



Montague's Got Provisions

A Treasure Trove of the Unexpected

Page 9

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

A Possible Tenant for Part of the Strathmore Mill

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE – The Montague selectboard held a brief afternoon meeting on Wednesday, to deal with three items of good news:

For the seventh year in a row, the Turners Falls RiverCulture project is the recipient of a competitive Adams Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council – this time for the amount of \$36,000 – to support arts-based economic development for downtown Turners Falls.

The Strathmore Mill, a 244,000-square-foot, 140 year old mill complex that fell into town hands for unpaid taxes in 2010, may have found a first, if small scale, tenant for part of the vast and vacant mill.

And the \$6.6 million combined sewer overflow, garage extension, and Fournier press installation project at the town's sewage treatment plant has finally been completed, about \$8,000 under budget.

At the Strathmore, town

administrator Frank Abbondanzio fielded an inquiry from Ron MacLeod of Nautilus, LLC, a manufacturer of ultra low head stainless steel hydro turbines. MacLeod, who recently moved north from Pennsylvania, said he is the only manufacturer in America who is specializing in producing hydro power using streams with very low head. About six or eight feet of drop is sufficient. **see TENANT pg 13**



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON MACLEOD

Nautilus, LLC manufactures ultra low head hydro turbines like the one pictured above in Scotland

Showered by the Sun



DETMOLD PHOTO

Troy Renaud shows off the new solar panels atop the Montague wastewater treatment plant

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE – Workers at the Montague wastewater treatment plant will be showering with solar power now that three new roof-mounted solar hot water panels have been installed, courtesy of a \$4350 grant to the town of Montague from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Fund.

On Monday, Troy Renaud, of Arctic Refrigeration was putting the finishing touches on the

pipng system and controls for the 80 gallon dual hot water tank. Sensors will measure the temperature of the water in the tank and on the roof. When the sun-heated water temperature exceeds the temperature in the tank, the system will call for the solar hot water to circulate into the tank.

On a cold winter day, with the sun out, Renaud said the solar panels on the roof can preheat the water to 100 degrees, or more.

At that point, the treat-

ment plant's backup oil-fired hot water tank will kick in to raise the pre-heated water to 120 degrees, good to go for a tired wastewater treatment plant worker to take a shower before heading home from work.

With heating oil at \$3.42 a gallon now, the treatment plant hopes to save more than a hundred dollars a month on its hot water bill.

Superintendent Bob Trombley said he would be

see SUN pg 11

Solar Industrial Park Envisioned for Turnpike Road

JANEL NOCKLEBY
MONTAGUE –

Preparation is underway for a possible Turnpike Road Energy Park, an industrial park which includes solar power generation. Montague's town planner, the committee exploring the topic, and the consulting firm tasked with providing a master plan want to know what residents think about how the puzzle pieces might all fit together on the 183-acre parcel of town-owned land off of Turnpike Road.

How might one fit industrial plots of a variety of sizes, roads with utilities, solar arrays, a stormwater runoff system, and possibly a new Montague Department of Public Works facility – and overcome the potential obstacles of developing the

site, which includes the town's former burn dump, a capped landfill, a gravel pit (which may have turned into a vernal pool over time), steep slopes, trails, permanent and intermittent streams? The neighborhood has traffic concerns about any further development on Turnpike Road. And, well, then there are the bobcats and coyotes and bears and turtles and turkeys and deer and owls and moose that either make the land their home or use it as their highway or feeding ground.

After giving a brief overview of the project at a public forum held at the community room of the Turnpike Road safety complex on Wednesday, town planner Walter Ramsey and Cecil Group consultant Ken Buckland divided the

room of about twenty-five interested citizens into two groups, provided two oversized maps, and a number of puzzle-like pieces depicting project requirements and many of the obstacles noted above so that everyone could make suggestions and comments and visualize the challenges of development on the property. Many abutters living on Greenfield Road, Turnpike Road, and Randall Wood Drive attended the public forum, as did a project manager from Judd Wire, which also abuts the property.

Participants at both maps brought up a number of issues, including the detailed inventory of wildlife that likes to travel along the permanent and temporary streams and the **see PARK pg 12**



LEE WICKS PHOTO

Paul Mariani's Hart Crane Bio Inspires James Falco Film

Paul Mariani

BY LEE WICKS

Montague Center is a quiet place, perfect for Paul Mariani, teacher, poet and biographer. In addition to living in a world of ideas, he chips ice from the pathway and sidewalks in the winter, and in summer he takes good care of the

lawn.

The last thing Mariani ever imagined was a call from James Franco's agent, saying Franco wanted to make a film based on *The Broken Tower*, Mariani's biography of the gay American poet, Hart Crane.

Franco portrayed Harry Osborn in the Sam Raimi *Spiderman* films. He may be best known for his starring role in the mountain climbing drama *127 Hours*. And he wanted to make a movie about Hart

see INSPIRES pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Still Waiting for You



Eggnog

Hi, My name is Egg Nog. I'm a three year old female cat. Egg nog may be out of season but if you take me home you can have me all year long! I was found outside by a nice person who took me in and let me have my kittens in her home. I'm a quiet yet friendly kind of gal. Most of the time I just lounge around, but I do enjoy an occasional romp in the sink with the water running. Nobody knows why my tail is short; that's a secret! A girl's gotta have at least one. Also, I'm a member of the Lonely Hearts Club. That means I've been here at the adoption center longer than most other kitties, so my adoption fee is half price. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org to learn more about me.

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WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

The Wendell Film Series Presents:

The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain

The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain (1995, 99 minutes, PG) stars Hugh Grant as a mild-mannered English map-maker who upsets an entire Welsh community when, after surveying the town's beloved local "mountain", declares it to be a mere "hill" according to official government definitions. The outraged townsfolk devise an ambitious plan to remedy the situation in this charming romantic comedy about a community galvanized by adversity.

"*The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain* is a fond throwback to the British comedies of the 1950s in which earnest citizens went about their daily lives lit-

tle realizing how eccentric they were. The British dote on eccentricity; one of their recent scientific surveys triumphantly concluded that the eccentric are happier and live longer... Every character in this movie, with the possible exception of the fresh-cheeked local lass Betty of Cardiff (Tara Fitzgerald), is crazy as a bedbug, and none of them know it, and that is why they are so funny." – Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times

Short feature to be announced.

This free showing will be held Sunday, February 19th, 7 p.m., at the Wendell Free Library. For more information, contact Douglas Dawson at 978-544-7762 or ddawson@post.harvard.edu

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Dancing at the Roger Tincknell Family Concert



TURNERS FALLS – Many families danced to "Waltzing Matilda" at the Family Concert with Roger Tincknell at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, January 28th. Ninety children and adults attended the show. MCTV videotaped the concert, and will include it in their programming.

The program was funded in part from a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and also by Community Action's Family Center.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – February 6th to 10th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Kerry Togneri is the meal site manager. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Appointments are now being scheduled for free AARP tax aid. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

Monday, February 6th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, February 7th
10:30 a.m. Seated Health Program
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting
1:00 p.m. RAD Self Defense
Wednesday, February 8th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by

appointment
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, February 9th
9:00 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, February 10th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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



Gill-Montague students (clockwise from left) Emily Watrous, Calley Hubert, Jemma Dickson, Alyson Kilanski, and KK Flores paint a cement totem pole with the help of Sarah Crowell and Jack Nelson at Joe Landry's studio last Thursday, in preparation for mounting at the youth sculpture park.

SLATE MEMORIAL LIBRARY LIBRARY NEWS

The Life and Art of Robert Strong Woodward

The Friends of Robert Strong Woodward and the Slate Library in Gill will host a program on the life and art of Western Massachusetts landscape painter, Robert Strong Woodward.

Woodward was a local, wheelchair-bound artist whose paintings were purchased by George Burns, Jack Benny, Robert Frost,

Oliver Wendell Holmes, and others. Author Janet Gerry will sign her book about the artist.

The event will be held on Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the library, which is located at 332 Main Road in Gill. For more information, contact the Slate Memorial Library at (413) 863-2591.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Valentine's Party

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS – The annual Carnegie Library Valentines Party will be held on Saturday, February 11th, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Children and their families can make fun valentine inspired crafts, cards, and other heart themed projects with Ruth O'Mara and Linda Hickman. This is a free program and the craft materials will be provided. The refreshments include a chocolate fondue fountain. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, at 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls or call (413) 863-3214.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Joshua Obuchowski

Grade 7

Madelyn Johnson

Grade 8

Mackenzie Phillips

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Monday, February 6th
9:00 a.m. T'ai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Tuesday, February 7th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, February 8th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, February 9th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect
Friday, February 10th
9:00 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT Senior Activities
• Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
• Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12:00 p.m. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or at coa@leverett.ma.us.

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.



Local Briefs

JESSICA LARIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG — Come to a Celebrate Diversity potluck and performance at the **Swift River School**, 201 Wendell Road, in New Salem, on February 9th, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Swift River is celebrating diversity this year with an all-school study of Africa. Abdou Sarr of Wendell will share his native Senegalese dancing and drumming with the community, and children's art inspired by Africa will also be on display. Bring an African-inspired dish to share. All are welcome!

It was standing room only at the roast for Montague's recently retired chief of police, **Ray Zukowski**. More than 200 crowded St. Kaziemerz' Hall in Turners to reminisce and rib the former chief on Saturday. Zukowski received a letter of commendation from the State Police, praise from representative Steve Kulik, and a stirring Irish farewell sung in a beautiful tenor by Sheriff Chris Donelan.

May the road rise up to meet you, Chief (with no speed traps waiting on the other side!).

Meanwhile, folks have been seen wandering the **Avenue** for the last two weeks in a daze, ever since the time and temperature sign at the former Greenfield Savings Bank location went dark. Daffodils have begun to bloom, people are wearing shorts and t-shirts, and everybody is arriving late for their appointments.

Joan Cramer, GSB vice president, said the three-figure

monthly cost of electricity to light the sign was not the reason why the village lost this familiar feature of the streetscape. "The sign is leased, and so is the building, and the fact is the lease on the sign ran out," she explained.

Two blocks further down the Avenue, the GSB has a new outdoor clock and thermometer at their handsome new quarters, at 282 Avenue A.

Montague Community Television (MCCI) has begun streaming video online at Vimeo.com. Owen Weaver, MCTV's technical coordinator, said, "We are uploading locally produced videos as fast as we can. So, anyone who wants to see a town or school meeting they missed can view it. We embedded a link to our video channel on the Montague town website." Click on online streaming on either montague.net or montaguetv.org. View a PSA on saving your local post office produced by John Duda and Don Clegg. If you have a PSA or story idea you would like to see appear on MCTV, or that you would like help videotape, call (413) 863-9200.

The Recover Project, a community open to all concerned with drug and alcohol addiction, is now accepting donations of clean and usable blankets and clothing, especially jackets, for a winter clothing drive. Donations can be dropped off at the Recover Project from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, or can be left in marked box at the entrance of

the Recover Project at 70 Federal Street in Greenfield.

Hospice of Franklin County will offer a **Winter Bereavement Support Group** beginning Thursday, February 16th. The group, open to any adult who has experienced the death of a loved one, will meet each Thursday for eight weeks from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 329 Conway Street in Greenfield. A telephone interview is required for registration. Please call Mary Schreiber at (413) 774-2400 for more info.

A weekly **creative movement** class with gentle warm-ups and energetic, improvisational, connective dancing will be offered on Tuesdays at Wendell town hall from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Warm-ups will encourage participants to breathe, relax, and listen to their bodies, finding movements from an authentic place. Call Seal at (978) 544-0269 to find out more.

