



Mince Pie:  
Brit  
Tradition

Page 6



Charles  
Neville Plays  
Wendell

A&E - Page 11

Happy  
New  
Year!

See You in  
January!

LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

MONTAGUE CENTER

MONTAGUE CITY

TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 13

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 20, 2012

## IN MEMORIAM: Wendell Artist Christine Tarantino

By CORWIN ERICSON

**WENDELL** – Christine Tarantino was an artist from Wendell who passed away on Dec. 7, 2012. One Sunday evening at the Wendell Free Library, a month prior to her passing, her partner, Douglas Dawson, presented some short films he'd made about her and fellow artist Adrian Montagano's artwork. Douglas told us that evening that Christine was in hospice. His films were celebrations of her genius and sly generosity. A few weeks later, I was a guest lecturer at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester and spoke about Christine to the students there. This is an excerpt from that talk.

I knew Christine better from video than in person, but I'd exchanged more mail with her than with anyone else in recent years. Christine was a mail artist. A few years ago my cat took an interest in a padded envelope Christine had mailed me. He chewed and clawed a corner of it and then took a nap on it. So I marked his markings with a pen and mailed it back to Christine. And then she mailed it back to me with her own cat's markings on it and a note: "Kitten-chewed, back to you."

Douglas Dawson's 2008 film of Christine's performance "Wood U Rock Me @ 3" is around 20 minutes long and



Christine Tarantino

was shot in Christine and Doug's snowy backyard. Its only sound was a crackling bonfire and boots crunching the snow. Doug explained to us that Christine had asked people from all over the world to mail her pieces of wood. She would assemble it all, and on a certain day at 3 p.m., she would burn it. Then she would mail ashes from the fire to the correspondents, along with the video we were watching. Douglas's film consisted of her doing just that. She carefully arranged the pieces into a small bonfire, using the envelopes and other materials that came with them as the tinder. Many of the pieces of wood mailed to her were works of art. Some of them were boards with addresses and postage affixed right to

see **TARANTINO** pg 6



## It Was a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls

*Morris dancers outside the Rendezvous, above; brass band, below. For more photos from the great night of festivities last Thursday, see page 12.*



## NPS Grant Application Wins Vote

By PETER KOBEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – While the long-delayed vote on a historic battlefield grant application was a foregone conclusion, the selectboard meeting Monday, Dec. 10, did provide some fireworks. The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant, which seeks \$40,000 from the National Park Service, passed 2-1. Mark Fairbrother, who has consistently opposed the grant application, voted against it.

Town planner Walter Ramsey, who strongly supported the application, would administer the grant. The early-phase ABPP grant would fund research into a battle between colonial militias and Native Americans that took place primarily on the Gill side of the Connecticut River in May 1676, during Metacom's Rebellion or King Philip's War.

"Despite what you may have heard, I do not hate Native Americans. I have great respect for Native Americans."  
-Mark Fairbrother

The grant would support an initial survey of archeological artifacts and the documentation of oral histories. The area to be explored is large, some 11,300 acres, in Montague, Gill, Greenfield and Deerfield. But the actual site of the battlefield is approximately 400 acres. The grant, which would be awarded this summer, runs for 18 months, and its primary purpose is to determine how much of the core battle site is threatened by development.

Paul Robinson, former state

see **GRANT** page 4



Small local people (L-R) Enzo and Atticus Belmonte give a preview of their seasonal handicrafts.

## Making, Taking, and Having Fun During the Holidays

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – Over a dozen volunteers, working since late August, created yet another successful Make and Take Fair at the Montague Center Grange on Sunday, Dec. 16. The event began with just a small group in 2006. It now attracts new

craft leaders each year, along with a core of "old-timers," and dozens of families count on it as an annual low-key holiday event that gives children a chance to make inexpensive handmade gifts for the holidays.

At craft stations set up around the room, kids made gnomes, glass marble magnets, beeswax candles,

felt trees, beaded snowflakes, spin art, terrariums (a first this year), bird house ornaments and shrinky-dink figures.

Karen Skofield, an Amherst parent said, "This is a wonderful way for the children to be invested in the holiday by making small gifts. All the way up here, Felix and Walker talked about what they

might make and what were their grandparents' favorite colors. It is really sweet and a great way to build and sustain community."

Atticus Belmonte, a seven year old veteran of the Make and Take Fair, said, "I made presents for my grandparents. I like making the gnomes best. I did four different activities." He gave his brother Enzo a hug. Enzo smiled but didn't have a lot to say.

Participants bought \$1 tickets and the cost of each activity varied. Cindy Terail from Montague Center, who helped organize the fair, said that children can make a lot of gifts for \$20, and people who have big plans for the day can buy tickets in bulk and get a discount.

This year the proceeds from the fair will go to the Montague Grange and to the Franklin County Home Care Corporation. "Franklin County Home Care gave us \$100 for help with food and supplies," said Terail. She added, "We would like to partner with a nonprofit every year. From the organization we would have a cadre of volunteers, and the organization would benefit from the funds raised."

The portion of the proceeds going to the Grange will help with ongoing renovation of the historic building, said Mik Muller, also a

longtime volunteer for the annual fair. Terail also said that she would like to encourage new craft leaders to come forward, since some of the longtime volunteers find that as their children get older, other holiday activities call them away. People who want to get involved can visit Friends of the Montague Grange on Facebook or the website [www.montaguegrange.org](http://www.montaguegrange.org).

Laurie Davidson rushed around replenishing the food supplies. She said the fair could not exist without volunteers who shopped for food, prepped the craft tables in advance and gave hours of their time to planning. Conor Power served bowls full of chili, corn bread, coffee and cider, smiling all the while. He said, "I got involved in this back when it started. It's just one of those things you want to do, and I want to help with the Grange restoration in any way I can. Now that it's no longer a grange, it's a community space for all of Montague."

It was most certainly a community gathering this Sunday. People reconnected with friends and neighbors, inquired about dogs and relatives, announced pregnancies, hugged children, and tried very hard to not think of Newtown, Connecticut, at least for a few hours.

## PETS OF THE WEEK

### Mini Mouse



### Little Girl

"On the night before Christmas/ All over the house/ Not a creature was stirring/ Not even a mouse." And if you took me home, I would sleep quietly all night long, too. My name is Little Girl, and I'm a year and five months old. Many people do not know that mice make good pets, but we do. We are small and neat and do not need walks, like those dogs. I am well cared for at Dakin, but I do say that the cats make me nervous. If you want to come visit me, I am in Leverett. Maybe I could be a Christmas present for somebody.

For info, contact Dakin at (413) 548-9898 or [info@dvps.org](mailto:info@dvps.org).

## A Message from the Fire Department

### Holiday Season Fire Safety Tips

By SHIRA HILLEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – A big part of Capt. Michael Morin's job at the Turners Falls Fire Dept. involves educating the public about fires. Morin wanted to remind people of some commonly overlooked cold weather fire hazards so that everyone can enjoy their holidays.

Holidays include a lot of cooking, which is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. More home fires start in the kitchen than in any other room in the house. Remember to keep young children away from the cooking stoves. Also remember to keep sleeves rolled up while cooking.

While candles are beautiful during this dark time of year, Morin warns people to be careful with them. According to the National Fire Protection Assn., during the month of December, more candle fires start than during the other 11 months. Keep candles away from Christmas trees and other holiday decorations.

Morin mentioned that in this dry winter weather, Christmas trees get very dry and brittle. Remember to

water the tree.

Morin also discussed various kinds of winter heating. Wood stoves, pellet stoves, space heaters, kerosene stoves and furnaces all require proper maintenance. Chimneys and furnaces should be cleaned once a year. Keep furnace, stove, and fire place vents clear.

Space heaters are very hot, and the area around them should be kept clear. Kerosene stoves give off a lot of carbon monoxide, and should never be used indoors. They are intended for outdoor use in the shed or garage for heating when it's cold.

Detectors give people the early warning crucial to surviving a fire. Of course, while maintaining operating smoke detectors on every floor is mandatory, Morin reminds everyone of the necessary function of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors as well, especially in the winter.

A byproduct of burning fuels such as wood, coal, charcoal, natural gas, gasoline, propane, oil and methane, CO is an invisible colorless, odorless poisonous gas. CO is even more of an issue in the cold winter months because houses are closed shut. Breathing CO can kill



DAVID KOTKER PHOTO

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust Executive Director Leigh Youngblood (L.) and President Howard Mathison present Faith Rockwood, from the Franklin Survival Center Board of Directors, with a holiday delivery of bread. Mount Grace and Sirum Equipment of Montague are sponsoring a holiday bread drive with the 2nd Street Baking Company on 4th Street in Turners Falls. For each loaf of bread purchased at 2nd Street and donated to the Survival Center, Mount Grace and Sirum Equipment will donate an additional loaf until \$1,000 of bread has been donated.

within a few minutes. CO quickly displaces the oxygen in the blood stream. Signs of carbon monoxide poisoning might be confused with the flu. Before a person passes out, he might feel light-headed, short of

breath, headachy, dizzy or sleepy.

Because smoke rises, smoke detectors should be mounted high up on the ceiling. But CO mixes equally with the air, so a CO detec-

see FIRE page 3

**RECYCLE**

**BOTTLES & CANS!**

Week of December 24th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

**NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA**

**BOOKS**

now located at  
20 State Street,  
Bucklandside  
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850  
[ndole@crocker.com](mailto:ndole@crocker.com) closed Mondays

**LIVE IN**

EST. 1754

**MONTAGUE?**

[www.MontagueMA.net](http://www.MontagueMA.net)  
local gossip, news & business listings

**PLEASE SHOP LOCALLY.**

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

**The Montague Reporter**

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

PHONE (413) 863-8666  
[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)  
Post: Send address changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
58 4th Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Advertising and copy deadline is  
Monday at NOON.

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

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



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

I received an email that was labeled *Cancer Update from Johns Hopkins*. I found it so interesting that I was planning to share the information.

The email begins with this statement: "After years of telling people chemotherapy is the only way to try to eliminate cancer, Johns Hopkins is finally starting to tell you there is an alternative way."

Intriguing. But first I made a mandatory visit to Snopes.com, the internet's premier debunker. Sure enough, the email was a phony. It was not from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

This so-called update has been circulating for five years and it hasn't helped anyone by misleading them.

The effects of this email have become such a problem that Johns Hopkins, the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society have posted warnings on their websites about the misinformation.

The experts at Johns Hopkins offer these answers (I've summarized them) to every point in this baloney that could land in your email box:

**Everyone has cancer cells**

Among the trillions of cells in the human body, everyone has some abnormal or atypical cells that are like cancer cells. Most never become cancerous. Contrary to what the email contends, not everyone has cancers-in-waiting.

**A strong immune system destroys cancer**

When it comes to cancer and the immune system, it is not a matter of strong or weak as the fictional report contends, but rather an issue of recognition. The immune system simply does not recognize cancer. The cancer cell has learned to dis-

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

### Beware of Medical "Information" Scams

guise itself to the immune system as a normal, healthy cell.

By deciphering the methods cancer cells use to make themselves invisible to the immune system, researchers have developed cancer vaccines that have successfully triggered immune reactions against prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer, leukemia, and multiple myeloma.

**Cancer is caused by nutritional deficiencies, and supplements will correct them**

The experts recommend a balanced diet to reduce cancer risk. Taking doses of supplements beyond what the body needs provides no added benefit.

**Chemotherapy and radiation therapy harms normal cells. Surgery causes cancer to spread.**

Chemotherapy and radiation therapy kill cancer cells with remarkable selectivity. There are some temporary and reversible side effects common to cancer therapies, including hair loss and low blood counts. Surgery is the first line of treatment for many types of cancer. It does not

cause cancer to spread.

**Cancers feed on certain foods**

The premise is that if a person refrains from eating certain foods, the cancer will die. According to the experts, a poor diet and obesity associated with it is a risk factor for the development of cancer. However, there is no evidence that certain foods alter the environment of an existing cancer at the cellular level and cause it to either die or grow.

**Cancer is a disease of mind, body and spirit**

There is no evidence state of mind causes cancer.

**Oxygen kills cancer cells**

There is no evidence that breathing deeply or receiving oxygen therapy prevents cancer.

