program. Its specific focus was on two major areas: Avenue A streetscape proposals, and marketing and branding of downtown Turners.

The study proposed a broad set of recommendations for the revitalization of Avenue A in downtown Turners including greening the avenue and creating a more

direct link between the bike path, the parks and Route 2. Walkability was also stressed as a key factor.

Ideas for promoting pedestrian access included widening the sidewalks at key locations to allow for outdoor café seating; raising the heights of the planters and trimming the trees; adding bumpouts to the entrances of alleyways to support the idea of pedestrian use.

In order to generate an economy to support the greening and uplift of Avenue A, the study emphasized that Turners has a great number of assets that can be enhanced to attract business and business patrons to the village including the Avenue A corridor, the bike path, and the river.

In order to get development moving, the study suggested that the village form a Joint Downtown Partnership between business owners and the town. The aim of the partnership would be to work actively to create an attractive environment for business opportunity, to promote existing businesses and sponsor community events and activities.

Among the ideas for drawing outsiders into the downtown were expanding the farmers' market, having music and movies in Unity Park, outdoor art exhibits and a classic car show along the Avenue.

As for permanent see AWARD page A4

## A "Wonderful" Downtown Event For Third Thursday

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

On Thursday, December 19, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., downtown Turners will celebrate the holidays in style. Festive storefront windows, roving musicians, in-store performances, caroling, tree lighting with Santa, a movie and specials at local shops await revelers. Luminarias will light the way along Avenue A and Third Street.

At 5:30 p.m., caroling begins, starting from Food City. The evening kicks off at 5:30 with holiday photos with a classic car, or other holiday scene, at River Station, 151 Third Street. In the same building, the newly-opened Evoke will give a glass-blowing demonstration.

The ThirdPlace, 56 Avenue A, is open at 5:30 for youth ages 14 to 22 for ornament making, refreshments, and a raffle for two \$25 pre-paid credit cards. Also at 5:30, 3rd Street Studios, 36 Third St, is presenting a reception and recent work of local artists. St. Kazimierz is hosting a craft fair, with many local vendors. From 6:30 to 7, the Brick House presents Awesome Art In Motion, a new children's dance company, showcasing their first performance piece.

At 7 p.m., Spinner Park is the place to be, for a tree lighting and visit from Santa.

Finally, at 8:30, enjoy a free screening of Frank Capra's 1946 classic *It's A Wonderful Life* at the Shea Theater.

Many businesses are offering specials. At Loot, the first 50 customers will receive a \$1 Potter bill from George Bailey. \$5 and \$10 Potter bills will be given for every \$25 and \$50 purchase, all redeemable at LOOT through the end of the year.

FUNK\*SHUN is offering free handmade totes with each purchase while supplies last. Kids eat free at Jake's Tavern when an adult purchases a meal from 5 to 9 p.m.

Twister's is offering a free kid's cone for every soft-serve purchase. At Nina's Nook, customers can choose one of four photo prints by Nina Rossi with their purchase. Each postcard-sized print bears a QR code on the back, ready to mail off, so that these stories of Turners Falls can reach every conceivable place on the globe.

Basically Bicycles is giving customers 10% off any regularly-priced

item, except Catrides. Gary's Coin and Antiques is giving away cotton candy. At Madison on the Avenue, it's 75 percent off La Maison crystal.

Enjoy the fire pit, mulled wine/hot cider, music and discounts on gift certificates \$50 and over at Great Falls Harvest.

Across the parking lot, the Rendezvous is featuring "Clarence's Rum Cocktail" drink special, and Half Shaved Jazz at 8 p.m.

Dine in at Cece's Chinese Restaurant, and they'll discount the meal by 20 percent. At The Black Cow Burger Bar, all gift certificates are 10 percent off if sold between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Absolutely Fabulous Hair is offering 20% off all retail & gift certificate purchases. A Turning Point, 10% off all retail products. Holiday gifts and refreshments are available at Karma Salon.

For a full list of participants and sponsors, visit [turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://turnersfallsriverculture.org).

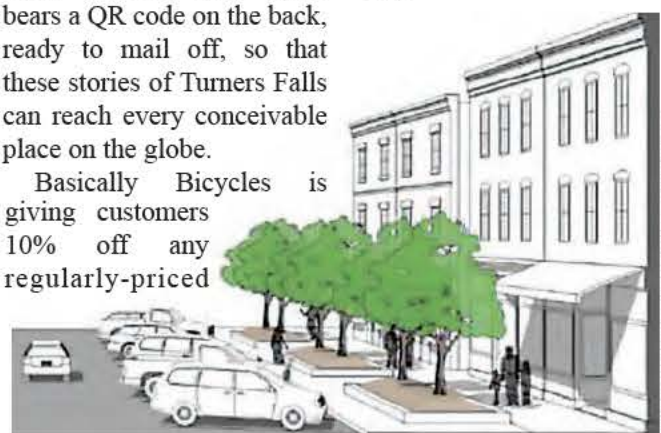


IMAGE BY DODSON & FLINKER



# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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## Honoring Mandela

We want to join the world in eulogizing Nelson Mandela. He was an extraordinary man: an amazing leader, a true hero, an honest individual, a brilliant, courageous and tireless fighter for what he knew was right. Few come along who have his stature.

His death is a loss to South Africa and to the world, for he was a man of the world, an emblematic spokesman for humanizing society. He was an inspiration to many, particularly those who struggle to end oppression of one group over another. Last week in Ukraine, protestors there who are seeking a more democratic government hoisted his photo. During the Arab spring in Egypt, photos of Mandela, along with Martin Luther King, Jr., were plastered on government buildings.

And we know from the remarks of President Obama that Nelson Mandela was a major figure for him. During his college years, like many, he protested apartheid. During his early days as a community activist, Nelson Mandela's example was continually in the forefront of his mind. And like Mandela, he became the first black president of a country that had a long history of racial division.

President Obama remarked last week: "We have lost one of the most influential, courageous, and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this earth. He no longer belongs to us – he belongs to the ages."

The tribute was fitting, as were the tributes of so many others around the world. And yet it should also be noted that during the time the young Obama was using the example of Nelson Mandela to bolster his own sense of doing right, the United States had placed Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress on its terrorism watch list.

While President Carter instituted sanctions against the white

minority South African government because of its policy of racial apartheid, in 1986, President Reagan condemned Mandela and the A.N.C., accusing the organization of supporting "calculated terror." By 1988, the A.N.C. was officially placed on the State Department list of terrorist organizations.

Mandela's name, as well as those of other A.N.C. leaders, was kept on that list until 2008. Yes, 2008. 14 years after Nelson Mandela had been elected president, and nine years after he had left power.

In fact, the "terrorist" designation was only dropped after a bill, proposed by then-Senator John Kerry, passed both houses of Congress and was signed by President George W. Bush in the last months of his final term.

Clearly, the United States has a rather whimsical sense of what constitutes a terrorist organization.

At just about the same time Mandela was being branded a terrorist, the Reagan administration was handing out millions of dollars and supplying countless weapons to Osama bin Laden to aid him in his fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

The same administration was also doling out cash and arms to defeat the Sandanistas in Nicaragua and to the Salvadoran government to wage war against the rebels attempting to restore democracy there.

As we now know, the Sandanistas were not toppled; the corrupt El Salvadoran government was; Osama bin Laden went on to turn his experience in Afghanistan into a true terror campaign against the world.

And Nelson Mandela was freed from prison, his lifelong struggle to end apartheid realized, and he was overwhelmingly voted in as president of a new South Africa.

And so the well-deserved testimonials pour in for Mandela.

### Letter to the Editors

## Lights Prevail

The lights installed last year in Spinner Park by Snow's Landscaping, with help from the Montague Business Association, were beautiful!

Sometime during the year, someone cut up the strands on the two small trees at the front of the park, in an act of senseless vandalism.

Sharon Cottrell of Powertown

Apartments and Jeff's Landscaping came to the rescue to install new lights, provided by Nina's Nook, Karma Salon, and Black Cow Burger Bar.

Many Thanks to all, and enjoy the light in the dark season!

**Nina Rossi**  
**Turners Falls**

### GUEST EDITORIAL

The Leverett Fire Department felt a recent guest editorial, titled "Musing about Time and Leverett" (MR Vol.12#07, Nov. 14) to be disrespectful, and lacking in facts about our Department and its members.

We would like to offer a clearer picture and facts to our residents about the people who make up the LFD, both past and present.

Out of the present 13 members, 1/4 female including one officer, all but one have college degrees or are enrolled in post-secondary education.

The degrees are in such diverse areas as: fire science; industrial education; MS in experiential education; MSW in social work; BSN in nursing; BA in fine art; public health/pre med.; environmental science; sports management; turf management; and gender and migration studies.

One of our members is a veteran of military service, the US Navy, and one is presently in the National Guard, studying fire suppression.

Two of our members have dual citizenship in the USA, Colombia and Israel, and one member is a former citizen of Mauritius.

We have business owners, a therapist, high school and elementary teachers, a public health worker, a nurse, stay at home moms and grandfather childcare givers, and a visual arts coordinator for Nordstrom's, and Old Navy (by the way, that's not the military).

Each member of the fire department is certified in the Incident Command System ICS as required. This is a necessary training to provide continuity and safety on the fire, medical, or mass casualty scene.