Hope & Olive Restaurant will host a **Soup & Games Night** benefit at 44 Hope Street in Greenfield, to benefit the Clinical and Support Options Family Services programs on Monday, February 6th, starting at 5:30 p.m. No charge, but donations are encouraged.

In celebration of 90 Years of **Winter Carnival**, the Greenfield Recreation Department has put together a weekend jam-packed with fun for the whole family. The celebration kicks off Friday, February 3rd, starting at 5 p.m. at Beacon Field with a bonfire, fire dancers, and fireworks. The celebration continues on Saturday, February 4th at 10 a.m. with the four-mile Sleigh Bell Run and a Family Fun Day at the Youth Center featuring a magician, art exhibit, face painting, games, crafts,

and a showing of *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. The carnival continues on Sunday, February 5th, at noon on Beacon Field with ice skating, sledding, a cookie bake-off, a chili cook-off, ski and snowshoe demos, broom ball, hockey, community tug-of-war, music with DJ Bobby C, and the very popular Cardboard Sled Race.

Song Shop at the Burrito Rojo, Third Street, in Turners Falls is offering a new collaborative open mic event, happening every Friday night. February 3rd and each month's first Friday to follow will be hosted by local songstress Katie Sachs. Bring your instrument(s) and play something solo, or along with others you may have never met.

Many, many thanks to all the folks who made last month's benefit concert for the Malia Children's Home in Kenya at the Leverett Elementary School such a resounding success. It was a fabulous night, and approximately \$1800 was raised for the education of the children in the home.

The **Wendell Post**, a legendary community newspaper that existed for more than 21

years and documented town happenings through the 1980s and 1990s, is going to be scanned by the Local History Archival Department at UMass, and will be retrievable and searchable online.

When the project is complete, everyone will be able to enjoy the efforts of the creative writers, photographers, and artists who made this paper live.

The Recover Project and the Salasin Project will host a sixteen week parenting group. The **Nurturing Program for Families in Recovery**, beginning February 7th, will meet Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 pm at The Family United Network, at 3½ Osgood St. in Greenfield.

The Program aims to strengthen relationships in families affected by parental substance use. It is open to current, future and grand parents, and caretakers. Heather Taylor and Sascha Gottschalk will co-facilitate. Space is limited and a full attendance commitment requested. Call (413) 774-5489 for more information or to sign up.

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

Leverett Democrats to Caucus on Convention Delegates

Democrats in Leverett will hold a caucus on Thursday, February 16th at 7 p.m. at Leverett town hall to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Party's 2012 nominating convention. All registered Democrats in Leverett are eligible to participate.

Delegates will select candidates to compete for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate. The convention will be held on Saturday, June 2nd, 2012 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield.

The Leverett democratic caucus will elect two delegates (one male, one female), and three alternates to the convention. Those not elected as delegate or alternate, who meet the qualifications, may apply to be add-on delegates in the following categories: youth (18-35), minority, and disabled.

For more information, contact Barbara Tiner, Leverett town Democratic Committee chair, at Barbara@wetlanded.com or call: 548-7919.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

Thermal Pollution Harms Our River

BY DAVID DEEN

VERNON – The recent Vermont Yankee federal court decision said the state of Vermont can't trump the federal government when it comes to issues of nuclear safety.

But the same ruling affirmed Vermont's continuing authority for oversight of other issues at VY, like enforcement of the Clean Water Act.

That's good, because when your next door neighbor is a nuclear power plant, their bad housekeeping is more than just a nuisance. Vermont Yankee (VY) refuses to adequately use its cooling towers, and instead discharges hot water – thermal pollution – directly into the Connecticut River. This allows VY to cut electricity production costs significantly, but as Vermont Yankee is an independent energy producer, those savings do not necessarily wind up reducing anybody's electric bill, allowing Vermont Yankee to pocket the savings. So Louisiana-based Entergy profits at the expense of the river, a shared public resource that millions of us cherish as the heart of New England.

From its own reports, Vermont Yankee has known since 1978 that their discharge heats up the river all the way to Holyoke. Thermal pollution can be just as insidious as other kinds of pollution, and although it's invisible, it can harm river life.

Heating up the river negatively affects wildlife and their habitats. It confuses and disrupts fish, which look to changes in water temperatures to migrate or breed.

For more than 15 years, Vermont Yankee has been permitted to raise the temperature of the entire Connecticut River up to 13 degrees during winter months and up to five degrees in the summer and fall. The nuclear power plant can send up to 543 million gallons of heated water – some of it at

105 degrees – into the river every day. As if this weren't bad enough, in 2006 Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) allowed the nuclear power plant to increase river temperatures even more.

Since Vermont Yankee has been allowed to do all this under an expired water quality permit, the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) has petitioned ANR to begin the permit renewal process – stalled since 2006.

It is time for the state to issue a new permit with tougher temperature standards for Yankee's discharges into the Connecticut.

CRWC believes there is good science to back up those tougher standards – better science than the narrow, slanted view Entergy's consultants provided Vermont to justify heating up the river eight years ago. A soon-to-be-released CRWC-funded expert analysis of Entergy's case to continue dumping thermal pollution came to some clear conclusions:

Vermont Yankee did not accurately describe the size and extent of its plume of thermal pollution.

Vermont Yankee did not provide enough information to prove they weren't threatening our fish, including Atlantic salmon and shad.

It's simple. When a power plant like Vermont Yankee wants to dump thermal pollution into our river they need to prove it will not harm the river's aquatic organisms. The Environmental Protection Agency has guidelines for how that should be done. In particular, EPA identifies five parameters that should be included in order to support a determination of whether or not fish communities will be harmed from a thermal discharge. Our experts found that none of these determinants were appropriately provided in

Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is?



SARAH DUPREY ILLUSTRATION

...or even what time of year it is?

LETTER TO



THE EDITOR

Springfield Set a Good Example by Rejecting Biomass

On January 25th, the Springfield zoning board of appeals ruled in favor of the opponents of a 35 megawatt wood burning power plant that the developer is trying to build in the city.

This action came on the heels of the Springfield city council revoking a special permit to build the plant.

This is good news for two reasons. First, if the project does not get built, we will be spared a large source of particulate air pollution traveling up the valley

to our cities and towns. Second, it provides a great example of how boards in cities and towns can say "no" to unwanted projects, even when the developer appears to have big money, threatens law suits and has the support of the Patrick administration.

This vote reminds us that local boards can decide, on behalf of the residents they represent, what is good for their community, and not be forced to go along with the special interests and agencies who help

shape the laws that define "Green" energy and try to decide what is safe for us.

We hope that if the developer of the biomass plant in Greenfield comes before the city's zoning board of appeals a second time, the board will decide in favor of the health and welfare if its citizens like Springfield's boards did.

– Janet Sinclair
Buckland

Janet Sinclair is a member of Concerned Citizens of Franklin County.

Entergy's presentation to ANR.

After VY's 1978 study revealed the 55-mile-long thermal plume in the Connecticut River, Entergy's latest study decided the plume was only half a mile long. Entergy used a limited field of temperature data and compiled it in a way to mask its potential variability.

No matter how much it costs Entergy in lost electricity sales, the state of Vermont can make sure Vermont Yankee

uses their cooling towers to protect your river. The Connecticut River Watershed Council is working toward that goal. By joining the CRWC's good neighbor campaign at www.coolitentergy.org, you can let Entergy know the whole neighborhood is watching.

Your river is not Entergy's

pollution dump.

David Deen is Upper Valley River Steward for the Connecticut River Watershed Council. Founded in 1952, CRWC is the four-state Connecticut River watershed's foremost citizen advocate for clean water and healthy human and natural communities. www.criver.org

The Montague Reporter Nears Subscription Goal

As our goal of reaching 1,000 subscribers for our independent, community-owned newspaper draws close, we are turning to friends in three towns in our coverage area to help boost us over the finish line.

As it turns out, Gill, Wendell and Leverett are each nearing 100 subscribers within their borders. So, let's make a contest out of it.

Whichever one of those towns reaches 100 subscribers first, the Reporter will donate \$50 to the friends group at the Gill, Wendell or Leverett library, and a \$50 gift certificate to the Montague Reporter advertiser of their choice to the lucky subscriber who reaches the 100 mark.

We won't tell you which town is closest to that goal right now, but it is very close.

So, if you have friends in Gill, Wendell or Leverett who have been thinking about subscribing to the paper (or if you'd like to help by buying them a gift subscription), now is the perfect time to do so. Just use the subscription blank on this page.

Friends in all towns are encouraged to come to the Montague Reporter Sweetheart's raffle and bake sale table in the Food City breezeway, 250 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, between 1 and 6 p.m. for a special \$5 off on new subscriptions on Sunday, February 12th.

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U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 2/1/12

Wounded: 14,342 Deaths: 1,890



GUEST EDITORIAL

Leverett Should Pay its Bills

On the issue of the U-28 budget, I and other Wendell representatives on the U-28 committee clearly understand the strains and difficulties on local budgets during this period of economic slowdown. As mentioned at the most recent U-28 supervisory committee meeting (*MR X #17 – Cuts Restored, U-28 Central Budget Office Approved*) the joint committee has entertained budget cuts for both Shutesbury and Leverett over the past several years.

But as Wendell representative Dick Baldwin pointed out, “administration is already trimmed.” Here in Wendell, we value the services and school support provided by the U-28 central office and as such I believe felt it was time to “hold the line” on further budget cuts. Farshid Hajir of the Leverett

school committee commented that several years ago Shutesbury requested a similar \$8,000 cut and the “sky didn’t fall.” His statement is true, but since then we have also sustained a previous request from Leverett to level-fund the U-28 budget. We simply cannot continue to take cuts in the budget of a shared resource because one town requests them.

Shutesbury’s Michael DeChiara mentioned that if we are “working as a collaborative,” the U-28 committee needs to look at one town that is in trouble. True, and we did. However, at the same time we cannot continue to diminish a shared resource simply to satisfy the local budgetary issues of one town in a five-town union.

An irony is that in the union structure, individual towns have

much more flex and input into administrative costs – the regional model that Leverett and Shutesbury are examining would provide town officials with quite a wakeup call regarding political sway on both local school and administrative costs, given that regional structures have different mechanisms in terms of budget setting and proportional representation on a school committee.

Regarding the matter of Wendell-New Salem continuing to act as fiscal agent for U-28, despite the fact that union towns have worked to draft and have filed legislation changing how supervisory union benefits are paid, thus acquiescing to complaints of the Leverett selectboard, the town of Leverett continues to pay only a portion of its bill for central office bene-

fits, which would leave Swift River with an almost \$4,000 deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

It is very important for residents and parents of Leverett to understand what their selectboard is doing. By withholding full payment of its U-28 benefits portion while we await a legislative change, the Leverett selectboard is knowingly forcing the Swift River School to pay \$4,000 on its behalf. That is \$4,000 that is no longer accessible to Wendell and New Salem teachers and students.

The next time you walk into Swift River School for kids soccer, or a science fair, or other event, please keep this in mind. The continued non-payment of benefits by the Leverett selectboard, and the impact on the students of my town, is irresponsible and morally questionable. I can understand that Leverett

should have input into the U-28 budget or hirings or contracts, but a board that is not elected by Wendell residents and does not represent Wendell residents has absolutely no business taking an action that impacts Wendell’s local school funds.

Some will argue that “it is not that much money” and we shouldn’t be concerned in Wendell. If this is the case, that “it is not that much money,” then Leverett should pay its bills, rather than relying on the kindness of strangers.