The entire rebuttal on the Johns Hopkins website can be found at: [www.tinyurl.com/2b4wy5j](http://www.tinyurl.com/2b4wy5j)

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

### Great Falls Middle School

#### Students of the Week

#### Grade 6

Jacob LaBelle  
Shawn Cullen

#### Grade 7

Lynn Arsenault

#### Grade 8

Robert Rinaldi

## WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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



**(413) 773-3622**

### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – December 24th to 28th

#### GILL-MONTAGUE

Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 A.M. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

#### Monday 12/24

10:10 AM Aerobics  
10:45 am Chair Exercise  
1:00 PM No Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday: 12/25

Senior Center Closed

#### Wednesday: 12/26

10:00 AM Aerobics  
10:30 AM Monthly Health

#### Screening

12:00 PM Lunch  
12:45 PM Bingo  
**Thursday: 12/27**  
9:00 Tai Chi  
12:00 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM Pitch  
**Friday: 12/28**  
10:00 AM Aerobics  
10:45 AM Chair Exercise  
1:00 PM Writing Group

#### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pres-

sure clinic.

#### Monday, 12/24

9 a.m. Fitness Class  
**Tuesday, 12/25**  
Senior Center Closed  
**Wednesday, 12/26**  
9 a.m. Dance  
10:15 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
**Thursday, 12/27**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Posture Perfect  
**Friday, 12/28**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling

#### LEVERETT Senior Activities

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 \$4 (first class free).  
• Senior Lunch – Fridays at 12. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

**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.

**Brian R. San Soucie**  
**Locksmith - CRL**

Serving the Area for over 25 years Certified • Bonded • Insured

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

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

28 Montague Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
**Beeper 290-1162**  
**863-2471**  
**Fax 863-8022**

**Nina's** Uniquities, Frivolities & Unnecessariums

**Nook**

wed. - thurs.: 4 - 6  
fri - sat.: 1 - 6  
sun.: 1 - 4  
Holiday hours 'til xmas

art . craft . design

125a Avenue A,  
Turners Falls  
413.834.8800  
[www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com)

**Great Rates, Fully Insured!**

**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**  
A Great Financial Partner

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

MEMBER FDIC  
MEMBER SIF



## Local Briefs

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

The Montague Elks, Lodge #2521, continued its **Christmas tradition** of donating complete Christmas dinners to the Franklin Area Survival Center in Turners Falls. This year the lodge provided a box of food for 60 families. The dinners included frozen turkey, stuffing, rice pilaf, cookies, cranberry sauce, fresh fruit and produce and a handmade Christmas card from Cub Scout Troop #17.

**Mills not Malls!** Come celebrate Gifts of Art holiday festivities at the Sawmill River Arts Gallery, at the Bookmill, on Saturday, Dec. 22, from noon to 6 p.m. Soak up the gallery's warm cheer and enjoy a cup of hot cider and a cookie while

viewing beautiful paintings and prints. Keep family and friends warm with shawls, hats and scarves. Delight your family and friends with fantastic jewelry, dragonfly pottery, and more, all locally made. Visit the gallery at the Montague Mill, 440 Greenfield Rd. or call (413) 367-2885 for more information.

The last Saturday **GSB bingo** of 2012 is Dec. 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Turners Falls branch. The guest caller is none other than Jay Fianza of WHAI radio. GSB will provide cards, prizes and light refreshments; all you need to bring is yourself. Seating will be on a first-call, first-reserve basis. Place your reservation with Christina or Kerri at (413) 863-4316.

The **Mutton and Mead**

**Medieval Festival** is in search of actors, singers, musicians and dancers, both novice and professional, to help bring the streets of the village alive. The shire cast is at the heart of our festival's experience. Auditions will be scheduled Jan. 12-13 at the Montague Grange Hall, 36 Main Street, in Montague Center.

If you're not interested in performing but want to get involved, then you might want to join a support crew. For more information or to schedule an audition, visit [www.MuttonAndMead.com](http://www.MuttonAndMead.com). Drop-in times will be posted on the audition page.

Send local briefs to [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

### MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

## Interior Storm Window Workshop Coming to Turners

The Montague Energy Committee is holding a hands-on interior storm window making workshop on Jan. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School. All materials will be provided, and participants will be guided through the process of making a customized interior storm window. People will be able to bring home a complete window at the end of the evening. No carpentry skills beyond the ability to wield a screwdriver are necessary. In order to allow time for customized kits to be prepared for participant windows before the workshop, advance registration is required by Jan. 8. A \$35 fee covers the cost of the supplies.

Laura Biddulph, from the Center for Eco Technology, will run the workshop. According to Biddulph, "Many people think they need new windows. Replacement windows are expensive and often not the best solution to the cold drafty chill we feel at our windows. The good news is that there are cost-effective, attractive alternatives to replacement

windows that will add the comfort and savings the average customer is seeking without spending hundreds of dollars per window."

Before registering for the workshop, participants must watch an introductory video, which can be seen online at: [www.northampton.org/alternative-window-replacement-introduction-course](http://www.northampton.org/alternative-window-replacement-introduction-course). It will also be available on MCTV soon. The video, titled "Alternatives to Replacing Your Windows Part 1," gives an introduction to ways people can improve their comfort by using window treatments, air sealing, and other approaches such as interior storm windows to reduce cold air around drafty windows. Viewers will learn which window styles are candidates for interior storm windows and a very exact measurement procedure for submitting custom measurements.

The workshop is sponsored by the Montague Energy Committee and presented by the Center for Eco Technology as part of its Go Green Project.

To preregister, contact the Center for Eco Technology. Call (413) 586-7350, Laura Biddulph (ext. 229), or Kathelyn Tsukada (ext. 290), or email: [laura.biddulph@cetonline.org](mailto:laura.biddulph@cetonline.org) or [kathelyn.tsukada@cetonline.org](mailto:kathelyn.tsukada@cetonline.org).

## LOOKING BACK

Here's the way it was 10 years ago this week: News from the *Montague Reporter's* archive.

### Montague Grange Celebrates Winter

The Juggler Meadow Morris Team showed up, sporting a dramatic assemblage of elk horns on the dancers' shoulders. We turned off the lights, and they silently walked in. To a haunting accordion melody, amidst the children's candles, the Morris dancers floated about the hall, enormous antlers hovering about their heads and shoulders, "tokking" (bumping horns) or each other as they moved through and by each other.

### Bioreserve Is State's Largest

Many area residents and state officials who assisted in efforts that led to the creation of the North Quabbin Bioserve joined in a dedication of the land recently. The state's second and largest bioserve includes almost 55,000 acres in the North Quabbin regions that will be protected permanently, but will still be actively used for recreation, agriculture and forestry.

### Half Way to Our Goal

A very big thank you to our 99 subscribers! With today's mail, we are one shy of the halfway mark to our immediate goal of 200 subscribers.

### FIRE from page 2

tor can be plugged in anywhere in the room. CO detectors can give an early warning of CO buildup in the home. If the detector goes off, you should air out the room, open the windows and leave the house. Call emergency personnel to get the house checked to find the source of what's burning.

To check your house for fire hazards, be sure smoke and CO detectors are in working order, brush up on proper fire response and create a safety exit plan, call the Turners Falls fire department at (413) 863-9023.

Stay safe while enjoying the warmth, beautiful lights and good food of the holidays!

## Poets Wanted!

to submit original poems. Please email: [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org) for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. No prior experience necessary, as a poet.



By **SUSAN CONGER**

As winter shortens our days and deep freezes our nights, perhaps you're uncomfortably reminded how much cold air seeps in around your closed windows. Maybe you're dreaming of replacement windows, or wondering if you'll ever be able to budget for them. Take heart! There's an effective, and much less expensive, approach to stopping those chilly drafts.



Laura Biddulph of CET displays a miniature version of an interior storm window.

## Spring Ahead @ GCC

Classes begin January 25

- Expanded online offerings
- Evening courses
- Friday-only classes
- GCC at Smith College on Tuesday and Thursday evenings



Credit Course Information: [gcc.mass.edu/credit](http://gcc.mass.edu/credit)  
Greenfield Community College

IN GOOD COMPANY  
SKILLED, INTENTIONAL  
COMPANIONSHIP FOR  
ELDERS AND OTHERS



SITA LANG 413-834-7569  
HOSPICE TRAINED  
CPR CERTIFIED

**GREEN RIVER ZEN CENTER**

Zen Meditation Practice  
Beginners Welcome

Information and schedule:  
[www.greenriverzen.org](http://www.greenriverzen.org)  
413-256-1594  
158 Main Street, 2nd Fl., Studio B  
Greenfield, MA 01301

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE CALL 863-8666

**THE TEXTILE CO. INC.**  
Retail Fabric Store  
• Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material  
• Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions  
CASH & CHECKS ONLY  
Mon.-Sat. 9-5, Fri. til 8  
Power Square  
Greenfield  
(413) 773-7516

**Montague BOOKMILL**  
Open Daily 10 - 6  
413-367-9206  
[www.montaguebookmill.com](http://www.montaguebookmill.com)

### The Mobile Mechanic of Montague



David Ginsburg  
ASE and Toyota Certified  
Automotive Technician

We come to you!  
413.522.4100

Serving the Greenfield, Amherst and Northfield areas

**Good Dirt Pottery Studio**  
38 Main Street, Montague  
413-367-0155  
[www.gooddirtpottery.com](http://www.gooddirtpottery.com)

Recycle Locally

**WILL PICK UP**

Specializing in Monitors, Modems,  
Microwaves, Cell Phones, Computers,  
and all other Electronics

Lockwood Solutions, Inc., Leverett  
Call - George Lockwood  
[lockwood.george@gmail.com](mailto:lockwood.george@gmail.com)  
413-548-9700

**ED L**

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

**374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield**

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets  
Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make  
Lamps Lite!

Open 7 Days a Week

**GOOD USED USABLES**

**GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE**  
Locally Owned Since 1918  
269 High Street - Greenfield  
(413) 773-9639  
**Local Farmer-Owned**  
Products for the home,  
farm, pets, yard & garden  
If you  
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it  
We GOT it!  
[www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com](http://www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com)

**MAIN STREET BAR & GRILL**  
FOOD DRINKS  
WIFI KENO  
Wii & More!  
**OPEN 7 DAYS 11am - 1am**  
Sun. → APA POOL LEAGUE  
Mon. → BCA POOL LEAGUE  
Tues. → BCA SINGLES &  
WEEKLY TOURNAMENT  
Wed. → PITCH LEAGUE  
Thurs. → FC CASH LEAGUE  
Free Pool, 5pm - Close  
Tues & Wed!  
To Join Pool Leagues  
Call 774-6388  
94 Main St, Greenfield

# The Montague Reporter

**Editor**  
Peter Kibel  
Shira Hillel - Assistant Editor

**Layout & Design**  
Claudia Wells - Art Director

**Distribution Manager**  
Don Clegg

**Editorial Assistants**  
Hugh Corr  
Mike Jackson  
Gloria Kegeles

**Advertising Sales Representative**  
Lenny Zarcone

**Business Manager**  
Mike Jackson

**Technical Administrator**  
Michael Muller

**Founded by**  
Harry Brandt  
August, 2002

**David Detmold**  
August, 2002

**"The Voice of the Villages"**

To the many friends of the *Montague Reporter*:

With regret, the Board of the *Montague Reporter* announces the resignation of our new editor due to unforeseen personal circumstances. Peter has served the paper briefly but well. So we come again to a time of transition in the life of our beloved community publication. More than ever we rely upon the support of our readership.

In addition to a two-week hiatus related to the calendar of the holidays, the Board has chosen to take an additional two weeks' break in order to establish the team which will bring the paper forward. Publication will resume with the Jan. 24 edition.

Over the first ten years of its life the *Montague Reporter* has faced many challenges: a perpetual financial roller coaster, changes in staff and several relocations. This is all in the nature of a local, grassroots publication. We have always moved forward, and with your ongoing belief in us and your financial support we will continue to do so. The *Montague Reporter* will continue because of the very special kind of community we serve.

A hopeful and happy new year to you all!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Turning our Tears into Action

We can't go back to business as usual with gun violence in America.

By MARC MORIAL

A movie theater in Aurora, Colo. A Sikh Temple in Wisconsin. A shopping mall in Oregon. A political event outside a supermarket in Tucson, Ariz. The streets of big cities like Chicago. And now an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. When will the madness stop?

