

# THE POWER TO GO GREEN

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# GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET IS OPEN

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LAKE PLEASANT

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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 29

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 2, 2013

**MONTAGUE TOWN MEETING 8:30 AM MAY 4 AT TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL SEE PAGE 5**

## A Tale of Two Bridges



JOSEPH PARZYCH PHOTO

*Factory Hollow Clean Piers has the old abutment in the foreground, the piers marching across the river to Gill, with girdles of new concrete at their bases. Staging at their tops waits for carpenters to form pedestals for new beams to rest upon. In the distance an excavator, equipped with a hydraulic hammer, raises a cloud of dust as he breaks sawn concrete slabs into smaller pieces.*

By **JOSEPH PARZYCH**

The reader of the *Montague Reporter*, who wrote that the Gill-Turners Bridge was in danger of becoming a heap of rubble, had the right idea. He just had the wrong bridge.

Northern Construction, under the direction of Superintendent Jack Graves, has reduced a third of the Route 2 Bridge in Factory Hollow to a heap of concrete rubble piled up on the Gill Side. (The Gill-Greenfield town line bisects the bridge.) The rubble is from demolition of

1/3 of the bridge deck on the northern side going east to west.

Witch Enterprises of Agawam neatly sawed the deck into 4x6 foot slabs to allow a Komatsu excavator to break up the portion slated for demolition with a hydraulic hammer. **see BRIDGES page 6**

## Congratulations to Turners Falls High School



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

*Turners Falls High School last spring.*

By **ELLEN BLANCHETTE**

According to a list recently published by U.S. News & World Report of the best schools nationwide, organized by state, Turners Falls High School is ranked 40th out of 358 Massachusetts public and charter high schools. Categories that determined rankings are student-teacher ratio, college readiness, and proficiency in math and English. College Readiness is based on AP test results compared to Massachusetts averages. Proficiency in math and English is demonstrated through

a statewide comparison of MCAS tests results.

The news comes at a very good time for the Gill-Montague School District as the Department of Education considers releasing it from its Level 4 status.

For Turners Falls High School, the student ratio is ten to one, with 294 students and 30 teachers. College readiness puts the high school near the state average with 38% of students taking the AP exams and 26% passing. Proficiency levels are

**see RANKING page 5**

## Report from the Leverett Town Meeting The Poetry of Town Government

By **DAVID DETMOLD**

Leverett called on its elected representatives on Saturday to abolish the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, censuring the public's atomic watchdog as a *de facto* industry lapdog. Voters at annual town meeting also decided to curtail the amount of time that dogs within town borders can be chained to fixed objects (three hours, max).

They called for the state to fund charter schools out of a dedicated line in the state budget, rather than raiding cities' and towns' Chapter 70 education funding to pay for parents' choice to send their children to charter schools. Leverett will lose \$56,935 in Chapter 70 funds for its own elementary school this year, as state aid follows five students who have 'choiced out' to charter schools, according to statistics provided by finance committee member Nancy Grossman. They also called for the labeling of genetically modified foods.

Early in the six and a half hour meeting the voters also passed a \$5,449,503 omnibus budget to fund town departments, after resolving a skirmish between the school committee and selectboard regarding which board should have the authority to hire and oversee custodians at the elementary school. By a solid majority, 66 – 48, voters left that authority with the school committee, at least for another school year, as the two boards continue to work out the details of a proposal by the selectboard to consolidate the maintenance and upkeep of all town buildings under the town's part time

facilities manager.

The custodian debate took more time to settle than any other motion on the 30 article warrant. Voters seemed finally to be won over by the arguments of school committee members, like newly elected member (and former Leverett Elementary principal) Sheila Hunter, who told the meeting school principals are "conscious of every single penny we spend," and therefore the line items for school custodial work would be more carefully scrutinized and controlled if they remained where they had been all along, under the school committee's purview.

Former selectboard member Jim Perkins, commenting on the dust-up over janitors, said, "To me, the real tragedy here is the disempowerment of the school committee. I see a relationship between the fact we couldn't get candidates for school committee and this argument. We should continue with the way things are until it can be worked out."

Hunter, with evident reluctance, was persuaded during the meeting to stand for one of two open school committee seats. She was elected by unanimous consent, although the other seat remained vacant.

Later in the meeting, former selectboard member Fenna Lee Bon-signoire asked for the issue to be revisited next year, and backed the selectboard's move to consolidate the maintenance aspects of all town buildings.

Peter d'Errico was elected unopposed to another three year term on the selectboard. Steve Nagy took a

**see GOVERNMENT page 5**

## Montague Library Director to Retire in October after 28 Years of Service



PATRICIA PRUITT PHOTO

*Library Director Sue SanSoucie at Carnegie Library*

By **PATRICIA PRUITT**

Library Director Sue SanSoucie will retire as director of the Montague Libraries on October 31 of this year after 30 years of service to the community. She was first hired as Library Director of the main library and two branches in 1976, and left in 1979 to raise her family. She returned as Director in 1986. At that time there were four employees in the main library, and two each in the two branch libraries. Today there is one staff person in each branch and nine employees in all.

In her years as director, SanSoucie has seen many changes in the delivery of library services to patrons. Many of these changes have happened in the last decade. Computer technology arrived over the past ten years even to small libraries like Montague's. Sue welcomes

some of the efficiencies it allows, for example, in the area of interlibrary loan services, where it expands the potential available holdings from the Central Massachusetts region to statewide and, if necessary, to nationwide. Other aspects such as the automated phone system, during hours when staff are present to answer the phone, cut into that high level of customer service she can provide. Of course, when the library's closed, that same automated phone serves well. She knows her patrons would like the library open more mornings than its current Friday and Saturday a.m. schedule. Librarianship is first and foremost a customer service. According to Sue, serving the public has been her continual pleasure in her 28 years of guiding the libraries in Montague. The use of the library has grown steadily and it remains a vital resource in the community.

Sue and the Montague Library Board of Trustees undertook a building project to modernize the facilities, increase access for impaired patrons, and provide a larger, differentiated children's library space with room for activities for young patrons, as well as a meeting room. Funding and support were not forthcoming. "That is the one endeavor that has yet to be accomplished, regrettably", says Sue. It is true that the main library is bursting at the seams.

The Library trustees will set up a search for a new director, and begin the process over the summer so that a new director can be in place when she finally answers the last question from a patron at the end of October. The *Montague Reporter* thanks Sue SanSoucie for her dedication to library services and her continual efforts to improve the library and meet her patrons' needs and interests.

## Pet of the Week



### Eve

All about Eve: I am sweet as can be, and while my previous family adored me, they could no longer provide for my care. However, their loving attention sure does shine through in my amazing purrsonality! Do you like family and friends to visit? Well so do I! I will greet them warmly and engage them in conversation. Do you need a good laugh? I'll make sure to always be there when you need one. All in all I am a sweet, affectionate, and happy-to-be-around-you cat. Come to the adoption center and meet me today!

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

## Carnegie Library News

### Mister G Children's Concert May 4th

By LINDA HICKMAN

Mister G will perform a bilingual children's concert in downtown Peskeompskut Park on Saturday, May 4th, at 10:30 a.m. If the weather is unpleasant, the concert will be performed inside the Carnegie Library. According to the Washington Post, "Kid-friendly, bilingual rockstar... Mister G and his guitar will surely make you feel like bailando (dancing)!"

Mister G has performed public concerts and educational workshops for children throughout the US, Europe and Latin America. His children's music CDs include *Pizza for Breakfast*, *Bugs*, and *Chocolata*. The event is part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival, and is a fun way to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. The concert is sponsored by the Montague Public Libraries, Montague Cultural Council and the CFCE grant. For more information, call 863-3214.



Mister G takes his tunes to Pesky Park this Saturday.

## FACES & PLACES

CHRISTOPHER SAWYER/LAUCANNO PHOTO



The Reporter's intrepid reporter Joe Parzych and its eagle-eyed editor, Patricia Pruitt, at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse

## Wendell Free Library

### Godzilla vs. Mothra

Coming to the Wendell Free Library on May 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.: "Godzilla vs. Mothra".

A greedy developer has placed huge machines to suck dry a part of the ocean near Tokyo so he can put luxury condos there. The developer's plans go awry when he disrupts Godzilla's rest and the monster goes stomping through Tokyo again.

There will be a short (1/2 hour) film before the movie: "Rocky Jones, space ranger, Crash of Moons, Chapter 3," from the 50's *Rocky Jones* TV series.

Admission is free. For more information about the Wendell Free Library, visit its web page at [www.wendellfreelibrary.org](http://www.wendellfreelibrary.org) or call 978-544-3559.

RECYCLE

### PAPER

Week of May 6th  
in Montague



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. Are hallucinations reason enough to see a doctor?*

Hallucinations can be a symptom of a variety of problems – both physical and mental. They can be caused by schizophrenia, dementia, depression, Parkinson's disease, stroke, fever, drugs, and alcohol. You should see a doctor immediately about this symptom.

Visual loss is a common cause of hallucinations, too. About one in ten people with vision problems has hallucinations. It is suspected that this phenomenon is under-reported because victims fear they are losing their minds and don't want their doctors to know.

Complex hallucinations among people with vision loss is called Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS).

Charles Bonnet was a Swiss philosopher. In 1760, he described this condition in his blind grandfather.

These hallucinations can strike at any age, but usually affect seniors. The most likely reason that the syndrome affects the elderly is the prevalence of visual problems in this age group. The common conditions leading to CBS are age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and cataract.

*Q. Does it have to be very cold outside to get hypothermia?*

You don't need a frosty winter day to suffer from hypothermia. Hypothermia occurs when your body doesn't maintain a normal temperature, which is about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. When your core temperature drops to 95 degrees, you are suffering from hypothermia, which can be lethal.

You can get hypothermia in an air-conditioned environment. It can strike you if you are soaked in the rain on a cool, windy day, or if you fall into chilly water. Water colder than 70 F can begin to cause hypothermia quickly.

People older than 65 years are

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Hallucinations and Hypothermia

especially vulnerable to hypothermia because they tend to suffer from illnesses or take medications that interfere with regulating body temperature. Also, older adults often produce less body heat because of a slower metabolism and less physical activity.

Seniors make up about half of the annual fatalities from hypothermia in the United States.

Low body temperature impairs the brain, so hypothermia is especially dangerous because its victims may not know they're in trouble. Severe hypothermia eventually leads to cardiac and respiratory failure, then death.

Hypothermia comes on gradually. Shivering is a common and obvious sign. Shivering is a natural response that increases muscle cell activity and generates heat.

But, shivering alone does not mean you have hypothermia. Healthcare professionals recommend looking for "umbles," too. These are stumbles, mumbles, fumbles and grumbles.

Watch for these specific symptoms: confusion or sleepiness; slowed, slurred speech; shallow

breathing; weak pulse or low blood pressure; changes in behavior such as apathy; change in appearance such as pale skin; poor body control or slow reaction times.

*Q. Do you have any suggestions for what to do in a fire?*

Seniors face the highest risk of perishing in a fire because their senses don't detect danger as easily as they used to, and they don't move quickly to escape during an emergency.

Here are some general fire-emergency recommendations:

- If you must exit through smoke, crawl under it (smoke rises).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a moist towel or an article of clothing to protect yourself from dangerous fumes.
- Always touch closed doors; if they are warm, don't open them. Don't touch doorknobs.
- If your clothing is on fire, drop to the floor and roll to extinguish flames.
- Avoid elevators; use stairs or fire escapes.

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



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

### The Montague Reporter

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[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)  
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[bills@montaguereporter.org](mailto:bills@montaguereporter.org)  
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## Senior Center Activities - May 6th to May 10th

### GILL-MONTAGUE

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

#### Monday 5/6

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday: 5/7**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga with Jean Erlbaum  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting  
**Wednesday: 5/8**  
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:00 p.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday: 5/9**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday: 5/10**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

### ERVING

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

#### Monday 5/6

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12:00 p.m. Quilting  
**Tuesday: 5/7**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday: 5/8**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10:00 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday: 5/9**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect  
12:00 p.m. Cards  
**Friday: 5/10**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling  
9:30 a.m. Sit and knit

### LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us). Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### WENDELL

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

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled By DON CLEGG

Join the **Jurassic Road Show** on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Barton Cove in Gill, off Route 2, less than a mile east from the light at the Turners Falls bridge. Barton Cove was one of the best places to find “fossil bird tracks” (a.k.a. dinosaur footprints) in the 19th century. Specimens from the Old Lily Pond Quarry were purchased by museums all across the country and in Europe. Come join the Road Show for a few hours at this historic site. Hikers will see loads of beautiful fossil footprints of dinosaurs and other animals, insect trails, raindrop impressions, mud cracks, and other traces of Jurassic ecology in exhibits by our “Home Team” collectors and professional geologists.