– Ray DiDonato
Wendell

Ray DiDonato is a member of the Wendell school committee. The opinions expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of other members of the school committee.

NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD PORTRAIT

In response to an article by Jeff Singleton in the January 12th issue of the Montague Reporter (*MR X#15: Leverett Town Hall Holds Many Treasures*), which raised questions about the provenance of an imposing portrait hanging in town hall of the man the town of Leverett is named after, historical commission chair Betsy Douglas prepared a plaque explaining the portrait’s origins. That plaque was presented to the selectboard on January 24th, and will hang on the wall next to the portrait hereafter.

We reproduce the text below:

PORTRAIT OF JOHN LEVERETT

The portrait of John Leverett was purchased in 1983 after fundraising efforts by the Leverett Historical Society headed by Louise Minks, Annette Gibavic and Lois Feldman, and a grant from the Arts Council. The painting had been discovered in a Springfield antique shop by Gordon Howard. It was dedicated in March of 1984.

This portrait by an unknown artist is an oil copy of an original 17th century portrait now in the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, MA.

John Leverett was born in Boston, Lincolnshire, England in 1616. He immigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony with his family in 1633 and married Hannah Hudson in 1639. They had one son before she died in 1643.

He went to England and fought in the Parliamentary cause for Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War there. He returned to Massachusetts in 1645, and married Sarah Sedgwick, with whom he had twelve children.

Leverett became active in local politics and was named a negotiator to Native Americans, part of a survey team to map the northern boundary of the colony and served as the Colony’s agent in London. From 1663 to 1673 he held the rank of major-general of the Massachusetts militia.

He served as deputy governor and then in 1673 succeeded to the governorship on the death of Richard Bellingham. Leverett was the governor of Massachusetts during King Philip’s War and died in office in 1678/9. He is buried in the King’s Chapel burying ground in Boston.

More information on John Leverett is available in the historical commission’s filing cabinet, in the 2nd drawer.

No Nukes Concert & Speakout

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Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, 2 pm–9 pm

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Schedule of events:

Opening:

2:05-2:15 Raging Grannies (2 songs)

2:15-2:25 Ann Ferguson Welcome from the Quahogs

Music:

2:25 Court Dorsey leads singalong song

2:30-3pm Red Valley Fog band performs

Speak Out:

3 pm Randy Kehler, Safe & Green Campaign

3:15 pm France Crowe, Shut It Down affinity group

Music:

3:30-3:50 Julia Burroughs

3:55-4:25 Court Dorsey and Annie Hassett

4:30-5 pm The Diggers Band

Powerpoint Talk:

5:00-5:30 Hattie Nestel Overview on Nuclear Power

Circus Act:

5:35-5:50pm Ever Evolving Soul Circus

Music:

5:55-6:15 Annie Patterson

6:20-6:40 Christian Hine

Speak Out:

6:40-6:55 Open mic

Music:

7:00-7:40 Who Da Funk It Band

7:45-8:15 Snakebaby Band

8:20-9:00 Outer Style Band

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Fenway, Here we Come!

BY DAVID DETMOLD – After a three-year hiatus, the Gill recreation commission will be returning to Fenway Park, and bringing up to 100 Gill friends and neighbors with them. The setting – a block of 104 seats looking out over right field, under the roofline and out of the weather. The occasion – an early season match-up with the hated Baltimore Orioles, who came in dead last in the American League East in 2011, but denied the Sox a shot at the playoffs with a two-run homer in the ninth to knock them out of contention in the waning days of September.

The date for the grudge match? Sunday, May 6th, with the first pitch at 1:30 in the p.m. And if you ride with the Gill recreation commission, you will ride in style, on one of two first class Kuzmeskus coaches, leaving the bus depot on Main Road that morning, for a package cost for the round trip and game tickets of \$60 a person.

Gill residents will have first crack at the tickets when they go on sale in about a week. Call Rose Levasseur at (413) 863-4249 for more details.

The Gill recreation commission sponsored the sell-out group excursions to Fenway for seven years in a row prior to taking a three year break, while the commission got reorganized.

"Glad to see it back!" called Ann Banash, participating in the selectboard meeting Monday afternoon via long distance from spring training in Cape Coral, Florida.

And profits left over from the ticket sales will go to the purchase of a set of bleachers for the girls softball field at the Gill Elementary School, recreation commission member Deb Loomer told the board.

In other news, administrative assistant Ray

Purington told the selectboard there may be more than a dozen contractors coming to the walk through on February 1st to inspect the heating upgrade project at the safety complex, now that \$55,000 for the project has been appropriated by town meeting. Bids are due at the end of next week.

The pump upgrades at the Riverside pump station are underway, held up only slightly by a five-eighths of an inch height variance in the new pump that will require the contractor to shave the same fraction off the existing concrete pad before installation. The first pump will be hooked up this week to the force main line that runs beneath Barton Cove to connect the Riverside water district to the town of Montague's sewer system. The second pump will be installed next week.

A new burner is on the way for the brand-new, direct-from-the-factory boiler recently installed at the elementary school. Problems in the first few weeks of use led Siemens Building Technology to order a replacement burner, which will be installed during winter break. For the moment, the new furnace is keeping the classrooms warm, and no one wanted to try a out another new burner while school was in session.

The selectboard nominated 444 Main Road, a property owned by Larry Krejmas that has been the subject of ongoing clean-up orders from the board of health, to be entered onto the list of properties across the county that may be eligible for technical assistance in site assessment and possible clean up grants from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Banash noted that the selectboard had offered to assist Krejmas in the clean-

up of the property when he came before the board in December.

Selectboard member John Ward said, "We are willing to work with him, as long as he is willing to work with us."

Following an index local governments use to determine a cost of living increase for town employees, the Gill personnel committee recommended a 3.3% percent COLA for Gill employees for the coming fiscal year.

Banash said the town would need to look at the numbers, "and see if we can do that."

Purington said a 3.3% COLA would cost the town about \$15,000 in salary increases in FY'13. The motion to approve a COLA will appear on the annual town meeting warrant as a separate article, as has been the town's practice since the recession caused raises for town workers entirely in FY'10.

Purington said the average cost of living increase for town employees since FY'06 has been 2.4%.

The selectboard spent some time prioritizing a list of potential local technical assistance projects for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

The board's top five picks, in order, for local technical assistance from the FRCOG are as follows: launching the regional dog officer and kennel; assisting the Hampshire Council of Governments with their regional municipal solar assistance; providing technical support for towns related to the Green Communities Act; exploring the possibility of regionalizing countywide veterans services with Greenfield; and assisting the planning board mapping and study for future land use in Gill.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Jim McGovern may Visit Leverett Town Meeting

BY DAVID DETMOLD – "There is a good chance Congressman Jim McGovern may come to Leverett town meeting," Barbara Tiner told the selectboard on Tuesday, January 24th.

With last year's reduction of the number of Massachusetts congressional districts from 10 to 9, the First Congressional District represented by John Olver, who is retiring at the end of this term, got carved up and divided between the districts represented by Richard Neal (D-Springfield), whose district gained towns in Berkshire County, and Jim McGovern (D-Worcester), whose district picked up towns in Hampshire and Franklin County, including Leverett.

Tiner, a member of the ad-hoc citizens group called the Leverett Peace Commission, asked the selectboard if McGovern would be welcome to attend the town meeting in spring, and perhaps give a speech in support of an expected warrant article against corporate personhood, as enshrined in law by the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision of two year ago. Tiner has been in touch with the Congressman's office about scheduling the visit.

McGovern introduced a constitutional amendment in Congress last year to repeal the *Citizens United* decision, in his words, "to restore the Founding Fathers' intent to grant rights to people, not corporations."

McGovern's office, in a recent press release, quoted the Congressman as saying, "As any high school civics student knows, the first three words of the preamble to the Constitution are, 'We the People.' Corporations are not people. They do not breathe.

They do not have children. They do not die in war. They are artificial entities which we the people create and, as such, we govern them, not the other way around.

"The *Citizens United* ruling," McGovern continued, "marks the most extreme extension of a corporate rights doctrine which has eroded our First Amendment and our Constitution. Now is the time for a 28th Amendment that lifts up the promise of American self-government: of, for, and by the people."

The Leverett selectboard noted that McGovern must still stand for re-election and win before he will be able to represent the town of Leverett in the newly drawn district.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said, "He's an outsider, until he's elected. Someone would have to invite him to speak."

Brazeau said the town meeting could not allow the appearance of endorsing a candidate for Congress in the guise of an official invitation to McGovern to attend the meeting.

"What would we do if a Republican candidate wanted to come to Leverett town meeting? Would we extend the same invitation?"

Tiner said she would try to arrange for McGovern to be at the meeting in time for lunch, so he could mingle with residents informally.

Allen to Retire

After nine years as town accountant, Terry Allen will retire on April 7th. She served the town as treasurer for 15 years before that. Allen, a fount of information about all things related to town affairs, will reportedly devote a little less of

her time to civic responsibilities and a little more to her flowerbeds, and travel.

Budget Hearings

The board held a hearing for the transfer station, to kick off a round of departmental budget reviews. Transfer station coordinator Neil Brazeau said he would be able to hold the line on a level funded \$68,813 budget for FY'13, but he warned cost increases were coming for the town's membership in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

Leverett, which only joined the FCSWMD in 2010, has been paying about \$4,700 a year to enjoy the administrative services and technical support of the district.

Brazeau said an increase in district membership fees is being projected due to a proposed shift in sludge hauling for Greenfield, which has been using the FCSWMD to truck sludge from its treatment plant out of the county, but is now exploring hauling direct to the Montague wastewater treatment plant instead, where last fall's installation of a rotary dewatering press has led to efficiencies in sludge handling and fees.

Consequently, the price for Leverett to remain a member of the waste management district "may go up significantly next year," said Brazeau, by \$1,000 or more.

He also mentioned that deferred maintenance on bulky waste collection bins and the outdoor scales may lead to increases in repair costs at the transfer station. "The scales are a wreck," he said, adding that rather than continue to repair them, he has begun estimating weights of resident's transfer hauls by see LEVERETT pg 12

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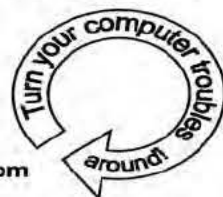
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving School Committee Seeks a \$265,000, 12% Increase for FY'13

BY KATIE NOLAN – The Erving school committee faced intense questioning, first from the finance committee and then from the selectboard, about its \$2.4 million draft fiscal year 2013 budget, a 12% increase over last year's figure of \$2,134,800.

Before speaking with the school committee, the finance committee heard from town administrator Tom Sharp, who presented the draft budget for the entire town, which includes requests from all town departments, expected revenue, and available funds.

Sharp noted that if all department requests were funded, the budget will show a \$200,000 deficit.

The big ticket items include \$200,000 for a Freightliner truck for the highway department, \$100,000 for road work to supplement state Chapter 90 grants, \$450,000 for a new fire truck, and \$250,000 to put into a fund to pay for future retiree health care benefits.

The increased school costs are primarily for three new special education staff members and added hours for one special education staff member and for contractual increases for current employees. According to the school committee's handout, there are a large number of stu-

dents with special needs expected to start at Erving Elementary next year.

Finance committee chair Stanley Gradowski quickly asked the school committee members if costs could be reduced, because "every other school in the area has cut their budget, and we've gone out of sight."

School committee chair Jarod Boissonneault replied the committee should read through the full budget and listen to the school committee's presentation before demanding cuts.