When will we take “meaningful action” to end gun violence in America? The latest high-profile mass shootings have taken the lives of too many innocent victims. And when those victims are small school children and their teachers, the weight of grief is almost too much to bear.

“These neighborhoods are our neighborhoods and these children are our children,” President Barack Obama aptly put it. “We’re going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this.”

A weight of responsibility also falls on our shoulders. Immediately after one of these mass killings, someone always says it’s too soon to talk about sensible gun control measures. We must take time to grieve first. But after we’re done flying flags at half-staff and holding tearful memorial services, we invariably go back to business as usual. I say, not this time.

As a father, a former mayor, and a life-long advocate of safe and quality education for every child, I too am in mourning. But at the same time, I call on our leaders in

Washington and in states across this nation, to take immediate action to protect our children and prevent the kind of senseless carnage we saw last week.

Even before this latest tragedy, for years, the National Urban League, which I lead, was a long-standing proponent of sensible gun control. In fact, on the day after the recent presidential election, I sent a letter to President Obama and the leaders in the House of Representatives in which I said: “The scourge of gun violence cries out for a comprehensive approach to community safety and crime reduction. This requires stronger enforcement of existing gun laws and re-enactment of the assault weapons ban.”

We’ve asked Obama and Congress to make this a top priority for the next four years.

Gun violence has often been associated with poor, urban neighborhoods, and it is true that urban violence is much too prevalent. But most of these mass shootings have occurred in quiet, suburban towns where crime is typically low and gun ownership is high. Gun violence can happen anywhere and to anyone. The one common denominator is easy access to guns.

In a nation of 312 million, there are 270 million privately held firearms. It’s no coincidence that America has the highest gun-related murder rate of any developed country. And it’s not just criminal gun violence. There are a substantial number of gun-related suicides and accidental deaths.



**Deer Readers,**  
**Help us Reach our Goal ...**  
**1,000 Subscribers by 2013!**  
**With Your Help, We Can Do It.**  
Subscriptions to the *Montague Reporter* make great holiday gifts for friends and relatives near and far. Take advantage of holiday rates.  
**Buy a Gift Subscription for \$5 off the regular price, now through January 1, 2013**

### Sign Me Up!

☐ \$20 for half year subscription

☐ \$25 out-of-area subscribers

## The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Montague Grange Make and Take Craft Fair a Success

The Montague Grange Annual Make and Take craft fair, held by the Friends of the Montague Grange on Sunday, was a huge success. Franklin County Home Care Corporation co-sponsored the fair and will receive a share of the proceeds along with the Friends of the Grange for much-needed building repairs.

The organizers wish to thank all of the volunteers, donors and families who made the event lively and fun. We were especially grateful for the new volunteers and hope to see them again next year. Put Sunday, Dec.15, 2013 on your calendar now! Find the Montague Grange Make and Take Craft Fair on Facebook.

– Cindy Tarail  
Friends of the Montague Grange

### Helping Neighbors Find Permanent Housing

At this special time of year, I write once again on behalf of some of our most vulnerable neighbors – the homeless, and those hoping to find permanent housing. As you may recall, the Interfaith Council of Franklin County started an approach over a year ago that gives the maximum result for the money we allocate. With the past money donated, we have assisted over 160 households, either by helping with start-up costs for an apartment or by assisting those facing eviction because of rental arrears.

The committee that oversees the process is made up of Interfaith Council members, social service providers and those who work directly with the homeless.

By helping those who are ready for permanent housing, we also free up room in transitional housing and at the emergency shelter for those who are on a waiting list.

In all these ways, the money contributed made a meaningful, lasting impact in the lives of our neighbors. I know that resources are limited, and all sorts of charitable requests are made at this time of year. But I have always believed that a good part of our focus should be local, and that we should start at the bottom, with those who have the most basic needs. Not having a home, particularly during the winter, is about as local and as basic as it gets.

We ask that, during this annual time of generous giving, you consider making a charitable donation to benefit the Interfaith Council Housing Assistance Fund. Offerings may be sent directly to the Interfaith Council Housing Assistance Fund at the Greenfield Savings Bank, P.O. Box 1537, Greenfield, MA 01302 (please do not send cash).

Thank you for your kind consideration. We wish you blessings of joy and peace.

– For the committee,  
Rev. Stanley J. Aksamit

Just last week, a 3-year-old Oklahoma boy found a gun in a relative’s home, shot himself in the head, and died. Clearly, fewer guns in America and none in the wrong hands must be part of the solution. We are pleased that Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has pledged to introduce a gun control bill on the first day of the next Congress that would limit the sale, transfer, and possession of assault weapons, along with high-capacity magazines. She expects Obama to back this law.

We hope so. It’s time to turn our tears into action.

Marc Morial is the president and CEO of the National Urban League and the former mayor of New Orleans. [www.nul.org](http://www.nul.org).

This first appeared in OtherWords (OtherWords.org)

**WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!**  
**Montague Reporter**  
**58 4th Street, Turners, 01376**  
**editor@montagureporter.org**

### U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 12/19/12

Wounded:	Deaths:
17,674	2,171

**GRANT** from page 1

archaeologist of Rhode Island, wrote the grant proposal. He described the grant in terms of conciliation. “It’s called a consensus-building grant, for good reason,” he said. “You knock on a lot of doors.”

“Several years down the road,” he continued, “you can’t do the real archaeological research without the property owners’ consent.”

But Fairbrother was not in a conciliatory mood and appeared angry during the discussion before the vote. He quickly turned the conversation to the impact of Native American archaeological sites on the “rebuild” of the Turners Falls Municipal Airport. “When the project started, we had \$5 million for a complete rebuild of the airport, with no cost to the town,” he said. “As we sit here in 2012, the project is still far from complete.”

Fairbrother was referring to a controversy, dating back to 2008, surrounding the discovery of Native American artifacts at the airport, which delayed or altered its planned reconstruction and refurbishing, under the National Historic Preservation Act. “Where we are today,” Fairbrother said, “is because of certain tribal leaders pressing their points of questionable veracity, playing the system, and leaving us in a very bad position. We lost funding for infrastructure like hangars.”

Doug Harris, a preservationist with the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historical Preservation Office, responded, “Any federal project, using federal funds or on federal land, is a federal undertaking. Once a project is declared a federal undertaking it accepts certain guidelines. One is to be guided by the National

Historic Preservation Act.

“At its heart is the American question: What does the present owe the past? Indians didn’t write the act. That question gets asked on any federal project,” he said.

While Fairbrother’s decision on Monday’s vote was shaped by the

**“At its heart is the American question: What does the present owe the past?”**

**-Doug Harris**

airport brouhaha, he asserted, “Despite what you may have heard, I do not hate Native Americans. All right, I don’t. I have great respect for Native Americans. There are, however, three or four specific tribal leaders who are the ones promulgating all of this. I’m not too happy with them.”

Selectboard member Pat Allen sought to move the discussion back to the grant application. “I want to move on,” she said. “This is a totally different project. This is something very significant, and there are wonderful possibilities that could come out of it. We all know that things happened in the past at the airport. But I want to move on.”

Fairbrother seemed to move on as well, at least for a moment. Before voting, he addressed Harris directly: “Doug, you’re absolutely right. The Native Americans were absolutely right to be there and consult [in the airport discussions]. And you’re a very gifted speaker.”

Then the board voted on the proposal, which passed despite Fairbrother’s nay.

Thanks for all your contributions in 2012. We couldn't have done it without you!

- The Board of the Montague Reporter

- About Face Computers  
Mr & Mrs Allan Adie  
Barbara Alfange  
Mark & Pat Allen  
Steven Alves  
Richard Andersen  
Alice & Ted Armen  
Jen Audley  
Jerome Barilla  
Donald Bartlett  
Carlin Barton  
Michael Bathory & Maryanne Gallagher  
Jackie Beaubien  
Charles & Theodora Bennett  
Edward Bergiel  
Rod Bergiel  
Sarah Bliss  
Wesley Blixt  
Howie Blodgett & Jill  
Blomberg  
Paul & Sheree Bloomberg  
Fenna Lee Bonsignore  
Janet Bowers  
Meg Bowman  
Jacquelyn Boyden  
Ingrid Bredenburg  
Peg Bridges  
Max Brody & Joanna Frankel  
Bill Brown & Pat Ryan  
Leslie Brown  
Barbara & Ray Brule  
David Brule  
Shirley Brule  
Peg Burns  
Susan Campbell  
Mary Cavanaugh  
Center for Healing Arts  
Michelle Chaikin  
Jenny Chapin  
Charles Choleva  
Citizens Awareness Network  
Carolyn Clark  
Sterling & Nancy Clark  
Rose Ciborowski  
Karen Cole  
Shay Cooper  
Joan Coughlin  
Susan Conger  
Patricia Crosby  
Margo Culley & Kathy Swaim  
Frederica Cushman  
Tanya Cushman

Kenneth Danford  
Barbara D'Arthenay  
Beverly Demars  
Carole DeSanti  
John & Elizabeth Detmold  
William Devino  
Raymond DiDonato  
Kelly Diemand  
Diemand Farm Store  
Jay DiPucchio  
Dorthee  
Betsy Douglas  
George Drake  
Bob Ellis  
Joe Ellis  
Brian & Nancy Emond  
Lisa Enzer  
Laura Evans  
Christine Ewell  
Laurel & Bill Facey  
Ann Ferguson  
Edith Field  
Pat Fiero  
Kip & Judi Fonsh  
Leslie Ford  
Jean Forward  
Georgana & John Foster  
Friends of the Wendell Free Library  
Peter Gallant & Pam Richardson  
Mary Jane & Ray Garbiel  
Anne Gates  
Becky George  
Janet Gerry  
Carol Girard-Barton  
Richard & Joan Godsey  
Good Dirt Pottery  
Helen Gorzocoski  
Eleanor Graves  
Duane & Anna Greene  
Sandy Guilbault  
Helen Haddad  
Patricia Haigis  
Farshid Hajir  
Judith Hall  
Ev & Janice Hatch  
Gary Hawkins  
Rosie Heidkamp  
Frances Hemond  
Laura Herbert  
Jim & Laura Higgins  
Jakob Family

Dorothy Janke  
Norma Johnson  
Geri Johnson & Associates  
Realtors  
Stanley & Geraldine Johnson  
Brian Jones  
Ken & Laurel Kahn  
Sam Karlin  
Trevor & Robin Kearns  
Dan & Nina Keller  
Robert Kelley  
Sharon Kennaugh  
Rebecca King  
Joseph Klepadlo  
Klondike Sound  
James Kosakow  
Sue Kramer  
Edwina Kreps  
Bertha LaClaire  
Gail Lagoy  
Gilmond Lamore  
Joe Landry  
Don & Rita LaPierre  
Lapine Multimedia  
Phyllis Lawrence  
Stevie Leet  
Ben Letcher & Emily Monosson  
Robbie Leppzer  
Paul & Marcelle Lipke  
Leslie Lomasson & Peter Wulkan  
Kathy Lorenz  
Annabelle Lucas  
Jim & Jill Lyons  
Emily Maiella  
Don Mailloux  
Helen Makarewicz  
Susan Mareneck  
Paul & Eileen Mariani  
Eve Marko  
Veda Mason-Hillman  
Mary Kay Mattiace  
Gerald McFarland  
Kat McGraw  
Jeffrey McQueen  
Mary Melonis  
Montague Elks Lodge #2521  
Montague Webworks  
Cindy Mosca  
Jono Neiger  
Chris Nelson  
Dick & Donna Nockelby

Charles O'Dowd  
Jean O'Hara  
Catherine Olson  
Nancy Paglia  
Jill Palmer  
Doris Paulin  
Helen Pearson  
Jim Perkins & Paula Green  
Chris Perry  
Grayce Perry  
Brad Peters  
Peters/Ross Family  
Lydia Peterson & David Powicki  
Michael Phillips  
Sally Pick  
Suzy Polucci  
Joanne Potee  
Roberta Potter  
Tom Powers  
John & Mary Ellen Preston  
Christopher & Alys Queen  
Kathleen Raczynski  
Peter Reich  
Denise Renaud  
Laurie Rhoades & Judith Lorei  
Pamela Richardson  
Judith Ricker  
Jann Rosemerta  
Nina Rossi  
Marion Ryan  
Solon Sadoway  
Michael & Theresa Saharceski  
Emily Samuels  
Linda Saulnier  
John & Joanna Saunders  
Eva Schachtl  
Alice Scheffey  
Elizabeth Scheffey  
Virginia Schimmel

Grenelle Scott  
Kathryn Service  
Abe Shaffer & Sandra Haire  
Pam Shoemaker  
David & Esther Short  
Constance Sicard  
Kevin Skorupa & Marnie Cabezas  
Brian Smith  
Gretchen Smith  
Prudence Smith & Sharon Gensler  
Valeria Smith  
Patty Smythe  
Suzette Snow-Cobb  
Solar Store of Greenfield  
Helen Stotz  
Margaret Sullivan  
Linda Symmes  
Jean Thurber  
Barbara Tiner  
Roger & Joyce Tower  
Helen True  
Barbara Turner-Delisle  
Ivan Ussach & Kathy Litchfield  
Vicki & Donald Valley  
Jonathan & Susan von Ranson  
Muriel & Robert Walker  
Webber/Miller Family  
Jeanne Weintraub-Mason  
Peter Weis & Ann Feitelson  
Wendell Full Moon  
Coffeehouse  
Mr & Mrs Harry Williston  
Chris Wise  
H Martin Wobst  
Alice & Ed Wondoloski  
Sandra Wood  
David & Margaret Yez

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Poor Conditions for Motor Vehicles

Monday, 12/10  
10:20 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle parked at the High Tension lines on Main Road. Owner located; checked OK.  
12:50 p.m. Subject reportedly on the water side of the railing on French King Bridge; subject committed suicide by jumping.