Our members ages range from 18 to 65 years old, and 5 out of 13, or 38%, are reaching the mandatory retirement age in the next few years.

As a department we have been thinking outside the box for many years.

Leverett was the first in our area to purchase a four-wheel-drive mini pumper, carrying a self-contained foam system plumbed to attack

lines; the first in our area to order a four-wheel-drive tanker; and first in our area to purchase an Austrian-designed high/low pressure pump, actuated from within the cab, capable of delivering 600 lbs. of pressure and foam from a front-mounted turret and a high-pressure hand line.

This engine was designed for limited fire personnel, providing advanced LED lighting for firefighter and EMT safety. It also provides automatic pump priming and rear ladder lowering, again for firefighter safety.

Our Chief is a charter member of the FRCOG study committee on fire regionalization, and has been an important member of TRI State Mutual Aid, Mass Fire Wardens Association, Western Mass Fire Chiefs, and is a former red card holder and member of the Mass Wildfire Team. He is also a participant in the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Our Deputy Chief is a trainer for the Mass Fire Academy in Firefighter I and II, certified in Electric and Hybrid vehicle incidents by the Nation Fire Protection Association, a certified cold-water and ice rescue specialist, a former red card holder and member of the Mass Wildfire Team, an 11-year member of the National Ski Patrol, and a trainer for the Northeast Division in mountaineering, mountain and rope rescue.

They have been offering our members high quality and cutting edge training for more than 60 combined years of experience.

The Fire Study Committee -- not the Leverett Fire Department -- proposed hiring a full-time firefighter/EMT and a part-time chief to fill the void that will occur as several of the most experienced personnel get closer to mandatory retirement.

The LFD does agree this is an important step to maintain the coverage the Town of Leverett is accustomed to while the training of newer firefighters continues.

This will also take care of the lack of firefighter/EMTs during daytime

hours, because of commitments to full-time jobs and families.

As stated, 48% of our calls are medical-related -- meaning 52% of our calls are fire/rescue related, showing the importance of a dual firefighter/EMT needed to meet daytime coverage.

Reasons for former members leaving are as varied as our present members' lives. A single parent was unable to respond nights/afternoons. A longtime member left for health reasons.

One member took a new job in New York City; another left to pursue a change of career; and a longtime member left because of work and family commitments.

Another, a Ph.D. in African Studies, took a teaching position in a western university; another's wife took up a medical practice in CA; and one took a full-time firefighter/EMT position in another town.

A geographer took a position at Washington State University, an artist moved her studio out of town, and yet another member became a state Environmental Police Officer.

The LFD is not a social club of any kind, insular or private but a group of diverse individuals willing to dedicate many hours of our lives to protect and serve the residents of Leverett. Frequent pleas to join are made through the local newsletter, as well as yearly open-house events.

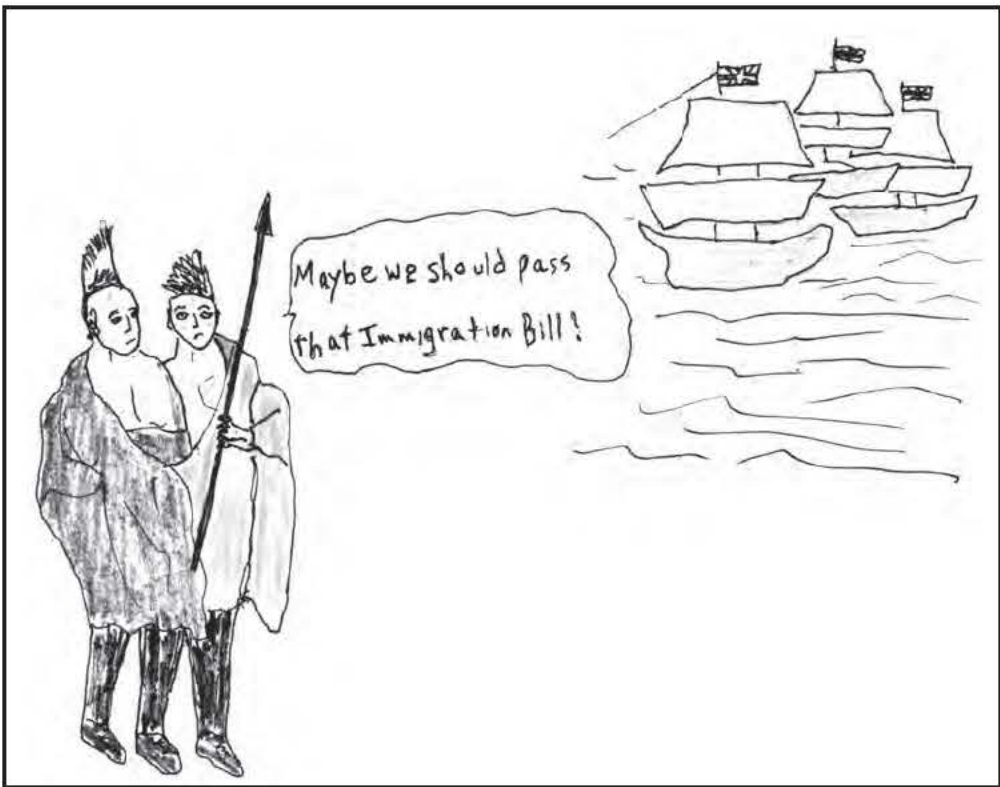
Your fire department attempts to provide 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year, in all types of weather, and we hope our residents understand that, as times change, so must the department and the town.

Our experienced firefighters and officers are very concerned that the continuity of fire and medical coverage is not compromised by our pending retirements.

To gain more information about the future of the Leverett Fire Service, we suggest people read the Leverett Fire Study Committee's complete report and recommendations found on the Town of Leverett web site.

**Thank You!**

**The members of the Leverett Fire Department**



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Compiled by DON CLEGG

It's that time of year again, when Santa makes phone calls to lucky little boys and girls. The Scottish Rite Masons in the Valley of Greenfield are sponsoring Santa's phone calls on Monday, December 16.

If your child would like a phone call from Santa, all it takes is filling out a simple form that is available at the Carnegie Library, Scotties on the Hill, 2nd Street Bakery on 4th Street, in Turners Falls, and Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls, plus Greenfield Co-op Bank, Fosters Market, and the Greenfield

Library. Forms must be mailed to Santa's address, listed on the form itself, no later than December 13.

If you've got a hankering to dance away the holiday blues, then the Twangbusters have just the recipe for you. Fronted by "Miss Paula", described as "Patsy Cline meets Bessie Smith," and Dr. Z on electric steel, this band serves up a good time mix of jukejoint boogie, blues and bop. The house will be rocking, come on out and play on Saturday, December 14 at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse located in Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell.

The evening offers a unique opportunity for music, fun and dance and is always in support of a good cause. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Wendell Free Library. Come experience the Valley's only Dessert-O-Rama in an affordable family-friendly venue. Open Mic begins at 7:30. For Open Mic sign-up, directions and further information, please visit the website: [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org).

Leverett residents: Plans for accessing your home for the fiber connection will be available at the Leverett School on Special Town Meeting Night (December 17) beginning at 6:30 p.m. You are needed to participate in Town Meeting, and it would be convenient for you to sign the plans while you're there. Additionally, you are asked to bring a food donation, as food is being collected for area shelters.

Join the dancers of Awesome Art In Motion, a new children's dance company based out of Turners

Falls, as they showcase their first performance piece, "Sleepy Time is Over!" The show will take place Thursday, December 19, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the Front Room of the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street, as part of the "It's A Wonderful Night" celebration in Turners Falls.

Also on Thursday, December 19, at 7 p.m., author David Gillham joins attendees at the Leverett Library to discuss his acclaimed debut novel, *City of Women*, and his writing process.

*City of Women* is a New York Times bestseller and one of Kirkus Reviews best books of 2012. "Gillham's novel – vividly cinematic yet subtle and full of moral ambiguity, not to mention riveting characters – is as impossible to put down as it is to forget". (Kirkus Review.) This event is free and open to the public.

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

"That's the problem," she said.

Stewart Olson, Leverett's deputy chief, who has remained past retirement age to train new firefighters in the 13-member force, said he was familiar with the difficulty from both sides.

"My taxes went up \$200 last year, and they are likely to go up \$300 this year. I don't know where I'm going to get the money to pay for that. But at the same time, I think we need to provide this service," he said, referring to firefighting and medical emergency response. "What would happen if suddenly we were not able to provide this service anymore?"

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico, along with other members of the board, thanked the committee for detailing the nature of the problem and proposing solutions, but said he had been hearing comment from town residents concerned that hiring a fulltime firefighter, at a time when the date of part-time chief John Moruzzi's own retirement may be nearing, may be putting the cart before the horse.

Olson said he did not know when Moruzzi, 63, may be planning to retire, but he pointed to the neighboring departments of Montague Center and Wendell, where chiefs have stayed on past the age of 65.

and the position must be advertised and treated as a new one, even if it went to an existing firefighter. And with the assessment for the regional school still unknown, along with many other variables in the coming year, it is not clear that even a modest hike to the department's budget could be accomplished within the constraints of Proposition 2½.