Finance member Daniel Hammock observed the Commonwealth has a 2.5% limit on property tax increases. He wondered why the school committee was presenting a budget with an increase more than four times that limit. He also noted, "Other departments are down to the bone."

School committee member Melanie Burnett said the school committee had conducted intense budget discussions with administration and staff and, "We really pared it down to necessity."

School committee member Scott Bastarache said that some of the school's needs have been put off for four or five years but, "The need is still

there."

Boissonneault noted the school operating budget, exclusive of contractual obligations for salaries and benefits, had an increase of only 0.46%. Both Boissonneault and school committee member MacKensy Bailey said problems not fixed now will become larger problems in the future.

Next, the selectboard questioned the school committee.

Selectboard member James Hackett complimented the school committee on the amount of information they provided with the draft budget. He asked why there were so many Erving Elementary children classified as needing special education services, suggesting perhaps the criteria were too inclusive.

Bailey told the board children needing services were identified through standard criteria, such as test results.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said, "If everyone gets what they ask for, we're minus \$200,000." He suggested the selectboard and school committee needed to take a "whole town outlook."

Boissonneault told the selectboard the school committee had reduced the

see **ERVING** page 13

More Work Needed MAHAR REGIONALIZATION COMMITTEE CONSIDERS ALTERNATIVES

BY KATIE NOLAN
ORANGE – At the January 19th Mahar regionalization subcommittee meeting, representatives from Wendell, Orange, Petersham, and New Salem spoke out frankly about the obstacles for Mahar regionalization. Although they reached no agreement, they did not give up on the process entirely.

An amended regional agreement presented to the towns of the Mahar district in the fall of 2011 sought to create a hybrid K-12 region for Orange and Petersham, with New Salem and Wendell continuing as 7-12 regional partners in Mahar. For grades K-6, New Salem and Wendell would remain a two-town elementary school region under the Union 28 superintendent. After years of work on the part of the subcommittee, the amended agreement passed at the Orange town meeting after intense debate, passed in New Salem, failed in Petersham by a handful of votes, and failed overwhelmingly in Wendell.

In an introductory presentation, Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) consultant Kenneth Rocke listed some of the major problems town meeting members in the four towns had found in the amendments to the regional agreement. These included:

- the perception of many in Wendell that the state's statutory assessment method is unfair, and support among Wendell citizens for the use of an alternative assessment method
- at-large representation to the hybrid region school committee, with voters from all four towns voting for all committee members
- a "unitary budget" with both elementary and secondary budgets com-

bined, so the two 7-12 towns would be voting on the Orange and Petersham elementary budgets when they vote on approving the Mahar budget

• fiscal problems in Orange

• Level 3 status (among the lowest 20% in the state for test scores) of the Orange elementary school district.

"The assessment issue has to be dealt with," said Wendell finance committee co-chair and regionalization committee member Jim Slavos. "I lean toward continuing to work toward K-12 regionalization, with the caveat that members agree to deal with the assessment issue. If this region is going to thrive and go forward, we need to come up with a consensus as to what we think is fair."

For years, Slavos has asked the Mahar school committee to respond to the perception that Mahar's use of the statutory assessment method is unfair, because Wendell has ended up paying more per student than the other three towns in the Mahar region.

For fiscal year 2012, superintendent Michael Baldassarre and the assessment subcommittee of the Mahar school committee developed the "alternative averaging method" that would bring per pupil costs for Wendell closer to those of New Salem and Petersham, but would not affect the assessment for Orange. This alternative method was approved by the Mahar school committee. At the 2011 Wendell annual town meeting, the "alternative averaging method" was characterized by Wendell finance committee members as a first step toward achieving fairness in assessing regional school costs.

Although the alternative averaging method was

approved at Wendell, Petersham, and New Salem town meetings, it was not approved by the Orange annual town meeting. Because alternative assessment methods must be approved by all member towns in a region, the Orange vote defeated it, and all member towns continue to be assessed for Mahar according to the statutory assessment method.

Rocke agreed that the school assessment was "an issue of great significance to the entire town [Wendell]." But, he cautioned, even if an alternate assessment method is built into the regional agreement, "it must be approved by all four town meetings each year."

MARS executive director Steve Hemman reminded the subcommittee members that DESE will not approve alternative assessments unless they are first defined in the regional agreement.

Orange selectboard chair and regionalization subcommittee member Robert Andrews suggested, "That's the very first thing we deal with."

Baldassarre said, "We're seeking fair, and I think we can find fair."

Several subcommittee members cited at-large voting as a problem for their towns. The amended regional agreement provided for an 11-member school committee, five members from Orange and two from each of the other three towns. School committee members were to be elected at-large by voters in all four towns, but only a town resident could represent a specific town.

Mahar school committee attorney Russell Dupere explained, in accordance with the Supreme Court's 1964 "one man, one vote"

see **MAHAR** pg 10

Comparison of Per Pupil Costs for Union #28 Schools

Union 28 School	Per Pupil Cost FY'08	Per Pupil Cost FY'09	Per Pupil Cost FY '10	Number of Students FY '10
Erving	\$13,699	\$13,545	\$14,641	165
Leverett	\$14,522	\$15,531	\$14,586	164
Shutesbury	\$12,365	\$13,650	\$15,340	151
Swift River	\$12,724	\$13,498	\$13,380	137

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Eros on the Avenue



OH Noel by Christin Couture

BY MATTHEW SMALL
TURNERS FALLS – Nina's Nook, that sliver of an art space and shop, has opened its doors to local artists during this season of love for a special show styled "SSS."

The show ranges from the slightly sensually suggestive to the downright dirty in a wonderful progression from sly to sexual to smutty.

The rarity of this kind of show in our area (or at least the promise of a little smut) should be enough to convince you that it's well worth the trip.

Let me further entice you with this erudite top ten list of reasons why, from a purely pedantic perspective, you definitely need to go check out this show:

10. Let's face it, art shows and gallery openings aren't for everyone, but sex totally is.

9. There can never be enough opportunities to get out there to see the work being produced by the community of artists in Franklin County and its creative suburbs. The artists in the SSS show at Nina's include: Amina Silk, Edite Cunha, Wednesday Nelen Sorokin, Peter Monroe, Patrick Bogart, Christin

Couture, Dan Cheney, Nina Rossi, Glenn Ridler, Nicol Wander, Joseph McCarthy, Tim DeChristopher, Kathleen Anderson, Camille, Leslie DeGraffe, Marvin Paige, and Tony Palumbo.

8. From more traditional forms like ceramic sculpture, painting, and photography to interactive pieces of interpreted found objects and piggyback art, the variety of work will keep your eyes happy and your brain busy.

7. As Nina pointed out, the Nook itself has a sort of alley-meets-peep-show ambience by its very form. The narrow, long space can only add to the magic of it all as you move through each S.

6. Nothing says "Happy Valentines Day, sweetheart" like a stroll through the range of human sexuality, and that's just a fact.

5. Our Puritan forebears must have already lost hope that we, as a society, would turn out differently. You may as well enjoy a sampling of some of the sweeter, more tingly things life has to offer.

4. There show features a col-

lection of ceramic phalli. So, whether you're into ancient Greek ceremonial props or simply interested in man parts in clay, there's something here for you!

3. Some pieces are just for show, but if you happen to fall in love or have a torrid affair it may just be for sale.

2. Some of the pieces are kind of funny. Take the neon colored panties in frames for example.

1. Some of the pieces are really hot, and you'll just have to see for yourself which one I'm talking about.

Come view the work at Nina's Nook on Avenue A this Saturday (that's February 4th, opening at 1 p.m.), and then head over to the reception just around the corner at Burrito Rojo to rub up against the artists from 5 to 7 p.m. The reception will feature a performance by Nicol Wander of Wonderful Creations entitled "Scarfie Erotica" which, we're told, features a sensuous puppet. Make that eleven reasons.

I might be there too, with my sweetheart, so make that a baker's dozen!

Greenfield Community College Features Local Sculptures

BY REGINA CURTIS – As the first semester following the completion of the Core renovation project at Greenfield Community College was underway, President Robert Pura knew it was time to add the finishing touches for the space intended to welcome students and visitors back to the refurbished campus. Specifically, it was time to install pieces of art that speak to GCC's strong academic programming in that area, art that makes the connection to the natural world of the Pioneer Valley.

"As I walked around and pointed out to people the emphasis our new Core has on integrating with the environment, inside and out, I knew we wanted to continue that theme with our art installations," said Pura. "The new construction highlights how this building is integrated into the hills that surround it."

The renovated Core reflects natural light-filled spaces, featuring wood, granite and stainless steel. The glass walls of the new addition invite the outdoors to be a part of the experience. Pura felt the selection of art pieces for the common areas should continue the thematic aspect of calling on nature to inform the design.

The solution was the purchase of two sculptures, made possible by a gift from a donor. Created by local artists using natural materials from the area, the pieces use the same media as the building itself – wood and granite – which quite literally "come from the Valley."

The first piece, providing both form and function, is a bench installed just inside the front doors of the main entrance. Created by Pacifico "Tony" Palumbo, the granite bench made from Ashfield Stone is held up by two hands



Tony Palumbo stands by as GCC president Bob Pura tries out his new sculpture.

sculpted by Palumbo, mounted on a platform. The piece can serve to provide a brief respite for weary students carrying heavy backpacks, for example, but it also provides every passerby throughout the day

with a whimsical moment of art appreciation.

Although Tony Palumbo began drawing when he was three years old, he never had any formal training and, in response to being told that he

could never make a living as an artist, put his brushes down and pursued a career in advertising for 35 years. It wasn't until he had relocated to Western Mass from New York that he could focus on his art. At age 60, he started taking courses at the Art Department at GCC, where he studied for five years.

The second piece featured stands one floor up in the main lobby. The free form wood sculpture entitled "Victoria" stands seven feet tall on a marble platform beneath the central stairway, complementing the barn board backdrop of the wall behind it.

Created by local artist Ed Wierzbowski, it is a primitive, abstract figure, direct carved from one large log. Wierzbowski celebrates the knots and other imperfections in the wood, which often promote the presence of mysterious faces trapped in the pieces.

The community is encouraged to visit the main campus to see, sit on, touch and appreciate the newly installed sculptures.

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Montague's Got Provisions



LEE WICKS PHOTO

Leslie Evans is the proprietor of Montague Provisions

BY LEE WICKS – So you've been invited to a housewarming and all of a sudden you realize you have no gift to bring. If you live in Montague, that could have meant a trip to Greenfield, or Amherst. But that would be before Montague Provisions, "A Treasure Trove of the Unexpected," opened its doors in December.

Situated in a renovated barn, behind the brick house at 18 Main Street, in Montague Center, the shop is filled with beautiful, whimsical and useful objects. Some are made locally, and some represent the best of European design. The toys are non-electric and non-toxic – a good thing, because the beeswax crayons look almost edible! There's a bit

of nostalgia, mixed in with modern design.

Owner Leslie Evans grew up in Concord and her mother had a number of shops, so creating an inviting space comes naturally to her. Because she has two children, she's got a great eye for unusual toys. Because she values community, she's thinking of creating a book group or a knitting circle, or both, to encourage people to gather in the beautifully restored space. And because she cares about locally produced food and crafts, Montague Provisions will soon provide organic produce from Red Fire Farm.

She already has a cooler for local cheese; she carries Deans Beans coffee, and she's talking to the folks from El Jardin and the

Hungry Ghost to see if she can provide those crusty rustic loaves that would go so well with the cheese.