Tuesday, 12/11  
4:15 p.m. Located unattended motor vehicle at the French King Bridge; owner located in the wooded area.  
4:35 p.m. Spoke with resident on Main Road regarding unregistered motor vehicles in his yard violating the town bylaw.

Wednesday, 12/12  
11:35 a.m. Arrested resident on S Cross Road for domestic violence.  
4:52 p.m. Officer requested to French King Bridge for party headed there to jump. No one appeared; officer cleared area.  
6:45 p.m. Reported phone scam from resident on Oak Street.

Thursday, 12/13  
10:30 a.m. Assisted resident on Hickory Hill Road with Firearms issue.  
12:15 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road at Mountain Road; no injuries.

5:20 p.m. Tractor trailer unit stuck on the Gill  
resident on Main Road; message passed on to contact concerned friend.

Sunday, 12/16  
11:10 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Route 2; motor vehicle slid off roadway due to conditions.  
11:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident in Factory Hollow due to conditions.  
12:35 p.m. Party on Walnut street reported restraining order violation; under investigation.  
12:50 p.m. Officer assisted with pursuit by State Police coming out of Greenfield.  
9:00 p.m. Hit and run accident on N Cross Road; assisted by Northfield and Bernardston police.

Montague Bridge.  
7:45 p.m. Hit and run motor vehicle accident reported on Mt. Hermon Campus.

Friday, 12/14  
6:50 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2; owner requested gas from the police department.  
9:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with stolen motor vehicle pursuit out of Winchester, NH.  
10:45 p.m. House alarm sounded at residence on Center Road; checked OK.

Saturday, 12/15  
11:20 a.m. Welfare check of

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Christmas Wish

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us. Our Christmas wish for each of you, as we give and receive, spend moments with our family, enjoy Christmas dinner together, we keep the Christmas Child in view.

(LUKE 2:8-14)

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.”

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign unto you; You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

Let us be encouraged to invite the Christmas Child in our lives daily.

This is: As Written  
We are Calvary Baptist Church  
10 Prospect Street, Turners Falls  
God’s blessings are yours.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE

CALL 863-8666

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner



The Best Hiding Place in Town

48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

Simons & Simons

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate  
Personal Injury

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

TABLETS!

Stop by your local, friendly computer store & check them out!

151 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413.863.5447  
www.about-facecomputers.com



Rau's Auto

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing  
Best service licensed Mechanics



RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

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

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

PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE, INC.

TIM PREVOST

Senior Loan Officer NMLS ID 441870

Direct: 413.773.8984 | Email: tprevost@primeres.com

Call today for pre-approval!

Specializing in loans for the first time homebuyer.

Your source for FHA, VA & USDA financing.



## HOLIDAY RECIPE

## A Downton Abbey Christmas Treat: Mince Pie

By ADRIENNE NUNEZ

The holidays are in full swing, and I'm reminded of a fabulous vintage classic, mince pie. Often overlooked because of its unusual combination of fruit, spices and meat, when done right, this British Christmas tradition is the pie of all pies!

I was introduced to this holiday delight while working for Charles Umpleby at Umpleby's Bakery Cafe in Hanover, N.H. In the midst of the seasonal bakery bustle, Charles took great care with this recipe, preparing it himself and patiently waiting as the rich ingredients worked their magic.

The tradition came to Umpleby's

during the early days of the business when a regular customer began ordering a mince pie every year for her family. "She was easily in her late eighties," Charles said. "It was a childhood favorite of hers." Since then mince pie, also known as Christmas pie, has been a seasonal staple at the bakery.

Charles recommended pairing this filling with your favorite pie or tart crust in whatever size you would like. For a little holiday flare, use star cutouts to top the tarts or a lattice to cover a full-size pie. The keys to success with this treat are quality ingredients, time, and brandy.

"I really don't think you can put

too much brandy in this recipe," said Charles. "It acts as a preservative, which is a good thing, as I do think the mince gets better with age. Also the dried fruit can really absorb a lot of liquid in the form of alcohol quite easily but without the adverse effects of tasting too boozy." Charles added, "I do think the suet plays an important part in the recipe. Of course, a vegetarian can omit it, but it won't taste the same." So, perhaps we will reserve this decadent gem for our omnivorous friends and family. Enjoy!

Adrienne Nunez works at the *Rendezvous* in Turners Falls.



### Umpleby's Fruit Mince Filling

7 ounces candied lemon and orange peel  
7 ounces seedless raisins  
7 ounces sultanas (golden raisins)  
7 ounces shredded beef suet  
2 golden delicious apples cut into small cube sized pieces  
7 ounces light brown sugar  
4 ounces slivered blanched almonds  
2 tablespoons orange marmalade or apricot preserves  
generous pinches of cinnamon, cloves, ginger and nutmeg  
1 pint brandy (at least)

Place all the ingredients, minus the brandy, in a large bowl and mix together either by hand or with a wooden spoon. Once thoroughly mixed, mix in the brandy until all the ingredients are moistened. Place in an airtight container and store in your refrigerator for at least a month before using. After the first couple weeks, you can add another pint of brandy.

Use to make any size tarts or pies using your favorite tart or pie dough recipe. Spoon filling into uncooked crusts and bake. For small tarts, bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until crusts are golden.

TARANTINO from page 1

them. Her name and address were prominent on several of the pieces, including one that was a big penis and balls cut from plywood. After preparing the fire, she used wooden matchsticks to spell out the word "fire" and then ignited the bonfire.

With complete professional, artistic seriousness but no pretension, Christine tended the bonfire full of sculptures, sticks, and the penis with her name. I can't think of any work of art, in writing or any other form, more likely to be awful than self-eulogy. Yet there it was with lots of method but little fuss: an assemblage of the sublime and the ridiculous made so entirely poignant and personal. She wasn't coy about its backyard banality, she didn't write an overcooked artist's statement to accompany it, there was no voice-over. You send her a piece of wood; she burns it and sends you the ashes.

I was delighted and nearly overwhelmed. It was an act of generosity, maybe even love. She wasn't dying when she'd made that fire. And I was watching it as a testament of auto-memorialization, which I am certain it was not. In fact, that's probably the



18 Little Fawn Little Elk blog by Christine Tarantino

worst way to think of her work of art. She didn't know this was a tribute to herself; she was in service to other artists. She was calm, professional; perfect, really. She seemed satisfied by the way she'd brought this to a conclusion. She'd set up the formal

constraints, kept a light hand on the tiller and conducted it all to a successful end, all without explaining herself.

I could feel a choked-back sob detonate in Doug's chest when I hugged him after the show. Inevitably, egotistically, I thought of myself in comparison. Is there a single thing I've ever done that describes my own sense of commitment to my own aesthetics as aptly as she did with just a fire in her backyard? Because Christine's work was so perfect – it's what I'd want every single thing I've ever written or made to do; it should all have the last word on transitoriness, on mortality; it should be proof that I am dying a good death, even if my body and mind are doing otherwise. It should be able to mind its own business if nobody notices it.

Corwin Ericson is a resident of Wendell and the author of the novel *Swell* and the forthcoming *Checked Out OK*.



### Your Local Full Service Grocery



250 Avenue A  
Turners Falls  
413-863-9591

for All Your Holiday Shopping Needs



Fruit Baskets, Meat Platters,  
Wine Baskets, Local Cider,  
Apples, Maple Syrup, Honey,  
Deli Platters and Salads

All December: Large Cheese Pizza only \$4.99 with any \$100 grocery purchase.  
Sunday Pizza Special: 2 Pizzas, one large cheese & one 1-topping, for \$15!

### Taizé

Usher in the New Year  
Praying for Peace  
Monday, December 31, 2012  
Join us for a quiet service of  
song, prayer, and silence in  
the Taizé tradition, led by  
Steve Cobb & Melinda  
Garcia Watson



Come at 6 pm to learn the chants for the 7 pm service.

Second Congregational Church UCC  
Court Square, Greenfield

www.secondchurchgreenfield.org (413) 774-4355



UPTON-MASSAMONT  
REALTORS

Donald J Mailloux

GRI  
Recognized Top Producer  
(413) 665-3771 x104 Office  
(413) 834-1524 Cell  
(413) 423-3810 Home  
don@cbumr.com E-mail

4 Elm Street, South Deerfield, MA 01373

Each Office Is Independently  
Owned and Operated.

www.cbupton-massamont.com

No POWER? No PROBLEM!

Thelin Pellet Stoves  
Battery Friendly

Solar Store of Greenfield  
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield ~ 772-3122  
www.solarstoreofgreenfield.com



Your Local  
STIHL Dealer  
413-367-2481



Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.

Sales, Parts & Service  
310 Federal Street (Route 63)  
Montague

Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

LOOKING to BUY  
or SELL a HOME?



Call Michele Johnson  
413-522-6912

MicheleJohnsonRealtor@gmail.com  
Realtor, CNE, GRI  
www.PioneerValleyliving.com



SEE US ON FACEBOOK

Enjoy Our Tasty  
Traditional Greek  
Favorites & New  
Menu Items by Our  
New Chef, Fotini!

233 Main St. Greenfield  
413-774-2844

Sun to Thur: 11am - 8pm  
Fri & Sat: 11am - 9pm

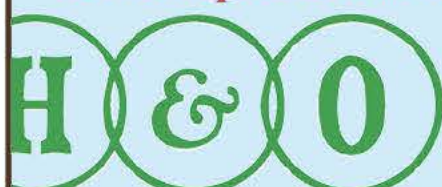


found + made

Hours: Wed 11-5, Thurs-Sat 11-7, Sun 11-4

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

Serving Home Grown  
Farm-inspired Food & Drink



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

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

Don't settle for less  
Choose a CRS (Certified Residential Specialist)  
Only 4% of all REALTORS hold this prestigious designation.  
The CRS is my badge of expertise and your shield of  
assurance. Put your trust in the best to get the job done.  
Whether buying, selling or referring, always choose  
GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

66 French King Hwy., Gill  
(413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM



Diemand Farm

Mormon Hollow  
Road, Wendell

Order Your  
Started Pullets

Many gluten-free  
products available

Farmstand Hours:  
Monday - Friday 6am-6pm  
Sat. 6am-5pm | Sun. 9am-3pm  
Call: 978-544-3806



## West Along the River

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE/MILLERS FALLS** December 12. What do you do exactly to keep Christmas? Each of us has rituals this time of year. Even denying having a ritual is a sort of Christmas rite. I've never sided with the Scrooge contingent. Around here, we embrace this holiday, spiritual and shmaltz, tinsel and manger, Rudolph as well as the Angels Heard on High. The whole shebang.