The **Montague May Day** artists will be showing their paintings in conjunction with the May Day celebrations on the Montague Center Common this Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring only Montague artists and crafts people, great art can be seen at the town hall, second floor, above the library, right next to the common.

The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library will host their annual **Spring Book & Plant Sale** on Saturday, May 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Choose from an excellent selection of books for summer reading, all at great prices. The plant sale will be held on the front lawn of the library, and will include potted annuals and perennials. There will be a raffle of a handcrafted pair of bookends and a set of gently used gardening books.

Come to an **Introduction to Zen Meditation**, Green River Zen Center on Sunday, May 5, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at 177 Ripley Rd., Montague. For more info please email dantikapm@gmail.com.

Join Dr. Robert Herbert, Professor (Emeritus) of Art History at Mount Holyoke College and Yale University on Wednesday, May 8, starting at 7 p.m. in the Sloan Theater, Greenfield Community College for **Greenfield's Lost Museum: Dexter Marsh and the Dinosaur Tracks**. Greenfield's janitor, quarrier, and jack-of-all-trades Dexter Marsh (1806-1853) amassed the largest and best collection of fossil bird tracks of his day and built an extra room onto his home on Bank Row as a “cabinet” (museum) to display them. Visitors came from near and far to gawk at the unusual fossils, so mysterious in an age when dinosaurs were barely known. When he died, the humble Marsh's obituary appeared in newspapers across the country and even overseas, yet all traces of his museum died with him. What was in the collection and where did it go? Here is your chance to find out.

Enjoy the Turners Falls **High School Spring Concert** on Thursday, May 9, starting at 7 p.m. in Turners Falls High School Auditorium. The concert is free.

On Friday, May 10, Moonmeadow will perform at the **Great Falls Coffeehouse** at 7 p.m. Moonmeadow creates sophisticated melodic pop featuring sonorous vocal harmonies and sweeping instrumental textures with a captivating rhythmic groove that will definitely move you. Joe Ricker

(also of the amazing instrumental team Duo Orfeo) returns to the coffeehouse with Shana Ricker as vocalist, Nate Jacques on bass and Andrew Atkin on drums and guitar as the band Moonmeadow.

The coffeehouse takes place in the historic Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center at 2 Avenue A, in downtown Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and homemade baked goods are available. The museum and museum store are open during intermission. Suggested sliding scale donation \$6 to \$12, free for children. Donations help the Friends of the Discovery Center provide free nature programming for the public. The Discovery Center is wheelchair accessible. For more information, please call the Discovery Center at (413) 863-3221.

St Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2 Prospect St, Turners Falls is offering “**A New Way To Pray**”, inspired by the tragic events in Boston and around the world. Deposit a burden, withdraw a blessing. St Andrew's is now accepting written prayer requests daily. Simply slip your request into the mail slot at the main entrance door. Requests will be collected weekly, read aloud, and prayed for during our regular worship service on Sundays at 9 a.m. Prayers can be for many reasons: peace, health and healing, comfort or grief. Members, non-members, strangers, friends and neighbors – anyone who needs to talk to God can place a prayer request.

Send local briefs to  
editor@montaguereporter.org.

## Substance-free Party at the French King Entertainment Center on May 11th

It takes a village, or in Montague, it takes five villages and surrounding towns to launch our TFHS graduates on their way. Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Semb family, an all-night, substance-free party at the French King Entertainment Center will provide a fun, safe place for the senior class and their guests to celebrate on graduation night, Friday May 31.

Organized by parents and guardians of the students, donations are being solicited for refreshments and door prizes to keep the class entertained in a safe environment throughout the night.

This year's graduating class of 85 students is larger than in recent years. If you are a local business person or community supporter, please respond to the mailing

that was sent out this week. If we missed you, you may contact Sara Campbell at (413) 522-3468 to make a donation. Gift cards, small electronic gifts, paper goods or condiments, even potatoes – you name it, there is a use for it.

Parents and supporters are invited to a concert by local favorite Ruby's Complaint at St. Kaz's on Saturday, May 11. Look for details to follow.

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

## 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARDS CELEBRATION!

The Gill Montague Community School Partnership will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Community Awards Celebration on Wednesday, May 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Turners Falls Elks Club and everyone is invited.

The family friendly multi-cultural dinner and program is a time to recognize the “un-

sung” heroes that make Gill and Montague a better place.

The dinner, entertainment, activities and award ceremony are free but if you wish to attend, you must pre-register by May 13 as seating is limited. Register on-line at [www.gmpartnership.org](http://www.gmpartnership.org) or Call Kara 863-7512 or Cate at 863-3604 or e-mail us: [pd@gmpartnership.org](mailto:pd@gmpartnership.org).

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## INTRODUCTION TO ZEN MEDITATION

at Green River Zen Center  
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2-3:30 p.m.

- Instruction on posture, breath, concentration methods, mental training, and the journey of awakening. Refreshments after.
- You're also welcome to stay for regular service, meditation, and dharma talk, 4 - 6:30 p.m.

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### Poets Wanted!

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

No prior experience necessary, at least as a poet.

### The Montague Congregational Church Roast Pork Supper

Saturday, May 4th  
5:30 p.m.

Roast Pork, Gravy,  
Mashed Potatoes, Belgium  
Carrots, Applesauce, Breads,  
Dessert, Coffee, Tea & Milk  
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"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

## Thank You Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse

The Montague Reporter wants to send our sincere thanks to the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse for offering our paper an opportunity to be this month's beneficiary. We also want to thank the stupendous Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem for their willingness to donate their musical talent to make the night so special. And, of course, we extend a very major thank you to all who came to hear the band, eat the goodies, and open their wallets in support of the paper. It was an extraordinary evening.

Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem were exceedingly generous with their music and with their affection for this part of the valley. Their songs, at times deep, provocative and heartfelt, at other times amusing and just plain fun, kept the full house

tapping their toes and jiggling in their seats throughout the evening.

Western Mass, as we all know, is a special place, and Wendell is one of the more special places in our neck of the woods. The Full Moon Coffeehouse is the longest running non-profit venue in New England. Every show benefits a worthy cause. Social service agencies, community groups and environmental action organizations have all been regular beneficiaries of the Full Moon's generosity. We know of no other place like it. But then no other place is quite like Wendell. The Coffeehouse represents so much of how we live here in the valley, where neighbor helps neighbor, where support is mutual. As someone said on Saturday evening, "It doesn't get any better than this." Thank you everyone!



C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editor

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Montague Puts Nutrient-rich Waste to Waste

By JACK SLATTERY

The town of Montague – known for its various farms and the vast wooded areas along the Connecticut River – is now enacting laws you would expect in a congested city. The latest ordinance is pretty crappy. Dog owners must now scoop their dog's poop or face steep fines. While I can understand the need to pick up after your dog in busy areas and on your neighbor's property, I cannot understand the law being adopted in Montague – a town of just 279.2 people per square mile.

In the neighborhoods of Montague, wildlife is abundant. You may see deer roaming at dusk, fox in the bushes or rabbits darting about. They all poop and I don't find it necessary to remove their waste. It is their serviceable contributions that help keep the neighborhoods of Montague so lush and green. Dog poop does not do any disservice to either the people of Montague or its natural environment – it is quite a benevolent contribution, and the current system of relocating it to landfills only does harm.

Out of all domesticated animals that walk this planet, only dogs – man's best friend – have a law requiring they be picked up after. Doggy doo contains useful organic nutrients similar to those found in squirrel and rabbit excrements. And there is no reasonable explanation for preventing the flow of these organic compounds back to the environment. Is it because dogs' droppings are the most difficult to avoid? NO! Deer messes, for example, are much harder to avoid. Every fall, deer camp out in yards and leave piles of pellets scattered about. Shouldn't the gov-

ernment send out a team of conservationists to pick up after the deer if I must pick up after my dog?

Do the Pooper-Scooper Laws exist because dogs have such large feces? Not even close! I often go for long bike rides in the woods or on the streets and come across giant piles of poo. I have jammed on the brakes, swerved and nearly injured myself many times trying to avoid these messes. A canine does not make these vast piles; they are the work of horses. Yet no horse owner is ever fined for their mess.

Amazingly enough, the combined poop of all cats and dogs in the US adds up to 10 million tons of waste. But it is not just the poop that is going into the landfills; it is the plastic bags. Both cat owners and dog owners throw feces away in plastic bags. Approximately 380 billion plastic bags are used in the United States each year. That is more than 1,200 bags per US resident. It is estimated that 12 million barrels of oil are required to make that many plastic bags. And while 2% of all plastic bags are recycled, bags holding dog poop are never recycled. The practice of surrounding the feces in plastic prevents the organic compounds in the feces from being released back to the environment for hundreds of years. Rather than restoring the excrement's usable energy to plants, we are banishing these valuable organic nutrients to landfills.

The extent to which the pooper-scooper laws are being exercised is unnecessary and even harmful to the environment. These laws establish a flawed system that must be reassessed.

*Jack Slattery is a freshman at UMass-Amherst.*

## Local Wisdom in Spending Green Communities Money

At last week's meeting of the Wendell Selectboard several of us made a pitch to broaden the discussion of how to proceed toward the town's energy future. The immediate question was whether to try to expand input into how to spend the roughly \$140,000 the town has been awarded for its Green Communities designation, but the subtext was really what direction to head: toward modern engineering specialization and expertise or toward the broadest look to find the elusive thing I would call common sense...which is not all that common, actually. When it comes to the deeply insinuated issue of commodity energy, most of us are pretty willing to "leave it to the experts," but that path shows no paradigm change and may just have other versions of the same trouble built into it.

Following the discussion, the decision of the selectboard was to keep the recommendation process within the Wendell Energy Committee – although the final decision rests with the selectboard.

This loosely held chain of command of course doesn't need to be the whole picture. There are many groups in Wendell looking at how to adapt to geophysical limits on energy and industry now getting clearer: the Climate Change Group, the Simple Living Initiative, the Agriculture Commission, Transition Towns, the two nuclear power affinity groups, etc. Members of these bodies and others still at large have thought long and hard about energy matters. Some, in particular, sense a contradiction between current habits of specialization and wise, innovative policy-making. They should join up

and help decide how best to "sustain" this town, and whether Green Communities money can help.

Another thing: Alistair MacMartin, a Wendell resident with energy audit training who raised the issue, was complimented for his offer to surrender his application as a consultant for audits on municipal buildings in order to feel free to participate in these orienting discussions.

But in this small town, Mr. MacMartin shouldn't have to choose between applying to do an audit and debating, along with his townspeople, policy questions that have to do with his field of expertise. He can do both. People can judge for themselves his sincerity and intent.

– Jonathan von Ranson  
Wendell

## Why Vote for Nan Riebschlaeger for Wendell Selectboard

Because "She's a workhorse!," exclaimed a friend when I told her Nan was in the running. Because she's "a breath of fresh air," said more than one other Wendellite.

I'm writing this because Nan doesn't toot her own horn. In her interview in last week's Montague Reporter, Nan didn't announce that she led the town through the steps to secure Green Communities status for Wendell, resulting in a grant of \$138,125 for energy efficiency improvements.

Nan didn't wait to start her work until she was Chair of the Planning Board and the Energy Committee, or until she was president of the Friends of the Meetinghouse. Over fifteen years ago without any official capacity, she began her tireless work. She helped found CACL (Citizens Against the Construction Landfill), which advocated for closing the DB Landfill BEFORE it started shifting down the hill it was built on. She helped obtain \$25,000 for Wendell

from the State's settlement when asbestos from The Big Dig was illegally dumped into the landfill.

Nan determined, as Chair of the Planning Board, that the "microwave tower" could not renew its expired permit because of its close proximity to residences. To the delight of the Locke Hill neighborhood, the '50s dinosaur and blight, and danger to aircraft, was finally dismantled last fall, also thanks to the contributions of other town officials.

In 1999 Nan wrote, and successfully brought to Town meeting, articles to make Wendell a Dioxin-Free Zone and a subscriber to the Precautionary Principle. These provisions demonstrate her commitment to the environment and public health.

Nan has already had employment as a Town Accountant for two towns and a Procurement Officer for one. She knows how to procure state and federal assistance that towns are eligible for, write Requests for

Proposals, and she's excellent at obtaining needed information from government agencies.

Nan is more than halfway through a degree in Business Administration, with courses lending themselves directly to running town government. She is also taking courses in alternative energy systems.

If we elect Nan for Selectboard, she has promised to make Wendell's government a more open process where officials communicate often with each other, and where we feel welcome in advising our representatives about our concerns.

This is why I'll vote for Nan Riebschlaeger.

The election is MONDAY, MAY 6. Polls are open from noon to 8 p.m. at the Town Office Building.