The store is open Tuesdays from 11 to 6, Wednesdays from 11 to 2:30, Thursdays from 11 to 2:30 and 4 to 6, Fridays from 11 to 7, and Saturdays from 11 to 6.

Evans is also happy to open the doors if she is at home, so she encourages interested people to give her a call. Her number is (413) 559-7747. The website www.montagueprovisions.com offers a glimpse of what you might find, and Evans has plans to provide a mail-order business in the future.

Meanwhile, a visit to this charming addition to our town is guaranteed to delight and surprise.

The Friends of Gill Make Good Things Happen

BY SALLY HARKAY – The Friends of Gill held an appreciation dinner for its volunteers on Saturday, January 28th at the Gill Congregational Church. Friends president Ronnie LaChance delivered a brief speech thanking everyone involved, and describing the community service and charity work the Friends of Gill provide.

For readers who may be unaware, the Friends of Gill hold fundraising events each year, like the pancake breakfast in early spring, a picnic on the common in June, and a two-day arts and crafts

fair in September. From the proceeds of these events, each year two scholarships are given to Gill students who are furthering their education. At Christmastime, fruit baskets and poinsettias are delivered to our homebound seniors.

As well, the Friends of Gill donate annually to three charities of the members' choice. This past year donations were given to the Salvation Army, Warm the Children, and the Food Bank.

Friends of Gill also help fund the postal fees for the Gill newsletter

and provide refreshments for sale at the concerts on the common. The Friends also assisted in funding a dinner the memorial committee put on in recognition of Gill veterans.

For Gill veterans who are currently serving, the Friends send gift cards to be used as a phone card or in the commissary. In addition, monetary donations are made to each of the teachers at the Gill Elementary School, so they can purchase supplies that would normally come out of their own pockets.



SALLY HARKAY PHOTO

Christine Kovalchick, left, Kathy Augustine and David Senecal enjoyed the offerings at the Friends of Gill appreciation dinner as Ronnie LaChance recounted the groups' charitable work.

For more information on upcoming events

sponsored by the Friends of Gill, or how you can participate, please contact www.gillmass.org.

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Mauri Maps a Local Landscape



Michael Mauri

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS – About two dozen poets and nature lovers assembled in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center on Friday, for the annual Science and Nature Poetry and Prose Night, with local forester Michael Mauri of South Deerfield as the featured reader. Mauri leavened his reading with short, staccato vignettes from the back roads of county towns and their natural environs, and spiced his poems with wry, closely observed commentary on the passage of time, the fading of landmarks, the frailty of human

kind and the fleeting grace of nature. Mauri has self-published a number of diminutive chapbooks with titles like, “Any Timber?” “The Recession is Fundamentally Sound,” and “Thank You for not Serving Rice-a-Roni,” which can be found at the Book Mill in Montague Center. His poems speak of the traces and patterns of nature that remain imprinted on our minds as we wake from sleep after a dream of winter woods, where the “star shaped footprints” of an opossum provide a Pan god’s palimpsest for a shopping list of necessities. “Does there exist a grand scheme for all this purpose?” asks Mauri. If so, it can probably be found in the directions on the side of a box of Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix. Mauri rubs a clear spot in the fogged window of Streeter’s Store, where the old timers sit around the mechanical cash register swapping tales, and parts for a 1928 Ford lie unopened on a dusty shelf. Blame coyotes. “It’s an animal we don’t get enough of,” around here. Then again, “Summer starts in a heat wave. A rich society can’t afford to educate itself. Still, every day, new homes with long

driveways,” are carved out of the woods. A family of skunks marches off into the tall grass on the side of Route 47, in Montague, June 23rd, 2010, to be heard from months later, in another village, puzzling through a troubling telegraph of myopic intent. Tornadoes are reported coming in from the west and north. Lighting flashes and lightning bugs. Mauri provides dispatches from the front, from the forest, where nature gives way slowly, reluctantly, pulling back the curtain on the Kabuki drama of the fall of man. Watch for a rebroadcast on Channel 17, MCTV.

MAHAR from page 7

decision, either the regional committee would have to be proportional to town population (meaning Orange would likely have ten representatives to one for Wendell), or elections would need to be at-large. Slavas said at-large voting is “not a big issue, for myself. I think it’s unlikely that Orange would overwhelm a smaller town’s elections. I think that’s an educational issue, not a huge roadblock.” “We did our back flips and gymnastics to work our way around current legislation” in writing the amended regional agreement, Rocke said. He suggested one way to change the regional agreement would be to “explore a legislative agenda that would make it easier for districts like Mahar to regionalize.” Andrews cautioned, “legislation can take a long time.” MARS executive director Steve Hemman agreed, saying his office had been working for more than a year for legislation

that had not yet come to a vote; some legislative efforts could take up to two years. Slavas wondered whether a hybrid region could be crafted within DESE regulations. “I am not optimistic that we have enough wiggle room in the regulations to write an agreement acceptable to Wendell.” Wendell school committee member Ray DiDonato suggested a superintendency union of Mahar, Orange elementary, Petersham elementary, and Swift River (Wendell/New Salem) would provide the curriculum and financial advantages of a region and allow the towns to retain local control of schools. He observed that with the current consolidated central office for Mahar, Orange elementary schools and Petersham elementary, there is a “quasi-superintendent union already.” He added that a superintendency union including all four towns might serve as a transitional step to a possible K-12 region, “once the towns are more comfortable working together.”

Regarding a four-town superintendency union, Hemman said, “You can do that right now under current regulations,” because superintendency unions are created by school committees and not by regional agreements and town meeting votes. Rocke observed that including Wendell and New Salem K-6 had never been considered by the regionalization subcommittee, because Wendell and New Salem seemed happy with the Union #28 structure. DiDonato said the Union #28 towns of Leverett and Shutesbury were already exploring other options. Wendell finance committee member Doug Tanner commented, “There’s no incentive to leave Union #28 as long as Union #28 still exists.” Subcommittee chair Michael LeBlanc of Petersham shared copies of a letter from the Erving school regionalization committee to the Mahar committee, indicating the Erving committee is exploring the benefits and drawbacks to regional-

ization with Gill-Montague Regional, Pioneer Valley Regional, Greenfield, or Mahar. Erving is also a member of U-28. Andrews and Petersham subcommittee member Dana Kennan both remarked that including Erving would be beneficial to the Mahar region. Dupere said that superintendency unions are not attractive to superintendents because so much time is spent preparing for and attending meetings with multiple school committees. Under the amended regional agreement proposal, a single annual school budget would be prepared for both K-12 and K-6 portions of the hybrid district. The amended agreement required that the annual school budget for grades 7-12 be passed by a five-member subcommittee consisting of two members from Orange and one member from each of the other three towns. The budget would have required approval of at least four members of the subcommittee, ensuring that at least one committee member from each town approved the budget. The combined budget for grades 7-12 and Orange and Petersham K-6 then would have required a two-thirds vote of the full school committee before being sent to the towns as a “unitary budget” for town meeting votes. DiDonato called the unitary budget “an accounting nightmare.” Several other subcommittee members also commented they would be uncomfortable voting on the budget for another town’s schools. Slavas said the unitary budget was a major

issue, but “if we go to two years of legislative effort to allow separation of budgets, can Orange and Petersham wait that long?” Andrews told the subcommittee that “Orange has its problems.” However, he said the selectboard and finance committee were starting the fiscal year 2013 budget process and were likely to make more cuts in services to produce a balanced budget. On the revenue side, he said there were three solar projects being built in Orange, a shopping center expected to break ground in a year, and a possible income-producing building renovation. He said he thought it was possible for Orange to “rectify our deficit.” Regarding the Orange elementary district’s Level 3 status (among the lowest 20% in the state for test scores), Baldassarre said since central office consolidation, Orange elementary schools were “getting on the path of success.” Dupere said town finances are the best predictor of school success and that Orange elementary students enter Mahar at lower levels of achievement than students from Swift River or Petersham, but after several years at Mahar, track with students from the other towns. DiDonato told Baldassarre, “That’s a testament to your efforts.” Rocke recommended that if the committee decides to go forward with a regionalization plan for Mahar, it would need to have more involvement with finance committees, selectboards, and citizens than in the previous effort.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Burning Brush, Vehicle Stuck in Ice

Tuesday, 1/24
9:35 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a warrant of apprehension.
2:24 p.m. Report of annoying phone calls at Old State Road residence.
Thursday, 1/26
9:35 a.m. Report of 911 hang up at West High Street address. Upon arrival found a verbal altercation only with two subjects.
12:45 p.m. Report of smoke in area of Moore Street. Found to be resident burning brush.
11:25 p.m. Mutual aid to Millers Falls for bar fight at the Millers Falls Pub.
Friday, 1/27
5:15 a.m. Arrest [redacted] for default warrant.
Saturday, 1/28
9:45 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, on Route 2.
6:40 p.m. Report of fire alarm sounding at High Street Residence. Assisted Erving Fire Department. No fire found.
8 p.m. Request to check on welfare of subject on Pleasant Street. Subject found to be okay.
Sunday, 1/29
12:43 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with a motor vehicle failing to stop on Captain Beers Plain Road. Subject then fled into the woods.
10:20 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after license suspension, on Route 2 near Farley Flats.
11:20 a.m. Report of vehicle stuck on the ice, Swamp Road.
10:22 p.m. Suspicious vehicle in parking lot of French King Highway Bowling Center. Driver was sleeping.

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TURNERS FALLS

from **SUN** page 1

tracking that, to come up with a firmer figure for savings over the course of the first year of the system's operation.

Sally Pick, of the Montague Energy Committee, said the selectboard approved the use of the grant funds to pay for the components of the solar shower, and Trombley found about \$10,000 in his department's budget to pay for the installation of the new water tank, controls and piping, and the work required topside to maintain the warrantee on the administration building's membrane roof. (The need to maintain the warrantee added about \$6400 to the overall cost of the project, Pick said.)

Most homeowners looking to

install a solar hot water system would not face similar warrantee issues. Instead of state grants, homeowners would be able to take advantage of a variety of tax rebates.

Claire Chang, of the Greenfield Solar Store, the store that supplied the Chinese-made Sunda solar panels, along with the Hatfield, MA-based Steibel Eltron hot water tank, computerized controls and framing for the treatment plant project, said the following tax incentives now apply in Massachusetts for homeowners to install solar systems: "A federal tax credit of 30%, a Massachusetts state tax credit of \$1000 maximum (or 15% of the system cost), and a Massachusetts state rebate

through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, that depends on the size of the system and how many panels you install." Chang said, "For the typical family of two to four people, a solar hot water system should cost about \$10,000 to install, a typical state rebate is about \$1100, and the federal tax credit of \$3,000 is added on top of that."

Chang said a back up fuel source would still be needed to boost the pre-heated water to the desired temperature, but even so, a solar hot water system should provide about 60 to 80% of a homeowner's domestic hot water needs. Depending on the fuel source it replaces, with the current tax credits and rebates, a new system should pay for itself with-

in five to ten years. After that, the savings will continue for as long as the system lasts, and Chang said plenty of the first solar panels installed in the 1970s and 1980s are still running just fine.

Pick said that after the town of Montague received the \$4350 grant for a municipal renewable energy project, the energy committee decided on solar hot water as the most effective way to spend it. The grant was the result of a one-for-one match by the Clean Energy Fund for donations from Montague residents to the New England Wind Energy Fund. The Montague Grange sponsored the drive to get Montague residents to contribute to the Wind Fund.