On a morning like this, frost heavy in the air, ears and cardinals bundled up in jay muffs and bright scarves greet the rising sun, lazy and pale in its lateness. I greet the faint orb in honor of our great Christmas rooster of long ago, our Chanticleer, our Napoleon. He helped the sun rise many a year here on the Flat. He died in battle, defending his helpless flock from a brainless wandering beagle. Our feathered emperor saved his hens, but lost his life to an unworthy opponent. One of his two-inch spurs lies in a drawer upstairs among old Christmas cards. Long live Napoleon, bright burnished rooster!

Upstairs, I give the snow globe a shake. There's a promise of real snow by the 16th, but I'm growing impatient.

December 13. 'Tis a strange occurrence, but this is one of the rare times I come face to face with the ancestors. Somehow the deep sense of their presence became anchored in me and rises up this time of year, helped of course by living in this house, their house, all these years. They catch me unawares oftentimes, but at this time of year I know the ways, and the places they are likely to be. So I do listen to the old songs, no matter how many hundreds of times I've heard them since 1946. I seek them out there, and in the old books, old pictures, in the faces of kin and extended family who come back here to the homestead for a few hours each year to visit, eat, and drink, reveling within the walls where we find again the memories we all share. Don't mistake this kind of remembrance for nostalgia. It's more an alertness, an awareness of the importance of the fading images of those who have gone before. I don't try to go back to the old times. It's more like the old timers are a part of my present time. That is all the difference.

December 14. Old Christmas images well up for some of us in the tales of Charles Dickens, familiar in a way, but not something we ever personally lived. Or perhaps the stories from Washington Irving's sketchbook of his Christmas wanderings in England can serve a purpose. Favorite English teacher Bill

Connelly introduced his Freshman English class to Irving's images every year just before Christmas vacation, back when the high school was on Crocker Avenue. That's when snow drifted down through the branches of the 100-year-old maples that we could see out the ceiling-high windows of Room 12. Back when, for some of us, the world was young.

However, I've come to realize that my favorite Christmas images got locked into my memory back in those first years after the War. My parents' generation, called the Greatest Generation, having come through the Depression and the darkest days of World War II, raised us all in the optimism of the America of the 1950s. So to get into the familiar mood I'm seeking, I need to hear Gene Autry sing his Rudolph, as corny as it may seem, Bing Crosby and his White Christmas never lose that aching longing, and I really need to hear Judy Garland and her Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. If you know the context from which these and other songs of that era come forth, you can feel the longing, the sadness, homesickness and the optimism that those songs evoke. They somehow make it possible to get a sense of the feelings of those who were thousands of miles away from home, far from that reassuring Christmas tree, some who, during the dark days of the War, hadn't been home for Christmas for years. Some would never come home.

But those who did, came back and became fathers, mothers, teachers, doctors, mechanics, factory hands, tradesmen, you name it. Those songs bring them all back for awhile, even though most of them have passed away. Picture them marching along, smiling and smart stepping in their uniforms, linked arms in long lines as in the grand march finale of a '40s Broadway musical, snappy salute and then, line after line, they step over the boundary that is the horizon and are gone.

When I hear some caterwauling, donkey-bray of an over-produced version of Garland's song, I have to get up and shut off the radio. Call me sentimental, but give me ol' Bing any winter day in December and I'll be there.

December 15. Preparations done for the family feast on the morrow, Saturday night finds us stepping up



Father Christmas Illustration by Raymond Briggs

street, on the way to the annual Element Brewing Company Bash in our village of Millers Falls. Heading up from our Ervingside neighborhood, across the bridge over our west flowing river, up to the village corner we go. Once when Millers Falls was thriving, Aunt Leone Smith had her 5 and 10 cent store, John O'Reilly ran his Sahara Bar Soda Shop, Mr. Elmer had his hardware store. Mr. Mayhew was one of three barbers in town, and more than five bars within walking distance of one another kept the workingmen well watered. Back then, the corner brewery would have been known as Ward's Clothing Store. Peg Browning would have welcomed us, and we could have bought three pairs of cotton socks for a dollar, US made. Upstairs in this building lived a whole family of my Gessing cousins, and Dr. Charron the dentist was just starting to work on the first of many generations of Millers Falls teeth.

But nowadays, the old storefront and back rooms of the former post office are home to brewery vats and top shelf beers with names like Dark Element and Red Oak.

This Saturday night the party is in full swing, owners Ben Anhalt and Dan Bramer beam as brewery proprietors should, proud of their excellent brews and pleased with the more than 100 visitors filing in and out, faces flushed with the warmth of the beer and a joy you can only get in such a fine brewery at Christmas! Hard-working Andy Anderson keeps moving the customers in towards the further rooms, where the Pioneer Consort, anchored by stalwart Michael Nix help keep the good feelings flowing.

Some of us there are neighbors rarely meeting except for occasions like these, others can be counted as

old acquaintances or brewing aficionados who enjoy a good chat and compare notes on the product of the hops and malts.

Luckily the walk home in the freezing air is all downhill. The moon beams down, and the stars twinkle merrily in the cold. Or is it me?

December 16. The house is quiet at 7 a.m. Outside is gray, before the first snowflakes fall. Now blacken the stove, and burnish the Glenwood cookstove's pride of chrome trim, load the firebox and light the flame.

The victuals are ready to be warmed again, after cooking late into the night with the help of Christmas wines. The garlands are up, the tree is lit, and the old house clean and proud. Foods will soon begin to flow into the kitchen and onto the stovetop of the 1912 Glenwood C, rafts and floods of food for the descendants come who will not be fed by only a little. There are French quiches (made by a real French cook here late last night!), soon to be joined by hearty New England staples: baked beans, kielbasa casseroles, fried chicken, shrimp, stuffed mushrooms, carrot cake, Christmas cookies washed down with the wines, whiskeys, and a growler or two of good Millers Falls – brewed Element Red Oak Special to keep the guests merry and afloat.

Of course, there are beginning to be many faces missing from the friends and family fold. Those who founded the homestead and lived here during the 1880s have their place on the wall of photographs, keeping a stern eye on us. Many others have departed over the intervening 130 years, but are remembered even if fleetingly when we gather once a year. The ranks of the octogenarians have thinned considerably but there are still several who remain spry and young at heart and are not going anywhere yet, as they will tell you! The younger generation is well represented by precocious Kailee, and brother Nitesh, fondly known as the Heartbeat of the Earth! Names change with the generations. The youngest and most recent arrival will be Miss Ada Bellemare, all of two years old, and the first of the 7th generation of family to grace these rooms.

December 20. This will be the last day in this year that the Montague Reporter will make it to

your door or cozy chair. Next edition will be in 2013! I always value my last delivery run of the year through our villages, and byways up the Leverett and Wendell hills.

My round's first stop is at Benny Rubin's. Keep the car running, in and out I go, no time to "take a break" even though Benny strongly advises it! I'm just getting started. Off to the Lake Pleasant Post Office where Postman David and I trade existentialist viewpoints with a dash of Zen, then over to the Bookmill, quick hello to proprietress Susan, then another Susie at the Montague Mini-Mart.

Hey! I've got a schedule here! Slow down, way down past the Mariani residence, grandchildren may be playing in the lane, then I float through some magnificently modest landscapes on the way to Leverett. Grasses are pale yellow in the glen outside the village center, the trees' black trunks are stark. Sawmill River stones capped with tufts of snow.

My route brings me up to the Leverett Coop, then past a placid and lovely Lake Wyola, where the skim of ice spreads and thickens week after week, with the glacier's return.

The Wendell Country Store, where my growing appetite always tempts me, with delicious cooking smells coming from the kitchen. Wendell is a place where everyone makes it a point to say hello, even to strangers from the lower villages like me.

I finish my rounds as quickly as I can, it's been a long day, and a long year, in fact.

I'll put my cold feet up against the Glenwood C oven door, tip back in the rocker, savor a hot whiskey, maybe even put on ol' Bing or Nat King Cole, if I feel like it. And for good measure, I'll wish you all a truly Merry Christmas.

**Roundabout Books**

Explore 10,000 Books Under \$3 Saturdays 12-5

(413) 773-0820  
26 Kenwood, Greenfield  
www.roundaboutbookstore.com

**Servant's Hands Massage Therapy**

**First Session: 1/2 Price!** (with this coupon)

- Chair & Table Massage
- Relaxing Swedish
- Individualized
- Deep Tissue
- \$25/ 1/2 hr
- \$40/ 1 hr

**Kelly Bourdeau**  
Bradford Hall Career Institute Graduate, LMT

BY APPT: 413-475-0144

**FABULOUS ITALIAN FOOD!**

**CHRISTINA'S RESTAURANT**  
413-422-1161  
20 French King Hwy, Rt 2 Erving

Italian Entrees! Pizza!  
Appetizers! Salads!  
Soups! Grinders!  
Desserts! Cannoli!

Tuesdays-Sundays 4-9pm

**Back to School!**

**BAKER Office Supply**

20% off your Back to School purchase with coupon

310 Main Street, Greenfield | (413) 774-2345  
www.bakerofficesupply.com

**Patty Smythe**  
Licensed Massage Therapist

**Myofascial Release Sports Massage**

Auto Accident Insurance Accepted

50 Chapman Street • Suite 5  
Greenfield  
**413-774-0517**  
pattysmythe@hotmail.com

**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.**  
"Rock solid service with level advice"

**Regency Fireplace Products**  
Come see our full line of pellets, wood, gas stoves, inserts & fireplaces today! Our Fireplace Design Center makes it easy to choose the right unit to suit your lifestyle.

www.shanahansupply.com

529 S. Main St., Brattleboro • 802-579-1800  
298 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 413-863-4322

**RUSTIC HANDMADE FURNITURE**

Art Kasckinski 413-834-7001  
www.ArtscapeLandscapingDesign.net

**Booska's Flooring**

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member The Flooring Network.

**Tile Lino Carpet**

**Mary Lou Emond**  
Certified Residential Specialist

**COHN & COMPANY**  
Real Estate Agency

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

413-773-1149 x142 • CELL: 413-772-9279  
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

**Chappell's Auto Service**  
Quality Used Cars & Trucks Since 1947

'01 TOYOTA RAV 4  
AWD, ALL POWER, Economical 4 Cylinder \$8,495

'12 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS  
All Power, Only 4,000 miles Price Reduced \$15,750

'07 FORD RANGER  
Auto, V6, PS, AC, 8' Bed, \$8,495

**No Doc or Title Fees!**  
113 French King Hwy, Gill, MA  
across from Barton's Cove, Rt. 2  
413-772-9124 or 863-2282

**Holiday Greetings to All from the Ciesluk Farm**

**CIESLUK FARM STAND**

In the heart of Old Deerfield  
564 Greenfield Rd, Rt 5&10 Deerfield

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

## Selectboard Votes Down Dog Licensing Fee Schedule

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving's Dec. 17 special town meeting voted down a proposal that would have allowed the selectboard to set dog license fees. Town clerk Richard Newton proposed the article in order to override the town's current dog license fee schedule, which is not in compliance with state law.

In accordance with the fee schedule listed in town bylaws, Erving currently charges three dollars per year to license a male or spayed female dog and \$6 for an unspayed female. An Act Further Regulating Animal Control signed by Governor Deval Patrick in August requires a higher fee for an unspayed animal without regard to gender.

Newton told the meeting that, based on an analysis of the time it takes to process a dog license, "We're losing money" on each license. He said that if the article passed he would recommend the selectboard set fees at ten dollars for a spayed dog and 15 dollars for an unspayed dog.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock called these increases "a jump" and said he preferred that fees be discussed at town meeting rather than be set by the selectboard. He added, "We should encourage people to register their dogs by keeping fees low." Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden

said that the fees have been "the same for 30 years now. It's a big jump because we didn't raise fees earlier." Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin was against giving the selectboard the power to set fees: "We should set fees the way we always have." Hammock noted that even if the town is out of compliance with state law, "The consequences will be less than time in the penitentiary."

At the selectboard meeting immediately after the special town meeting's negative vote, Newton asked the selectboard for direction on how to charge for 2013 dog licenses with an out-of-compliance fee schedule, as the 2012 licenses expire Dec. 31. The selectboard decided to schedule another special town meeting for Jan. 20, 2013, in order to set a new dog license fee schedule. Newton said he would not sell any 2013 dog licenses until after the January special town meeting.