– Gloria Kegeles  
Wendell

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## The Montague Reporter

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## Gill Chief Not Asking for Money for Safety Features

In the 7th paragraph of the article on the Gill Selectboard meeting of April 22, it states I am asking for money for safety features. I am not asking for anything as the cruiser sits. Those items would only be needed if the cruiser was marked. It appears very misleading to a reader.

– David Hastings  
Chief of Police, Gill

**WE WELCOME  
YOUR LETTERS!**

Montague Reporter

58 4th St Turners, 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

**U.S. Casualties  
in Afghanistan  
as of 5/1/13**

Wounded 17,674	Deaths 2,207
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**GOVERNMENT** from page 1  
seat on the finance committee.

Susan Mareneck thanked historic commission chair Betsy Douglas for her many years of service “preserving our unique and irreplaceable heritage.” Douglas, who received an historic standing ovation from town meeting, will step down from her post once the work to establish three new historic districts in town – at North Leverett, Moores Corner (or would it be “moore” correct to say Moore’s Corner?) and East Leverett – is complete.

Ken Kahn, called the “backbone of the planning board for the last 25 years” by Jeff McQueen, who nominated him, was re-elected to another term. Like all candidates for town office this year, he ran unopposed.

Julie Shively, Ann Delano, and Kip Fonsh gave robust endorsements of the work of the regional school district planning board, an ad hoc committee whose acronym (RSDPB) not even its members profess complete confidence in recalling, in developing a regional agreement to join the elementary schools of Amherst, Pelham and Leverett under the governance of a new district.

Fonsh was particularly bullish on

the educational advantages of the proposed realignment for students, saying elementary regionalization would allow for “greater investment in teacher quality, more opportunity for individual attention for students,” more flex time for staff and more utilization of the resources of Amherst College and UMass for elementary students. Fonsh said the regionalization plan, which will likely come to town meeting for an up or down vote in November of this year, would allow Leverett to “better align ongoing and necessary reform efforts to support and enhance student performance.

The RSDPB presentation to town meeting was structured in such a way that no one presented alternate views on the subject, although the superintendent and business manager of Leverett Elementary’s current governing body, Union-28, Joan Wickman and Michael Kociela, were seated in the audience; there were no questions asked of the presenters.

More information on the proposed regionalization plan will be forthcoming at public hearings to be held in the three towns; and documentation on the plan is available at [www.regionalschoolplanning.com](http://www.regionalschoolplanning.com).

The meeting began with a mo-

ment of silence for the wounded and dead of the Boston Marathon bombing, and a reading of a poem by Janine Roberts, penned for the occasion, called *Marathons*, which read in part:

“At the London start line  
people stand in remembrance  
like monuments.

West Bank: first Palestinian  
race – a marathon  
for right to movement.

The waxing moon outlines  
trees against night sky - -  
here and around the earth.

People watch, hard pressed  
to sleep – to dream -  
to hope.

In Leverett, tiny spring  
leaves catch and sheen  
filigrees of silver light.”

This poem, and more than a hundred other poems by local poets, is available for perusal by hikers on Leverett’s extensive trail system in the seven (soon eight) outdoor poetry boxes.



## RANKING from page 1

also near the state averages for MCAS scores. In math, students achieved 78% proficiency with 22% not proficient. In English, students achieved 82% proficiency with 18% not proficient.

Turners Falls High School came in two places below Amherst Regional High School, which ranked 38<sup>th</sup>. Hopkins Academy in Hadley ranked 45. No other schools in the upper valley made it into the top 50 rankings.

*U.S. News & World Report* produced this list with the help of the Washington, D.C.-based social science research organization American Institutes of Research. In compiling the names of the best schools, they considered more than just test scores but looked at several key principles they felt go into creating a good high school. They looked at demographics, wanting to see that all students, not just college-bound students, were able to “produce measurable academic outcomes” across a range of performance indicators.

The evaluation started with looking at test scores in state proficiency exams but factored into their equation the percentage of economically disadvantaged and minority students who tend to score lower on these kinds of tests, and then identified schools that were performing better than statistical expectations. Ranking standards also included consideration of the number of students taking advanced placement (AP) classes. College readiness looked at those AP test results and the percentage of students enrolled in AP classes.

Patricia Gardner, principal of Turners Falls High School, said of the ranking, “I am extremely proud of the faculty and staff, and incredi-

bly proud of our students.” She said this was a direct result of all their hard work. She credits the teacher training and new programs and methods put in place and the emphasis on AP classes in the school.

Joyce Phillips, school committee chair, said, “I am very proud of TFHS – the faculty, staff, students and Principal Patricia Gardner. The positive changes that have taken place are evident in this recognition. I believe this is just the beginning of great things to come for TFHS.”

Marty Espinola, the acting superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District said, “We’re delighted. We think the honor is deserved. The teachers are the ones that have put in the hard work that made the difference.” He also referenced the AP classes that have offered students an opportunity to learn subjects on an advanced level. Providing these classes involved considerable teacher training. This project was grant supported for the first three years but now support is being continued by the school district.

Espinola pointed to several other programs, like the new credit recovery program that helps students pass a course they need but failed the first time. They get to take it over in a new way. This is an online program. He said because the district is Level 4, the faculty has done a lot of training, and are expected to use best practices in their teaching. These include Differentiated Instruction, which takes into consideration that all students do not learn in the same way. This honors the different ways students learn and the speed at which they learn. Teachers need to do a lot more work to create this opportunity, and lesson plans are more complicated as they plan several different approaches to the

lesson goals to accommodate different types of learning. There are also education walk-throughs that allow for ongoing teacher evaluation that provides support for teachers and feedback from their peers.

All of this seems to have paid off. This should make all those teachers, who have spent many hours learning new methods and implementing what they’ve been learning in their training sessions, see that the results they hoped for have been accomplished.



## MONTAGUE HOLDS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

Elected town meeting members in Montague will be voting Saturday on a seven-article special town meeting warrant and on another 30-article annual town meeting warrant, both on May 4. The special town meeting begins at 8:30 a.m.; the annual town meeting at 9 a.m..

The special town meeting is largely devoted to housekeeping items; the annual town meeting will provide far more excitement.

Besides fixing the salaries of elected and appointed officials, voters at the annual meeting will decide whether to spend \$7,745,203 to fund town departments (a 3.42% increase over last year) and \$7,965,557 to operate the Gill-Montague Regional School District (a \$115,000 or 1.46% increase, from last year).

Montague’s share of the Franklin County Tech School’s operating budget, \$731,659, represents a \$6,206 reduction from last year, because two fewer Montague students will be attending the Tech School.

Other articles will seek funding for capital purchases including \$20,000 for police equipment including tasers, bulletproof vests, firearms and other items; \$8,000 to replace the windows at the Unity Park field house; \$10,000 for a new furnace at the Montague Center Library; \$8,200 to fund computer equipment for town departments; and \$9,500 to operate the airport. Spending \$54,055 for lease payments on two existing dump trucks and \$95,000 for purchasing a new DPW bucket truck will also be considered.

Another article seeks \$10,000 in

continuing heat and maintenance costs for the Montague Center School building.

The most controversial article will certainly be Article 27, which would amend the Montague Zoning By-Laws minimum floor area for dwellings from 700 s.f. of living space to 500 s.f. Although the Planning Board has argued that the main purpose behind the change is to respond to today’s trend of smaller living spaces, opponents of the proposed Montague Center School redevelopment see the article as aimed primarily at allowing the developer to add more units in this building.

Article 28, brought by petition, would support retaining all services at Baystate Franklin Medical Center rather than moving some of these services to Baystate Medical in Springfield.

Article 29 asks the town to accept two sections of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts general laws which would require the town to pay the town clerk and treasurer an annual \$1000 stipend for success in obtaining and maintaining state certification in their respective professions.

Article 30 would authorize the moderator to appoint a seven-member committee to identify ways to expand broadband coverage to underserved areas of the town.


### Turners Falls Water Bills Due

The Turners Falls Water Department sent out the semi-annual water bill this week. Payments are due by June 3. There’s a \$20 late fee for the first month, after which time your water is subject to shutoff. The bill covers Oct through Mar. Payments can be made by mail or in person at the Water Department office, at 226 Millers Falls Road. There’s a drop box to the left of the door for after-hours delivery. You can also pay online at [www.turnersfallswater.com](http://www.turnersfallswater.com). To obtain a receipt, enclose a SASE and the entire bill with your payment. Don’t forget!

### Legal Notice

The Wendell Planning Board will hold a hearing on Tuesday, May 14 at 8 p.m. at the Wendell Town Offices concerning Bylaw Changes. The changes remove the requirement in Article V, Section A, #6 that the primary residence be in existence for 10 years in order to add a secondary dwelling. Article VI, Section J, the secondary dwelling article will be changed by removing item a which restricts occupancy to two persons. The use table, Article VI, Section F Residential will be changed under Permanent Motor Homes to Y from N. A new flood plain bylaw will be added that creates a Flood Plain Overlay District in which some activity will be limited to reduce hazards. The full text of this article will be available at the Town Offices, the library and on the Planning Board website by Friday, April 26. The map will be available in the Town Coordinators office during her normal business hours.

*Everyone is invited ...*



*to a Rededication Ceremony and Memorial Tree Planting  
in Living Memory of Vivian Morrissey, Virginia Ferrer,  
Catherine Gochinski, Tracy Sheperd, and in honor of all  
past and present victims of Domestic Violence  
in our Community.  
The ceremony will take place at...*

**Peskeomskut Park**  
at the corner of Avenue A and 7th St. in Turners Falls  
**Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**at 5 p.m.**  
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presence at this very special event.

Speakers Include:  
Montague Police Chief Charles “Chip” Dodge  
and  
Mary Kociela, Northwestern District Attorney’s Office

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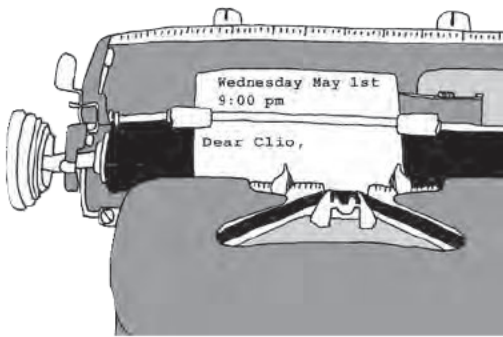
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Dear Clio,



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 1, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Dear Clio,

My husband and I have a real difference of opinion regarding our only son who has just turned nine. My husband thinks that he's going to be gay because he isn't interested in sports or boy things. My husband wants to toughen him up by enrolling him in karate (which he doesn't want to do) and teaching him to shoot. I personally think he's just a quiet, shy kid but I do worry about him getting bullied in school. I also think there are worse things than him turning out gay. Any advice?

Worried Mom

Dear W.M.,

My first impulse is to write that it's OK to be gay. My second impulse is to tell you that it's OK for boys not to like sports. I can tell from your letter, though, that you already know this. When you write about your child, you sound warm and accepting. I am sure that he feels this, too. Kids need their parents' approval almost as much as they need food, and they are good at knowing when they have it.

It sounds to me like your instincts are right on. Don't let your husband's worries cause you to doubt yourself! In every classroom in the nation, from kindergarten to high school, there are several boys like your son. There always have been. I know some of them as adults. My friends who were once quiet boys are now successful, well-adjusted adults, some of them married to women.

When my first child was in preschool, I remember looking around the room and noticing all the same personalities that I remembered from my high school. There were social girls, athletic boys, quiet kids, and a class clown. There were kids who were excited about doing what the teacher had planned and those who did whatever they could to avoid the activity.

If your husband tries to change your son's inner nature, I believe he will fail. Extracurriculars will not change a child's personality or sexual orientation. When you look at your son now, the kid you see is the person he really is. At nine he has the potential to grow and learn

a huge amount, but he will always be himself.

I am often struck by the fact that each person's biggest challenge is the flip side of that person's greatest strength. Others have frequently admired the very qualities in my kids that I worry about. Trust me, there is someone out there with a son who is terrific at sports but can't sit still long enough to learn math, and that person looks at your son, wishing their kid were more like him.

Hopefully you and your husband can work together to help your son discover his strengths and develop them. As he gains confidence in himself, your son will be able to overcome obstacles and fears. Maybe he will find a sport that he likes, or maybe he will find a different way to practice working with others and to get exercise. There are plenty of alternatives to sports that provide these benefits.

If your husband cannot be your partner in nurturing and encouraging your son, then I suggest that you protect your son's self esteem however you can. You are probably the only person who is in a position to do this. Your son does not have enough experience to argue with his father that it is OK not to like sports. He needs an adult to advocate for him. He will remember for the rest of his life that you stood up for him.

Many parents feel that it is important to present a united front. However, I believe it is all right for our kids to know when their parents disagree. They will learn that there is more than one side to an issue. As children try on their parents' differing views, they discover their own opinions and preferences, which will help them make good decisions later in life.