"We have \$140,000 to work with," cautioned Brazeau, referring to the amount of new taxation the town can expect within the 2½% limit. He said that amount is likely to be entirely devoted to increases in the town's assessment for the schools, along with a 2% cost of living increase for town employees.

Talk turned to the idea of asking town meeting to revisit, and perhaps revoke, participation in the Community Preservation Act, whereby town residents have accepted a 3% surcharge on their property taxes to create a fund for historical preservation, open space protection, and affordable housing. That fund, for which Leverett has to date received 100% matching funds from the state, has amassed a hefty surplus.

Reached by phone after the meeting, Community Preservation Committee member Jeff McQueen said that surplus was in the ballpark of \$835,000.

But the selectboard acknowledged, even if the town were to agree to pull out of that program, there would be no guarantee that voters would in turn approve an override for increasing departmental expenditures.

Brazeau said the town has already preserved all the open space and historically significant resources that have been brought to the Community Preservation Committee for action, but there has been no agreed-upon venue for using the funds for affordable housing.

No one suggested using CPA funds to retrofit an area of either fire station into an affordable apartment to partially compensate a fulltime firefighter, but as the town continues to examine ways to provide coverage for fire and medical response during daytime hours, fresh ap-

proaches may soon be on the table.

**School Regionalization**

Julie Shively, who is also a member of the regional school district planning board, gave an update from that four-town committee's recent meeting. Having spent two years and some thousands in state grant money to hire educational and financial consultants in a bid to regionalize their elementary grades with Amherst, members of the RSDPB from Leverett and Pelham are seeking a solution that could be put to a vote at upcoming town meetings, while still preserving the option for Shutesbury, which has so far shown reluctance to embrace pre-K – 12 regionalization, to join the other three towns later on.

Shively said the method now favored by the committee may take the form of amending the current regional agreement between the four towns, with a set time limit for Shutesbury to join if it wishes to, but allowing the other three to go ahead with regionalization.

Shively said Leverett would fare well financially in such an arrangement, and added she favored a method of electing a school committee by which voters in all the towns would vote for members from each town, who would have to fill a quota of seats set aside for each community. She said the proposed amendment would have to spell out safeguards for potential school closings.

Shively, asked if this proposal would be ready for a vote at Leverett's May town meeting, said, "I'm not making any predictions."

**Bus Routes**

Roy Kimmel, acting as the selectboard's liaison to the regional transit authorities, spoke of the six-month reprieve granted for the FRTA route that currently travels through Leverett from Greenfield to Amherst (see story, pg. A1).

"Political pressure is what's called for now," said Kimmel, who said he would be in touch with the offices of representative Steve Kulik and senator Stan Rosenberg on the town's behalf. Kimmel advocates

keeping the route through Leverett, but rerouting it to pass through the town center, where a park-and-ride stop by town hall could make it more convenient for residents.

He said it makes no sense that this route, alone among FRTA routes, costs \$3 one way, when longer runs such as the Greenfield to Northampton one charge \$1.50. Kimmel said he will push for reducing the fare to \$1.50 and increasing its number of times a day from two to five.

Shively suggested the bus might run up North Leverett Road to Cave Hill and turn south, with an additional park-and-ride location near the Baptist Church.

**Special Town Meeting**

A special town meeting will be held Tuesday, December 17, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school to vote on a bylaw change, which would loosen the setback requirements and allow for the installation of free-standing solar photovoltaic collectors on town property near the safety complex and elementary school.

Those panels are currently restricted in the rural residential zone, where the town land is located. The town is trying to set up a solar array to provide electricity to town buildings, using grant money the town has received from the Department of Energy Resources under the Green Communities Act.

In addition to the bylaw change, town meeting will be asked to consider allocating up to \$15,000 from stabilization to remove the debris of a barn owned by Steve Blinn, at the intersection of Rattlesnake Gutter and North Leverett Road. The debris is in a town right of way, although it is not impeding traffic, and is no longer a danger to the public from imminent collapse, having already collapsed.

A lien would be attached to the property to repay the town for any cleanup at the property.

**School Surplus**

The Amherst-Pelham Regional School District reported an excess and deficiency (free cash) surplus of \$1,222,085 for the current fiscal year.

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Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill

The Gill Energy Commission will be holding a FREE Winsert Workshop. "Winserts" are reusable, transparent panels that fit snugly inside window jams to add two extra layers of glazing. The workshop will be presented by Peter Talmage, who has been teaching people in the Renewable Energy field at GCC and elsewhere for many years.

During the workshop you will assemble a winsert for a window in your own house. Participants will pay only for the materials, estimated to be at \$1 per square foot. In order that there will be enough materials for everyone's project, we need to know the size of your window. See [www.gillmass.org/energy.php](http://www.gillmass.org/energy.php) for instructions on window measurement.

The workshop is limited by space considerations in the number of attendees who can participate. Pre-registration is required. To register, call Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or email [jmasucci@msn.com](mailto:jmasucci@msn.com).

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### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## “Green” Grant Gets Divvied Up: First Come, First Served

At the selectboard's December 4 meeting, Wendell's energy committee came with a proposal to use \$37,500 of the \$138,000 grant the town received when it became a “green community.” Wendell did not get a check for the grant, and instead is able to apply for the money by submitting proposals to the commonwealth for approval.

This proposal is the second that the energy committee developed. The first set was for a level II energy audit of town buildings, and purchase of a thermal imager that would show warm spots that indicate heat loss on the outside walls of buildings. That audit is expected to be completed by the end of December.

Ordering of the thermal imager is waiting for the appropriate accounting process, and when it arrives in town the people will be trained to use it, and residents can have their homes imaged.

This grant would give householders up to \$750 to pay for conservation on their own homes for work that is not covered by MassSave, Community Action, or any other agency.

The first step would be for a householder to get an energy audit from MassSave or Community Action.

The householder would then submit an application to the energy committee along with the audit and estimated cost of the audit's recommendations and when the work is complete the householder submits the contractor's invoice to the energy committee. The town would pay up to \$750. The deadline for applications is August 31, 2014.

Selectboard members had only one question. Dan Keller asked how the energy committee would select projects. Committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger said, “First come, first serve.”

The selectboard approved the proposal with no more discussion.

The energy committee is preparing a press release for this grant process to go to all local newspapers.

Wendell resident Charlie Bado met the selectboard, with building inspector Phil Delorey sitting to the side, as a supplement to his

application for the position of assistant building inspector.

Bado is renting out his Wendell home now, and is living in faculty housing at Deerfield Academy, but his long term plan is to move back to town. He is in the process of getting certified as a building inspector, and he wants to give something back to Wendell, which he considers his home town.

Robbie Leppzer and Nan Riebschlaeger resigned as representatives to Wired West, the organization attempting to get internet connection to every home in many Franklin County towns.

Robbie Heller and Paul Richmond volunteered to take their places, and selectboard members quickly signed their appointment slips.

Wendell's paid assessor, Helen Williams, told town administrator Nancy Aldrich that the HughesNet satellite internet connection slowed to a near stop. HughesNet has a daily download limit, and if an account exceeds that limit, it is virtually stopped for a day.

No official use has reached the limit, and selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser suggested that between 7 and 8 p.m. one evening someone used the guest password to use the wireless connection from the parking lot to download a full movie.

Erin Siebert submitted a revised version of a “no fracking” warrant article that would allow fracturing of bedrock for drinking water wells using safe methods.

The superintendent of the Mahar regional high school will meet with the selectboard at 7 p.m. at its January 15, 2014 meeting, and board members are ensuring that the finance committee will be there also.

Only one more selectboard meeting is scheduled for 2013, and a meeting was scheduled for the first night of the new year. Board members decided to meet on Thursday, January 2 instead.

The selectboard went into executive session at 8 p.m. for reason #1, “To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual.”

### AWARD from page A1

business, marketing studies have shown that enterprises most likely to succeed in the downtown are medical and professional businesses, specialty clothing stores (particularly women's and children's clothes), general merchandise shops, and food services (perhaps niche or ethnic restaurants).

Shops for furniture, electronics and appliances, gifts and novelties and sporting goods were seen as having limited potential.

APA-MA's awards program is the state's highest honor for planning professionals.

The tradition was established a number of years ago to recognize outstanding comprehensive plans, planning programs and initiatives, public education efforts, and individuals for their leadership on planning issues.

The award recipients will be recognized during the 2013 APA-MA/Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors (MAPD) Annual Awards and Holiday Luncheon on December 13 at the Hotel Marlowe in Cambridge. The recipients will also be featured in an upcoming issue of e-newsletter New England Planning.



### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Klepadlo Calls For Tax Reduction

By KATIE NOLAN

At its December 9 meeting, library director Barbara Friedman provided the Erving selectboard with recommendations for the Library Feasibility Committee, which will be considering library space and needs. In September, the board authorized Friedman to apply for a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to evaluate Erving Public Library's current space and needs.

If the grant is awarded, the town will be required to fund \$25,000 of the feasibility study costs. Town meeting would decide whether to accept the grant and fund the town's share. Highway/Water/Wastewater director Paul Prest told the board he was interested in joining the committee.

The state Department of Revenue approved the town's split tax rate of \$8.45 per thousand dollars value for residential property and \$14.04 for industrial and commercial property. Town administrator Tom Sharp said that tax collector Michele Turner will send out tax bills by December 27. Tax payments are due by January 27.