Moderator Richard Peabody asked school regionalization planning committee member Beth Lux to report on her committee's work. Lux said that the committee, formed by the May 2011 annual town meeting, was charged with investigating and providing information to the town on potential regional school partners (the Gill-Montague, Pioneer, and Mahar regions and Greenfield public

schools). According to Lux, Union 28, which provides superintendent services for Erving Elementary School, has become unstable after Union 28 towns Leverett and Shutesbury formed a regionalization planning committee with the Amherst-Pelham region. Lux said the Erving regionalization planning committee wrote to all the potential regional partners and met with the Pioneer administration and with the Swift River (New Salem/Wendell) regionalization planning committee. She said, "We need more people to be a part of the process," and asked that citizens consider volunteering for the regionalization planning committee or a subcommittee.

The special town meeting approved the other warrant articles unanimously. The articles:

- Allowed the town to send the bills for utility charges and fees and property taxes in the same envelope or electronic communication.

- Transferred money from the 2005 overlay account to the 2009 overlay account. An overlay account is established annually to fund anticipated tax abatements, exemptions and uncollected taxes.

- Clarified the total salary amounts for treasurer, tax collector and town clerk as set at the June 2012 annual town meeting.

## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

## Solar Bid on Mariamante Property and Ancient Indigenous Gravesite Preservation

By DAVID DETMOLD

The Mariamante property, a flat 10-acre parcel on the corner of West Gill and Main roads, which is owned by the town, may be the future site of a large, 1863-kilowatt solar photovoltaic array if a bid received on behalf of the town by the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) comes to fruition.

In order to make it simpler for small towns to vet potential offers from solar developers, the HCOG sustainability office offered to prepare a joint request for proposals (RFP) for photovoltaic installations from reputable contractors. The RFP, more than a year in the making, finally resulted in bids from three solar contractors in Massachusetts, including a bid by Broadway Electric Co. of Boston to install the large array on the Mariamante parcel in Gill, the third largest proposed solar array in the 20 towns that participated in the offering.

Gill town administrative assistant Ray Purington told the selectboard on Monday that the proposal is in a very preliminary stage. He recommended setting up a meeting of the board in January with the sustainability coordinator for HCOG to learn more details about the proposal, and how the town could benefit financially from the installation, which would have the added benefit of increasing the

Commonwealth supply of alternative energy, a shared goal of the Department of Energy Resources and the newly minted Green Community of Gill.

Doug Harris, preservationist for sacred landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe, one of several federally recognized Indian tribes in the region who have expressed interest in the future development of the Mariamante parcel because, they say, it was the site of ancient indigenous graves, commented Tuesday on the possible construction of a photovoltaic array on the land, saying, "If they could find a way to do it without impacting the soil beneath that is something we could consider." Harris said he would have to see more details before commenting further, but suggested it would be possible to build up a base for the arrays with fill without disturbing possible archaeological sites beneath the soil.

Gill had suggested seven town buildings and two town properties for HCOG to consider in the RFP for potential solar developers. The Mariamante parcel was the only one that drew interest.

The town of Gill has been slowly paying off the principal and interest on the \$245,000 loan for the purchase of the parcel, with two additional acres that are considered undevelopable. The town acted on a right of first refusal to purchase the land in 2004 to prevent a team of real estate developers from building 60 units of housing on the land, which had been considered a prime location for industrial or commercial development. That is, until concerns about the archaeological importance of the land were raised by native tribes, who have provided historical documentation and cited state laws that provide broad protection for land suspected or proven to be the site of ancient burials.

Treasurer Ronnie LaChance said Tuesday the town still owed \$162,000 on the Mariamante loan. She said the town is leasing the land for hay for about \$200 a year, which does not go far toward covering the loan payments, not to mention the town's costs for legal fees, and the archaeological

survey conducted on the property.

In other news, the selectboard directed police chief David Hastings to take a closer look at four potential models of police cruiser for the town to purchase, including a Ford Fusion hybrid that gets 47 miles to the gallon. If Gill eventually purchases the hybrid, it may become the first town in Franklin County to buy an alternative fuel or hybrid vehicle for a front line police cruiser.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier, acting chair while Ann Banash is vacationing in Florida, said he had taken the time to inspect one of the new model Fusions at the Ford dealer in Greenfield, and was surprised at how roomy it was inside. Banash, joining the meeting by speaker phone, said her main concern was that the new cruiser would be able to fit the officers, computer, and equipment needed to equip a new police cruiser.

Speaking of mileage, the selectboard agreed to reduce the amount the town will pay to reimburse employees who drive their own cars on town business from 55.5 cents per mile to 50 cents. The slight reduction was meant not only to cut down on the \$4,100 the town paid in mileage reimbursement last year, but also to signal to employees to be more careful in deciding when to use their vehicles on town business.

The three year lease, at \$50 a year, for the Zak family to hay the Boyle lot, a three acre lot just up the hill from town hall on Center Road, runs out at the end of this year. The selectboard would like to renew the lease only on a year to year basis henceforward, as the cemetery commission is considering the lot for a new cemetery, since few grave sites remain at the three town owned cemeteries currently in use. Planning ahead for a peaceful eternity is always wise policy, and besides, internment at the Boyle lot could afford residents permanent bleacher seats from which to audit future town meetings.

Town hall will be closed on Christmas Eve this year, and will close early on New Year's Eve, so everyone can enjoy a happy holiday.

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD MEETING

## Erving Picks Wonkka as Emergency Management Director

By KATIE NOLAN

At its Dec. 17 meeting, the selectboard chose Philip Wonkka as emergency management director.

Wonkka and James Hackett interviewed for the position at the Dec. 10 meeting. Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan commented, "There were two very good candidates, both have experience, but Phil has more experience."

The selectboard approved an initial payment of \$17,100 to J.R. Vinagro Corporation of Johnston, R.I., for cleanup work at the former Usher Mill property on Arch Street. In July, the town accepted Vinagro's bid of \$822,782 for abatement and demolition of the former mill. By completion of the project, scheduled for

April 2013, all buildings except the boiler building will be demolished and asbestos and hazardous materials and non-hazardous demolition debris will be removed.

Regarding a potential "joint venture" with the Northfield ambulance service, possibly even sharing costs for a new advanced life support ambulance that would serve Northfield and Erving, selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo said, "The whole issue's dead as far as we're concerned." He reported that because the Northfield EMS finances are set up as an enterprise fund, "it can't be a revenue generator." Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin commented, "The Northfield selectboard is clearly not supportive."

Town administrator Tom Sharp was asked to write to the Northfield selectboard to say that Erving will pursue other options.

The selectboard appointed Mackensy Bailey of Mountain Road as library trustee. Library director Barbara Freidman said the trustees have had a vacancy for "quite a while." Trustee Mollie Mast said that Bailey "will make a great trustee" and that she and the two other trustees recommended appointing Bailey.

Sharp reported that he will inform department heads by Dec. 19 that preliminary fiscal year 2014 (FY14) budgets are due by Jan. 30, 2013. He said that the school committee is scheduled to meet with the selectboard to discuss the FY14 school budget on Feb.

25, 2014.

Fire chief Almon "Bud" Meatty provided the selectboard with recommendations for maintenance work at the Arch Street fire well. Sharp was asked to have the town's engineering consultant Tighe & Bond review the recommendations. Klepadlo asked for a budget for the project.

The selectboard accepted the resignation of Joseph Bagdonas as part-time groundskeeper for the cemetery commission.


The selectboard ended the open meeting and met in executive session to comply with, or act under the authority of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid program and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.

## PLEASE SHOP LOCALLY.

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

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE CALL 863-8666

**DILLON CHEVROLET INC.**  
54 Main Street  
P.O. Box 729  
Greenfield, MA 01302



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

**JOHNNY AUSTIN**  
Sales Representative

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

**CopyCat PRINT SHOP**  
up-to-the-minute technology  
old-fashioned personal service  
**27 YEARS OF MAKING COPIES  
AND STILL THE ORIGINAL!**

- full color offset printing
- oversize copies
- files accepted by e-mail
- digital copies

180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500  
GREENFIELD@COPYCATPRINTSHOP.COM

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

**TNT PRODUCTIONS**  
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS  
"We Know Entertainment"

- \* Free Consultation
- \* State of the Art Sound
- \* Best Music for all Ages/Occasions
- \* Karaoke System Rental
- \* Reasonable Rates

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



**Renaissance Excavating, Inc.**



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill  
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

**Hartnett Plumbing**  
Water Heaters, Drain Cleaning,  
Remodeling, Repairs

"We give you a place to go"

184 Jacksonville Road  
Colrain 413-624-0044

Serving all of Franklin County  
Mass. License #13175

## NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Work of GMSC Technical Panel Hotly Debated

By LEE WICKS

The Gill-Montague School Committee meeting on Dec. 11 began with an opportunity for public participation. Michael Naughton, who serves on the town's finance committee, came prepared. He read a letter signed by himself, Jeff Singleton, a former member of the Gill-Montague School Committee, and finance committee member Tupper Brown defending the work of the technical panel, which comprises the three people who signed the letter.

Superintendent Mark Prince said in November that the work of the technical panel was complete and declined further meetings with the group. The panel contends the work is not complete and plan to continue meeting. They hope Prince will reconsider.

The work of the technical panel began in October 2010, when the towns, the school district, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and our three state legislators all approved a document called the compact, which begins with the following: "The parties pledge and agree as follows: Table B is accepted as the long term plan for fiscal stability of the district, and the parties accept its requirements and projections as goals for achieving its purposes."

Table B, an interactive Excel spreadsheet, was developed by the technical panel as a tool for testing different strategies for establishing a sustainable financial future for Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD). It was designed to show the consequences of district revenue and expenditure assumptions projected over at least five years. You might think of it as a complicated household budget; if I get a raise, can we buy a new house; what about a raise and a bonus; what if I lose my job? The basic premise is that growth in the district's budget must be matched by growth in its revenue sources.

The letter Naughton read explained that table B requires regular review to see how well the assumptions hold up. This regular reexamination and

updating with current information has been done by the technical panel, and the need for it to continue at least for the next few years is why the work of the technical panel is not complete.

The letter noted the challenging economic environment. State legislators have made it clear that in the near future they do not expect state education funding to increase at a rate that will bring meaningful increases for FY14 and the immediately following years. With one of the major assumptions (state aid) changed, all the other numbers on the original table B are now up for discussion.

The letter said, "This, again, is why we feel the work of the technical panel is not complete. We believe the active use of table B as a tool in recent years has made it possible for the towns and the district to find mutually agreeable solutions and to reach agreement on district funding. We are hopeful that process can continue."

Last week, Ellen Blanchette reported in *Montague Reporter* that the Massachusetts commissioner of education, Mitchell Chester, told Sen. Stan Rosenberg that when the towns failed to pass a budget and the state took over financial leadership, it triggered the district review process. It appears that the compact and the technical committee settled the budget issues. The budget will be challenging going forward, yet the superintendent does not appear to welcome the input of volunteers who have worked long hours to address the problem.

Prince put forth the appointment of Abby Dolson for the middle school nurse position, and the motion was approved. This will mean that all schools will have a nurse.

Upcoming educational highlights included teas, a winter concert, a Snowflake Ball, teacher in-service days, a trip for sixth graders in Gill Elementary to the Sergeant Center in Hancock, N.H. in March, and a report on improved reading proficiency in grades 1-11 with some grades showing impressive results ranging from a 2 per-

cent improvement (grades three and six) to an 18 percent improvement for grade seven. Grades 9 and 11 showed a decline (3 percent and 8 percent, respectively.)

Discussion then turned to the superintendent search. Stacy Langknecht, a parent, told the committee she attended a focus group meeting but did not feel the desires expressed by her and other parents were reflected in the stated qualifications for a new superintendent. She and other parents are hoping for someone who has been a superintendent before, not simply someone who is licensed or eligible to be licensed, as the ad states. The focus group did not feel that the consultant assisting with the search listened closely. "I don't think you got the bang for your buck," said Langknecht. There was also some discussion about publicity surrounding the focus group meetings and the survey.

School committee member Marge Levenson asked the chair why not all school committee members had been invited to attend a meeting with state and local representatives, held the week before. At this meeting the district designation of Level 4, and the effects of the accelerated improvement plan were discussed. Levenson said, "We need more transparency. One reason we remain at level 4 is due to governance issues. This violates our commitment to transparency, and I want this read into the record."