W.M., your son is lucky to have a mother like you, who thinks so carefully about what is best for him. It sounds like you are lucky, too, to have a gentle, thoughtful kid. He is only just beginning to uncover his talents. May both his parents have the patience to give him space and let those strengths reveal themselves. Good luck!

Yours,  
Clio

Send your letters to Clio at  
editor@montaguereporter.org.

Propping Up the House of Usher

Erving selectmen were informed that the Usher Plant, on Arch Street, is scheduled for preliminary site assessment under an approved Brownfields grant. The assessment is to determine whether hazardous materials exist on site ... The building has been empty for a decade and suffers from extensive deterioration.

Wendell: Bentley to Resign

Selectboard member Katharine Bentley will be resigning from the board effective June 1, as she has taken a new job in Philadelphia. Bentley, who has been on the board since 1998, said she plans to retain her property in town. Chair Ted Lewis said the town will schedule a special election to replace Bentley after her resignation date.... A recent workshop and field trip on

vernal pools was well attended.

Montague: Impending Bankruptcy

Selectman Ed Voudren put the town of Montague on notice in dramatic fashion on Monday, declaring, "The town is going bankrupt. Within a year we will be bankrupt. This was nothing this town did, or the elected officials, or the taxpayers. I am embarrassed at what the state of Massachusetts has put the taxpayers through, and they have some answering to do." Chair Sam Lovejoy commiserated, saying it was impossible for Montague to arrive at a budget when the figures from the state kept getting completely rewritten.

Cub Scouts Clean Up Lake Pleasant Road

On April 25 and 26, the scouts of Den #6, Pack #367 spent long hours cleaning up the trash on both sides of the entire length of Lake Pleasant Road, from Millers Falls Road all

the way to Broadway. They pulled enough alcohol bottles, broken glass, fast food wrappers, clothing, pots, pans and car parts to fill more than 100 five-gallon trash bags. Den leader Gabrielle James said, "To whoever is throwing all this stuff out on the side of the road... It's kind of pathetic that you have eight-year-old children cleaning up for you."

Editorial: The Virtue of Necessity

As the state legislature takes up the task of molding Governor Romney's "\$2 billion" in waste, off-the-cuff reform and patronage elimination package into a real budget, the prospect of deeper cuts in aid to our towns and schools is about to hit home... Montague finally decided to throw in the towel on the traditional annual Town Meeting, with the warrant already posted. It will still convene that day... but the budget items will all be delayed till the end of June, by which time the financial calamity heading our way will finally be known.

Diabetes Self-Management Workshops

**TURNERS FALLS** – If you have Diabetes and want to take control, remain active and improve your quality of life, this workshop is for you! Take the mystery out of planning satisfying, healthy meals. Learn to stabilize glucose levels. Increase your energy level. Succeed at minimizing complications and handling emergencies. Gain tools, skills and the confidence needed to manage the challenges of living well with this increasingly common condition.

The workshops create weekly, personalized action plans to attain

goals through small, workable steps. Caregivers and family members are also welcome to attend this six-session program.

Workshops are highly interactive, provide mutual support and build participants' confidence to manage their health challenges and to remain active. Workshops are led by peer volunteers, one or both of whom have diabetes or another chronic health condition. FCHCC coordinates recruitment, training and support of volunteer coaches/leaders. A workshop series consists of six two and a half hour sessions.

Topics include: What is Diabetes?, Monitoring glucose levels, Healthy eating, Preventing low blood sugar, Preventing complications, Physical activity and exercise, Muscle relaxation, Pain and fatigue management, Dealing with difficult emotions, Medication usage, Making informed treatment decisions, and Weight management.

If interested in becoming a coach/leader or to find a My Life, My Health workshop in your community, contact Lesley Kayan, Healthy Aging Coordinator at FCHCC (413) 773-5555 ext. 2297 or (978) 544-2259 ext. 2297 or lkayan@fchcc.org. Read more at www.fchcc.org

BRIDGES from page 1

mer, while leaving the traveled way intact. To expedite the work, a Grove 700E hydraulic crane stockpiled large chunks of concrete.

Later, the excavator operator broke up those large chunks with a hydraulic hammer into sizes small enough to pulverize in a rock crusher at either Lane's or Mitchell's pit in Northfield. Northern Construction workmen cut off reinforcing rods sticking out of the chunks. The crushers are equipped with magnets to sort out the remaining steel rods as the smaller chunks are crushed.

With the deck removed, Northern Construction removed the old I-beams which measured 5'-6" in height by 64' long. Freedman Metal Recycling in Springfield purchased the old beams. The new I-beams will stand 39" high but will be lon-

ger in order to reach new abutments 10 feet further back from the old ones, making the bridge about 20 feet longer.

At the start, the biggest holdup on the job was to drill down behind the old abutments which had been backfilled with chunks of ledge blasted from ledge embankments on the Gill side of the road while under original construction.

During the recent drilling for placement of H-beam piles into solid bedrock, a hydraulic motor powering the drill on the Japanese drilling rig, failed. Parts were not readily available. A Soil Mech drilling rig, made in the good old U.S.A., and rented from Hub Foundations, finished the drilling for the last of the 12 H-beam piles upon which the bridge will rest.

A new bigger Komatsu PC 300LS excavator, equipped with a vibratory pile driver, arrived on the job Tuesday. This machine will drive temporary H-beams 12 feet below the surface to hold panels protecting workmen as they build forms for new four foot wide abutments. The pile driver will extract the temporary beams upon completion of concrete work.

The new 5'-6" I-beams will sit on top of the new four foot wide abutments positioned at the center of the 12 H-beam piles concreted into bedrock to meet seismic requirements.

Northern Construction will leave the old piers in place, removing and replacing any deteriorated concrete, and capping them with new concrete pedestals for the new 39 inch high beams to rest upon.

The bases of the piers have al-

ready been bolstered, their bases sporting new concrete girdles.

"The work will go along faster now," Graves said. "We should have traffic on the new section by July."

Northern Construction is building the bridge in three stages in order to keep two-way traffic flowing. Each section will sit on two H-beam piles on either end – four in all for each section.

Once a section is finished, traffic will divert to the new section allowing demolition and replacement of other sections while traffic continues two-way.

It is reminiscent of the man with a fox, a goose and a bag of corn. He could only take two at a time in his boat, and had to figure out how to keep the fox from eating the goose or the goose from eating the corn as he twice crossed the river. (The solution will be in next week, if you can't figure it out.)

The pedestrian bridge, hung on the side of the bridge's south side, is largely used by workmen, though a couple of kids cutting classes did romp across it last fall. Workers occasionally walk on the edge of the bridge's north side, with safety harnesses tethered to a safety cable strung from shore to shore.

The abutments of the original wooden bridge, a couple hundred yards upstream, are over a century old, and built of stone slabs laid up dry. The abutments still sit in place, undisturbed, where they were built before anyone knew what the word "seismic" meant.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Brush Aflame; Vehicles Suspicious; Building Secure

Wednesday, 4/17

3:10 p.m. Report of brush fire on Old State Road. Assisted at same.  
4:05 p.m. Report of motor vehicles parked at monuments at Veterans Field. Vehicles moved from monument area. Owners advised not to park there.  
11:30 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in French King Entertainment parking lot. Same secure.

Thursday, 4/18

2:30 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported in North Street driveway. Checked residence and area.

Nothing found.

3:30 a.m. Assisted state police with a traffic stop at Laurel Lake.

4 a.m. Large, loud party at North Shore Road (Laurel Lake) residence. Checked on same.

9:23 a.m. Report of white truck towing trailer eastbound on Route 2 with an open rear door. Checked for same. Unable to locate.

9:30 a.m. Report of white sheet wrapped up in woods near French King Bridge. Unable to locate.

2:10 p.m. Report of an animal carcass under the

French King Bridge on Dorsey Road. Found to be a deceased deer.

Friday, 4/19

1:30 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, defective equipment, obscure number plate, and on a straight warrant.  
7 p.m. Alarm at elementary school. Building secure.

Saturday, 4/20

6:05 p.m. Mutual aid to Gill for motor vehicle crash on Route 2 near the French King Bridge.

Sunday, 4/21

11:15 p.m. Alarm at French King Restaurant. Building secure.

Monday, 4/22

9:10 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on East Main Street (Route 2). Report taken.

9:40 a.m. Motor vehicle lockout at Weatherheads convenience store. Entry gained.

11:17 a.m. Welfare check on Mountain Road. Residents not home.

5:15 p.m. Complaint of barking dogs on Central Street.

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Field of Dreams... and a Pipe Nightmare

By PATRICIA PRUITT

At the April 29 meeting Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio raised the specter of a potential nightmare when he announced that the force main at the Franklin County Technical School had collapsed. This is the line that carries sewage out of the facility. Upon inspection the line was found to have sand backed up in it. Piping engineers are expected later this week to help analyze the problem in order to find the best solution.

For the time being, there

is no immediate issue for the businesses and facilities in the Industrial Park. Until the pipe is repaired or replaced, sewage flow is being temporarily hauled by truck from the site.

Superintendent Bob Trombley suggested the board write a letter to abutter businesses in the industrial park, asking their patience during the time of repairs and assuring them that their services will continue.

In other news from the selectboard, on Thursday, May 23, weather permitting, the Shea Theater will host a free

showing of the movie *Field of Dreams* in Peskeompskut Park at 7 p.m.

Peter Golrick of the Turners Falls Airport Commission presented two copies of grant assurances for signatures as required by MASS D.O.T. for acceptance of the Archaeological and Tribal Grant. He was followed by the Airport Manager Mick Longo seeking a permit to use public property on June 15 and 16 for the event called Aviation Weekend at the Turners Falls Airport. This event will start at 10 a.m. and go to 4p m. on both days.

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Insurance Questions, Kitchen Plans, No Cookies

By JOSH HEINEMANN

For a while on Wednesday evening, April 24, even with one board member out, the Wendell selectboard office was SRO (standing room only) with members of the kitchen planning group, the community garden committee, the energy committee, and interested citizens without any committee, all present.

In 2012, through the efforts of the energy committee, Wendell became a green community and eligible for \$138,125 in grants that can be used to reduce energy use, and carbon dioxide output resulting from activities in town. The energy committee had to meet a January 25 deadline for its first grant request, and made that request to the state for a thermal imager that will detect heat losses in buildings, and for an ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers) level II audit of town buildings. The RFP (request for proposals) that the energy committee wrote for that audit included a large insurance coverage, and so favored large and probably distant corporations over small and local but equally qualified people. Wendell resident Alistair MacMartin has the qualifications to do an audit and wrote a complaint.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the town's insurance representative recommended that provision. Energy committee member Laurie DiDonato suggested that the insurance requirement could be lower; another suggestion was that a smaller local firm could hold the insurance only for the

time required to do the audit. Jonathan von Ranson asked, "Insurance against what?" Aldrich answered, "to protect the town in case of injury." Betsy Ames said "We can decide not to follow the insurance recommendation," but selectboard chair Christine Heard said, "we do not generally do that".

Heard asked what the energy committee was hoping to learn from an energy audit, and selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked if it was required. Riebschlaeger said the audit is not required, but Ames said that the state requires the information that an audit would provide before it releases grant money for work on town buildings.

**Heard asked what the energy committee was hoping to learn from an energy audit, and selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked if it was required.**

Riebschlaeger suggested forming a citizens' advisory panel that would organize a set of priorities for grant applications for what remains in the \$138,125 which is still the large majority of the potential grant money. Representatives from the climate change group, the simple living group, and anyone with a good idea would be invited to work out details for good use of the money.

Peter Gallant suggested using grant money to leverage and get more money for home energy savings, as Greenfield did by hiring a coordinator who recruited people to sign up for Mass

Save and Community Action funds to decrease their home energy use.

Heard thanked everyone for coming; Alistair MacMartin said he came because, "I heard there were cookies." There were no cookies.

## Kitchen Plans

The kitchen planning group represented by Katie Nolan, MacMartin, and Judy Hall presented a detailed budget of their proposal to make the town hall kitchen usable and food safe for public functions, including a new 6 burner stove, a three bay sink, a commercial dishwasher. Total material cost is \$11,700; labor costs to protect the water supply from freezing, running a gas line for the stove, plumbing and electricity have an estimate of \$6,400; other construction costs include \$3,655 for a wheelchair ramp or lift from the floor level to the stage Level, bring the total cost for the kitchen plans to \$25,255. A USDA grant, which MacMartin said the USDA official heard with

enthusiasm, and in kind donations can bring the town's cost down to \$15,215.75. MacMartin asked if it was ok to apply for the grant before a vote at the annual town meeting. Aldrich suggested that the town might have to appropriate the money first and then get the grants, as it had to do to get a USDA loan for the building projects. She also said to make sure a wheelchair lift was not classified as an elevator. An elevator requires an annual inspection that costs \$1,200: \$800 for the inspector and \$400 for the state.

see WENDELL page 10

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## The Usher Mill Needs a Roofer, Not an Engineer

By KATIE NOLAN

The Usher Mill redevelopment committee met jointly with the selectboard on April 29, presenting concerns, recommendations and action steps for developing the historic industrial property located on the banks of the Millers River.