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo asked that the board schedule “a serious discussion” about the tax rate for the next fiscal year. He observed that the town's real estate tax rate increases every year.

Klepadlo suggested that the town should consider trying

to reduce the tax rate, possibly through reducing the amount of money put into stabilization or cutting costs.

The board decided to invite the finance committee to discuss tax rates in mid-January.

Klepadlo, Sharp, Prest, and Erving police officer James LaFlamme attended the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's walking tour of portions of Route 2 in Farley and Erving Center on December 7. MassDOT engineers, the town officials and residents toured locations where safety improvement projects are planned over the next few years.

Klepadlo said he hoped that MassDOT's engineers take the residents' comments under consideration. Sharp reported that state representative Denise Andrews, who also attended the tour, said she would provide support for the project as needed.

Prest opened bids for purchase of the surplus F550 highway truck. Bids ranged from \$5,000 to \$7,021. The truck will be sold to high bidder Wiggins Hydrosseed of Northfield.

The town accepted a bid of \$18,515 from Blake Equipment of Greenfield for two new wastewater pumps.

The board signed a letter of appreciation for Leo Parent, Jr., who is resigning as Erving's representative on the Franklin Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board.

## HOLIDAY RECYCLING REMINDER

Happy Holidays! Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. Following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday months and all year long:

Please **DO** include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

- corrugated cardboard boxes
- paperboard gift boxes
- greeting cards (*except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter*)
- wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue wrap (*except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter*)
- paper shopping bags (*any type of handle is okay*)
- catalogs and calendars

Please **DO NOT** include the following items in your recycling mix:

- ribbons, bows, and tinsel (*reusable from year to year*)
- packing peanuts and Styrofoam (*accepted for reuse at Greenfield UPS Store*)
- holiday lights (*WtE scrap metal recycler in Greenfield pays .20/lb. for light strings*)
- plastic bags (*clean, dry plastic bags marked #2 or #4 recyclable at some retailers*)
- blister packaging (*formed plastic package used to hold toys and electronics*)
- photographs.

Questions about recycling? Please contact Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at (413) 772-2438; [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), or visit [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org).

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**BUSES from page A1**

have also eliminated Route 23, the direct route from Montague to the University of Massachusetts, the largest employer in the region.

This drew sharp criticism from the Montague Selectboard, which complained that it had not been consulted on the elimination of a route that had served the town for at least thirty years.

In response, the FRTA advisory board mandated meetings with Montague but the town, one of the largest in the system, continued to oppose the elimination of the Amherst route.

In mid-November, Leverett also

questioned the decision to eliminate Route 23 which passes through that town:

"Though Leverett formally belongs to the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, we believe that we should have received notice of a proposed change that affects the citizens of our town and that we should have been involved in the planning process that occurred before this change was decided upon."

The elimination of Route 23 was also opposed by the Montague Energy Committee and the owners of businesses at the Montague Bookmill.

Finally, approximately two weeks before the December FRTA board

meeting, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments weighed in on the new plan.

Their analysis, written by FRCOG Executive Director Linda Dunlavy, supported many of the proposed changes, but opposed eliminating the UMass route without a viable alternative: The FRCOG also suggested that a revised Route 23 might create a viable connection between Orange and Amherst.

Dunlavy urged a higher level of coordination between the FRTA and PVTA on the Whately Park and Ride stop: "State and Federal funds were invested to construct this facility with a core intent that it would be used as a connection point to com-

mute to UMass and Amherst."

In a response to FRCOG, Cote stated that the FRTA might put the route changes on hold pending a review of assessments. She also said that the FRTA "will be conducting a comprehensive service analysis over the next few months."

Neither the FRCOG analysis nor the other comments on the FRTA route changes were discussed at the December 3 board meeting, which focused on the assessment issue.

In another development, Cote announced that the state Executive Office of Health and Human Services was considering consolidating all the services provided by local transport authorities for its clients into one

vendor.

This could result in eliminating about half the FRTA's revenues, although presumably it would also eliminate the need for the FRTA to provide the services.

Cote noted, however, that there was some overlap in terms of staffing and finances so the regional authority, among others opposed the change.

This news seemed to come as a bit of a shock to some board members. "That's only a week away," said one.

Couldn't we write a letter or something?" said Deerfield Representative Bob Decker.

**RABIES from page A1**

mix, Boo. "We actually call him Boo Boo, because he's gotten in some trouble before," said Brian Sr.

Boo Boo, who was up on his vaccinations, bit the fox, but didn't manage to get a grip. They both ran outside, followed by Brian Sr. (Residents are instructed to avoid all contact with sick animals, but in the heat of the moment, Heath said, "I ran after my dog.")

"I threw another ten-pound weight at it," he said, and though this seemed to work, he used a shovel to finish the job. Then the dazed Heaths assessed the damage.

The fox had left blood "all over the house," the cats had escaped, and their other dog, Liddy, had urinated on the carpet in fear. They

bagged up the fox, a female, which eventually made it in for testing (see Montague police log, pg. B3). Police advised Lynne to go to the emergency room, and animal control and public health officers intervened.

The Heaths' three cats and two dogs needed to be quarantined from each other until they, and the family, got the all-clear. Their ordeal will be over once they are sure Liddy, who was not quite up to date on her shots, is OK'ed. Boo Boo just needed a booster.

Gina McNeely, the town's Director of Public Health, told the Reporter that this is the first case of rabies in the area since December 2011, when a fox bit a man on Walnut Street near the Thomas Memorial Golf Course. "It's a good reminder for all of us: rabies does pop up now and again," McNeely

said.

Grout Circle is on the north edge of a large wooded area that includes the Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area and the Wendell State Forest. "We get a lot of wildlife," said Brian Heath, Sr., "mostly turkey and deer. But I haven't seen a fox."

Lynne Heath hadn't seen one, either, until one was in her car, between her feet, and trying to bite her, a situation she describes as "pretty scary."

Domestic cases, McNeely said, are usually cats, but we are surrounded by wild animals, including a porcupine which may have been bitten by the same fox that attacked the Heaths.

McNeely recalled a case on 5th Street in Turners several years ago, in which an infected skunk spread the virus to two dogs in

their enclosure. Both dogs had to be euthanized. "I'll never forget that day," she said. "It wasn't their fault."

The town's notice details vaccination standards. If a dog or cat's "primary series" -- a shot and a booster, spaced 9 to 12 months apart -- is done right, all subsequent shots should last three years. If not, shots can only be considered to last a year.

The notice also warns that pets who roam free can be a vector, as they can carry infected saliva on their fur and transmit it to their owners.

The town advises residents to avoid contact with wild animals, alive or dead, to wear gloves if contact with one is necessary, and to call the police, who will dispatch an animal control officer, if a sick animal is spotted.

**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD****Roving Musicians, Swing Account, and a New RFP for Millers Block**

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday, December 9 the Montague Selectboard addressed a mix of local issues ranging from a holiday celebration in Turners Falls, a handicapped swing for the new Unity Park playground, and a revision of the Request For Proposals (RFP) to develop the Powers Block in Millers Falls.

First on the agenda was John Dobosz and three members of an ad hoc committee that has been raising funds for a wheelchair swing at the Unity Park playground. The unit will include a ramp and structure that allows the wheelchair to be directly attached to the swing.

The committee, represented at the meeting by Leslie Cogswell, Marie Putala and Kathy Webber, asked the town to create a special account to deposit the donations they have been raising to finance the project. They reported that they now had \$15,550.32 in hand. The Selectboard unanimously voted to approve the creation of the account.

During the discussion questions were raised about the cost of the project and who would be responsible for maintenance once it was completed. The structure and foundation are expected to cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Existing town departments will be responsible for

maintenance, just as they are for Unity Park as a whole. However, the special account will be kept open for private donations once the project is completed.

Suzanne LoMontano then approached the board to request several permits for the holiday event in downtown Turners Falls, scheduled for the evening of December 19. The requests included permits for roving musicians (tuba and trumpet players), "luminaries" for Avenue A and Third Street, and a tree lighting.

All of these requests were approved unanimously but the motion for luminaries, which are candles in paper bags placed along the street, was amended to require consultation with the fire district. The amendment was in response to a comment by audience member Jeanne Golrick that the fire district had previously required luminaries in Millers Falls to be moved closer to the street.

Police chief Chip Dodge then came before the committee to set up interview dates and times to hire new officers. The department is hiring one regular officer and four reserves. Dodge estimated that there would be three applicants for the full time position, all of whom are "known to us" because they are currently reserves. He also estimated six applicants for the reserve positions. The interviews for the full time posi-

tion will take place on Saturday, December 14 at 10 a.m. in town hall. The reserve interviews are currently scheduled for January 7 between 5 and 7 p.m. These will be public interviews.

The chief then was presented with a letter, which he had not previously seen, from Gill police chief David Hastings. The letter commended three Montague police officers for their support in responding to a multi-car accident on Route 2. The accident, which occurred on November 23 at approximately 7:45 in the evening, injured seven, one fatally. Hastings stated that Gill Sergeant Chris Redmond was assisted by Montague Sergeant Chris Williams, Officer James Deery and Officer Daniel Minor in attending to the victims and directing traffic on the busy highway.