Cautious optimism mixed with suspicion and disappointment seem to be hallmarks of this committee's work. Yet progress is being made: some students are thriving; according to a former school committee member, the high school principal is liked; and the building and playing fields are well kept. The school committee meeting was held in a modern film classroom studio. On the night of the meeting, basketball players poured from the gym into waiting cars. A stranger touring the school would never guess that the entire district stands at Level 4 and that the school committee has such urgent work.

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD MEETING

## Establishment of Ad Hoc Budget Review Committee Considered

By DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboard pushed ahead on Tuesday night to establish an ad hoc budget review committee of local residents with backgrounds in financial management to take a closer look at town budgets, particularly the school budget. As the selectboard continues to grapple with the details of the elementary and regional school budgets, against a backdrop of the board's dissatisfaction with the superintendency of the Leverett Elementary School by Union #28 and a push to reconsider K-12 regionalization with the towns of Shutesbury, Pelham and Amherst, board chair Rich Brazeau said the ad hoc advisory committee would offer the town "a fresh look at the budget."

Board member Peter d'Errico said the idea would be to call together town residents with backgrounds in accounting and budget management to "get us out of the normal way we look at things."

"No one wants taxes to go up," added Brazeau. "If there is something we are missing," in the budget review process,

he said, "the board wants to hear about it."

Asked whether the selectboard had consulted with the finance committee about establishing an ad hoc budget review panel called together under their own authority, a body of citizens elected by town meeting to act as the town's fiscal watchdog, the selectboard said they had not discussed the move to establish a new ad hoc budget advisory committee with members of the finance committee.

"The finance committee often comes in late," to the budget making process, noted Brazeau, who added that the school committee tends to vote on a preliminary budget in January.

Tom Powers, a finance committee member reached by phone on Wednesday, said if the point of the new advisory committee was "to look in more detail at the school budget, that would give me no problem personally." Powers said he could not speak for the finance committee as a whole, which has not met since July, and emphasized he had not heard previously about the call to form a new ad hoc budget review committee in town, so

was unaware of the details of its charge or makeup. But he added, "The school budget is a complex budget. I have spent a lot of time with it, and it would certainly benefit from further analysis."

Finance committee chair Don Gibavic was unavailable for comment at press time.

The selectboard is planning to meet with the school committee in the coming weeks to discuss taking line items for custodial services at the elementary school out of the school budget and putting those items – custodial supplies and salaries – under the town side of the budget instead. This move comes as the selectboard is working to consolidate the maintenance of all town buildings under a new, to-be-hired part-time manager of building maintenance.

At Tuesday's meeting, the selectboard reiterated longstanding complaints about the ongoing cost of legal services for the school committee, and the still unresolved issue of paying for Union #28 retiree benefits at a level commensurate with the benefit packages for town employees. That elusive LEVERETT pg 12

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Hit and runs, DUIs, and Other Suspicious Automotive Activities

## Monday, 12/10

3:47 p.m. Suspicious automobile investigated at East Mineral Road and Millers Falls Road, Millers Falls.

7:04 p.m. Domestic disturbance at ■ Turners Falls Road.

## Tuesday, 12/11

2:12 p.m. Shoplifting attempt reported at Food City, 250 Avenue A Street, Turners Falls.

4:28 p.m. Larceny investigated on Avenue A, behind the Shady Glen, Turners Falls.

4:43 p.m. Assault at ■ Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls.

## Wednesday, 12/12

7:02 a.m. Hit and run at the F.L. Roberts, 132 Third Street, Turners Falls.

7:35 a.m. Suspicious automobile investigated on Route 63, south of Dewolf Road, Montague.

5:21 p.m. Suspicious person reported in front of the Family Dollar on Avenue A, Turners Falls; Unable to locate.

8:54 p.m. Larceny at ■ Third Street, Turners Falls.

## Thursday 12/13

8:22 a.m. Juvenile arrested on Keith Street, Turners Falls. Charges include intimidating a witness.

4:59 p.m. Burglary at ■ Third Street, Turners Falls.

7:31 p.m. Suspicious automobile investigated on Power Street near Railroad Salvage, Turners Falls.

7:58 p.m. Hit and run accident at the intersection of Henry Avenue and Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls.

## Friday, 12/14

3:08 a.m. Unwanted person at ■ Avenue A Street, Turners Falls.

9:29 a.m. Larceny at Nex on Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

7:16 p.m. ■, arrested on warrant on Canal Street.

## Saturday, 12/15

12:47 a.m. ■, arrested near the intersection of Millers Falls Road and George Avenue in Turners Falls.

Charges include a marked lanes violation, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, operating without a license, and possession of an open container of alcohol.

3:56 a.m. Suspicious person reported at the intersection of Unity Street and Wrightson Avenue, Turners Falls; Unable to locate.

9:46 a.m. Suspicious automobile investigated on

Lake Pleasant Road near Green Pond Road, Lake Pleasant.

10:07 a.m. Illegal Dumping on dirt road off Ferry Road, Montague.

10:44 a.m. Domestic disturbance at ■ Laurel Lane, Turners Falls.

2:55 p.m. Trespassing at ■ East Mineral Road, Millers Falls.

4:33 p.m. Vandalism at ■ Turner Street, Lake Pleasant.

## Sunday, 12/16

1:04 a.m. ■, arrested at ■ Broadway, Lake Pleasant. Charges include larceny, assault on a police officer, and resisting arrest.

5:56 p.m. Domestic disturbance investigated at ■ Second Street, Turners Falls.

10:30 p.m. Vandalism at ■ N Street, Turners Falls.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE CALL 863-8666

## PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU

CONSULT US  
PZ

25 Millers Falls Road  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-4331  
www.pzinc.com

Service 7 days a week, visit [www.pzinc.com](http://www.pzinc.com)

## INSURANCE

## B. RUBIN &amp; SONS INC.



## COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

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

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

## Doug's Auto Body

Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph: (413) 863-2785  
Fax: (413) 863-0120

39 Center Road  
Gill, MA 01354

FREE ESTIMATES

FREE LOANER CARS

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

## IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

413-883-7323

Easy in-town location  
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF  
SIZES  
THE BEST  
PRICES



OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors  
and Artists encouraged to inquire

## COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

## KUSTOM AUTOBODY

MA Reg #RS2066



48 Randall Road

Montague

Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

## Negus &amp; Taylor, Inc.

## Monuments

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



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

## NEEDFUL THINGS

SELLING QUALITY  
USED FURNITURE  
AND COLLECTIBLES



~ NEW ITEMS ARRIVE WEEKLY! ~

Open Monday-Saturday • 413-774-7430

199 Deerfield Street (Rtes. 5 & 10), Greenfield



T.L.C.



Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.

Located in the Heart of Montague Center.

Now accepting calls for new clients for snow  
removal within 12 miles of Montague Center

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured

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

# The Poetry Page

It is difficult to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day for lack of  
what is found there.

-William Carlos Williams

design by Claudia Wells

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:  
**Klondike Sound, Green Fields Market, Dr. Robert Koolkin,**  
**Montague Dental Arts, Carlin Barton, and Michael Muller**

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

posthumous  
love poem 1

in time  
a falling out  
of time, took

my desperate  
leave of  
waking - of

any need  
to arrive, accept  
as in

discard all  
things once  
worthy

of attention  
now in your  
hands all

things laid as  
in them once  
I lay

my skin held  
by something  
by you

in our room  
we were  
things of

room and now  
collapsed from  
room I fall

out of room  
in which we lay  
where room

for me once  
by the world  
was made

- Chris Janke  
Turners Falls

The Tun Wheel

The Tun wheel turns,  
foretells the future,  
tells the past.

Turns in the sun  
and in the shadow,  
turns through the long night.

Counts off the days  
and the years  
and all the epochs.

Gives us the signs,  
the ones to live by  
and those to die by.

Carries us up the nine-fold path  
shows us the nine precious gifts  
brings us face to face with the gods

guides us in our perilous journeys  
teaches us of demons  
who preside over the darkness.

Brings us to the awesome  
reckoning with the rose  
on whose petals are inscribed

the book of years,  
the eternal turning  
toward our ends.

From *The Destruction of the Jaguar: Poems  
from the Books of Chilam Balam* (The  
Mayan Books of Prophecies).  
Translated by Christopher Sawyer-  
Lauçanno, City Lights, 1987.

Rivers

Each river in India

S tells me

has its own narrative.

Even the smallest tributary

has its story

legends, myths.

And you,

life-giving, death-giving

Connecticut,

you too have your stories

and your history

of blood and log jams

of carnage and conceit.

But no one sings anymore,

if ever they did,

of your birth

or your escapades

or your youthful transformations

or middle-aged transgressions

though a few old fishermen have remarked

how in the shallows

the green-gray water bends around

their legs then passes on.

- Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Turners Falls

An Inadequate Poem

Two hours  
is a long time  
in a waiting room  
a longer time  
in a recovery room  
Two hours  
times 28  
in a classroom  
with 3 guns and  
a shooter makes  
an instant and  
then an eternity  
of loss

- Patricia Pruitt  
Turners Falls

Force

The notices that arrive with the  
wind

are not yet signals of distress

only warnings of what impends.

We muster ourselves

for dress rehearsals,

prepare for the what if.

The honking geese

Sensing the unease

mount a decisive push:

force flying against force.

- Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Turners Falls

Contributors' Notes:

**Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno's** new book of  
poems, */Mussoorie-Montague Miscellany/*,  
from which these poems are selected, will  
be out in January from Talisman House.

**Chris Janke** is the co-owner of the  
*Rendezvous* on 3rd Street in Turners Falls,  
and a senior editor at Slope Editions.

**Patricia Pruitt** is the former chair of the  
Montague selectboard.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE

**Greenfield Imported Car Sales**  
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner


SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

**WHERE ECONOMY IS KING**

**AFFORDABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE PRE-OWNED CARS**  
Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Hyundai



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




**Bryan G. Hobbs**  
Remodeling Contractor

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

Call Now for Free  
Energy Audit  
413-775-9006

Bryan G. Hobbs  
346 Conway St.  
Greenfield

**[Pam Veith  
REALESTATE]**



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

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

75 Main Street; Suite 105,  
Northfield, MA 01360

www.PamVeithRealEstate.com



**Renaissance  
Builders**

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.renbuild.net

863-8316



**CRUISE & TRAVEL  
COMPANY**



30 Montague St.  
TURNERS FALLS



413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143

www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com



**EDWARDS TREE SERVICE**  
Matthew Edwards  
Certified Arborist

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

**413-325-7823 Or 978-544-7452**

**Pipione's**  
SPORT SHOP


- **Fishing supplies; Live bait**
- **Fishing & Hunting Licenses**
- **Paintball & CO<sub>2</sub> Refills**
- **Guns & Ammo**

Open 7 am 7 days a week  
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246



**Simply Computing**

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



Debbe Dugan  
863-5030

**HK**

**Power Town  
Apartments**  
152 Avenue A  
PO Box 48  
Turners Falls, MA  
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:

**HallKeen Management, Inc.**  
rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell  
Property Manager



**REAL PICKLES**  
Naturally Fermented & Raw



We're going co-op!

Read all about it at:  
www.realpickles.com

(413)774-2600

Greenfield, MA

**mww**  
Montague WebWorks . com

make the web work for your business

michael muller  
owner  
413.320.5336

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

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## ALL THE TIME:

### EVERY SUNDAY

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

### EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

### EVERY THURSDAY

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9:30 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

### ART SHOWS:

#### NOW through DECEMBER 27

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: A small retrospective of watercolors by former Wendell resident *Craig Letourneau*. Focuses on New England landscapes, English urban scenes and portraits.

#### NOW through JANUARY 29

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Paintings by Christine Winship*.

### LOCAL EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Comedy Night*. Two winners will perform on New Year's Eve. 7 to 9 p.m.