"We looked at different town

buildings, and the one that uses the most hot water is the wastewater treatment plant," said Pick. Due to the nature of their work, the six person staff at the treatment plant takes a total of about four showers a day. There is also a laundry room, for employees to wash work clothes, as well as hand sinks and lab sinks that also use hot water.

"It made sense to offset some of that energy use with the solar hot water system," said Pick. "We were very pleased to work with the wastewater treatment plant, and that Bob Trombley was able to help with the installation cost from his budget. There will definitely be some dollar savings for the sewer users."



from **INSPIRES** page 1

Crane?

Yes, really. After another conversation with Franco's agent and then a conversation with Franco, Mariani, who grew up in New York, made a date to meet Franco in the City to walk the streets where Crane walked in the 1920s and talk about the poet's life, the film taking shape in Franco's imagination.

It is not that unusual an assignment for Mariani, who once taught literature to New York City cops, including Frank Serpico. In his biographies of poets from Robert Lowell to Gerard Manley Hopkins, Mariani employs the narrative elements of good fiction. He sets scenes and tells stories, drawing the reader into a stranger's life in a way that it is vivid, almost cinematic.

Now Franco's film, *The Broken Tower*, with Franco in the lead as Crane, is out, available on DVD and on demand. Shot in moody black and white, it premiered last spring at Boston College, where Mariani is University Professor of English.

Mariani, with a mustache, is on screen for 30 seconds as the photographer Alfred Stieglitz, a friend and contemporary of Crane's.

Mariani spent one long day on the set and then acted as an advisor throughout the filming, sometimes answering dozens of emails a day (the record was 200), and conducting follow-up

research for Franco as needed.

How did a gay man pick up a sailor in a bar in New York City in 1925? Mariani didn't know, but he tried to find out.

He said he is pleased with the film and hopes it may bring more people to Crane's work. It's not easy to access. After a lifetime of scholarship, Mariani can explain the metaphorical and literary references in Crane's poems. He can get a reader to stretch a little further to find the meaning beneath in the lines.

In an interview, Franco told the LA Times he hadn't really known much about the poet until he read Mariani's biography. It was the book that piqued Franco's interest in Crane and the tragedy of his short life. Crane committed suicide at the age of 32 by jumping off a ship.

There's an 11-minute segment in the film with Franco, as Crane, reading a poem. During production some advised Franco to shorten this part. Franco said no. He said, "So let the audience listen to 11 minutes of poetry."

As does Mariani in his book, Franco is demanding serious consideration of the poet and his work. Mariani explains it as, "a film made in the European tradition," referencing a number of European filmmakers, including Bergman.

Mariani and his wife Eileen proudly call themselves a "Netflix Family," and they approach film like literature, looking for references to history,

myth, religion, and politics. The couple spends time each morning reading scripture or the lives of the saints, and then they ask what it means to contemporary life, and how people can help rather than blame in a sometimes ruthless world. Nice way to start the day and a testament to the complexity of a man who once considered the priesthood and now writes biographies of self-destructive poets with tormented lives.

Of his interrupted journey towards the priesthood, Mariani said, "I was playing soccer and saw in my mind a cheerleader, and knew I wanted a family."

Once he made that decision, he devoted himself to becoming a teacher.

He is the oldest of seven children from a working class family, and he spent a lot of time working in his father's garage, but he had another vision for himself of a life in which he might read the Times in a quiet room surrounded by books and then help young minds understand them. His mother fostered his ambition.

His father, more practical-minded, urged him to study engineering. He tried it, but literature was his calling.

Mariani worked his way through college and graduate school. "It was easier then. College didn't cost as much," he said.

Some of the jobs he took, like working in a factory making those plastic fish tanks with the

little green diver at the bottom, just strengthened his resolve to pursue an academic career. In that instance, he broke the machine and got fired after two months on the job.

Wonderful teachers inspired him along the way. At Marianist Preparatory, a high school for boys interested in pursuing a religious calling, a teacher named Brother Clyde gave him a book on how to write a sonnet after Mariani decided to enter a school-run contest. He followed the directions and won.

Another brother once found him in the library reading, went to the shelves, and handed him a copy of *Moby Dick*.

Smiling with the memory, Mariani said, "He told me life's too short to read garbage. After that he directed me to the classics."

That inspiration carried Mariani through college and graduate school and to a tenured position at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1968. He was a full professor by the age of 34. Teaching always came first; the poetry and biographies followed. Mariani is the author of five biographies of poets (three selected by the New York Times as notable books, two nominated for the National Book Award), and he has hopes that his biography of the poet John Berryman may also find its way onto film.

There has been some discussion of bringing *The Broken Tower* to Amherst and to

Shelburne Falls. Mariani's face lights up at the idea of local people seeing the film in the company of friends and neighbors, a typical response for a community-minded person. Though he spends a lot of time alone, he is also innately curious. If you meet him on the street, and he asks you how you're doing, he means it. Leaning in to listen carefully, he will ask question after question. He said, "I love people. I love their stories. The joy comes from listening." He will also joyously climb under your car or open the hood if you are having trouble.

Joy also comes to Mariani from family. The man who once thought of becoming a priest has a son, Paul who is a Jesuit priest, another, Mark, who teaches at Eaglebrook, and a third, John, who became a clinical psychologist. "He followed his mother in caring mostly for kids from working class families and broken homes," he said. About his wife Eileen, he said, "She's made it all possible."

Someday, someone will write a biography of Paul Mariani. It could begin with a quote from *Charlotte's Web*, from the end of the book where Wilbur is telling Charlotte's grandchildren about her. Wilbur says, "She was in a class by herself. It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both." Change Charlotte to Paul, and you've got Mariani.



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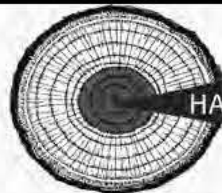
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PARK from page 1

steep slopes near Randall Wood Drive. One resident asked Buckland how much of the land would be conserved after planning and implementation. Buckland's reply was that probably about two-thirds of the acreage would be left undisturbed.

Buckland explained that even if the industrial park were developed in phases, conservation areas would be set during the first phase. Speaking of streams, residents noted that a steady stream of wild turkeys lives near Randall Wood Drive. The land slopes steeply there, all agreed, implying this area would be a logical locus for the potential conservation area. The Drumlin Hill area near Greenfield Road is also a popular spot for deer and coyotes, one Greenfield Road resident said. Buckland explained that development in that area would require more planning and leveling parts of the land, making it unlikely to be a part of phase one.

But even if just 50 of the 183 acres became industrial sites, Buckland said, it would have the potential to bring 250 to 500 new jobs to Montague.

Ramsey and Buckland presented their case for a new industrial park in Montague, noting that industrial parks in Franklin County are filling up fast. "There are only two vacant lots left in [Montague's] airport industrial park," said Ramsey. Buckland agreed, saying Orange, Deerfield, and Whately's industrial parks are full, and that Greenfield has only a few lots left, totaling about 50 acres.

Ramsey paraphrased a 1999 master plan, saying "Montague needs a balance of downtown revitalization and industrial expansion." A 2000 study by the Conway School of Design stated further that limited development is possible at the Turnpike Road site. Until last year, the town had been looking at land on the Montague Plains on the

south side of Millers Falls Road owned by Western Mass Electric Company as a possible site for industrial development, but that land "is no longer available," explained Ramsey.

The master plan for the Turnpike Road industrial area will likely include solar photovoltaics over the former landfill, though results from a recent request for proposals from solar developers yielded no offers the planning committee thought would be beneficial to the town.

Ramsey said, "There is an improving market for solar energy." Buckland added, "Ground solar would work well there."

Buckland shed some light on the overall economic picture for Montague, noting the town "has lost 700 jobs since 2000," although it has "gained 200 jobs from self-employment." Half of the town's job losses in the last decade have been in manufacturing, but in spite of these losses, the population has remained

stable (though it is aging). Buckland characterized the state of manufacturing in the area as typified by smaller scale industries, with most of the large paper mills now gone. "There is a movement of small start-up companies to try to expand into newer, bigger facilities."

He noted that Judd Wire was able to stay at its existing site as it grew and that all of the companies at Montague's airport industrial park moved there from within Franklin County. "Montague has the lowest land prices of all the regional industrial parks, and the highest tax rate," he added. Businesses must calculate whether that trade off works for them long term if they move to Montague.

But as every member of the room became potential planners with their maps and puzzle pieces, the many nuances of industrial development became apparent. One group noted that access from Turnpike Road to I-91 for trucks isn't that good, so

Turnpike Road improvements may be needed as part of the project. One resident reflected that noise from Judd Wire has increased over time, but also said he realized when he moved nearby that noise would be a factor. Both planning groups left space open on their maps nearest Judd Wire, should the company decide to expand in the future, rather than putting the DPW there.

There are many options to consider, and now is the time for residents, especially abutters, to provide feedback to Ramsey at town hall, and to stay tuned for further updates. Ramsey said in a couple of weeks the Cecil Group will provide a first draft of potential plans, incorporating feedback from residents from Wednesday's meeting. Another public forum will be scheduled soon to get a more specific draft plan into public view and to describe case studies from other towns.

**LEVERETT** from page 6

eye.

At their January 31st meeting, the board held budget hearings for the fire department and the library.

Fire chief John Moruzzi proposed a \$4,000 increase to his roughly \$93,000 budget for the coming year. The increase is being driven by equipment maintenance, the need to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus tanks, and the rising cost of fuel.

Librarian Linda Wentworth said she would try to turn in a level funded roughly \$81,000 budget, with the sole exception of cost of living increases for employees. No determination has yet been made by the personnel committee on the size of this year's COLAs.

Chris Condit, of the library

trustees, warned that use of the Leverett library could expand with the introduction of 520 new patrons streaming down the hill from Shutesbury, following the deadlocked tie vote in that community in January for funding a new library building.

Briefly, it appeared that tie might be broken in favor of building the new library, when a provisional ballot was ruled to have been cast by a bona fide Shutesbury resident. But that news was soon followed last month by the revelation that one of eight challenged ballots had been invalidated during a recount. The invalidated vote had been in favor of the library, returning the vote to a dead heat, 522-522. Court action by proponents is rumored, but a tie vote essentially defeats the measure.

On the 24th, the board

reviewed options for introducing assisted listening devices to town buildings where public meetings occur, specifically the town hall, the library, and the auditorium of the elementary school. Thomas Masterton, who brought the matter to the board's attention last year, has advocated for the use of an induction loop system, which employs a varying magnetic field to transmit sound from a speaker to hearing aids equipped with t-coils. Masterton will work with selectboard chair Rich Brazeau to research the cost and availability of loop systems, which are relatively new to Massachusetts. Masterton said if Leverett installs the loop system in municipal buildings, the town will be pioneering the use of this technology in Massachusetts for the benefit of its hearing impaired residents.

On the 31st, the board held a brief strategy session with finance committee member Tom Powers on the looming decision to seek an override of Proposition 2½.

Although the elementary school, which had earlier projected a budget increase in the range of \$120,000, has cut that increase down to around \$50,000, the news coming from the regional school district on budget forecasts for FY'13 is less good. The Amherst regional school district had been hoping for a 2% increase in state aid for the coming year, but instead, due to declining enrollment, the district was marked down for level funding of state Chapter 70 aid in the governor's budget last week. Leverett had already been estimating a \$71,000 increase for the regional school in FY'13. The

revised state aid projection may drive that increase higher.

