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LAKE PLEASANT

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 31

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 3, 2012

Leverett Approves \$3.6 Million Municipal Fiber Optic Network

CELL TOWER BYLAW REJECTED NARROWLY

BY KATIE NOLAN - On Saturday, April 28th, the Leverett annual town meeting approved borrowing \$3.6 million to wire every property in Leverett into a fiber optic network for high speed internet access.

A townwide debt exclusion vote to ratify the spending is now scheduled for June 2nd.

The meeting also agreed to spend \$5,335,124 for FY'13 town expenses, including \$3,670,384 for school expenses. Town meeting voted to spend \$170,000 from Community Preservation Act funds to place a permanent conservation restriction on the 147-acre Teawaddle Hill Farm.

Less restrictive regulations on cell towers proposed by the planning board were rejected by a narrow margin.

Selectboard member and broadband committee chair Peter d'Errico presented the case for the town to pay for construction of a "fiber to the home" broadband network. The Mass Broadband Institute is currently constructing the "middle mile" fiber optic network to Leverett, and d'Errico said it would be better from an engineering standpoint to run the fiber to homes and businesses at the same time the fiber optic backbone is being

built. Verizon and Comcast, d'Errico said, had passed on the idea of wiring the town, as unprofitable. He said the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers municipal broadband a "best practice" for expanding internet access in underserved communities like Leverett.

A 2011 survey of Leverett households showed 94% had internet service by dial up, satellite, wireless, or DSL, d'Errico said. "Internet-wise, Leverett is in the Stone Ages."

Even at a cost of \$3.6 million, which d'Errico contended was a conservative estimate, the average increase in property taxes would be offset by lower monthly charges, so that, "virtually everyone will pay less for phone and computer service," and property values would rise.

D'Errico ended his presentation to fervent applause and a standing ovation from many in the gym.

There was a request for a paper ballot on the question, and concerns were voiced about the amount of time that would take. D'Errico said the broadband committee supported a paper ballot, to ensure that everyone felt the process was fair.

see **LEVERETT** pg 10

GARBIEL BUYS THE SHADY GLEN



Charles (Chuck) Garbiel is the new owner of the Shady Glen

BY PATRICIA PRUITT
TURNERS FALLS - Turners Falls resident Charles (Chuck) Garbiel became the new owner of the Shady Glen on Tuesday, and plans to keep the Glen a diner where you can get breakfast at 7:30 p.m. if you like.

Garbiel, who mastered pizza

making while working for 15 years at the Turners Falls Pizza House, is delighted to be the new owner of the Glen and to continue a beloved local institution.

Many features of the diner will remain the same including the current wait staff, back

cooks, and the menu itself. Over the next year, Garbiel would like to incorporate a few of the suggestions customers have made: for example serving real, local maple syrup with pancakes, and re-opening the ice cream and takeout window. Garbiel said he

see **SHADY GLEN** page 14

Montague Holds Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 5th

BY DAVID DETMOLD
Elected town meeting members in Montague will act on a 29 article warrant at the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 5th.

Besides fixing the salaries of elected and appointed officials, voters will decide whether to spend \$7,488,471 to fund town departments (a 2.42% increase over last year) and \$7,850,604 to operate the Gill-Montague Regional School District (a \$274,421, or 3.6% increase, from last year).

Montague's share of the Franklin County Tech School's operating budget, \$737,865, represents a \$59,563, or 8.8%, hike from last year, due mainly to the fact that three more Montague students will be attend-

ing the Tech School.

Other articles will seek funding for capital purchases including \$20,000 for police tasers, bulletproof vests, firearms and other equipment; \$8,000 to purchase laptop computers and e-readers for patrons of the public libraries; \$8,200 to fund computer equipment for other town departments, \$15,000 to make bathrooms at Hillcrest and Sheffield school buildings accessible for students with disabilities; and \$85,000 to pave the Sheffield parking lot.

Voters are asked to fund a \$35,000 inflow and infiltration study to measure unintended sources of sewer flows in hopes of reducing the amount Montague taxpayers spend to treat

water that does not belong in the sewers. Spending \$54,055 for lease payments on two existing dump trucks, and \$44,000 for the first year of a five-year lease on a new six wheel dump truck, will also be considered.

Another article seeks \$15,000 in continuing heat and maintenance costs for the Montague Center School building.

Article 25 would authorize the selectboard to enter into an agreement with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife regarding the maintenance of a foot bridge in the Sawmill River Conservation Land off North Street in Montague Center. The wooden bridge would be
see **MEETING** pg 12

As They Wrote It

Senior Writers Read from their Work



Back row (l-r): Estelle Cade, Lillian Fiske, Pat Carlisle, Robin Panagakos, Joseph Parzych;
Front row: Laura Rodley, writing teacher, Rosalie Bolton, and Fran Hemond

BY PATRICIA PRUITT
TURNERS FALLS - Seven writers who contributed to the *As You Write It, Volume II* anthology held an overflow audience in rapt attention through readings of two or three short memoirs each on Sunday, April 27th, at

the Gill-Montague senior center.