## HOLIDAY EVENTS



#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Welcome the Winter Solstice with award-winning composer/pianist *Steve Schoenberg*. 8 p.m., \$

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Montague Bookmill, Montague

Center: Tim Eriksen presents *Star in the East: A Concert of Christmas Music*. Two shows, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Early show is family-friendly: children under twelve free. \$.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Christmas Party with

*Moose and the Hightops*, current and classic hits. Raffle to benefit the soup kitchen. 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Play reading, *A Christmas Carol*. 6:30 p.m. \$

## new year's eve parties

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

**Shea Theater, Turners Falls:** New Years Eve Comedy at the Shea. Ring in the New Year with a laugh! Featuring Myq Kaplan and Steve Macone. 9 p.m. to midnight. \$

#### Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls:

New Years Eve celebration with the music of AfterGlo. Buffet, champagne toast, party favors. \$

**Arts Block Café, Greenfield:** New Year's Eve Extravaganza. Featuring John Sheldon & Blue Streak, Samirah Evans,

Joe Roderick, Moonlight Davis, Daniel Kasnitz, and Dakini Borealis. 8 p.m. \$

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** Voo Year's Eve. Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band, funky-tonk, 7 p.m. Dance party with DJ Funkadelic Fern, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. No new arrivals after 1 a.m.; cover between 9 p.m. and midnight includes champagne toast. \$

#### Deja Brew, Wendell:

New Year's Eve Party. Music by Rhythm, Inc. Dining from 6 to 10 p.m., party 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Free.

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 7 to 8:45 p.m. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mya Elaine*, folk rock, 8 p.m.

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

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Live from the Metropolitan Opera in HD – Berlioz's *Les Troyens*. 12 p.m. \$.

Montague Grange: *Square Dance* to live old-time music. All are welcome. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*, blues. 8 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Old Town Hall, Wendell: *Charles Neville* of the Neville Brothers. 8 p.m., open mic before show, refreshments available. \$

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Harmaniac Brothers*, multi-instrumentalists incorporating harmonica, 8 to 10 p.m.

### CALL for POETRY SUBMISSIONS

Slate Roof Press, Greenfield: 1st Annual *Poetry Chapbook Contest*. Winner will become an active member and have a limited-edition, art-quality chapbook published by Slate Roof, a member-run non-profit collaborative. \$20 reading fee, deadline Jan. 4, 2013. Visit [www.slateroofpress.com](http://www.slateroofpress.com) for more info.

### CALL for ART SUBMISSIONS

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "*Triple S: Sensual> Sexual> Smut*" show in February 2013. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Email jpegs to [naban@verizon.net](mailto:naban@verizon.net), with "SSS" in the subject line, OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls MA 01376. Include a non-refundable fee of \$10 (check to Nina's Nook or PayPal to [naban@verizon.net](mailto:naban@verizon.net)) by Jan 20, 2013.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*, with Larry Klein, Jon Oltman, Seth Hoffsommer, and Dave Bilodeau. 8 p.m. free.

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

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Siobhan Hotaling*, folk pop rock, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Now & Then*, classic rock. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *End of the World Party*. Giveaways, contests, music by DJ MIA. 9 p.m. until the end.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *End Times Party!* Album release show for *The Ambiguities*. DJ *Doomsday*, dance party, light visuals, fog. Apocalyptic song circle. 9:30 p.m. until the end.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Center: *Group exhibit & open studios*. Fabulous gifts. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Eric French*, rock blues, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Bruce Scofield & The Impossible Side Effects*, '60s and '70s rock. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ghost Quartet Reunion Show*. 9:30 p.m., free.

Feeding Tube Records, Northampton: *Fat Creeps, Zebu!, Potty Mouth*. 10 p.m. \$

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Scott Guberman*, classic '60s and '70s rock. 8 to 10 p.m.

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

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues/jazz. 8 to 10 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fireseed*, old time/celtic. 7:30 p.m., free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: The



PHOTO COURTESY WENDELL FULL MOON COFFEEHOUSE

*Re&B and soul great Charles Neville will play at the Arts Block Cafe in Greenfield on December 29 at 8 p.m. in support of Roger Salloom, and will make a return appearance at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 8 p.m.*

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Kurtz Jazz Quartet*, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Village Hill*, electric fusion. 9 p.m., free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Steel Rail*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals* with Marlene & friends. 8 p.m., free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Adam Bergeron*, original contemporary, 8 to 10 p.m.

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

See *New Year's Eve sidebar*.

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *M. R. Pouloupoulos*, singer/songwriter, 3 p.m.



## THE LADY KILLIGREW:

*Awesome Beer  
Amazing Food*



*Amazing, Awesome  
Employees!*

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

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE CALL 863-8666

Patrick Smith  
CSSL # 100236  
Insured

Montague, MA 01351



## EASTERN WEATHERIZATION

*Specializing in Cellulose Insulation  
and Vinyl Replacement Windows:*

Toll Free  
866-262-5361

413-367-2228  
FAX 413-367-2212



## Jonathan Abbott

SSI / Disability Attorney

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

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA

In Home Appointments  
[jabbottesq@verizon.net](mailto:jabbottesq@verizon.net)

## CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS

*Men, Women & Children*



**Gift Certificates Available**

**863 - 2022**

**Marie Castine**

**Richard DiGeorge** (Thursdays)

**74 PROSPECT ST.**

**TURNERS FALLS**



*We Specialize in Impossible Deadlines!*

- full color offset printing
- digital copies
- oversize copies
- files accepted via email

monday-friday - 8:30 am to 6 pm

**27 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!**

up-to-the-minute technology • old-fashioned personal service

180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • [greenfield@copycatprintshop.com](mailto:greenfield@copycatprintshop.com)

*Whatever holiday your family gathers to celebrate, it's the memories that make it special! Your family's films, video tapes, or slide collections can add to the fun--and they make great gifts!*



Call us soon at LAPINE MULTIMEDIA - (413) 773-7747 - 'cuz even with our "quick as a bunny" service, the holiday will soon be here!



413-256-6217

*fine instruments  
bought and sold  
repaired and restored*

## Fretted Instrument Workshop

49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002



Above: Jack Nelson (L) and John Landino (R) appear as angels inviting Pop Up Shop patrons to the screening of It's A Wonderful Life at the adjacent Shea Theater.

## It Was a Wonderful Night!



Right: Santa Claus appears as himself, doing what he does best.

**LEVERETT** from page 9  
sive agreement is waiting for approval from the Wendell selectboard to go into effect, since the selectboards of the other four Union #28 towns have already signed off on it, now that enabling legislation allowing for equality in benefits for Union 28 and member town employees has been passed by the legislature and signed by the governor.

Board member d'Errico said as soon as the new agreement goes into effect, Leverett's treasurer is prepared to cut a check for approximately \$6,200 to bring the town of Leverett up to date with benefit payments for one U-28 central office retiree; the town has been holding out on paying that bill until the new agreement is signed and put into effect.

D'Errico brought up the legal account for the school committee, which he said is spending more than \$5,000 annually on legal fees, an amount which d'Errico does not appear to believe has been adequately explained or justified by the school committee.

Union #28 business manager Mike Kociela said on Wednesday that the Leverett school committee has legal counsel Ferdinand Dupre on retainer at \$400 a month, for contract negotiations and other legal matters that come before the school committee, with a total line item for legal spending of \$4,800 a year.

Finally, Leverett received a bill for \$4,763.84 for additional legal services from the firm of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, and Lehan, although Kociela said he was not at liberty to talk about the nature of those additional services.

"It's sensitive," said Kociela. "If they want to have a closed door session, we can explain it to them."

At the last meeting of the selectboard, on Dec. 4, the board requested a reserve fund transfer of \$5,000 to pay for overruns in the town's own legal bills, which board member Julie Shively said was not due to any one legal matter in particular, but rather to the accumulating total of legal bills the town has acquired over the past six months.

Shively took time later in the meeting to warn her colleagues that an impending \$100,000 hike in Leverett's assessment for the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District is in the offing for FY'14. An increase of this amount, which Shively said would be largely due to new out of district special education placements, would amount to more than a 10 percent hike in the town's assessment for the district, Shively estimated. Since the town is experiencing "no new growth," and cannot anticipate a rise in state aid for

FY'14, Shively said a hike like this could be destabilizing for other town departments.

Meanwhile, Shively said, the Leverett Elementary School, which has experienced years of nearly level funded budgets, is currently projecting a \$40,000 decrease in overall spending for next year, due to recent retirements of senior staff and the consolidation of one double classroom in grade 6.

In other news, the board reviewed a recruitment video for the Sunderland and Leverett fire departments which will soon be posted online on the town's website. The eight minute video, prepared by Leverett firefighter Hadrian Dykiel, highlights the operation of the call fire departments and emphasized the need for more community members to serve on the fire department.

Meanwhile, the selectboard called on the newly appointed fire department review committee to look at the impending personnel changes to the Leverett call fire department, which is anticipating the retirement next year of its three senior officers, including chief John Moruzzi. The town of Sunderland has inquired about the possibility of consolidating the fire departments of the two towns.

The selectboard supported a Community Preservation Committee request from Leverett Elementary School principal Anne Ross for \$17,000 to fund a new pre-school playground. The board agreed to enter into a one-year contract with Constellation Energy to supply municipal electricity, after examining the cost and availability of solar powered electricity from the Hampshire Council of Governments.

In a separate development, the board has heard back from HCOG that Broadway Electric, in Boston, has bid on the installation of a 749 kilowatt photovoltaic array on the town's former landfill.

The board discussed a change in state law which may make it necessary for the town to extend health insurance benefits to the spouses of town retirees. The board took no action on this matter, but warned it could be a potential budget buster.

Before the board adjourned to go into executive session to discuss reimbursing a firefighter injured in the line of duty, board members agreed to draft a letter to legislators demanding action to reduce gun violence in the wake of last week's massacre by a gunman using semiautomatic weapons, who mowed down 20 first graders and six of their teachers and care providers before killing himself in an elementary school in Newtown, Conn.



# POWERTOWN POP UP

A LOCAL ARTISAN HOLIDAY SHOP IN TURNERS FALLS

**85 Avenue A**  
corner of Ave A + 3rd St.

**Open Christmas Eve!**  
Thurs. - Sat. 10 am - 7 pm  
Sun. Noon-6pm

For associated Pop Up events and special extended hours, visit:

**WWW.TURNERSFALLSRIVERCULTURE.ORG**

**JOHN DOE, JR.**  
**USED RECORDS & BOOKS**

269 MAIN STREET  
GREENFIELD, MA 01301  
SKOTROK@EARTHLINK.NET  
JOHNDOEJUNIOR.COM  
413-775-0069

**We buy record collections big and small.**  
**We carry every genre and speed of vinyl records**  
(LPs, 33s, 45s, 78s).  
**Family owned and operated since 2009.**  
**Buy the record collector in your life a gift certificate for Xmas!**

**SONIC CREATIONS** MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS SALES AND SERVICES

**10% OFF**

281 Main St.  
Greenfield MA, 01301  
413.325.8042

All in-stock new, used, and consignment items. (Does not apply to Complete Bikes or Special Orders)  
Offer Expires 12/31/2012  
One coupon per customer per day

**NOW FEATURING**  
Fine Quality Products from **GL**

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE CALL 863-8666

**The Gill Tavern**

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

Now serving Sunday Brunch! 10am-2pm

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

**MUSIC & MOVIES**

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

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

**woodfired pizzeria**

**couture bros.**

Professional Painting & Decorating  
Contractor - Retailer

**"Serving Western Mass for 102 years from Avenue A"**

www.couturebros.com  
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

**mww** **ROCKET FUSION**

Montague WebWorks . com

Now powered by RocketFusion

413.320.5336      info@montaguewebworks.com

**make the web work for your business**

**Turners Falls Pizza House**

Family Owned & Operated  
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years  
Dave Argy, Family & Staff

**PIZZA, GRINDERS, DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS**

www.turnersfallspizza.com  
119 Avenue A, Turners Falls      (413) 863-8000

**Nichols Vision**

Now in Turners Falls  
Free "no pressure" Consultations  
Bring your prescription in today!

Providers for EYEMED, DAVIS VISION, AARP, CELTICARE, and others.

Nichols Vision  
296 Avenue A  
(Miskinis TV Building)  
Turners Falls, MA. 01376  
(413) 863 -0100

**MAIN STREET BAR & GRILLE**

**Pub Style Atmosphere**

Serving 7 days a week  
Noon to 7 p.m.  
Dine-in or Take-out

Now Serving... Pizza, Seafood  
Baskets, Burgers & Dogs,  
Chicken Tenders, Salads,  
Wraps, Best Wings in Town,  
Fresh Cut Fries & much more.  
Check Our Weekly Specials

94 Main Street, Greenfield  
774-6388