Additionally, the town is facing increased health insurance costs, cost of living increases for employees, and the need to replenish the stabilization account following the purchase of a new fire engine last year. Large ticket items may also include funding for a town broadband fiber network and a plan to remediate private wells on Teawaddle Hill Road that have shown trace readings of various pollutants down gradient from the town's former landfill. One proposal, to extend the Amherst water line out to the eastern end of Teawaddle Hill to supply water to fewer than half a dozen households, was estimated at the last town meeting to cost approximately \$2 million.



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ — Q. Do older people have more body odor?

It seems that seniors do stink more than younger people. Aren't we lucky?

A Japanese study published in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* found that "2-Nonenal," a recently found sub-

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: To Smell or Not to Smell

stance in human body odor, tends to increase with aging.

The body odor of subjects between the ages of 26 and 75 was analyzed. The researchers found that 2-Nonenal, which has an unpleasant greasy and grassy odor, was detected only in subjects 40 or older.

So, what causes body odor (aka B.O.)? Most often, it's the bacterial breakdown of sweat that causes an odor. Perspiration, itself, is practically odorless.

Sweating helps maintain your body temperature, hydrates your skin and balances your body fluids. There are two types of sweat glands: eccrine glands and apoc-

rine glands. Eccrine glands are located over most of your body. Apocrine glands develop in hairy sections of your body.

Eccrine glands secrete perspiration that is composed primarily of water and salt. Apocrine glands secrete a fatty sweat. The bacterial breakdown of apocrine sweat is what usually causes an odor.

Over-the-counter (OTC) antiperspirants and deodorants are effective cures for most body odor. There are prescription antiperspirants if the OTC products don't work.

Antiperspirants contain aluminum-based compounds that

temporarily block sweat pores. Deodorants eliminate odor but not perspiration; they're usually alcohol-based and turn your skin acidic, making it less attractive to bacteria. Deodorants often contain fragrances, too, to mask odor.

You can reduce body odor in the following ways:

- Shower or bathe every day. This reduces the bacteria on your skin.

- Dry your feet thoroughly after showering. Microorganisms love moisture between your toes.

- Wear clothing — especially socks — made of cotton and wool; avoid synthetics. Moisture-wicking athletic clothing is good when you are exercising and sweating a lot. Women should wear pantyhose with cotton soles.

Change socks at least once a day.

- Wear shoes made of leather. Natural materials allow your feet to breathe and stay dry. Also rotate your shoes so they have enough time to dry.

- Go barefoot when you can, or remove your shoes occasionally.

- Apply antiperspirants nightly.

- Consider relaxation techniques such as yoga, meditation or biofeedback. These can help you control the stress that triggers perspiration.

- Change your diet. If foods or beverages cause your perspiration to smell, consider eliminating them. Avoid foods with strong odors, such as garlic and onions.

If you have questions, write to fred@healthygeezers.com.

TENANT from page 1

cient to produce enough power from one of his turbines to provide power for a home or small village, said MacLeod.

He has been marketing these turbines in past years to the Third World, or to wealthy individuals in Europe, where government tariffs and utility pricing structures favor the reduction of fossil fuels and greenhouse gasses.

Out of production for some years, MacLeod said he is starting his business up again. Among other markets, he hopes to develop sales to municipal water departments, which often reduce pressure in their pipes by shunting water through pressure reduction valves, which represents a waste of hydro potential.

"We build beautiful little stainless steel machines that last a lifetime," said MacLeod, who will now be setting up shop to build small, computer designed reaction turbines at the Venture Center in Greenfield. "If we plug a little turbine in there, we offset the pressure to save the pipes, and produce a little power and revenue at the same time."

MacLeod said his turbines are small enough to fit within a ten inch diameter pipe, or can be fashioned even smaller, and still can produce between two and six kilowatts of power.

He noted that America used to have more than 200 manufacturers of hydro turbines, and had produced a 93% efficient machine by 1917. The hydro

industry, which collapsed with the advent of the utility grid and "giantism" may be due for a comeback as renewables are again valued in the energy production mix., he said.

The computer end of MacLeod's operation needs to take place in a controlled environment, so that will happen in Greenfield. But the fabrication machinery needs more space, and space is something the unimproved buildings at the Strathmore have plenty of.

MacLeod is friends with Peter Clark and the other principals of Swift River Hydro, the one company that is now a going concern in the hulking Strathmore Mill, operating hydro turbines in a condo-ized section of the former mill, on the power canal. MacLeod said Clark would be willing to let him run power from Swift River to the areas of buildings 5, 5-A, and 6 he might use for warehousing equipment and fabrication.

The selectboard authorized building inspector David Jensen to negotiate with MacLeod on the terms of a one-year lease. Jensen thought the town would realize an advantage in terms of the security of the property, merely by having more people in the mill on a regular basis. Abbondanzio said the arrangement might give the town some leverage in seeking a reduction in insurance premiums for the Strathmore, which is now insured as a vacant building.

ERVING from page 7

administration and staff requests significantly in preparing the budget. Bailey said the four new benefit-eligible positions were mandated by state law and asked, "Where would you cut?"

Sharp observed that Leverett has held its school budget at a 0% increase for several years and asked, "What are they doing that we're not?"

Melanie Burnett pointed out that Leverett has a number of students choosing in to their school, bringing \$5,000 a piece in state aid that flows to

Leverett from the sending school districts in surrounding communities.

School committee member Scott Bastarache said though Erving Elementary allows school choice students, the principal has not opened seats for choice students for the last two years. Goodwin agreed with Bastarache that opening seats for choice students included the potential risk of children with problems choosing into Erving.

In other business, the selectboard appointed Kim Gregory as the official Erving town

crier (as if there had been any doubt).

Sharp informed the selectboard that Ralph Semb will be asking the zoning board of appeals for a variance in order to install a Dunkin Donuts sign larger than allowed by the town's zoning bylaws.

At the request of library director Barbara Friedman, the selectboard declared a collection of DVDs, books on tape, books, VHS movies, and three old computers as excess property, so they can be disposed of.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Burglary, Threatening at Bank of America

Tuesday, 1/24

11:20 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 1/25

7:35 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for speeding and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on Turners Falls Road.

7:05 p.m. Summons issued for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on First Avenue in Lake Pleasant.

7:32 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for failure to stop for a stop sign and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on J Street.

Thursday, 1/26

12:21 a.m. Assault and battery on Third Street. Services rendered.

10:45 a.m. Burglary, breaking

and entering on H Street. Advised of options.

12:07 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on H Street. Referred to other agency.

1:24 p.m. Suspicious activity between the Rendezvous and Burrito Rojo on Third Street. Investigated.

3:40 p.m. Assault at Franklin County Technical School on Industrial Boulevard. Advised of options.

4:48 p.m. Threatening, harassment on K Street. Advised of options.

6:47 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Montague City Road. Advised of options.

11:17 p.m. Fight on East Main Street. Protective custody provided.

Friday, 1/27

10:32 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Park Street. Report taken.

11:50 a.m. Threatening, harassment on Davis Street. Services rendered.

12:47 p.m. Straight warrant arrest of [redacted] at St. Kazimierz Society on Avenue A.

Saturday, 1/28

1:05 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Park Street. Report taken.

4:45 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on South High Street. Services rendered.

7:16 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to signal.

8:50 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for resisting arrest and assault and battery on a police officer on Seventh Street.

11:47 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 1/29

7:40 a.m. Assault and battery on Laurel Lane. Peace restored.

12:11 p.m. Trespassing on K Street. Services rendered.

Monday, 1/30

1:56 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted] on Avenue A.

Tuesday, 1/31

10:55 a.m. Threatening at Bank of America on Avenue A. Investigated.

2:08 p.m. Past breaking and entering reported on Montague City Road. Report taken.

3:30 p.m. Assist other police department in the probable cause arrest for outside agency of [redacted] on Fifth Street.

5:03 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Alice Street. Investigated.

5:53 p.m. General disturbance on Third Street. Investigated.

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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XXV

Turners Falls 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL –

"We'll start with the bedrooms, if you don't mind," he says.

"OK," I say, leading the two federal agents back past the front door to the stairs.

I decide to go ahead of them and try to lead them into the wrong room first so I'll have more time. I worry that the body on the roof will fall off, but tell myself I can't slip if I don't move.

"There are three," I say, walking into the bedroom at the top of the stairs. I hope they will follow me and not choose a different room first. They do. The two men look around,

though they seem like they are not expecting to find anything.

I sink onto the edge of the unused bed and let my eyes blur. Then I begin to edge my way down the roof away from the window. I don't want to stand up because being awake in two bodies makes me dizzy. When I am down far enough to be out of sight of the window, I start to move along the edge. I know I don't have much time.

When I hear the agent talking to me, I flatten my body on the roof edge and snap my attention back to the bedroom. I don't actually know which man was talking or what he said, but I say, "OK, the second one is

here, across the hall." The bed is made neatly. Obviously there is no doppelganger asleep here. This is the room my other body sleeps in. I need two beds so I can change the sheets sometimes. "This is where you sleep?" the tall man asks me.

I know that the sheets are messed up in the other room and the bed still warm, probably, so I say, "No, actually, I sleep in the back bedroom." The two men poke around this room a little bit and open the closet. I lean up against the wall so I won't lose my balance and turn my attention to the roof.

I get to the end of it. It is a small drop from there to the lower laundry-room roof. I qui-

etly scramble over the edge onto the small roof below. It is flatter and shingled with asphalt, not slate, like the main roof. I push myself up against the side of the house, under the overhang of the roof I just came from, and lie still. A person would have to be looking to see me here in the dark.

Before the men speak to me I return my attention to the bedroom. "And the third bedroom is just here," I say, trying to smile.

They follow me into the back room. The bed looks like someone just got out of it. Both agents hurry over to it and turn over the covers. I wonder if the bed feels warm. The one with the goatee looks up at me questioningly. "I was sleeping when you knocked," I say. "Sorry for the mess." There are some

clothes on the floor. I pick them up hurriedly as though I were embarrassed by them.

The one named Walsh goes over to the closet and opens it. The man with the goatee walks to the window and shines his flashlight out of it. He motions to his partner who comes over to see the roof just below the window. They raise the screen and take turns poking their heads out, shining their flashlights around.

I watch with horror as the smaller man begins climbing out through it. He is bigger than I am, though, and fits through awkwardly. Then he walks onto the roof, shining his flashlight around. For a couple silent minutes neither I nor Agent Walsh can see what he is doing.

— Continued Next Issue

Upcoming Programs at Turners Falls Women's Resource Center

BY CHRISTINE DIANI – Creating a safe and welcoming community that is responsive to the needs of women is at the heart of the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center. It is a place where, "Women find the resources to nurture their inner strength and renew their energy," as one participant put it.

The Center provides multifaceted support and a safe space

for women to share their wisdom, compassion and expertise from life experience. Through a variety of grants and collaborations, TFWRC has a full roster of new and exciting programs planned for the coming year.

For uplifting, creative fun that helps eliminate the winter blues, Introduction to Quilting runs through February 29th, with instruction for beginners. This workshop, part of the Live Smart, Live Safe project funded by the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, takes place on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Chocolate Appreciation Day features a chocolate potluck during open hours on Tuesday, February 14th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A fundraising raffle for

chocolate filled baskets will be drawn at 12:45 p.m. Proceeds will be used to purchase art supplies for the Center.

New Friday hours begin March 2nd. TFWRC will be open four days each week, Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 1p.m. and will no longer be open Wednesday nights.

Our Place in the World starts Thursday, March 8th, from 2 to 4 p.m. This new writing and visual arts workshop encourages the exploration of women's lives: here, there, past and present. Through a variety of exercises, women will have the opportunity to encounter the joy and healing power of self expression. Six weeks of two-hour workshops will provide a place where meaningful con-

nections to oneself and others can be made and nurtured.