Rosalie Bolton led off the readings with a genealogical proof/spoof of her relatedness in some third or fourth degree of cousinness to Tom Brady, the famous New England Patriots Quarterback,

whose relatives moved to Turners upon the sudden death of the head of the family. Some of her 'proofs' were likely accurate - such as all Bradys are Irish - but did not necessarily prove she was related to them. She kept
see **WRITERS** pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Feline Royalty



Prince Philip

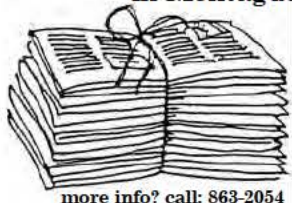
Good Day! My name is Prince Philip. I'm a 7 year old male short hair cat in need of a home. Let me tell you a bit about myself. Aside from my obvious good looks, I am very friendly! I get along well with people of ANY age - 0 to 100! I also get on with other animals - dogs and cats! I enjoy spending time outdoors but would also love to snuggle up to a human at night! I love activity, so a busy house-hold would suit me just fine!

So as you can see I really am a "Prince of a Cat"! Come down soon to meet me and I will give you the "Royal Welcome"! I'm a member of the Lonely Hearts Club. That means I've been waiting for adoption longer than most of the other kitties here and my adoption fee is 50% off! For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Used Book Sale and Cinco de Mayo Festival

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - There will be a Spring Used Book Sale at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, May 5th, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thousands of books, including mysteries, suspense, romance, non-fiction, and children's lit, will be sold for \$2 a bag. Recorded audio books and VHS tapes will also sell for \$2 a bag. Proceeds will support the library's weekly Music and

Movement series. The sale will be held in the library basement.

From 10:30 a.m. - noon the Carnegie library will host a Children's Cinco de Mayo Festival on the library lawn. There will be refreshments and arts and crafts projects with Ruth O'Mara. Children of all ages are invited. The Carnegie Library is located at 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls. For more information, call the library at 413-863-3214.

MONTAGUE CENTER LIBRARY NEWS

Reception for Sunya Webber

A reception to celebrate the life and artistry of Montague resident Sunya Webber will be held at the Montague Center Library on Monday, May 7th, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Photographs of Sunya's extensive body of work will be on exhibit at the library along with twelve pieces of her ceramic art.

Excerpts will be read from Sunya's writing about living with memory loss and remaining positive in the face of change. Peter Schneider and Kathy Bennett will play clarinet and piano music. Pat Schneider will read a poem written for the occasion. For more information, call the library at 413-863-3214.



Sunya Webber

WENDELL SENIOR CENTER

Healing Arts Offered to Elders

On Monday, May 14th, the second installment of the Healing Arts Series for Wendell Elders will be held. This free program will take place from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Wendell Senior Center.

Licensed Massage Therapist, Patty Smythe will teach a class on the body's myofascial system and myofascial release. With 15 years experience, Smythe has found myofascial release to be an effective body-

work modality for releasing discomfort and problems brought by muscular holding patterns due to age, trauma or stress. "Fascia... surrounds every muscle, organ and bone. It is an interwoven web of living tissue that all the structures of the body are suspended in. It is the 'space between' and has profound effects on the health of all systems. Fascia has different states of elasticity, from a gelatinous consistency, to a salt-

water taffiness and when stressed, can have a rigidity exerting 2000 pounds per square inch, crushing structures such as lumbar discs." The class will discuss this overlooked bodywide system and will teach exercises and techniques to help a variety of issues.

Wear loose comfortable clothing to this class.

Space is limited. Call Shelley Hines at 978-544-3082 to reserve a spot.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - May 7th - 11th

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

Monday, May 7th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, May 8th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group

10:30 a.m. Seated Health Program

1:00 p.m. RAD Class

Wednesday, May 9th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, May 10th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, May 11th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

Walking Club

The Erving Seniors are forming a walking club that will meet at least twice a week, weather permitting, to walk together. Call Polly for more information.

Monday, May 7th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

10:00 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, May 8th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 C.O.A. Meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, May 9th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, May 10th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect
Friday, May 11th
9:00 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch - Tech School

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

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BRICK HOUSE

Korey Bousquet enjoyed the spring wilderness during school vacation week. Local organizations, the Brick House Community Resource Center and the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, collaborated to bring activities to neighborhood youth and families during the spring vacation week of April 16th - 21st. Over 20 Turners Falls families attended the free programs.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Raising Chickens

On Tuesday, May 15th, Professor John Gerber will give a talk about raising chickens in your backyard. Professor Gerber teaches about sustainable food and farming at the Stockbridge School at the University of Massachusetts.

His talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Leverett Library, 75 Montague Rd. For more information, call 413-548-9220 or visit www.leverettlibrary.org.

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Kasia Dobosz

Grade 7

Tommy Bocharnikov

Kieran Masson

Grade 8

Jacob Clark

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Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - On Saturday, May 12th, letter carriers across the country, in partnership with the U.S. Postal Service, will be collecting food for families in need. This **food drive** is the largest one day drive in the nation, and it's easy to help. Collect and bag non-perishable food items and leave by your mail box for carriers to pick up and deliver to a local food bank or pantry. Contact your local post office to confirm their participation.

Wendell Clean Up Day: Townsfolk are encouraged to pick up litter along the roads in their neighborhood and then leave the bags of trash on the side of the road. All bagged trash will be picked up between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th.

Please call Anne at 978-544-6111 or Ted at 544-3329 by May 18th, to let them know where you are picking up litter and leaving bagged trash. For more info, contact Christine at 544-2282, or cheard59c@netscape.net.

The **Montague May Day** Celebration will take place on Sunday, May 6th. Festivities begin around 10:30 a.m. All are invited to walk from the Montague Center post office to the town common. Young children will carry the maypole. The event is free and participants are encouraged to bring along a blanket and picnic lunch. Call 413-367-9923 for more info.

Good Dirt Pottery will hold **open studios** between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 6th, across Main Street from the May Day celebration on the town common in Montague Center.

Kindergarten registration is on-going at the Leverett Elementary School. If you are a Leverett resident and have a child who will turn five by September 1st, call 413-548-9144.

On Saturday, May 12th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Leverett Arts and Crafts building will host **Mudfest**, a clay extravaganza.

There will be a pottery sale, a Raku demonstration, wheel throwing demonstrations, an opportunity to play with clay, a kiln opening, and a tour of local pottery studios. In addition to a well-equipped clay studio, LCA has a beautiful outside space. The public is welcome and refreshments will be available.

On Saturday, May 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the New Salem Recreation Committee will be sponsoring a **Community-wide tag sale** on the New Salem Common off of Route 202. Registration fees will be put towards the installation of the new swing set at the New Salem playground next to the library. Registration for a booth is \$10. Pre-registration is required. Contact Lynn at lynnlarton@hughes.net or 978-544-7892. Rain date is May 6th.

Meet the farm animals up close and personal at Simple Gifts Farm, 1089 North Pleasant in North Amherst. Farmer Dave Tepfer will be leading a brief family farm tour from 10:30 to noon on Saturday, May 12th. The farm features chickens, pigs, cows, and sheep. Simple Gifts Farm is a 35-acre organic vegetable and livestock farm which operates a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, where members buy a share in the farm, and come once a week to pick up vegetables.

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

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LEVERETT NEWS & NOTES

Debt Exclusion Vote Scheduled

BY TANYA CUSHMAN LEVERETT - The debt exclusion vote for proceeding with a \$3.6 million municipal fiber optic network will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 2nd, at town hall. Rules for absentee voting are posted on the town website. The selectboard and broadband committee have promised to make more information about the vote available beforehand.

Town hall now has a new accountant, FRCOG's Brian Morton, and a new interim town clerk, New Salem's town clerk, Stacy Senflug.

On Sunday at the can shed at the transfer station, Les Allen commented there were twice as many beer bottles as soda cans this past week versus most weeks. Wondering if it had something to do with the long town meeting...

Phip and Kate Woodard's children returned to their homestead in Four Corners three weekends in a row to give the house a facelift. On weekend one, they scraped and power-washed, on weekend two, they primed, and last weekend, they

painted. Looks good!

The small white-flowered, always- upright garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is marching its way up Amherst Road almost to Four Corners. Three years ago I saw a few little patches - in some places it is now filling the roadside and invading the woods behind, particularly in Cushman before the bridge.

The little white flowers create seeds that remain viable for at least ten years and the almost heart-shaped leaves remain green all winter, low to the ground. Very little else can grow where garlic mustard does. It is easy to pull up by the roots and should be placed in a plastic bag to make sure every part dies - the flowers have a way of continuing on into becoming seeds even if the plants are no longer in the ground.

Leverett native, Eleanor Duncan, who fed Leverett schoolchildren for 20 years as the lunchroom manager and then fed Leverett seniors for 25 years as the mealsite manager, died on April 17th at the age of 86. The words that

Susan Stoffolano and retired pastor Fred Wilson spoke at her life's celebration at the Leverett Congregational Church offered a beautiful portrait of a very giving lady. So, instead of words, in her spirit, I offer the recipe for her famous Gainsburger Cookies.