Re-use committee members were very skeptical about a recent Tighe & Bond, Inc. structural engineering report on the former Boiler Building. Committee member Gary Burnett discounted the expertise of the Tighe & Bond engineer, saying that the engineer didn't bring a ladder to allow inspection of the leaking roof from above and didn't have sufficient battery-powered light to properly inspect the non-electrified building interior. "He couldn't climb up on the roof - we need a qualified inspector to look at the roof," said Burnett.

Committee member Jeff Dubay said that the town "should be talking to roofers, not to engineers." He added that the roof is "in nice shape" outside of the leaking spot.

Asked about the cost of the Tighe & Bond report, town administrator Tom Sharp indicated it was approximately \$5,000. (At the March 11 selectboard meeting, Sharp had reported that \$7,950 was allocated for the Tighe & Bond structural analysis, with the money coming from the funds voted by the August 2012 special town meeting for cleaning up the site.) "For \$5,000, we could have fixed the roof," Dubay commented.

## \$300,000 for Mothballing?

Burnett and other committee members also disagreed strongly with Tighe & Bond's estimate of \$300,000 to "mothball" the former Boiler Building. "Mothballing shouldn't be that costly," said Dubay.

The committee's plan is to repair the roof (not replace it) to keep the building stabilized until the entire property can be developed. Dubay said that the rubber roof could be patched and the interior kept dry at a much lower cost. Burnett said that the town should spend money only on "what's necessary to prevent it from deteriorating further."

The committee disagreed strongly with the selectboard's survey, published in the April "Around Town" newsletter and available at town hall, asking citizens

"Do you think the remaining Boiler Building at the Usher Plant should be saved?" According to a committee's handout, "the town-wide survey was premature, had no input from the Usher Mill Re-Development Committee, and was not adequately worded to arrive at any useable data for the Town to base a decision on."

Committee member Jeanie Schermesser characterized the board's decision to run the survey as "disheartening and somewhat confusing." Committee member Linda Downs-Bembury said she "felt blindsided by seeing the survey."

lands issues, the site could potentially include endangered species habitat, and along the Millers, would come under the Rivers Protection Act. According to Sloan, an experienced permitting consultant would help identify the locations that could be developed.

## Potential Land Donation

The committee asked in its printed handout that parcels owned by Morris Housen adjacent to the former Usher Mill property "should be acquired as soon as possible so that he project can go forward by including all the land in its initial assessment."

**Considering a draft fire chief job description, Goodwin said that, instead of a requirement for the chief to live within 10 miles of Erving, the chief should be required to live in Erving.**

## \$35,000 for Environmental Permitting Report?

The committee protested the selectboard's decision to eliminate \$35,000 requested by the committee for an environmental assessment of the site. At the April 8 selectboard meeting, selectboard member Andrew Goodwin had spoken against additional assessment funding because a 21E (potentially contaminated sites) assessment was done previously and no hazardous waste was found in the soil and groundwater.

At Monday night's meeting, Schermesser said that this environmental assessment would consider environmental regulations and restrictions for the site. According to Schermesser, "nothing can be done at the site until the environmental assessment is completed."

She said that conservation commission chair David Brule was willing to walk the property and help with the initial phases of the assessment, that the \$35,000 figure was a rough estimate from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) planning department, and that the assessment probably could be completed for less than that amount.

Peggy Sloan of the FRCOG planning department in a phone interview described the assessment as a feasibility study for environmental permitting issues and requirements because of the site's location next to the Millers River.

Sloan noted that a revitalization plan might face wet-

"I wish the board would consider accepting the gifting of this land," said Downs-Bembury.

At the November 29, 2011, selectboard meeting the committee had presented the selectboard with a draft letter to Housen regarding donation of the parcels to the town. At that time, the committee expected the selectboard to finalize the letter and send it to Housen. However, the selectboard did not take action on the letter.

According to Dubay, Housen was interested in donating the land to the town, but "when he heard about the [town-wide] survey, he was dismayed that the building might be demolished."

Goodwin said there is a "void of information" coming from the committee to the board. He asked about the committee's vision for the future of the property and asked for a project budget and timeline.

Schermesser said that the committee had prepared a presentation envisioning the future of the property in March 2012, including recreational use, retail stores, small businesses, and artist studios. However, Goodwin was absent from that meeting and current selectboard member Margaret Sullivan was not on the board at that time.

The revitalization committee agreed to present a budget for the environmental assessment to the selectboard by May 20, for inclusion on

see ERVING page 10

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## The Great Falls Farmers Market Begins Year 17



JEN DOWNS PHOTO

Every Wednesday from now through October, fresh vegetables – and more! – will be sold at the market by the bridge in Turners Falls. Vendors accept cash, as well as WIC and Senior FMNP coupons.

By PATRICIA PRUITT

On Wednesday, May 1, year 17 of the Great Falls Farmers Market began on the corner of Second Street and Avenue A. The Farmers Market is sponsored for the first time this year by the Montague Agricultural Commission, which hopes to grow participation in two directions: more local farm foods and farmer/vendors, and more customers. Originally begun back in 1996 by Paul Voiland and David Detmold, and later run by Suzette Snow-Cobb for several years, it is currently shepherded by the dedicated and capable Don Clegg who

has been its organizer since 2008.

Clegg laments the impact the construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge has had on the vendors which, before construction, had grown to a healthy total of 17. Like all of Turners Falls, he looks forward to the bridge opening and expects next spring will see a renewal of the larger market presence. As market manager he sees the market as a vibrant community center in the outdoors. At the start of the market it will have flower and vegetable starts and perhaps some early greens among its offerings. As spring goes into summer, musicians will serenade during market

hours. The community sign board will alert vendors and customers to other events in Turners Falls and the town of Montague.

Clegg is pleased to have the sponsorship of the Ag. Commission. It means the Farmers Market will be covered by the town's insurance, allowing space fees paid by vendors to be reinvested in the market. Having a sponsor also means the Farmers Market can apply for grants. If you would like information about renting a space in the Great Falls Farmers Market, contact [greatfallsfarmersmarket-turners@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsfarmersmarket-turners@gmail.com). The hours are 2 to 6 p.m. each Wednesday.



PATRICIA PRUITT PHOTO

Don Clegg (center) admits he holds down a lot of different areas of involvement in the life of downtown Turners Falls. Among these are the Food Pantry and Survival Center, The Discovery Center, MCTV, The Montague Reporter, and every Wednesday from May thru Oct from 2 to 6 p.m. he helps manage the Turners Falls Farmers Market, which opened yesterday. He was excited to have this picture taken on the opening day of the 2013 market season and to include one of two original vendors, Peter Kretzinger (right), and Bob Johnson of Johnson Farms, Deerfield (not pictured), as well as the newest participant Red Fire Farm, represented by Paul Voiland (left) who, along with David Detmold, founded the Farmers Market back in 1996.

CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO



Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem rock the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse last Saturday night, to benefit The Montague Reporter.

## PVS Finishes Its 74th Season with Mozart & Mahler at the Movies

**GREENFIELD** – Pioneer Valley Symphony will present its final concert of the season, "Mozart and Mahler at the Movies," on Saturday, May 18th, at 7:30 pm at Greenfield High School.

As with previous concerts this season, the program includes works that have been performed in movies as varied as *Runaway Bride* and *The Accompanist*.

The concert opens with Mozart's renowned "Overture to the Marriage of Figaro," featured in many Hollywood movies.

The second work takes a more somber turn, with Mozart's "Vesperae solenne de confessorio." A movement of these Vespers underscored scenes in the powerful mov-

ie *The Accompanist*.

The program concludes with Gustav Mahler's beautiful and haunting *Symphony No. 4*. Mahler's music most famously underscored Visconti's *Death in Venice*.

This concert is the culmination of our 74th season, "Pioneer Valley Symphony at the Movies." Tickets to the concert are \$20 adult, \$17 senior/student, and \$6 child. They are available online at [PVSO.org](http://PVSO.org), by calling (413) 773-3664, or at the door on the evening of the performance.

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Melissa Leary of Northfield displays the trophy she won as first place co-winner in the annual Poet's Seat Poetry Contest in the 15-18-year-old category.

## FCTS Senior Wins Poets Seat Poetry Contest Technical School Dominates 15-18-year-old Category

**TURNERS FALLS** – Melissa Leary, a senior from Northfield, is a first place co-winner in the 22nd Annual Poet's Seat Poetry Contest in the 15-to-18-year-old category.

"I didn't expect my poem to win," said an elated Leary. "I didn't think my poem was on that level. It was a great experience for me."

There were five finalists in the 15-18-year-old category and three of them were from Franklin County Technical School. The other FCTS students were Nick Batutis of Orange and Anna Morin from New Salem. This is the third year in a row that three FCTS students were among the five finalists in the 15-18-year-old category.

Jiyoung Jeong, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at The Bement School in Deerfield was the 15-18-year-old co-winner with Leary. Winners were awarded a ceramic poet's mug and \$20 gift certificate to the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield.

Leary, 18, won the Poet's Seat contest for her poem, "Odd Math Class Day Dream," which reads,

*Odd Math Class Day Dream*

*Day Dream:*

*The swing*

*Wound up*

*Ready to whoosh through the sweet air.*

*Rolling with laughter at some silly joke.*

*Our grins shame the Cheshire Cat With a side of giddy.*

*Taste the kiss*

*So sudden*

*Like rain*

*Cosine 18, what's the answer?*

*Across the room, I've never said hello.*

Leary, a student in the FCTS electrical program, said she felt the judges liked the dream-like and whimsical air of her piece, especially the ending. She said she loves to write and carries a notebook with her at all times to jot down ideas for poems. Leary is hoping to have her poetry published someday.

"It would be nice to have some of my work published and have other people enjoy it," she said.

The poetry contest is sponsored by the Greenfield Public Library, and includes categories for adults, and youth aged 12-14 and 15-18. The contest is open to residents of Franklin County. About 60 people attended the reading and awards ceremony, which was held at Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield.

Aniella Day of Deerfield and Robin Williams of South Deerfield won in the 12-14-year-old category, and Cathy Gouch of Greenfield was the adult winner.

FCTS English Teacher Alyssa Kelly said the 17 students in her poetry class entered 25 poems for the competition. She said the class allows students a wide range of creativity as they explore various types of poetry.

"The students get a lot of exposure to poetry for the entire school year," Kelly said. "This allows them to prepare in a more sophisticated, professional manner for a contest like this. A lot of students are interested in poetry because it's built on self-expression."

## Cooperative Power Helps Europe Go Green



By DAVID DETMOLD

**GREENFIELD** – If your federal government is dragging its feet on converting to renewable energy, stuck on fossil fuels and nuclear power, and failing to take action to deal with global warming and climate change – take action with your neighbors by starting your

own energy coop.

That was the hopeful message brought to New England by Dr. Andreas Wieg, director of the German Cooperative Federation and Dirk Vansintjan, co-founder of the Belgium Ecopower renewable energy cooperative. These are no pie in the sky idealists. Vansintjan's coop now has over 43,000 mem-

ber-shareholders, 23 employees, and produces 25 megawatts of renewable energy from more than a dozen wind turbines, three small hydro facilities, and hundreds of photovoltaic panels, and Wieg's organization counts over 650 new energy cooperatives in Germany in the last four years, since the federal government there – pressured by the strength of the environmental movement and the Green Party – passed a New Energy Sources Act in 2004 guaranteeing a fixed price tariff for new power producers.

"If you produce Green energy, you can tie into the grid, no question," in Germany, said Wieg, and new producers are guaranteed a fixed price for their power for the next 20 years. This citizen activist-driven policy change has placed Germany in the top ranks of nations in terms of renewable energy production, with more than 20% of its electricity now generated through Green energy.

The European cooperators appeared before a small crowd of local environmentalists at Greenfield Community College on Wednes-

day, April 24. Signs along the road leading to GCC declared local opposition to a proposed wood burning biomass plant in Greenfield, but this did not deter both Wieg and Vansintjan from touting the benefits of biomass in their home countries. The biomass plants they spoke of, however, unlike that the developer of the Greenfield plant proposed, harness the heat produced from biomass to provide heating for homes and businesses, instead of wasting the heat and harnessing just a small amount of the potential power as electricity.

In Germany, Wieg said, "Inhabitants of a village come together in a

coop and establish bioenergy plants and pipelines for heating. This is a much cheaper alternative than oil or coal they used before. All inhabitants are shareholders and the coop provides power directly to members, different than shareholder-owned businesses seeking return on investment and offering power to all buyers.