The director of the Water Pollution Control Facility, Bob Trombley, requested that the board, now assuming the mantle of the "Personnel Board," approve the hiring of Colton Stebbins as a seasonal laborer. Stebbins will be hired "up to" June 30, 2014 at the rate of \$10 dollars an hour. Although the position is temporary and will require no increase in the DPW budget for this year, Trombley did imply that the hiring was consistent with a recent state evaluation which held that WPCF staffing was below mandated levels.

Frank Abbondanzio's weekly "Town Administrator's Report" focused on two projects in Millers Falls. First he requested that the

board approve an application to the Sheriff's office for laborers to paint the exterior of the clapboard building on 30 Main St. The town will provide the materials for the work.

Then he called on the board to revise the Request For Proposals (RFP) to purchase the Powers Block and two adjacent buildings in the center of Millers Falls under the Commercial Homesteading program. The revision would add demolition to the possible actions to be taken by a new owner.

The town has received a proposal from the owners of Element Brewing Company to demolish the existing structures and build a new brewing and restaurant facility. However town counsel advised that the existing RFP, narrowly defined to focus only on rehabilitation, should be revised to include demolition.

"Aren't you gearing this [new RFP] to a specific person?" asked audience member John Reynolds. Board members and the town administrator vigorously shook their heads in the negative. This is a new RFP, replied Abbondanzio: "If someone comes in with a better proposal [we would look at that]."

Finally the board retroactively approved the decision it had made last November 13 to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation. The action was a response to an Open Meeting Law complaint that the board had not posted the previous executive session properly. Members of the audience did not comment on this action.

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YEAR 12 – NO.10

B1

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DECEMBER 12, 2013

## Glamour, Lost + Found

By ALEXANDER LEGER-SMALL

The village of Turners Falls found its glamour quotient turned all the way up to eleven last weekend. On Saturday evening, for the ninth year running, Suzee's Third Street Laundry was transformed from a utilitarian place of drudgery to a subversive space of self expression.

According to owner and organizer Christopher Janke, the idea behind the event is "transformation." There is no better word to describe the magic of this night.

The fashion industry can often feel alienating and inaccessible. The Lost and Found Fashion Show at Suzee's Third Street Laundry is the cure for that ailment.

The premise is simple. And smart. Seven designers, ranging from some of the youngest members of the community to veterans who have long worked to create the vibrant arts scene that Turners Falls is known for, were given bags of clothes left behind at the laundromat.

The designers had just about a month to create whatever they could from these pickings. The results, as those familiar with the show have come to expect, were phenomenal.

After nine years of ups and downs, missing models and false starts, Janke has gotten production down to an art. Smiling and waving off concerns of missing designers (one of whom scurried in sheepishly as we were talking, just minutes before the show) he says that he's more than willing to see the event through every year.

When the subject of moving the event arose, in an effort to combat space concerns, he was vehement. "Part of the magic of the night is the space. It's a one-off. It's about taking a space associated with chores, and making it one of flamboyance."

Kicking the night off with a transformation all their own, Benjamin Miner and local band, Rebel Base, channeled Iggy Pop and the Stooges in a reprisal of their wildly popular performance from a few months ago at the Greenfield Arts Block.

As the band finished and more and more people packed into the chilly laundromat the expectation reached a fever pitch with a mixed crowd of locals, young and old, and out-of-towners in the know, the room pulsed with excitement. And then, like magic, the evening's emcee appeared.

Featuring what was probably the most drastic transformation of the evening, Ms. Brianna Cracker stole the show. Hosting for the first time this year, she quickly introduced the crowd to her own special brand of witty banter.

model in a smart, business-friendly look mixing stripes and toile (!) appeared as the woman having the picnic in question.

Finally, and in a stroke of performance genius, Cathe Janke entered



(L-R) Rachel Teumim and Mary Buckley model Buckley's second line; Drae Malliaros wears the Duchess von Pruitt.

"I just got my health insurance, so the first thing I did was run out and buy these heels!" she exclaimed upon entering, gesturing to her six-inch stilettos while teetering down the runway. The audience was in the palm of her large, sweaty hands from the get-go. She grabbed on tight and didn't let go, dragging the audience into a world of recycled extravagance.

The first designer of the evening, **Mary Buckley**, designed two entirely different collections for the event. Her first showing had a strong apocalyptic, urban vibe. As I spoke with her after the show, Buckley told me that at the last minute a designer had to pull out, and these designs were created to fill that void. She wanted to make clothes that worked for the models, many of whom felt more comfortable in flats than heels. Thus, the punk-rock, urban styling.

The four looks she showed revolved around a color palette of dark grays and blacks, with pops of muted color running throughout. Stand-outs included an off-the-shoulder, floor-length gown made completely of sweatpants with graphic appliques, and an incredible, psycho-holiday elf.

The detail of Buckley's work is amazing.

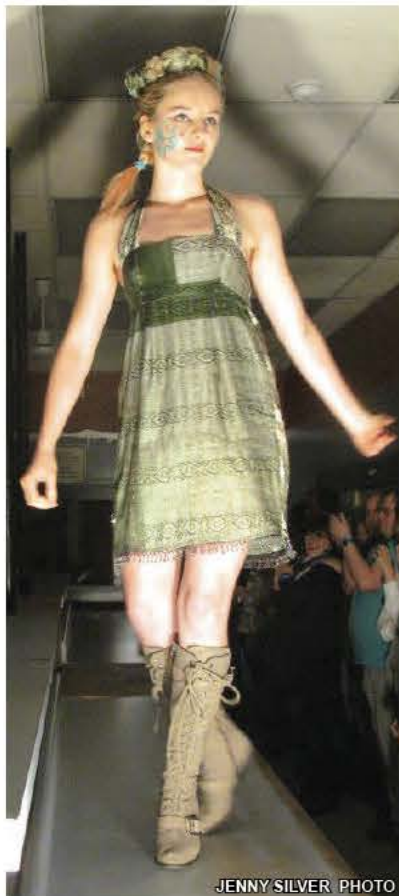
The pieces walked a fine line between craft and glamour. As a veteran designer for the Lost and Found Fashion Show, it was clear that Mary knew her medium and her audience. A huge hit! Uber-current!

Second, **Anja Schutz**, also a returning designer, presented a concise, well-edited collection. Introduced by Ms. Cracker as a thematic walk in the park, the looks could have easily read as three disparate pieces. Thankfully, the story carried through.

First, Ms. Schutz herself came down the runway in a pure white, off the shoulder, Grecian gown. A bed sheet never looked so good. She remained at the end of the runway throughout the collection, evoking a marble statue in the park. Next, a

in the final look – all red plaid and picnic-table cocktail dress chic. She alternately walked, slunk and laid across the runway, making sure you knew she was the picnic blanket. *Funny, well thought out, super wearable and very chic!*

Next up was **Linda Gilchrist**, another designer who showed twice this year. A winter ensemble, featured a skirt with an almost *trompe l'oeil* effect of alternating panels,



Odell Bouchard wears Madeline Keating's second piece down the laundromat runway.

giving it a wide pleated look. A fleece hoodie and velour top were transformed into a stylish jacket with faux fur detailing that made this look feel expensive and warm.

The styling and construction were outstanding from where I stood, it was hard to believe this look was constructed from used clothing. *Sophisticated and mature!*

The fourth and fifth designers were presented as a Young Designer Showcase. What a pleasant surprise! First up was **Eva Pruitt-Dahl**, who showed two looks that could have come directly from the mall. Emphasizing a strong Tween/Youth-centric vibe, Pruitt-Dahl's first look hit the black and white stripe trend hard in a slouchy tee-shirt, paired with a burst

see GLAMOUR page B4

## Hearts & Crafts at the Wendell Holiday Fair

By JONATHAN von RANSON

The yearly mini-festival, gift shopping opportunity and benefit that is the Wendell Holiday Fair has developed a music tradition – a stop-everything-and-listen performance in the middle of the day both days of the fair.

This year Ed Hines, music teacher at Swift River School, and a group of children on Saturday warmed hearts with sweetly-rendered winter songs. I didn't catch that performance, but, on Sunday, heard the Wendell Community Chorus place a magic, melodic, multicultural charm over the town hall and its shoppers, tables and vendors.

Among the many vendors you can count on to be at the 9-year-



Wendell Community Chorus performs a wassailing number. Two youngest singers are Ajika Sawyer and Liam DiDonato. Behind, l-r: Lou Leelyn, Marly Bernard, Leah Moses, Aria Leelyn, Laurie DiDonato, Lena Morimoto, Annie Sousa, Laura Pepper and Janee Stone.

old fair were the Bryants of Ashburnham – Ann and Bob – who sell Bob's raw pine children's toys ("All American wood, no batteries required, made in the USA"). They vend at half a dozen craft-selling events within an hour's drive, but this one Anne called "an especially friendly one. Everybody who comes up is very

see WENDELL page B4



### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## The Gathering Dark

By LESLIE BROWN

As the dark gathers earlier each late afternoon, we find ourselves in the season of the long nights. The daylight comes later, too, as we slide towards the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. This inexorable slide actually begins right after the longest day, June 21st.

We barely notice this long day as we are well into daylight savings and full summertime when the days seem to last forever. It is not until we return to Eastern Standard Time in the fall, that the full measure of the coming dark is felt. So when the cycle reverses and the days begin to extend it is wintertime and the change is barely noticeable.