Gainsburgers

- No Bake Cookies -

The LES students of the 60's and 70's named the cookies Gainsburgers because the first recipe was missing an ingredient and crumbled badly.

1 stick butter
2 cups sugar
½ cup milk
½ cup cocoa
½ cup peanut butter
1 quart oatmeal

Melt butter then add sugar, milk and cocoa. Bring to a boil for one minute. Remove from heat and add peanut butter. Mix until melted. Add oatmeal and mix. Press into a greased cookie sheet and cut while still warm.

Erving Prepares for 40 Article Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Wednesday, May 9th, Erving will hold annual town meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School, and consider motions to spend \$3,250,796 for the general operation of town government, \$95,731 to pay salaries of elected town officials, and \$3,430,463 to pay for the schooling of Erving students in elementary and upper grades.

Though most of the 40 articles on the warrant are likely to draw little opposition, the school committee's proposed elementary school budget, which calls for an increase of \$276,731 (13%), is likely to be an exception. The finance committee, which tried unsuccessfully during negotiations to get the school committee to reduce its budget request, has promised to offer an amendment from the floor for a 5% increase to the

elementary school budget.

The school committee has defended its proposed budget as necessary to meet the mandated educational needs of all students, and in particular the growing percentage of students at the elementary school who fall within the spectrum of special needs. The budget would allow EES to hire three specialists to assist special needs students.

Although the town's assessment for the Franklin County Tech School is also rising steeply this year, that increase is attributed mainly to two new students attending the Tech School from Erving.

Town meeting voters should expect to hear a report from the Usher Mill reuse committee, which has been trying to persuade the selectboard to save the historically significant boiler room building and water tower

on the site of the abandoned mill.


Last year, town meeting appropriated \$500,000 to pay for demolition and clean up at the Usher Mill. The town finally acquired clear title to the mill property, for unpaid taxes, earlier this spring, and demolition of most of the mill buildings will proceed in the coming months. A public hearing to decide the fate of the boiler room building is planned for June.

At the end of town meeting, the final warrant article will ask voters to transfer \$737,767 to the town's stabilization fund. If all other warrant articles, including one from the highway department to purchase a new \$200,000 dump truck, plow and inline sander are approved, the town will have nearly \$6 million socked away for a rainy day in stabilization.

Not bad for a night's work.

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Revise Chapter 70

BY PATRICIA PRUITT GILL-MONTAGUE - Last week, representatives of the Gill and Montague select-boards met with members of the regional school committee, both town finance committees, Gill's town administrator, and the technical committee that in 2010 produced a five-year compact for fiscal sustainability for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, to monitor the progress to date of the compact.

Montague finance committee chair John Hanold expressed appreciation for the school committee and administration for holding the line on budget increases for the last two years. Interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, soon to leave the district, spoke of the usefulness of the compact's guidelines in her effort to craft a workable budget. Everyone present felt progress had been made in bringing in a school budget the towns could support, since 2010.

However talk soon turned to the state's contribution, in the form of Chapter 70 funding. The compact, after calculating a decrease in state aid in the first year, projected state aid rising by 3% annually for the GMRSD. The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and our state representatives agreed this target was reasonable. But in fact, state aid is now hovering around .071%, with an additional \$40 per student dangling as a late hour

possibility. Here we see a rather large fly in the proverbial ointment.

One wonders why our town and school officials ever believed the GMRSD would see 3% annual increases in state aid. Under the governor's budget, at least, Gill-Montague is one of about two thirds of all school districts in the state facing the possibility of level funding for Chapter 70 aid.

Everyone at the meeting said if the low level of Chapter 70 funding continues, the GMRSD will be looking at approximately an \$800,000 gap for the next two fiscal years. The question quickly arose, what is the solution?

For Gill finance committee member Tupper Brown, the near future appears to be more difficult, but the budget gap must be attacked incrementally. The state has to help; the GMRSD has to continue to tighten its budget; towns have to keep to the annual 2.5% increases outlined in the compact. Then we can manage.

For Montague school committee member Jeff Singleton, the solution lies in mounting a strong lobbying effort over the next six months to bring about change in the outdated Chapter 70 formula and to develop a strategy to deal with legislators. The efforts of the district and the towns to date show good faith toward managing our costs and thus strengthen the argument for the state to rework the Chapter 70 formula.

School committee chair

Inspirational Words from Mitt Romney to the College Students of America

My message to you today is - "Take a shot. Go for it. Take a risk. Get the education. Borrow money if you have to from your parents. Start a business."



- Mitt Romney
(estimated worth: \$190 - \$250 million)
April 27th, 2012
at Otterbein University, Ohio

KWIKINSON 12

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

Mike Langknecht proposed forming an alliance with other towns and districts facing underfunding from the state.