Wieg emphasized that coops operate democratically, on a one member one vote principle, regardless of the size of investment.

He said 60 to 70% of investment in the hundreds of new energy coops now taking root in Germany is provided by rural coop banks.

"If you drive south of Berlin," Wieg said, "you drive through a forest of wind turbines," put up by a Danish energy corporation. Citizen opposition to massive wind farms tends to dwindle to insignificance when the people of an area become shareholders in a coop that owns the turbines and the power they produce.

Vansintjan, who got his start in the field of energy production af-

ter participating in protests against nuclear power and realizing that concrete alternatives were needed, now coordinates a coop that produces electricity for 1.3% of the households in Flanders, providing a 6% annual return on investment for its members over the last 10 years.

"According to Greenpeace, we are the fairest and Greenest electricity on the market. We have no complaints from our customers," (or shareholders, as it were). "Indeed, average consumption of our customers has dropped 46% in six years," since Ecopower encourages and invests in energy conservation. "One third of our members have installed photovoltaics," at their homes and businesses, and Ecopower is now turning to other energy concerns, like supplying wood pellets for home heating to its members.

Ecopower has won bidding contracts to install wind turbines in two major Belgian cities, underbidding rivals during the initial "wind rush," which he compared to a 19<sup>th</sup> century gold rush, once supporting tariffs were enacted. But at Ecopower, "We think the wind is not owned by someone with a piece of land. It is a common good, and when you exploit it you should not get a profit."

Could a philosophy like that ever take hold in corporate America? It could, if you believe local proponents of energy cooperatives, like Lynn Benander, manager of Holyoke-based Coop Power ([www.cooppower.coop](http://www.cooppower.coop)) who spoke up at the end of Wing and Vansintjan's talk to urge people to join this Pioneer Valley energy coop, which is in the process of building a biodiesel manufacturing plant in Greenfield, designed to produce 3.5 million gallons of biodiesel a year from recycled restaurant grease. Coop Power has also invested its members' capital in local Green energy businesses and photovoltaic projects as far north as Brattleboro.

You, too, can become a member, and help produce a lasting Green alternative to fossil fuels, nuclear power, corporate-driven climate change and environmental destruction.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Most Things Going Okay

**Thursday, 4/11**

8:44 p.m. Subject reported on Gill-Turners Falls Bridge, possibly going to jump. Located same in Riverside.

**Friday, 4/12**

8:15 a.m. Reported tractor-trailer unit damage on Gill-Turners Falls Bridge. Located in Montague.  
9:30 a.m. Restraining order issue at residence in Riverside.

11:35 a.m. Fire issue on Chappell Drive. Fire chief on scene.

9:15 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with underage drinking party.

**Monday, 4/15**

10:20 a.m. Medical assistance required on South Cross Road.  
2 p.m. Civil complaint at business on French King Highway.

**Thursday, 4/18**

10:50 a.m. Lost wallet

located on Main Road.

11:25 a.m. Check requested on resident's welfare at Stoughton Place. All OK.

3:45 p.m. Complaint regarding elderly driver on Main Road.

**Sunday, 4/21**

11:30 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD on case of a motor vehicle stolen from a Route 10 business.

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## NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE DESE Tells the GMRSD They Are Making Significant Progress

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

In their quarterly report on the Gill-Montague Regional School District delivered to the school committee at their meeting of April 23, Eva Mitchell, Associate Commissioner, and Joan Connolly of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) said that the district continues to make progress in accomplishing the goals set out in their Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP). The results of the most recent standardized tests in math and English show significant progress in 80% of grades tested. Also, 50% of students in all categories achieved 10% improvement in proficiency in math and English.

The district according to these evaluations continues to meet its goals in student performance. Connolly said the district leadership team continued to be dedicated to working hard on achieving the AIP benchmarks. It was clear that these representatives from DESE were pleased with the progress they had observed. The report covers the time period between December, 2012 and February 2013 when the superintendent was Interim Superintendent Mark Prince. The AIP is an evidence-based process where achievement has to be measurable and

documented.

The summary of the report says the district continued to move forward, and that "the leadership team is clearly invested in focusing the work in schools on improving instruction with the goal of increasing student achievement scores." In looking at the district's ability to keep the process going on its own, they said that during a recent meeting, "the principals were well able to monitor their own progress and that of the staff, which is a significant step forward because the practice reflects both investment in and ownership of the work of accelerated improvement."

Marjorie Levenson of Montague asked for clarification of whether the district was meeting its goals. Connolly answered, "The district continues to make good progress, moves forward with no steps back. There is clear ownership of the district from the leadership team."

Sandra Brown of Gill expressed her concern that the district is losing teachers, and asked if they could go slower in their efforts to meet requirements of changes imposed by the state. Connolly answered that district-determined measures are state law, and are not being mandated only for level 4 school districts.

Kristen Boyle, former

school committee member in the audience, said, "It's important we acknowledge who is really doing the work at the district."

In regard to concerns over the difficulty of continuing to show improvement once a certain level of proficiency is achieved, Connolly said they "look at the aggregated levels. We're not there yet; the district hasn't achieved the goals yet."

Mitchell, responding to some questions about where the district stands regarding its level 4 status said, "The Commissioner has been looking at the district with growing confidence that significant progress is being made at Gill-Montague." She also referred to the "level of ownership at the administrative level." She said the commissioner "heard the urgency of the staff," and sees that the district is meeting its goal. The question remains whether the district can continue to go forward at the same level without the support from DESE. Accordingly, she laid out some steps they will be looking for the district to accomplish.

The first would be to hire a permanent superintendent. Mitchell said, "Once you have a contract voted on and signed, we are interested

see DESE page 11

ERVING from page 7

the warrant of a mid-June special town meeting. Committee members also asked that one or more selectboard members attend a mill redevelopment conference along with re-use committee members in Lowell in June. Committee member Jeanie Schermesser felt that neither redevelopment committee members nor selectboard members understand the redevelopment process enough to shepherd the site through the redevelopment process. Schermesser said that the committee needed "to be supported by an informed board."

Committee member Sarah Vega-Lirios presented the benefits of establishing a mill revitalization district (MRD)

overlay zoning bylaw as part of a comprehensive approach to redeveloping the site.

### Job Descriptions and Employee Breaks

Considering a draft fire chief job description, Goodwin said that, instead of a requirement for the chief to live within 10 miles of Erving, the chief should be required to live in Erving. Selectboard Chair, Eugene Klepadlo, said that, for a residency requirement, the town would need to adopt a bylaw, while the 10-mile residency rule is acceptable under state law.

Sullivan asked whether a town residency rule would decrease the number of qualified applicants. Burnett said that a resident chief would help "rebuild cohesion that's

not there any more."

Sharp was asked to get clarification from town counsel about residency requirements.

The board approved an employee break policy proposed by Sullivan, with revisions by Klepadlo and Goodwin to account for breaks during overtime work. Sullivan's proposed policy included more flexibility than an initial draft that specified the break schedule in more exacting terms.

The board approved an animal control officer (ACO) job description. The ACO will report to the chief of police. The town will advertise the position, which will be in effect in fiscal year 2014, which begins July 1.



## Hallmark Institute of Photography Open House Saturday May 4th

TURNERS FALLS, MA – Hallmark Institute of Photography will host its annual Spring Open House Saturday, May 4, 2013. The Open House will feature tours of the Educational Center, live demonstrations in the portrait and commercial studios, and an opportunity for guests to try out some of Hallmark's professional photography and video equipment. Hallmark faculty, students and staff will be present to discuss the 10-month program and the different careers in professional photography. The Open House will begin at 12:30 p.m., conclude at 3:30 p.m., and include lunch.



WENDELL from page 7

The Full Moon Coffee House committee built a structure in the main part of the town hall, and then moved their equipment from the small room on the west side of the entry hallway into that structure. That freed the small room for use by Good Neighbors, so their storage would be in rooms on either side of the hallway instead of in the kitchen and in the room on the east side of the hallway. Before moving freezers into the west room they need to improve the electrical wiring.

### A Sign and Water for Community Garden

As Chair of the community garden committee, Katie Nolan asked the selectboard's opinion on several sites for a community garden sign. Nolan described the sign as it is to be made, and Heard said that if it looks good to the garden committee it will be fine.

Nolan also asked for permission to tap into electricity at the light pole to power a water pump at the well so that gardeners will no longer have to water their plots by carrying 5 gallon buckets. Over a dry spring in summer that gets tedious, and the lack of running water may have discouraged some people from using the community garden. The total budget that the garden committee developed for an electric pump, a small structure to shelter it, and lines leading to spigots placed strategically around the garden is \$2,500, of which about half is the cost of an electrician. The garden committee has \$300

in their donation account. Pooser said he would contact an electrician he knows and see if he can get a lower price for the electrical work and that he would get information about a solar powered pump, which would generate its power needs on site.

Aldrich needs all articles for the annual town meeting warrant by May 15. The warrant must be posted by May 22 for the June 3 meeting.

### Land Donation

Paul Daniello from Mount Grace Community Land Trust said that the land trust received a donation of 11 landlocked acres that about one of Wendell's Phelps lots, which the town is managing for wood sales to benefit education. Mount Grace wants to donate that land to Wendell, but through a complicated process. Wendell would buy the property for \$10,000, and then sell the conservation restriction to Mount Grace for \$20,000. The remaining \$10,000 would be used to create a management plan and for long-term stewardship of the land. On another topic, Daniello said that the paperwork has been completed, and the town now holds the conservation restriction on the Cronquist property in west Wendell.

### Other News

Cindy Freeman had been scheduled to come to report on the situation with her dog. She did not come to the meeting but had given Aldrich the awaited update. Her dog has been placed in the Mt. Tully Kennel. The first home she had located for him had not worked out,

but she was again looking for another home.

Selectboard member Dan Keller normally has attended the quarterly FRCOG meetings, but he is in Italy and will not be able to attend the next one the evening of May 2. Pooser said he thought there is some use in Wendell's having someone there and said he would go.

Mold is growing in the senior center basement. The town installed a dehumidifier there, and Aldrich suggested that the drain hose might be plugged. Pooser and Heard agreed to let Keller deal with it when he returns as he oversaw the installation.

Last winter's snow and ice removal cost was just under \$16,000 above the amount allowed in the budget, and the two board members present approved that deficit spending.

### Librarian Pay

Library Trustee Phyllis Lawrence met the board with a request from all the trustees to raise Librarian Rosie Heidkamp's pay to bring it closer to what other towns pay their librarians. She said Wendell has fallen behind other towns. She also cited the extra work that Heidkamp has done with programs she has brought in, and said the finance committee was impressed with the trustees' preparation and told them to speak with the selectboard. Heard said Heidkamp's responsibility and work load have increased with the new library and she is doing an excellent job. After some figuring Pooser said that the town's cost would be less than \$1,000.



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## Turners Falls Residents Hear Final Draft Details of Downtown Livability Study

By **CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO**

**TURNERS FALLS** – On April 25 Montague Town Planner, Walter Ramsay, and a consulting team led by Peter Flinker of Dodson & Flinker from Ashfield and Ted Brovitz of Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates from Boston presented nearly 30 Turners Falls residents with recommendations for the final downtown livability plan. Most of those present have been regular attendees at the many public sessions devoted to the gathering of information regarding how best to transform the downtown, and continued their active participation.

This final meeting was devoted to a presentation of the draft implementation matrix that will be included in the final report. The matrix was divided into a series of specific goals for each project and program. Also included were potential actions to be taken to put the goals into practice. In some cases, the plan also identified potential task leaders. The goals were all the result of discus-

sions over the last few months with residents, who worked diligently with Flinker, Brovitz and their associates to identify what should happen for and in downtown. As in other meetings, the residents frequently weighed in on the goals and expressed their opinions about each aspect of the plan.

Among the many goals identified as being worthy of pursuit were making it easier to negotiate the downtown for pedestrians and bicyclists; improving the appearance of Avenue A; enhancing recreational and community events and improving services and quality of life for all downtown residents.

Among the key ideas were the need to provide downtown gateway improvements and connections between the bike trail and downtown, as well as informational signs; widening sidewalks in select spots along the avenue to create outdoor seating areas; increasing recreational facilities; and supporting and expanding existing downtown events such as the Pumpkinfest, the Block Party and the Upper Valley Music

Festival.

In order to make all this happen, the plan also addresses methods to bring dollars into the community. Organizing for business development, creating a business retention and development program, and refining marketing and communication are some of the goals that could boost private sector involvement.

The plan also detailed a number of ways that public sector financing, mainly in the form of grants, could be brought in to help implement the vision. A major recommendation was to continue to empower RiverCulture to continue its fine efforts. The final report should be released by June.