Unlike our early ancestors, many of us will miss the shortest day, December 21<sup>st</sup>; it will slip by with little notice.

Many of today's Christmas traditions began with ancient midwinter

festivities which celebrated the return of the sun and the escape from the bitter cold and darkness. These are pre-Christian days, four thousand years ago. Fire was a symbol of hope and boughs of greenery were gathered to symbolize the eternal cycle of creation.

The ancient Mesopotamians celebrated the New Year, hoping that their chief god, Marduk would be successful in battling the monsters of chaos that brought the dark season. In the extreme northern regions like Scandinavia, the sun disappears for great lengths of time. In this ancient land, scouts were sent to the mountain tops to await the return of the light. When they returned home with news of the first light, the villagers celebrated with feasting and bonfires.

Such archeological sites as Stonehenge and Avebury in England

see SOLSTICE page B3

## Sins Absolved at Polish Church Bazaar



By JOE PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Bazaar at Our Lady of Czestochowa, last Saturday, was another resounding success. Customers sat at tables in the undercroft of the church eating all manner of Polish goodies.

Loyal volunteers had worked for weeks making all manner of goodies. The pierogi were made with dough from a secret recipe, kept locked in an undisclosed place, that made these tasty tarts especially desirable. Kay Baranowski was

raking in the dough selling them.

Edie Bourbeau also raked in the dough, selling chances by the handful: five chances for \$1, chosen by the gullible gambler. Inside short sections of soda straws lay short pieces of paper rolled up with a lucky number on one of them, much as in punch boards of old. Mine all came up empty.

"Am I entitled to at least one sin as a consolation prize?" I asked.

"Yes, you are," Edie replied. "Gambling's a sin. You just used up your consolation prize."

JENNY SILVER PHOTO



Shayla Bassingthwaite and Eva Pruitt-Dahl wait backstage before modeling Pruitt-Dahl's ensembles.

PARZYCH PHOTO



Pet of the Week



Barn Cat Program

If you have a barn, stable, or heated outbuilding, you can help save cats' lives today! Cats in our barn cat program either can't live in

the house; are too free for our cages; or are shy cats who prefer the company of other cats and animals.

We only adopt cats to barns when there are no other options. There are cats who need you. The cats will help you with mousing and keep your animals company.

All barn cats are spayed or neutered and vaccinated. We will go over with you how to acclimate your new cat to the barn. \$10 discount for multiple adoptions.

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Senior Center Activities  
December 16 to 20

GILL and MONTAGUE

**Gill / Montague Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. 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 12/16

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 12/17

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 noon Holiday Lunch at Tech School – Tickets Required

Wednesday 12/18

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

Thursday 12/19

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
12 noon Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday 12/20

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

**Erving Senior Center**, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

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

Monday 12/16

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
12:30 p.m. Movie

Tuesday 12/17

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10:15 Steve Damon – “Name That Tune”

10:45 a.m. Senior Business Meeting

Wednesday 12/18

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 noon Bingo

Thursday 12/19

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

Friday 12/20

9 a.m. Bowling

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.

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was on December 11, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.*

Wendell Country Store Expands

Owners Patty and Vic Scutari have celebrated their tenth anniversary as storekeepers by painting the building a daring shade of purple. Plans are in the works to retire a number of ancient upright coolers, replace them with a walk-in, and expand the store's customer seating area.

The store is very much alive, stocking everything from brown rice to videos and plenty in between, and serving coffee, prepackaged sandwiches and sweets. Just as importantly, the store provides a place in town for residents to gather and strengthen community ties.

Great News, Everybody!

Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio had good news for the selectboard regarding the

prospects for redevelopment of the Strathmore Mill.

Boston-based Western Properties bought the building a year ago, and has since been using part of it for a paper-recycling business.

Abbondanzio asked the board to approve a grant request for predevelopment funds to enable Western to explore the potential of the mill for small and medium commercial leaseholds for artists and craftspeople.

“The recent brownfields assessment came up clean,” he said, but access and parking issues still need to be addressed.

The board was enthusiastic in its endorsement of the proposal.

Erving Holiday Party Planned

The date of the Erving town hall holiday party has been confirmed by administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. The December 15 party will be open to the public, and light refreshments will be served.

The purpose of the open house is to get residents together for light-

hearted fun and conversation as the year comes to a close. Also, it will serve as an opportunity for residents to meet Sharp, who has held his position since July.

A Second Lease On Half-Life?

Vermont Yankee has a new owner with a plan to increase production at the aging reactor.

Striking a \$20 million deal with VT's Department of Public Service, Entergy – the Louisiana-based corporation that bought the Vernon plant for \$180 million last year – appears poised to implement one of the largest power uprates in the country.

The proposal, which would exceed the reactor's original design rating of 540 megawatts to 650, faces hearings before the Vermont Public Service Board next month.

“We've replaced many components and systems over the years to keep this a state-of-the-art plant,” said Entergy spokesman Robert Williams. Others are skeptical.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

The “Silent Killer”

Isolated systolic hypertension (ISH) is the most common form of high blood pressure for seniors. When you have ISH, only the top number is too high.

About 2 out of 3 people over age 60 with high blood pressure have ISH. About one in three American adults has high blood pressure. In the U.S., high blood pressure occurs more often in African-Americans

High blood pressure can ravage your body. It can enlarge the heart, create small bulges (aneurysms) in blood vessels, damage the blood vessels in the kidneys, harden arteries, produce bleeding in the eyes.

The possible consequences are heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and blindness.

Your chances of getting high blood pressure are also higher if you are overweight, don't exercise, eat too much salt, drink too much alcohol, don't consume enough potassium, endure stress for too long.

Obviously, changing your diet, exercising and altering your lifestyle will help.

When you go to your doctor to have your blood pressure taken, there are a few things you can do to get an accurate reading.

First, don't eat, drink coffee or smoke cigarettes for an hour before

your pressure is taken. (What are you doing smoking anyway?)

Empty your bladder, because a full tank can affect the reading. Sit quietly for five minutes before the test.

If you're like me, you have *white coat syndrome*. That means your blood pressure jumps as soon as a doctor or nurse approaches you.

If your doctor knows this, he or she may recommend a home blood-pressure monitor or ambulatory monitor that is worn around the clock and takes your pressure every half hour.

If you have high blood pressure and lifestyle changes don't reduce it, there are medications to treat the problem.

Often, two or more drugs work better than one. Some drugs lower blood pressure by removing extra fluid and salt from your body. Others affect blood pressure by slowing down the heartbeat, or by relaxing and widening blood vessels.

*Questions? Send them to [fred@healthygeezer.org](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.org)*

*If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of “How to be a Healthy Geezer” at [www.healthygeezer.com](http://www.healthygeezer.com).*

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

*Q. Why do they call high blood pressure the silent killer?*

High blood pressure – known as hypertension – is very sneaky. It's called the “silent killer,” because it usually has no symptoms.

Doctors say you have high blood pressure if you have a reading of 140/90 or higher. A blood pressure reading of 120/80 or lower is considered normal.

*Prehypertension* is blood pressure between 120 and 139 for the top number, or between 80 and 89 for the bottom number.

The first number represents your systolic pressure when the heart beats. The second number represents the diastolic pressure when the heart rests.

If only one number is elevated, you still have high blood pressure with all of its dangers.

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP



Melantha foretells an era of dust and decay,  
the main entrance to the library closed.  
Waking from her spell, our narrator recalls his errand...



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

"I need that book on resumes," I said grimly.  
"I don't think so."  
"I need it. If you don't have it, I suggest you get it for me on interlibrary loan."  
"You need a good night's sleep," said Melantha mildly. "Why don't you go on home and get one?"  
I couldn't think of a good reply to this, just then. Truth was...  
I yawned.  
The hell of it was...  
She was right. I felt totally exhausted.  
I turned to leave.  
"Five cents," she said.  
"What?" I turned around again to face her.  
"That will be five cents, please." She snapped her fingers in the air and plucked the top card from a little pile in the dovetailed file box on her desk.  
"This one is overdue."  
"Of course," I said, digging through the lint in my pocket. "You're right... and.... And thank you."  
I found a coin, paid up, and left.

On the way home, the scene with Melantha continued to bother me. I walked past the limestone outcroppings in the park, the poplar, oak and laurel, all barren in the winter darkness.  
Why did I let her play me for such a fool?  
The diffuse cones of light from the low street lamps gave form and substance to my body as I passed beneath them and moved on, dissolving into shadow.  
"The witch. More people should take an interest in public building projects," I muttered.  
I passed by the veterans memorial, gripped in ice.  
Wraiths of fog shawled about the wishing well.  
"Red cashmere," I mumbled. "Stygian Sunrise. Just because I trust people doesn't mean I don't have a nose for waste in civic outlay."  
I glared at a woman and her child who passed me quickly on the sidewalk, and swore under my breath.  
"No mantic minx will make a catnip mouse of me..."  
"Melantha."  
I walked on home.

Our little town is prey to the usual problems of immigrant communities everywhere.  
Once removed by time and circumstance from the customs of the mother country, the populace falls into a period of declining morals, loss of industry, and sloth.  
The youth pass their time in idleness and petty thievery. The unemployed, clustered on the sidewalks in the fall like enervated bees, talk of other days and better weather.  
Drugs and small amounts of money change hands in plain sight of the civil authorities, who pass by in their heated cars, unwilling to pursue the fruitless cycle of jail cell, court probation, and the inevitable relapse to small time lawbreaking that follows.