The questions and difficulties raised by the high cost of providing a good education to the children of our community grow increasingly challenging. Fixes from earlier periods, such as Chapter 70, no longer serve many districts well. The will to once again alter those fixes in light of current funding realities is buoyed up in districts where there is need, and downplayed where funding is adequate.

At our local level these conundrums of finance demand much from a few ded-

icated citizens. For schools it becomes nearly impossible to focus creatively on educating. The buck and the balance sheet are always before the entire educating staff. It is a hard reality on all sides.

We are struck again by the effrontery of the DESE and our legislators agreeing to the reasonableness of 3% increases in state aid for our school district when the compact was first ratified. Were they too optimistic, or simply pacifying our committee?

Or were they insincere? Or deluded?

The towns of Gill and Montague, and our regional school district, kept our part of

the bargain. We did what we said we would do to solve the budget impasse for two years in a row. Our town meetings bought into the necessity for setting 2.5% limits on annual school growth and town costs. We thought we were getting somewhere.

The state of Massachusetts, with all its apparatus aimed at maintaining school systems, needs to rework the Chapter 70 formula in a way that allows for towns and regions to have sustainable school systems, where teachers and administrators can once again focus on teaching and learning, rather than the ever receding bottom line.

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 5/2/12

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Deaths: 1,957



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Christians Are Coming!

Some folks in Northfield are worried about a branch of Liberty College, or some other Christian college, coming to the Northfield campus (formerly Northfield Mount Hermon) and changing the town.

The record shows they have legitimate concerns. These colleges create change in communities where they locate.

An example is Lynchburg, VA, home of feared Liberty College, where college students have changed the community. Liberty students are polite and well mannered. They hold no wild parties, as at UMass. They pick up trash tossed in the street, or even a napkin inadvertently dropped in a restaurant, mimicking the behavior of people in Salt Lake City, or Hawaii, where citizens keep the streets pristine.

When people began meditat-

ing in Seattle, it changed the area. On a visit there, I could not get change for a dollar bill. Whenever I asked on a bus, at a newspaper box, or by a parking meter, invariably I was handed the quarter or 50 cents I needed, with a smile and a refusal of the dollar bill. It's catching; I found myself doing the same thing, actually enjoying the parting of me and my money. People became friendlier and more neighborly as they followed the Golden Rule, and they seemed a lot happier.

D.L. Moody changed Northfield when he founded Christian schools for poor kids; first the girl's school in Northfield, and then a boy's school in Gill. The Northfield Mount Herman schools have combined on the Mount Hermon campus in Gill and though, sadly, the clientele are no longer poor kids, the atti-

tude remains. Students are polite and well mannered, participate in outreach programs and generally act as Good Samaritans, picking up after people who may even shun them.

Each April, the Northfield Mount Hermon School has a Service Day. On Friday, April 21st, a group of NMH students, led by teacher Craig Sandford, walked the Main Road of Gill from the Mount Hermon campus to Route 2, picking up rubbish scattered along the roadside. Perhaps it will encourage people to think more about their environment, become more neighborly, and less prejudicial.

A Christian college in Northfield may not be all that bad.

- Joseph A. Parzych
Gill

ANOTHER LETTER

New Biomass Regs Will Lead to More Burning of Fossil Fuels

Massachusetts' new biomass regulations show a clear support for fossil fuels by focusing on CO2 emissions, as outlined in the Manomet study. This flawed approach assures that we will continue to be awash in toxins spewed by fossil fuels. The Manomet study ignored the realities of the carbon cycle.

All human and mammal life functions like mini-biomass plants. We all take in biomass as food, and exhale CO2 which, in turn, is absorbed by vegetative life – trees, grass, etc. All fossil fuel gas is extra to the present life cycle. Fossil fuels come from biomass that died eons ago, releases extra gas into the environment and heats up the atmosphere, causing climate change and weird weather patterns.

In addition, the Manomet study uses a woodlot for their

findings as opposed to looking at a forest ecosystem as a whole. The study postulates: one pine tree down, another needs to grow to complete the carbon cycle. As an analogy, imagine extrapolating information on the human population as a whole by analyzing one family. If that family fails to produce an heir and dies out, does the whole population die out? No. Neither does an entire forest derive its existence from one woodlot.

Trees spring forth continuously. Cut one hemlock, and once the soil is exposed to sunlight again, dozens of seedlings will sprout in its place. The life cycle for trees, grass and other vegetative life is continuous, as is human life on the planet.

—Genevieve Fraser
Orange

Sierra Club Applauds Release New Biomass Regs

BOSTON - Massachusetts last week issued landmark proposed final regulations that will lead the nation in setting high standards for renewable energy generation by adjusting ratepayer subsidies and incentives for the biomass energy sector.