The matrix, along with other livability documents, is available at the Town of Montague website:

[http://www.montague.net/Pages/MontagueMA\\_Planning/Copy%20of%20Draft%20Implementation%20Matrix%204-25-13%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.montague.net/Pages/MontagueMA_Planning/Copy%20of%20Draft%20Implementation%20Matrix%204-25-13%20(2).pdf)

The livability study was funded by the U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program.

## Sheffield School Maple Sugaring Project

By **MERCEDES, KATIA, & PHOENIX of TEAM GROW**

*Team Grow is an after school program for grades 2-5. The authors are in the 4th and 5th grade.*

This is a very special Team Grow project we started in late February. It was making maple syrup! We tapped around five or six maple trees. We collected the sap in front of Montague Elementary School.

These are the steps for maple syrup:

1) Drill a hole in the maple tree.

2) Put in the spile.

3) Hang up the bucket on the spile.

4) Put the cover on the bucket.

5) Collect the sap and pour it in another bucket. (You need to collect 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.)

6) Boil the sap to steam the water off and you have maple syrup from a maple tree.

The best weather for collecting sap is warm during the day and cold during the night. The sap I felt in the bucket was heavy. It was cool. I enjoyed collecting sap. We knew sap

collecting season was coming to an end around April 1, when there was only a little bit of sap in the buckets, the sap was yellow, and there were bugs in the sap, so we took down our buckets. And that was how we got our maple syrup.

*Note: The second through fifth graders of Team Grow at Sheffield Elementary School collected enough sap from sugar maples in the schoolyard over the course of five or six weeks to make a gallon of syrup. - "Mr. Andrew" St. Jean (after school instructor)*

**DESE** from page 10

in hearing about that and would like to meet with him." Then, they would want to see an "Operation Plan" in place and to know who will monitor the progress once Dr. Connolly is no longer doing that. They would want to know if the plan had the right kind of resources in place to keep the district moving forward and how they will be held accountable.

All of this sounded complicated

but then she said the Operational Plan could be in the form of a letter signed by the school committee chair and the permanent superintendent. To which Joyce Phillips, chair, said that what Mitchell had said was very helpful. Mitchell then said to the school committee members, "How do districts make evidence-based evaluations? This is the basic underlying concept of all the processes put in place."

Michael Sullivan, the newly

hired superintendent sat quietly during this report. After Mitchell and Connolly left, and the vote was taken to officially approve his contract, he told the school committee he planned to meet with DESE officials on May 21, when they will again be in the district.

The next school committee meeting will be held on May 21, 2013 at Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m.



## Finding Our Place: "If this is history...I like it!" (5th grader)

*Greenfield Middle and Montague Elementary Schools forge new collaborative program with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association*

By **TIM NEUMANN**

Students and teachers in Greenfield and Turners Falls recently initiated a series of hands on, engaging in-class education programs entitled *Finding Our Place*.

*Finding Our Place* serves 4th and 5th grade students through a year-long sequence of hands-on, local history infused, inquiry-based activities that meet the required Common Core Standards. Created specifically for Greenfield and Montague students by PVMA, these programs engage students by using their home towns to learn American history and important thinking and communication skills.

This "place-based" approach to social studies will be interwoven with teacher training and curriculum integration.

The initial program in Turners Falls centered on Native Americans who lived around Great Falls. A Native costumed Museum teacher provided hands on activities to offer a sense of what life was like before colonization.

"I really love history," shared one student after the session.

"There are few opportunities for our students to connect to the fascinating history of their own backyard. We are already seeing increased enthusiasm in the classroom and that's what we want," said Martin Espinola, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

The extensive resources of Old Deerfield will also be utilized both in the classroom and on site in the PVMA museums in the village. A

free Family Fun Day will also be offered to engage parents in the learning experience. Participating students and their families will enjoy special activities at PVMA's Memorial Hall Museum and Indian House Memorial Children's Museum in Deerfield in June. Later in the fall, students will return for a field trip to further explore the museums and participate in activities.

"There has been remarkable school district and institutional collaboration and commitment to make this creative program possible, both in terms of designing content and in submitting foundation applications," according to Tim Neumann, Executive Director of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association. "Melodie Goodwin from Greenfield Middle School, and Martin Espinola, from Gill-Montague Regional School District, spent many hours during the summer working with PVMA staff to develop the project and secure funding.

"Both Greenfield and Gill Montague are long-time partners with PVMA bringing hundreds of thousands of grant dollars in teacher professional development and classroom services to students. I greatly appreciate this new partnership endeavor."

*Finding Our Place* is funded by The Frank Reed & Margaret Jane Peters Memorial Fund I, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee, the Charles H. Hall Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee, and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts Community Grant Making Fund and Franklin Fund which awarded a combined \$35,000 to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) for a museum-school partnership with Greenfield Middle and Montague Elementary Schools.

## Millers River Watershed Council Seeking Water Quality Volunteers



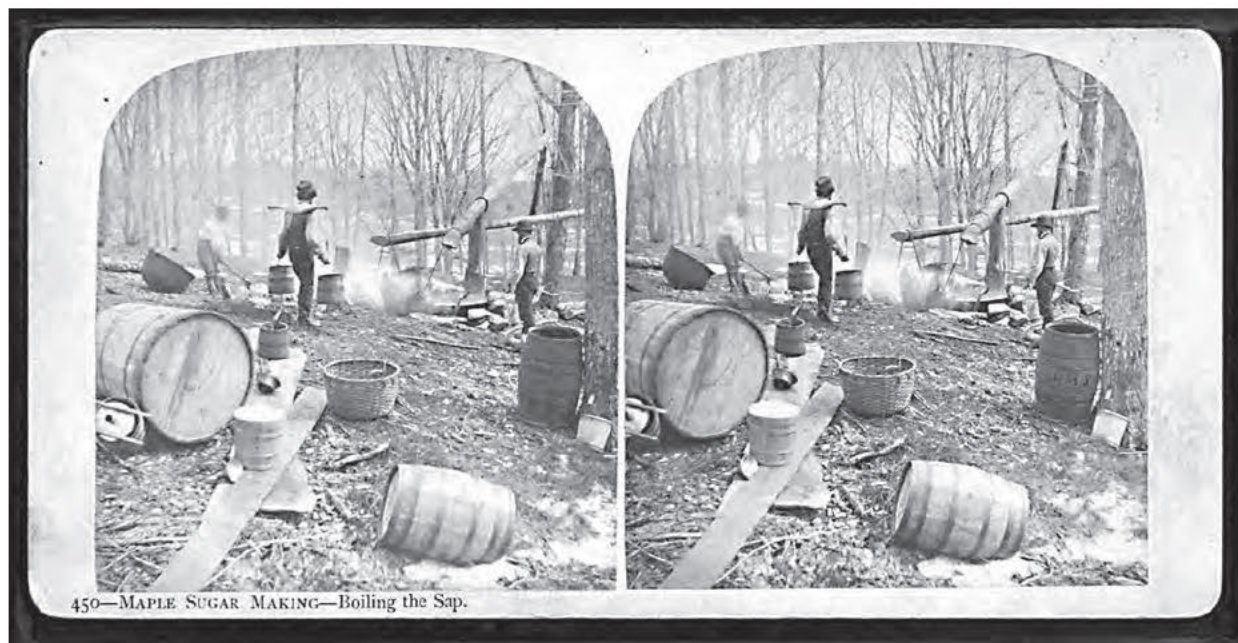
The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) is kicking off an expanded season of water quality monitoring, and seeks volunteers for its monitoring team. As part of our new Trib Watch Program, we will collect samples for Bacteria, perform stream temperature monitoring and begin a stream continuity/culvert survey.

Volunteers choosing to sample for bacteria will collect water samples at designated sites on a regular bi-weekly schedule, 7-8 times through the summer. Stream conditions like temperature need to be checked once a week at a convenient, but regular time. Culvert surveys are done by teams at times that fit the team's schedule. MRWC will provide training for all these activi-

ties. Field work begins after Memorial Day.

Water quality monitoring and sampling helps the Council keep its finger on the pulse of the watershed's health, and volunteers are needed to help do this work and keep the community informed about the health of local streams. Our web site has more information on this effort. [www.millerswatershed.org](http://www.millerswatershed.org). Volunteers can join the part of this program that interests them. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our local streams, get outside, and enjoy some time along the river.

For more information contact Keith Davies, MRWC, MassLIFT-AmeriCorps Project Outreach Coordinator - at [watershed@millersriver.net](mailto:watershed@millersriver.net) or 978-248-9491.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Medical Emergencies and a Bit of Larceny

Thursday, 4/18

12:09 p.m. Animal complaint, █ H Street. Services rendered.

3:55 p.m. Hit & run accident on Avenue A at 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Report taken.

8:20 p.m. Outside fire, █ Hatchery Road. Investigated.

9:32 p.m. Animal complaint, █ Depot Street. Advised of options.

Friday, 4/19

1:39 a.m. Neighbor disturbance, █ Grout Circle. Investigated.

6:01 a.m. Medical emergency, Norman Circle. Removed to hospital.

6:48 a.m. Neighbor disturbance, █ Grout Circle. Peace restored.

8:52 a.m. Annoying harassing phone calls, 60 Randall Wood Drive. Advised of options.

9:44 a.m. Medical emergency, Keith Street. Removed to hospital.

1:12 p.m. Hit & run accident at █ 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Report taken.

2:55 p.m. Medical emergency, █ L Street. Removed to hospital.

4:08 p.m. Domestic disturbance, 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Investigated.

4:15 p.m. Arrested █, on Montague City Road for failure to register as a sex offender.

9:22 p.m. Medical emergency, Turners Falls High School. Removed to hospital.

Saturday, 4/20

10:35 a.m. Arrested █ on a straight warrant. 1:47 p.m. Illegal dumping, █ Taylor Hill Road. Services rendered.

5:02 p.m. Annoying harassing phone calls,

█ 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Advised of options.

5:45 p.m. █ arrested for disorderly conduct on 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

8:23 p.m. Loud noise disturbance in alley by Turners Falls Pizza House. Peace restored.

8:51 p.m. Arson attempt at Hillcrest Elementary School. Investigated.

Sunday, 4/21

6:23 a.m. Medical emergency, Walnut Street. Removed to hospital.

9:55 a.m. Medical emergency, Avenue A. Removed to hospital.

12:05 p.m. Domestic disturbance, L Street. Investigated.

12:39 p.m. Burglar alarm at Franklin County Technical School. Defective alarm.

1:03 p.m. Burglar alarm at Turners Falls High School. No police service necessary.

1:06 p.m. Medical emergency at Food City. Services rendered.

1:13 p.m. Medical emergency, L Street. Removed to hospital.

2:51 p.m. Medical emergency, Fourth Street. Removed to hospital.

4:44 p.m. Burglary, breaking & entering at █ Third Street. Report taken.

8:02 p.m. General disturbance, █ O Street. Investigated.

8:41 p.m. Defective burglar alarm sounded again at the Tech School.

Monday, 4/22

3:44 a.m. Domestic disturbance, Randall Road. Peace restored.

7:45 a.m. Medical emergency, Second Street. Removed to hospital.

9:14 a.m. Medical emergency, Federal Street. Removed to hospital.

12:49 p.m. Medical emergency, Turners Falls High School. Removed to hospital.

12:53 p.m. Medical emergency, Fourth Street. Referred to other agency.

3:57 p.m. Medical emergency, G Street. Referred to other agency.

4:44 p.m. Medical emergency, Main Street. Referred to other agency.

Tuesday, 4/23

4:42 a.m. Loud noise disturbance, █ Grout Circle. Services rendered.

4:17 p.m. Burglar alarm, Millers Falls Rod & Gun. Services rendered.

4:29 p.m. Animal complaint, Montague Street at Griswold Street. Services rendered.

7:20 p.m. Larceny, █ Fourth Street. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 4/24

6:58 a.m. Vandalism, █ Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

9:49 a.m. Vandalism, █ Millers Falls Road. Services rendered.

11:49 a.m. Drug/narcotics violation reported by phone, Avenue A. Advised of options.

12:43 p.m. Loud noise disturbance, railroad tracks, Lake Pleasant. No police service necessary.

5:59 p.m. Loud noise disturbance, █ Federal St. Investigated.

Thursday, 4/25

3:31 a.m. Medical emergency, L Street. Services rendered.

1:22 p.m. Larceny, Franklin Area Survival Center, Fourth Street. Services rendered.

1:22 p.m. Environmental incident, plains area. Services rendered.

4:27 p.m. Arrested █ on a straight warrant, on Fifth Street.

6:19 p.m. Issued a summons to a minor on Fifth Street for speeding, marked lanes violation, red light violation, obedience to traffic signs and signals, operating to endanger, failure to signal, failure to stop for police, and disorderly conduct.

10:11 p.m. Threatening/harassment reported on Second Street. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 4/26

12:33 a.m. Medical emergency, Third Street. Services rendered.