Alternative Pathways to Wellness, a year-long series of healing arts related workshops begins in March. Women with low incomes from the surrounding region will be able to learn about and experience a variety of alternative options for healing and self-care such as massage, reiki, transformational kinesiology, and visual arts. Alternative Pathways to Wellness will create a fun and

lighthearted environment to explore a menu of ten different alternative healing practices through 'a la carte' offerings. This program will help create a web of support in the community between practitioners and the highest needs population.

For more info or to sign up for programs, contact Christine Diani, programs coordinator at TFWRC, at (413) 863-2455; email christine@mcscommunity.org or visit www.mcscommunity.org/programs.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Disabled Motor Vehicle and other Mishaps

Sunday, 1/22 11:30 a.m. Family disturbance reported at family residence on Trenholm Way. Services rendered.	Monday, 1/23 7:45 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle at the intersection of South Cross and Main Roads. Vehicle removed. 1 p.m. Motor vehicle off roadway on Main Road. Assisted operator to their residence.	Wednesday, 1/25 6:05 a.m. Reported dead deer in road on West Gill Road. Same removed. 6:30 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Franklin Road. Checked out okay. Party stalled their car.	Thursday, 1/26 7:30 a.m. Suspicious activity on Center Road. Checked okay.	Friday, 1/27 9 p.m. Suspicious activity at Transcend Trucking. Checked okay.	Saturday, 1/28 11:45 a.m. Assisted Montague police with information on investigation of resident from Riverside area.
Sunday, 1/22 10:50 a.m. 911 Misdeal reported at Farm Barn on Mt. Hermon Campus. All set.					11:50 p.m. Reported large gathering at North Cross Road residence. Checked area.

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EVERY THURSDAY

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

NOW until MARCH 10th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sensual, Sexual, Smut: Erotic Art by Local Artists*.

NOW through FEBRUARY 27th

Salmon Falls Artisans Showroom, Shelburne Falls: *Celebrate Black History Month and Valentine's Day with The Fetish of Love: works inspired by West African Fetish Dolls by Belinda Lyons Zucker in Gallery Two*.

FEBRUARY 3rd to FEBRUARY 29th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: paintings in the great hall by Camilla Roberts.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 17th

Artspace Community Arts Center, Greenfield: *The Annual Teen Art Exhibit*, featuring work from local high schools.

NOW until February 29th

Wendell Free Library: Wendell resident *Christine Texiera*, presents

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FEBRUARY 3rd to FEBRUARY 26th

Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro: *After Chernobyl*, Photographs by Michael Forster Rothbart.

NOW until APRIL 1st

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Imitating Art*, a student photographic exhibition featuring attempts to photographically reproduce an original work of art.

THURSDAY, FEB 2nd

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series*, 7 p.m.

Greenfield Community College: *Mysterious Stone Chambers of New England*. Pioneer Valley Institute presents, Ashfield stonemason Jim Vieira has been exploring local stone chambers for some 60 years. He will describe the stone ceremonial landscape of New England, carbon-dating evidence and historical texts. 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Enfield Machine Works*, 9:30 p.m.

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

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mend the Pocket*, soul-grove jazz, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th

Leverett Town Hall: *No Nukes Benefit Concert and Speak Out Event*. Speakers: Frances Crowe & Hattie Nestel, from the Shut It Down affinity group, & Randy Kehler from the Safe & Green Campaign. Musicians will include Court Dorsey, Annie Hassett, Annie Patterson, Julia Burrough, Christian Hine, Ann Ferguson & Paul Newlin, and the bands Red Valley Fog, Outer Style, Who da Funk It? Also: *Ever-Evolving Soul Circus*, & face painting. Free food & refreshments. 2 to 9 p.m. To benefit the SAGE Alliance.

Himalayan Views, South Deerfield: Turners Falls author *Lyn Clark* will read from her latest book, *Darthela's Ashes*. Clark's novels take place in the mythical Summer Village on the Mohawk Trail. 2 to 3:30 p.m.



Performers Jonathan Mirin & Godelieve Richard playing with bee puppet in preparation for *To Bee or Not to Bee*. A sweet honey of a fundraiser for the performance is at Green Fields Market on Sunday, February 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Tiny Radar's Bookmill Residency Series, #3, featuring *Boy Without God* (NYC) and *Sorry, Nay* (Northampton) 7 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Square Dance*, calling by *Will Mentor* and lively music by the *New Apocalypsonians*, 7 to 10 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pamela Means*, with special guests *Pat Hull* and *Michael Chinworth*, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th

Greenfields Market: Piti Theatre Company & Green Fields Market Present: *Sweet Honey & the Brunch*, honey inspired dishes to benefit production of *To Bee or Not to Bee*, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Rattlesnake Gutter Trust: Trail of Time at Grand Canyon: Talking & Thinking about Geologic Time in Context with Michael Williams*, Dept. of Geosciences, UMass, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th

Hitchcock Center, Amherst: *Honeybees and Beekeepers: Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions*.

Dan Conlon of Warm Colors Apiary will present a brief history of beekeeping (1950 to the present) to provide an overview of the last fifty years. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Peter Siegel & friends*, 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

Swift River Elementary School, New Salem: *Celebrate Diversity Potluck and Performance*. Abdou Sarr of Wendell will share his native Senegalese dancing and drumming, Africa inspired art, bring a dish, all welcome, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse series featuring *Austin and Elliott*, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jamie Lynn Hart*, pop rock, with special guest *Frank Viele*, funk/pop/rock, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nobody's Fat*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Track Investigation Walk*, Dress warm, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*, 7 p.m. Free.

Wendell Town Hall: Full Moon Coffeehouse presents *Girl Howdy*, 7:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Heavy Metal Night at the Rojo*. *Matt Demon* from Springfield, VT, *My Pet Carcass* from Westfield, MA, *As The Dead Rise* from Turners Falls, MA, and *People Eating People* from Montague, MA, Free, 8 to 11 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rhythm Inc.*, jazz, funk, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Mark Manley Band*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

Montague Grange: *Vintage + Antiques Market*, Quality vintage & antiques vendors bring their wares to the Grange for four winter sales. 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Greenfield Grille: *Valentine Reading - Love and Heartbreak*, open mic, 5 minute slots, 1 to 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Game On!* Boggle, Twister, Jenga ... all ages! 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic

Trio - Warped Americana, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill: Free Films for the Frozen presents, *The Slums of Beverly Hills*, 1998, written and directed by Tamara Jenkins. 7 p.m.

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On Vacation

January 19th

We awaken to the bustling noises of the hotel after a too short night. My body is heavy and sore. I go down to the breakfast room and bring back the coffee, a drink which is at least hot and brown but tastes like nothing in particular.

We decide to take the day slowly.

Merida is a busy city centering on huge old buildings: cathedrals, theaters, a governmental edifice; then benches, palms and other trees, tropical plants and the inevitable pigeons. At night the squares are lit with colored lights and people gather for music, for singing and dancing well into the small hours.

The Dolores Alba Hotel's pink and white stucco facade is punctuated by the restful curve of arches, wrought iron hanging lamps and balconies with enormous tropical plants.

The lobby seating area is set with chairs and tables. In the morning, residents bring their caged birds out to hang in the light and fresh air of the atrium, open to the sky. We breakfast and stroll around the neighborhood, return to read, write and lounge around the pool before retiring to our room for a much needed siesta.

We get up around two, shower and walk out to the plaza, to order our main meal of the day. I have grilled fish, salad and rice accompanied by a glass of vino blanco all for the equivalent of ten American dollars, tip included.

January 22

The hotel is an ingenious construction of Spanish architecture, archways, hanging lights and

carved wooden doors, with modern accents, particularly the atrium covering the central seating area. This atrium rises above all three floors. Mounted on metal girders, the curved glass roof protects the lobby from the sun and rain while still letting in the air and light.

The pool area is surrounded by the three floors of rooms and is open to the sky. It is filled with palms, trees whose names I don't know, and flowering tropical plants, among the tables, chairs and lounges. Small birds flutter among the foliage.

Both of these settings, the atrium and the pool courtyard offer relaxation and refreshment to the traveler who has been exploring on foot much of the day in temperatures the northern body needs time to adjust to.

January 25

A brief word about sanitary conditions in Merida, Yucatan.

Our hotel gleams. The tile floors and other surfaces are mopped many times a day by a young Mexican man. The bed sits on a cement platform 18 inches above the floor. I have tried to circumvent the daily changing of sheets by making it up tidily myself. To no avail. When we return to the room in the afternoon, it has been remade with fresh sheets and regimental corners. The roof level is strung with wires for hanging clothes, and the sheets flap daily in the sun.

The *banos* or *sanitarios* (rest rooms) are another matter. There are *banos publicos* around the city, but many other facilities charge a few pesos for their use. It is well worth the price because it promises a clean facility with toilet paper. Oddly, many *banos* do not have seats. This was a bit of a stretch for me initially, but clean soon becomes paramount, seats or no.

The *banos* in the main bus terminal are filthy, but while we wait a young man is cleaning the fire extinguishers with great care. The cleanest *banos* to date are in the historic 15th century church in Izamal. They are immaculate, with paper and seats to boot!

January 26

We brought earplugs to use at night because Ken has warned me of the loud music which begins early in the morning and lasts until the wee hours. I find I acclimate readily to the loud Mexican protestations of love blaring from loud speakers everywhere.

On Saturdays there are festivals with live music and folk dancing honoring saints' days in

The cigar seller approaches. He has boxes of beautifully packaged Cuban cigars in several sizes. Surprisingly, our gentleman takes a moment from his self-admiration to inspect the cigars, then does indeed purchase a box.

The seller lights a cigar for him.

As the crowd shifts, we move forward to watch the dancers. We pass right by his table. Ken asks



The convent of San Antonio de Padua in Izamal.

many squares and leafy parks throughout the city.

On our first Saturday night, we walk the nine or ten blocks to a square celebrating the festival of St. Lucia. The square is edged with trees and park benches. There is also a small restaurant with outdoor chairs and tables as well as small carts selling ice cream, fried dough filled with cheese, hamburgers and hot dogs.

In one corner of the park, bleachers and a small stage have been set up. We listen to a small band of guitars and to a man, and later a woman, singing traditional Mexican love songs instead of the pop songs which are our nighttime lullabies and blare all day from the shops.

A cigar seller is making his rounds. We watch him approach the man we have named "Full of Himself." Seated alone at a cafe table and nattily dressed in a business suit despite the lingering heat, this personage sports fancily patterned socks and beautiful handmade shoes. He positions his body so as to call attention to himself. He is drinking a Corona and perhaps listening to the singers.

about the quality of the cigars. Mr. Full of Himself gives him one, to our astonishment.

We join the crowd watching the dancers. The women are dressed in traditional white dresses embroidered at the hem and bodice with colorful flowers. Their hair too is dressed elaborately with flowers. They dance in high heels. The *caballeros* wear white slacks and shirts with red neckties and red bands on their straw hats. The dances are formal, elegant, and much appreciated by the crowd.

When they take a break, we move to leave the square, but a waiter approaches us and hands Ken a box of cigars and points to our fashionable gentleman. He nods his head and waves to us.

Back at our hotel Ken examines the box and finds a business card inside identifying our proud man as a *Senador de la Republica*.

Later we see from posters and the newspaper that it is campaign time. Yet there is no way anyone would mistake us for voting Mexicans. His gesture remains an intriguing mystery.

— More to follow

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