The Massachusetts Sierra Club, in close coordination with national, regional, statewide, grassroots, and community groups has been calling for strengthened standards for biomass energy for more than two years. The Sierra Club's preliminary review of the rules released last week indicate that highly inefficient biomass facilities, like several proposed in Massachusetts, will no longer qualify for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), a ratepayer-funded financial mechanism designed to promote renewable energy.

"The new rules are a major step forward for the

Massachusetts clean energy agenda. By raising the bar for what qualifies as truly green energy, Massachusetts will achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions compared to treating all biomass fuel as 'renewable' even when whole trees are cut from the forest and burned at only 20% efficiency," said James McCaffrey, director of the Massachusetts chapter of the Sierra Club.

The new rules have three key provisions: Higher Efficiency – Biomass facilities must meet a high-efficiency standard to qualify for Renewable Energy Credits, beginning at 50% efficiency.* Sustainable Harvesting – Biomass facilities must rely predominantly on "residues" rather than whole trees as fuel. Greenhouse Gas Reductions – Biomass facilities must demonstrate emissions reductions of at least 50% over 20 years as compared to natural gas.

A typical utility-scale biomass power plants burn 300,000 to 800,000 tons of wood a year. "Massachusetts has had several large facilities proposed that could consume large swaths of New England's forests while polluting the air and water of the Commonwealth. The new rules indicate that these large, inefficient, and polluting biomass power-plants will no longer be rewarded with ratepayer incentives, and hopefully will never be built at all," McCaffrey stated.

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MEDIC offers Rx for Decrepit Building



DETMOLD PHOTO

Former Cumberland Farms Building on Avenue A and 2nd Street

BY JOHN FURBISH

TURNERS FALLS - In the heyday of industrialism, Turners Falls was a thriving community with a bustling downtown. However, starting in the 1940s, when many of the mill workers' jobs went south, the downtown declined.

Revitalization efforts for the downtown got underway in

earnest in the early 1980s. The downtown received a National Register Historic District designation in 1982, and the town restored the 19th century streetscape of brick sidewalks and planters in 1984.

The historic four-story Grand Trunk Hotel, built in 1872, had been razed in the 1960s because it needed new

wiring. Where the hotel once stood, an ugly, utilitarian 2,000 square foot single-story structure, "the Cumby building" was built in 1975, a building that clashes visually with the magnificently refurbished Crocker Bank Building, burned in 1998 and restored a few years later, directly across 2nd Street.

The Cumby lot and five oth-

ers north of 2nd street and west of Avenue A were regarded as the welcoming entrance to town, and a Heritage State Park was planned there. However, inadequate state financing produced a smaller project in the form of a natural history museum, the Great Falls Discovery Center, which beautifully incorporates the sole surviving building from the Montague Paper Company as well as presenting geologic and landscaped features. But the Discovery Center park only fills up part of the designated space.

When Cumberland Farms closed its store at 38 Avenue A, the town acquired the lot and building by eminent domain, after a nine-year legal battle. The actual owner is an arm of the town, the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation. The Cumby's building has seen few uses since 1991; in recent years it has mostly sat empty and forlorn. The building is unheated in the winter, and water leaks in through the roof to ruin the dry-wall inside and produce mold.

All that is about to change,

for the better, as MEDIC has given the ugly building a new lease on life by forming a lease with three new tenants (the Montague Business Association, Montague Community Cable Incorporated, and River Culture), which plan to share and revitalize the space as a cooperative "Grant Trunk Media and Cultural Center". Exactly what this means, nobody knows, but assuredly it's going to be interesting, and potentially rejuvenating for downtown Turners to find out.

What better use could there be for this decrepit building? These three tenants seem perfectly matched to this under-utilized, high profile space. When the Gill-Montague Bridge gets completed in just two more years, the Crocker Bank Building, the new Media and Cultural Center and its outdoor events, and the existing Discovery Center park will be welcoming landmarks to help promote our important new industry of tourism, and to make life better for those of us who live here.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**A Leaning Dam, Leaked Diesel, and an Article to Expand VY Evac Zone**

BY JOSH HEINEMAN - How much will the town have to pay to fix the leaning dam at Fiske Pond? An engineer's report estimates - \$10,000.

Mary Thomas and Don Chappelle of the Fiske Pond advisory committee met the selectboard to talk about the dam that holds Fiske Pond in place. Following a 2009 state mandated inspection, the town cleared brush and small trees from the dam. But now, the retaining wall on the downstream side of the dam has begun to lean away from the pond, and that movement has created three sink-holes in the dam.

Chappelle said an engineer's recommendation is to fill behind the dam with rocks and boulders to hold the leaning wall in place, at an estimated cost of \$10,000.

That work would hide the fine stone work downstream of the dam, Chappelle said.

The Office of Dam Inspection apparently does not have a report on the dam that was prepared from the 2009 inspection. Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to try to discover its whereabouts. The Office of Dam Safety considers the Fiske Pond dam to be a lower hazard dam, presumably because its failure is not likely to wash out a large city.