10:33 a.m. Medical emergency, Heat-Fab, Industrial Boulevard. Removed to hospital.

1:50 p.m. Officer wanted, Eagle Automotive, Second Street. Services rendered.

3:12 p.m. Burglary / breaking & entering, Alpha Stone Concrete, 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Investigated.

4:06 p.m. Accident with personal injury, Unity Street at Park Street. Report taken.

4:59 p.m. Animal found, Shea Theater, Avenue A. Advised of options.

10:16 p.m. Neighbor disturbance, █ Fourth Street. Investigated.

10:36 p.m. Loud noise disturbance, █ Montague Street. Investigated.

Saturday, 4/27

2:36 a.m. Domestic disturbance, East Main Street. Advised of options.

9:11 a.m. Larceny, █ L Street. Report

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER  
HONOR ROLL FOR GRADE 6

FIRST HONORS

Samantha Bocon  
Lindsey Bourbeau  
Ryan Campbell  
Dominic Carme  
Reilan Castine  
Jayden Chapin  
Kyle Dodge  
Reagan Fiske  
Rebecca Harrell  
Jenna Jacobsen  
Anna Kochan  
Jacob LaBelle  
John Putala  
Hunter Sanders  
Keltyl Socquet  
Victoria Veaudry  
Sarah Waldron  
Hannah Welles  
Amelia Worden  
Cassidhe Wozniak

SECOND HONORS

Madison Adams  
Logan Kordana  
Danielle Lively  
Edison Ovalle-Bartolon  
Holly Tetreault

THIRD HONORS

Andy Craver  
Timothy Fritz  
Ryan Kucenski  
Alexis Lacey  
Bianca Martin  
Kallie Ryan  
Will Turn

HONOR ROLL FOR GRADE 7

FIRST HONORS

Daniel Adams  
Sienna Dillensneider  
Kasia Dobosz  
Chloe Ellis  
Maya Hancock-Pezzati  
Kaylee Jackson  
Samantha Kolodziej  
Carlie Kretchmar  
Kyle Kucenski  
Snejana Lashtur  
Simon Lorenzo  
Abigail Loynd  
Aliyah Sanders  
Kaeden Socquet  
Jeremy Towle

SECOND HONORS

Malik Baker-Gore  
Hannah Bogusz  
Madison Chmyzinski  
Amanda Cooke  
Alora DeForge  
Hannah Graves  
Madison St. Marie  
Nicholas Taylor  
David Tricolici  
John Wheeler

THIRD HONORS

Korey Bousquet  
Sahaley DuPree  
Kylie Fleming  
Kurtis Kuenzel  
Emma Miner  
Daniel Momaney  
Paul Vinton

HONOR ROLL FOR GRADE 8

FIRST HONORS

Gabrielle Arzuaga  
Tionne Brown  
Tahner Castine  
Savannah Donahue  
William Doyle  
Jordyn Fiske  
Bryn Kruzlic  
Michelle Leh  
Kaili Lynch  
Ian Moriarty  
Owen Ortiz  
Will Roberge  
Patrick Salls  
Amanda Savinski  
Yanira Smith  
Kate Sprinkle  
Kortney Thurber  
Riley Wood  
Jordan Wyman

SECOND HONORS

Timothy Black  
Richard Craver  
Nicholas Croteau  
Jemma Dickson  
Jenna Hackett  
Melissa Hersey  
Tess Hunter  
Madelyn Johnson  
Dylan Mailloux  
Nicholas Morin  
Haleigh Paulin  
Jeremy Wolfram

THIRD HONORS

Brittany Budrawich  
Madison Currier  
Stone Dresser  
Hunter Felix  
Cassandra Harris  
Ryan Howard  
Alison McKenna  
Robert Rinaldi  
Clarissa Schotanus  
Hailey Trott  
Luis Vega Morales  
Mark Waite  
Alysha Wozniak  
Dimitrios Zantoulidis

taken.  
10:26 a.m. Larceny, █ K Street. Report taken.  
2 p.m. Brush fire, Country Club Lane. Services rendered.  
2:29 p.m. Threatening/harassment, Turners Falls Road. Advised of options.  
7:38 p.m. Domestic disturbance, West Chestnut Hill

Road. Advised of options.  
9:22 p.m. General disturbance, Fourth Street at L Street. Unfounded.  
11:40 p.m. Arrested █, on a probation warrant.  
**Sunday, 4/28**  
2:20 a.m. Suspicious person, East Chestnut Hill

Road. Area search negative.  
3 p.m. Threatening/harassment, Avenue A. Advised of options.  
9:37 p.m. Brush fire, north train trestle, Greenfield Road. Referred to other agency.  
10:38 p.m. Burglary / breaking & entering, █ Green Pond Road. Services rendered.

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**ALL THE TIME:  
EVERY SUNDAY**

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

**EVERY TUESDAY**

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

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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

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

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

Corner of Avenue A & 2nd Street, Turners Falls: *Farmers Market*. 2 - 6 p.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**

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

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

**ART SHOWS:**

Great Falls Discovery Center:

colorful paper quilts and story quilts created by K-8 students.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Celestial Cafe* featuring three-dimensional collage by artist Emily Goodwin. Now through June 22.

**LOCAL EVENTS:****THURSDAY, MAY 2**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series featuring Karina Borowicz & Diane Wald*. 7 p.m.

Academy of Music Theatre, Northampton: Pioneer Valley Performing Arts presents *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, that unlikely hit musical with unlikely heroes who learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't make you a loser. 7 p.m. For tickets, call 413-584-9032 x105

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Jen Spingla & Alyssa Kelly*, etch-a-sketch original (folk-) rock. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m., free.

**FRIDAY, MAY 3**

Academy of Music Theatre, Northampton: Pioneer Valley Performing Arts presents *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*.



Busy bees: Amherst's sister/brother duo June & the Bee play Saturday night at the Voo in Turners, and again the next afternoon at Mocha Maya's in Shelburne Falls.

PHOTO BY JUNE &amp; THE BEE FACEBOOK

*Equalites*, reggae fantastico! 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: Children's concert with *Mister G*. Bilingual in English and Spanish. Part of the Crab Apple Blossom Festival. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Kentucky Derby telecast & party, 4 p.m.

Between The Uprights, Turners Falls: *Cinco de Mayo Party at BTU*. Starts at 5 p.m. with the BTU Derby, then Kentucky Derby watching at 6:15, and live music from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Sports Bar with *Curly Fingers Dupree*. Food, drinks, prizes and giveaways. No cover.

Montague Grange: Square Dance to old-time music. 7 to 10 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill: *The Suitcase Junket*, weirdo one-man americana, Adam Klein and the *Wildfires*, from Georgia, and *El-liot Rayman*. 8 p.m., \$

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Jim Kaminski & Company*. Guitar-driven songs and danceable jams. With local electric blues stalwart *Ray Mason*. 8 p.m., \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *June & the Bee*, folk/indie, with *Carrie Ferguson*. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, blues, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**

First Congregational Church, Amherst: *Happy Valley Children's Chorus* spring concert. 1:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *June & the Bee*, folk. 2:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Alison Miller's *Boom Tic Boom*, which is jazz. 7:30 p.m., \$

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

**MONDAY, MAY 6**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nick's Sweet '80s Movie Night: *One Crazy Summer*, 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, southern string band. 8 p.m., free.

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**

Turners Falls High School: *TFHS Spring Concert*. 7 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Burrie & Friends*, progressive folk. 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*, funky-tonk. 8 p.m., free.

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Moonmeadow*. Sophisticated melodic pop featuring sonorous vocal harmonies and sweeping instrumental textures with a captivating rhythmic groove, plus being called *Moonmeadow*. Sliding scale cover, baked goods available; doors at 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 7:30 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Forward Motion*, funk soul jazz rock, with special guest *John Statz*, singer/songwriter. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: Zydeco Dance Party with *Preston Frank*, *The Demijohns*, & the *Lil' Orphans Bayou X Band*. Serious NOLA jams. Bring your dancing apparatus. 7 p.m., \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

New Renaissance Players presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 7:30 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Women's Collective featuring *Katie Sachs*, *Christa Joy*, *Wishbone Zoe*, *Lisa Ellingsen* and *Carolyn Walker*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, guitar-based blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tawdry*, old-timey. 9:30 p.m., free.

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9:30 \$3 **Nobody's Fat**  
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**SAT 5/4 (indie/folk) FREE**  
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## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Welcome Sweet Spring



*APRIL is the cruellest month,  
breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mix-  
ing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.*

From T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*

By LESLIE BROWN

The last full pink moon of April rose here as a golden orb, ushering in warm days; Spring came on in a rush.

The yard is awash with the yellow of the daffodils and the arcing forsythia. The Manchurian apricot burst into white blooms, the lilac leaves opened and their fragrant blossoms are not far behind. What a glorious season of color and scent just when we had despaired of it as we weathered chilly, windy days.

This is a season to savor, noting each new blossom, the arrival of the White Throated sparrows, practicing their clear call at first upside down, the brief look at the shy, nesting Bluebirds. The lawn is greening up yet too short to mow, the biting insects have yet to arrive.

April is indeed the tease of the poet, the cruellest month. Before

long May will come on with a blast of steamy air and it will be time to do the serious planting in the near empty garden.

For now it is a luxury to enjoy the gift of each day, the end of one blooming followed shortly by the next, and then the sweets of spring gone all too soon.

Oddly enough, in retirement I have become a bit less assiduous. The lure of travel and time with friends and family mean less time at home than when I was working. I started my tomato plants hurriedly

after our return from Mexico and tucked them in on a warming mat in the heat of the sunroom. It was a treat both at the start and the end of a working day to check on their progress. When we returned from a three-day trip to Rhode Island, I came home to many fragile seedlings, dried out and overheated. Some were past redemption. But nature is resilient; many have been plucked from the edge and nursed back to health. Still I marvel at how I consoled myself with thoughts of the robust, mature plants we would

soon find at the Farmers Market if necessary.

This business of retirement after years of fulltime work is a considerable adjustment. Much of one's identity is subsumed by the work. Stopping abruptly leaves one with questions about who else we are and what will be next to fulfill the spirit. First I found joy in the change of pace. No more need to rush out the door early in the morning only to return home late in the afternoon. No more alarm clock. Next, the realization that if it didn't get done

today, there was always tomorrow. Imagine the pleasure of a little laziness.

Still I had assured friends and colleagues that time off from work would lead to the pleasure of more time in the yard and garden. But this, while enjoyable, is not enough. I crave also intellectual stimulation; I indulge in lengthy sessions with a good book and sign up for a course to learn new things. I discover the desire to spend more time writing and the itch to take up drawing. Oh! the pleasure of taking a long walk whenever I feel the yen!

We have had the living room repainted after waiting more years than we should have. The new color highlights our beautiful Mexican rug. We make plans for similar improvements in kitchen and bath.

Spring is indeed the time for nature's renewal. Why not for us as well? The slower pace brings on contemplation, a readjustment of priorities, and the recurrence of latent dreams. As we age time moves ever faster. We let go of the superfluous acquisition of stuff and take a renewed pleasure in the smallest of things. There is more pleasure with less urgency. There is also deeper joy.

Less can be more. Perhaps we'll choose the favorites only for the garden next year, put our full measure of energy into a few things rather than try to do it all. There's something to be said for the "bucket list". It's frustrating to have less energy than when we were in our twenties, but this can allow for better focus, a sense of what is more important in your life. Right now we'll try to appreciate the new growth, bloom and scent of each day and let go of regrets.

Enjoy this sweet, tart, short season and happy gardening!

## CAR FIRE ON FOURTH STREET



Business as usual: Turners Falls firefighters survey a recently extinguished vehicle on Fourth Street on Tuesday. Flaming fuel dripping from under the car's hood provided a few minutes of nervous excitement downtown on an otherwise quiet, sunny day.



### NEWLY PAINTED MINIBUS DISPLAYS FCTS EAGLE PRIDE

Students and an instructor from the Franklin County Technical School Collision Repair and Refinishing shop recently completed painting an eagle on each side of a 2004 GMC 14-seat minibus, based on a design by Programming and Web Design Instructor Marcus McLaurin. Using the design, the students and Collision and Repair Instructor Brian Kuzmeskus set about transforming the minibus from a plain white exterior to a completely striking and distinctive symbol of FCTS Eagle pride. The eagle's head was painted on each side of the bus by Kuzmeskus and Teshia Coelho (pictured), a senior from Turners Falls. Coelho said she loves doing art work, and was happy she could use her talents to help out the school. Other students tackled the feathers that sweep across most of the minibus, from the cab to the rear. Dale Daignault, 17, of Orange is proud of the work he did painting the logo on the minibus, and the fact that it stands out among other schools in the area. Tyler Rock, 16, of Buckland, liked the artistic aspect of the project, which was a departure from the projects the students usually take on.

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