On sunny days, the old folks gather on park benches to grouse and quarrel and inveigh against the younger generation. They chide fate and swap tales of a dim remembered golden age. Through corneas clouded with glaucoma, they catch sight of their own shadows standing close at hand, a little to one side.  
On cold clear mornings, when breath goes out in graying wisps, they feel the fabric of their lives grow thin. The nap takes on a glossy sheen. They lean their weight on canes and fret and chafe and yearn for that which never was, that which will never be.  
Here in Mt. Parnassus we keep the usual festivals, make homage to the gods in season, carry on the old rituals, all with an emptiness of feeling grown bitter in a wilderness of anomie and despair.

The public coffer is lavished on the weighty entablature of order. The roads are kept in a semblance of repair, the schools are heated, the trees along the public ways cleared of their dying limbs. But there is no new growth, no inspiration.  
Only in small ways, in neglected places, do the people still maintain their ties with one another – in the nooks and crannies of village life, as it were.  
In the bars, in the parks, in the library on the hill with its tarnished terracotta trim, still we pass the time and mingle and keep the myth of civilization alive.

Continued next week.

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Hypodermic Needles and Porcupine Quills

**Monday, December 2**  
8:05 a.m. Hypodermic needle removed from restroom at F. L. Roberts.  
11:39 a.m. Car vs. deer accident west of the crossover on North Leverett Road. Deer last seen limping off eastbound; vehicle sustained damage.  
4:44 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on two default warrants.  
5:32 p.m. Adderall reported stolen from vehicle on K Street.  
8:22 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.  
**Tuesday, December 3**  
7:36 a.m. Report of hunter trespassing on private property on West Mineral Road.  
8:11 a.m. Injured deer in backyard on Main Street.  
11:45 a.m. Transported disruptive male from TFHS to his home.  
2:21 p.m. Report that a tattooed male in a white tank top has been jumping off the back roof of the Turners Falls Pizza House building and kicking a video camera.  
5:14 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Advised of options.  
6:29 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a probation warrant.  
7:09 p.m. Couple and dog attacked by fox in their yard on Grout Circle. Caller killed fox and left body in his truck. (See story, pg. A1.) Advised caller re: medical attention and requested that dead fox be brought to station for testing. When caller was contacted the following day, he stated that he had bagged up the fox and put it in his truck, but that the bag had slid out of his pickup bed somewhere between home and work.

DPW contacted; confirmed that one of their workers had retrieved bag, which was now in their dumpster. Animal control officer retrieved bag and brought fox to veterinarian. ACO observed that fox's face and eyes were filled with porcupine quills.  
9:08 p.m. Hypodermic needle removed from restroom at F. L. Roberts.  
10:04 p.m. Complaint regarding a band playing at People's Bakery in Millers Falls. Quiet upon arrival.  
**Wednesday, December 4**  
9:43 a.m. Report of a hunter dressed in orange firing shots from the hill behind Doyle's Car Wash; caller concerned that hunter may not be appropriate distance from buildings/roadways. Responding officers determined that subject was in compliance with law.  
10:00 a.m. Report of possible dryer fire on Old Sunderland Road. Determined to be normal steam hitting cold air.  
11:25 a.m. Report of vehicles consistently speeding coming up Unity Hill and posing a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists.  
1:35 p.m. Threatening/harassment reported in conjunction with previous domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Advised of options.  
3:33 p.m. Physical altercation between cousins in Lake Pleasant. Caller, who was injured, refused medical attention but requested to have officer meet him at Bridge of Names. Parties and grandmother spoken to.  
**Thursday, December 5**  
8:26 a.m. Report of two suspicious, scruffy-looking males in road near Bookmill. Unable to locate.  
9:17 a.m. Information received regarding

ongoing shoplifting at Family Dollar.  
5:21 p.m. Caller reported that a vehicle was parked blocking his driveway on Eleventh Street. Plates on vehicle determined to have been stolen from a vehicle on G Street. Vehicle owner claimed he had no idea how stolen plates ended up on his vehicle.  
5:41 p.m. Purse with cash and medication inside stolen by woman who visited a Second Street apartment asking to borrow a trash bag. Summons issued for arrest of suspect.  
10:45 p.m. Witness report of an attempted purse-snatching on Avenue A. Area search negative; search for suspect ongoing.  
**Friday, December 6**  
12:57 a.m. Vehicle vs. deer accident near Park Villa Drive. Deer ran off; minor damage to vehicle.  
8:12 a.m. Report of pickup trucks parked at back of St. Mary's Cemetery; operators suspected to be hunting in area, which is posted as no trespassing. Vehicle owners located closer to landfill and determined to be hunting in an appropriate area.  
9:28 a.m. Ongoing illegal dumping observed near former site of yellow box on Apollo Pools property. Under investigation.  
11:51 a.m. Witness report of a Kuzmeskus bus backing over a parked vehicle in front of Greenfield Savings Bank. Parties were able to get the bus off of the other vehicle. Report taken.  
12:02 p.m. Report of tailgate-less pickup truck filled with junk in Food City parking lot; caller concerned that items in bed would spill out when vehicle was driven.  
1:28 p.m. Report of

gunfire close to a residence on Whitney Way. Subjects located target-shooting with .22s on Foster Road; questionable whether they were appropriate distance from residence. Sent on way.  
2:37 p.m. Report of breaking and entering into a town-owned building on Eleventh Street. Nothing found missing. Report taken.  
2:52 p.m. Witness report of three subjects entering woods on Montague side of Chestnut Hill; subjects appeared to be intoxicated and had with them a 30 pack of beer. Referred to an officer.  
**Saturday, December 7**  
2:44 a.m. Fire due to live wire on ground on Taylor Hill Road. Montague Center Fire Department and WMECO advised.  
8:06 a.m. House fire on Old Sunderland Road. MCFD on scene; fire contained.  
3:02 p.m. Following an altercation in the police station lobby, [redacted] was arrested and charged with assault (domestic), disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and assault and battery on a police officer.  
4:29 p.m. Report of hunters trespassing on a South Prospect Street property. Referred to Environmental Police.  
6:14 p.m. Domestic disturbance on G Street.  
**Sunday, December 8**  
1:37 p.m. Caller reported being assaulted at Powertown Apartments. Services rendered.  
4:25 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Mormon Hollow Road. Peace restored.  
11:26 p.m. Hypodermic needle and spoon removed from the common area of a Fourth Street apartment building.

### SOLSTICE from page B1

and the Newgrange Passage Tomb in Ireland are oriented towards the solstice light. These incredible structures which represent unfathomable feats of construction in an age of few tools are now thought to be burial sites, the time of the body's darkest hour.  
The sunwheel at UMASS in Amherst is modeled after such ancient stone circles as Stonehenge. It is a solar calendar and observatory whose standing stones line up with the locations on the horizon of the setting and rising of the sun at the times of the solstice and equinox.  
If you want to taste the flavor of the early days of celebrations of light, take in Welcome Yule this

weekend at our own Shea Theater. Here are some other local events:  
12/17: Solstice Storytelling at the Magical Roundhouse, Colrain  
12/22: Solstice Sunwheel at UMass-Amherst  
12/22: Solstice Stories and Songs at the Shutesbury town common  
12/22: Solstice Hike at Northfield Mountain.  
For more information on any of these events, see the Shea theater website and visit [www.HilltownFamilies.org](http://www.HilltownFamilies.org).  
In these days of electricity, of television, of the computer and the heat-providing furnace, we are far from this early reliance on wood fires, oil lamps and candlelight to keep the cold and dark away.

Still we hang onto the dread of cold and darkness, even to playing with the clock to extend the periods of light.  
The winter cold and dark is rigorous, but the banks of snow shield shrubs and plants against the killing frosts. The season provides rest and rejuvenation for the growing season to come. Already the mailman is bringing the bright and glossy catalogs full of the treasures for next year's garden.  
So hang a balsam wreath and decorate a tree. Cut and drape swags of green, light some candles, a fireplace log or the wood stove and sip a warming toast to the season of darkness and the return of the light.



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**FASHION** from page B1

of vibrant sky blue sparkle in a structured skirt.

The second look embraced softer tones, giving us a moody grey and purple palette and a shirt with hand



Ms. Brianna Cracker served as emcee for the evening's event.

painted graphics. This girl has an eye for design! Her pieces were wearable and easily the most accessible of the evening. *Very contemporary!* **Madeline Keating** closed the Young Designers Showcase with two pieces she created with the assistance of her neighbor **Anne Harding**. Opening her collection with a bold, bronze cocktail frock was a smart move. It hit the ever-present metallic holiday

trend and showed Keating's exacting attention to detail. Paired with a black shrug, the look could work for anyone between twelve and twenty-five.

Her other offering, a printed green halter style dress, which she noted needed countless hours of pressing, was fun and flirty. *A complete success!*

**Mary Buckley** returned for her second collection of the evening and you could tell this is where her heart was. Afterward, we spoke and she emphasized her desire to work with color this year. And did she. Each look in this section was a study in a single color, with a variety of shades and tones worked through. She achieved this by dying sheets of fabric softer with that old standby, RIT dye.