Mount Grace Land Trust representative Paul Daniello updated the selectboard on the progress of the conservation restriction (CR) on the Arthur Cronquist property that touches Lyons Brook in West Wendell. Mount Grace is hoping to close on the CR by May 31st, but before that can happen the CR has to be reviewed by a state attorney.

Mount Grace will continue to own the property now and will take responsibility for marking the boundaries, but Wendell will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the CR. Mount Grace will train five or six Wendell citizens on what that monitoring will involve - mainly a yearly walk through the property.

Laurel Facey, Peter Gallant, and Pam Richardson met the selectboard to ask that an article be put on the town meeting warrant to ask state and federal legislators to expand the evacuation zone around the nuclear power plant Vermont Yankee in Vernon, VT. They cited the evacuation of a nearly 20 mile radius around the Fukushima meltdowns, and the fact the United States military has kept their personnel outside a 50 mile radius from the Fukushima reactors.

Selectboard member Dan Keller added that the total number of people that Japan may have to eventually relocate, many from ancestral homes, due to last year's nuclear disaster, may reach 40 million. There is the possibility of moving them to unoccupied Russian offshore islands, or Chinese "ghost cities," cities that were built, but never occupied because there was no work for any occupants.

Gallant said there are cities 40 miles from Fukushima that will never again be occupied. Pooser added the disaster has caused Japan to begin shutting down all its nuclear reactors.

Aldrich reported the effort to bring up the Community Preservation Act for town meeting consideration has been put off for at least a year, because no one on the open space committee or the planning

board has had the time to put the ballot question into final form.

Aldrich said that the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the town's insurance company, is raising its rate 3%, but because Wendell pays its bill before July 1st the town will get a 5% discount on that 3% increase.

In an unfortunate winter incident, a filter on the town grader leaked and dripped diesel fuel onto the ground by the town garage. The original estimate of how much diesel leaked was under the ten gallon threshold requiring intervention by the Department of Environmental Protection, but Stantec, the engineering firm hired to check the spill, reported the amount actually leaked was 35 gallons, so now the DEP is involved.

The town road crew was allowed to dig up the contaminated soil, but disposal of that soil and the engineering expenses will cost \$23,550. That cost will be covered by insurance, but before paying that price, MIIA will send their own inspector to the site.

Pooser said the assessors had some computer issues they were taking care of within their own budget, but beyond that, the computer Helen Williams, half-time assistant assessor, uses is so old and slow it should be replaced. Pooser said all departments will face a similar problem, as the state requires more electronic reporting and as computers in use get old. He said the town should begin to think about having an IT person and a regular schedule for replacing outdated computers on the same kind of regular schedule any other capital

see **WENDELL** pg 12

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**Mechanical Problems Continue at New Senior Center**

BY KATIE NOLAN - At the April 30th selectboard meeting, town administrator Tom Sharp reported that warranty problems were continuing at the new community and senior center, with leaks still occurring in the pump room. However, Sharp said, the contractors have been on site, addressing the problems.

The selectboard voted to accept the \$150,253 bid from Lane Construction for repaving Pratt Street, Lester Street, and Moore Street in Erving. A lower bid had been received, but was found to have discrepancies, so Lane's bid was selected.

The selectboard decided to focus on defining the positions for the department of public works reor-

ganization, reviewing job descriptions, and defining wages at their next meeting, May 5th. The positions will be posted after the annual town meeting on May 7th.

Treasurer Margaret Sullivan told the board there were rumors among some town employees that under the DPW reorganization, DPW employees would be receiving hefty raises. Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin replied there are no job descriptions yet, and no one has been hired for the new positions.

Sullivan also reported the council on aging would like to keep a ten-hour per week maintenance person on staff at the community and senior center, even after a DPW

employee is assigned to be responsible for maintenance on the building under the DPW reorganization plan. She said the COA felt a highway worker would be paid a higher wage than a part-time maintenance worker, and the full time worker would need to be paid time and a half for being on site for evening programs.

Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo suggested hiring a per-diem maintenance worker for evening events.

Sullivan presented the board with a list of cost of living adjustment (COLA) errors in the proposed FY'13 general government budget. The selectboard agreed to revise these items on the town meeting floor.

Write-In Candidate Joins Selectboard Race

BY KATIE NOLAN

ERVING - Three candidates, Arthur Johnson, Joseph Newton, and Margaret Sullivan, are in the running for a three-year seat on the Erving selectboard, in the town election coming up on Monday, May 7th, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Current selectboard member Jamie Hackett has decided not to run for re-election, so that seat is up for grabs.

Arthur Johnson

Arthur Johnson, of Mountain Road, is a write-in candidate for selectboard. Johnson has owned a small business for 13 years, and currently operates two enterprises, Opie's Elite Limo and a coin-operated machine maintenance business.