From the first purple parachute skirt to the flaming orange cocktail number, its collar detail reminiscent of flames, each piece took the ideas from the previous and elevated them to another level. Texture, dimension and shape were stretched to their limits. Buckley even fashioned accessories like earrings from leftover detergent bottles, details that could only be appreciated up close.

The collection culminated in what was probably my favorite transformation of the evening. Buckley herself, in a fabulous spin on the idea of closing a collection with a wedding

dress, exploded onto the runway in a look that was part bridal, part lingerie, and all super-heroine. Clad in a pair of Ralph Lauren briefs completely covered in white fabric softener sheets that looked softer than feathers and paired with bubble gum pink gogo boots, Buckley sashayed her way into the audience's heart. *Truly visionary! So high fashion!*

**Linda Gilchrist** returned with another singular piece, this time channeling a 1940's housecoat mixed with kimono details. The piece was the perfect bookend to Buckley's explosion of color. Bright and vivid, the construction was flawless and the details were excellent. Gilchrist showed a unique vision that carried through both showings: of a strong, mature woman with a smart, vintage inspired fashion sense. *Nostalgic on all the right levels!*

The evening closed with **Duchess Von Pruitt** and her cavalcade of models. This collection was by far the fan favorite and it was easy to see why. Everyone I spoke to was completely wowed by the Duchess's inventive use of papier-mâché to create armor-like bodices.

Speaking to the designer at the afterparty at the Rendezvous, she told me how different fabrics reacted in different ways to the process. Surprisingly, denim worked best with the glue mixture while cotton tee-shirts were the most difficult to work with.

She went on to reference Frida

Kahlo as an inspiration for the collection. Looking back, this makes complete sense. The gowns themselves showed a blending of rich color and texture and were sprinkled with allusions to Kahlo's painting.

"After a month of working on the pieces," the Duchess told me, "they have become almost like an immersive art installation project."

Each dress had a title, much like a painting, ranging from "Enduring Hope" to "Strength through Pain" and finally culminating with "The All-Consuming Drama of Life." *A true original! Fashion as art!*

The entire evening was a breath of fresh, albeit cold, air. In a world where we are constantly told to buy more expensive clothing in order to be beautiful, and then dispose of it as soon as next season's line appears, these designers turned that notion on its head. Every one of the models was a gorgeous expression of reinvention and

creativity. And the audience loved every minute of the madness.

After the show, the designers, models and audience made their way to the Rendezvous for a dance party and the opportunity to interact with the clothing up close. The party lasted long into the night and it was no surprise to hear that for many, this is their favorite event in the packed calendar of art and culture events



Four of the Duchess von Pruitt's models, (L-R) Drae Malliaros, Marnie Tibbetts, Madeline Rosene and Hayley Brown, model her line on the second catwalk at the Rendezvous.

**WENDELL** from pg B1

happy." Added Bob: "It's quite a ways for us, and we don't usually do two-day affairs. But it turned out to be very lucrative."

Lauren Shea of Leverett had a rack full of greeting cards. There were beautiful landscapes plus an evocative line portraying special dogs she's known and loved. If I hadn't bought several of these, I might have had enough to acquire one of Adele

Smith-Penniman's weavings to enjoy the play of its rich colors on a light-colored wall. Adele had also created string "friendship bracelets" that she was selling.

Joanna McDonough of Stone's Throw Farm is a talented potter whose wares, I learned, went quickly. By the time I got there, her table still had mainly a large, dramatically shaped serving dish with a matching bowl. There were vases, ring dishes,

necklaces of fired clay beads, and a variety of drinking vessels.

In one corner the Friends of the Wendell Meeting House offered mulled cider and a sign-up sheet for new members. Bodywork was being offered nearby by Karen Traub of Shutesbury. Across the hall, musician Kellianna offered T shirts, glass-bead bracelets and quite a number of her CD releases. In front of the stage, Donna Horn's moody yet playful paintings of humanoid characters and her "Wendell Militia" t-shirts reflected her...well, just her!

Amanda Serrell, a jewelry maker, has helped fellow Wendellian, Barbara Caruso, organize the fair for the last "five or six" years. She's motivated by her wishes for the three children she has at Swift River School. "Whenever there are budget cuts, they tend to start with the music and arts departments," she said. "Kids shouldn't do without those things - they need an artistic outlet," she said.

The organization is all by volunteer labor, and "Every dime goes to Swift River School," said Caruso, namely "the proceeds from

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**  
**Mutual Aid; Hunting**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Tuesday, 12/3</b><br>8:30 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Christina's parking lot, Route 2. Not a hazard. Tow contacted.<br>8:31 p.m. Suspicious person at convenience store. Gone upon arrival.<br><b>Wednesday, 12/4</b><br>9:45 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with medical emergency | at Capt. Beers Plain Road.<br>4:25 p.m. Alarm on Northfield Road. All secure.<br><b>Thursday, 12/5</b><br>5 p.m. Report of possible breaking & entering, French King Highway. Under investigation.<br><b>Friday, 12/6</b><br>3:55 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with two-car crash | at intersection of Route 2 and Turners Falls-Gill bridge.<br>8:40 p.m. Suspicious vehicle on Old State Road. Found to be hunters.<br><b>Saturday, 12/7</b><br>1:50 p.m. Loose dog complaint, Forest Street. Owner not home. Same given message to contact PD. |
|---|--|---|

the tables, the raffle, food sale, and the donations that people and businesses make."

Serrell called it a "joint Wendell-New Salem effort" because the business support comes from both towns. Every year for the last five years, the fair has made over \$2,000 and presented it all to the school.

There were many more vendors than I've managed to mention, and considerably more to take in, including a food table on the stage with pulled pork sandwiches, macaroni



Jane Stone browses Adam Zucker's table, hands down the most diversified at the fair, offering garlic, drums, aloe, beads and salsa.

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Historic Deerfield, Deerfield (excluding Dec. 24 & 25) Open Hearth Cooking, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Gift Making in the Visitor Center at Hall Tavern Ballroom, 12-4:30 p.m., \$.

## EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 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 and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

## 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.

## EVERY FRIDAY

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

## ART SHOWS:

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: On display in the Great Hall through December, *Landscapes*



*Twangbusters rocks the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, December 14th. Fronted by Miss Paula and Dr. Z on electric steel. A mix of jukejoint boogie, blues and bop. Benefit for the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.*

and *Nature Photography* by Tom Stratford.

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, *Du Bois In Our Time*, exhibit continues through December 15.

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

GFMS & TFHS Holiday Concert, Turners Falls High School Theater, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, with Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin and Tommy Boynton, 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule, A Norse MidWinter Celebration*, dance songs and stories to drive the dark away, \$, 7:30 p.m.

The Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Music by Faure, Debussy, Ravel*

and *Poulenc*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Shanta Paloma*, indie/soul/rock with special guest *Show of Cards*, folk/rock, 7:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Home Body* and *boom boom*. Band, DJs. Dance. \$, 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Ed Shamo*, local musician and craftsman. Ed presents a variety of Classical Guitar Music spanning from the 15th century to the 21st century. Refreshments, no reservations required, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Comedy Show - The Ha-Ha's and Girls Night Out*, \$, 8 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Tim Eriksen & the Trio de Pumpkintown*, Star in the East: A Concert of Christmas Music, \$, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Friends with Benefits* (rock/indie) 9:30 p.m.

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

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule, A Norse MidWinter Celebration*, \$, 2 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *90 Mile Portage*, Americana, 2:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Voo Annual Christmas Spectacular* (community songfest!) 6 p.m.

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: 4th Anniversary Party! Music from *Rhythm Inc.*, Food from: 2nd Street Baking. Drink and food tickets \$6 and no cover charge, 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon - Up Close & Personal*, 8 p.m.

The Root Social Justice Center, Brattleboro: Reel Queer Movie Series presents *Out Here: Queer Farmer Film Project*, with director *Jonah Mossberg* and *My Gay Banjo* live acoustic set, 5 to 8 p.m.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: BINGO! 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Montague Elementary School Holiday Concert, Sheffield School Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

*It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls!* Holiday Photos & Glass Blowing Demo at River Station, 151 Third Street, 5:30-8:30pm. Craft Fair at St. Kazimierz, 197 Avenue A, 6 pm. Caroling begins at The Rendezvous, 78 Third Street. Dance Performance at The Brick House, 24 Third Street, 6:30 p.m. Tree Lighting and Visit from Santa at Spinner Park, Avenue A + Fourth Street, 7 p.m. Free screening of "It's A Wonder-

ful Life" at The Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic Night* hosted by Pamela Means, 7 p.m.

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

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

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6:00 pm

Caroling begins at The Rendezvous, 78 3rd St

6:30-7 pm

Dance performance at The Brick House, 24 3rd St

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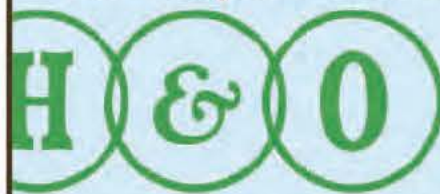
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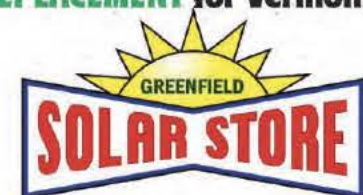
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