Johnson grew up in Erving, and in area towns, and built a house on Mountain Road in 1993, near his parents' home. He has served on the zoning board of appeals for six years.

Johnson says the main reason he is running is because, "I like my town." He said people asked him to run in order to provide more of a choice of candidates.

"People feel better with three candidates," he said. He added that his qualifications include lots of real life experience, and his background as a successful business owner.

Johnson said, as a small business owner, he wants to see a more streamlined process for new businesses starting in town. However, he said it is very important to have an even playing field for all businesses, "the same rules for everyone."

Because his parents live in town, he is a strong supporter of the senior center. He called the former Usher Mill property a "historical treasure" and said he has "huge hopes" for the redevelopment of that property, foreseeing green space and picnic tables where now there is

only rubble.

Johnson said he supports the recent reorganization of the public works department and feels it will "settle many problems." He sees Erving's location along Route 2 as a great opportunity for business development.

"Great things could happen... businesses could flourish, helping the tax base and providing jobs." He added, "We can remain a small town, and be an economic powerhouse. Instead of being a headache, traffic could be a benefit."

Still, Johnson wants to "make sure that Erving stays a nice little New England town, while keeping up with the times." He also said, "Very few towns have what we have, well-maintained buildings and parks. The town looks good and I want to keep it that way."

Joseph Newton

Joseph Newton, of River Road, is currently a

see **RACE** page 12

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Little Library Coming to Avenue A

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY - Turners Falls already has a Carnegie Library on Avenue A, but Montague Center resident and GCC librarian Jeri Moran is forging ahead to create a little free library a few blocks down the Avenue too. It will be about the size of a dollhouse.

And true to her profession, Moran has done all of the research needed to make that happen:

Approval and support from Montague Libraries director Sue SanSoucie. Check. Ideal Location selected with approval of flower bed gardeners Michelle Johnson and Anne Jemas. Check. Dig safe approval by utilities. Check. Tree warden approval. Check. Building inspector approval? Well, no, but David Jensen seemed disinclined to quibble with a project that will house ideas, not people.

The selectboard approved the use of public property for this purpose, and so the little free library will be securely placed in the flower bed area in front of Nina's Nook, Tognarelli's, and Equi's Candy Store, on Avenue A, early this summer.

The mission of the little free library project as described at littlefreelibrary.org is to "promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide, to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity, and wisdom across generations, and to build 2,510 libraries around the world, more than Andrew Carnegie."

Moran reported there are about 800 little free libraries in the world so far, and they can be self-sustaining, with a little supervision, which she is happy to provide. "People

can take a book and bring a book," she said, "cultivating a sense of random discovery."

The brightly-colored structure will be watertight, and Moran will build the initial collection of books from her own collection, no doubt with a few gems in it from her career in books.

The little free library can act as a kind of "adjunct" to the Carnegie, she elaborated. She's considering stocking the little library with the first books in science fiction series to get people hooked, and, of course, some children's titles. Perhaps, *The Little Free Library That Could?*

In other news, Turners Falls Municipal Airport construction projects continue, in spite of "a number of uphill battles," according to airport commission chair Peter Golrick.

Those uphill battles have included "a contractor not doing what they were supposed to do, rising fuel costs (associated with paving), and Native American archeological interests," he said.

Yet, Golrick explained most all of the lights for the runway have been installed, and "pilots are pleased with them." A rotating beacon is also planned. Two trenches for necessary electrical equipment have been approved, and planning for a new section of perimeter fencing is underway.

"The first choice is to avoid disturbing anything if we can," Golrick said, referring to the possibility of finding Native American artifacts on airport property. Several test pits have been dug, and will continue to be dug, especially for any perimeter fencing projects, he explained. "A number of significant artifacts were found at one area near the taxiway," Golrick added.

Of particular interest to taxpayers, Golrick also commented the airport commission is taking a long view on energy consumption and is considering a possible solar farm at the airport. "We want to be closer to self-sufficient," he said. "It's a Green thing, and we want to take the burden off of town taxpayers."

Selectboard member Pat Allen recommended working with the Montague energy committee for information sharing on solar installations, as they have accrued a lot of knowledge on the subject.

The selectboard voted to approve an agreement between the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the town of Montague for future maintenance of a newly-planned footbridge at the Sawmill River conservation land off of North Street in Montague Center. The vote is contingent on town meeting approval also. Town meeting will be held this Saturday, May 5th.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio is collecting information regarding the possible donation of the St. Anne's rectory on Sixth Street to the town of Montague, which is also up for a vote at a special town meeting at 8:30 a.m. before the annual town meeting this Saturday. From the mortgage company that owns it, Abbondanzio has learned about surveys on the property, possible estimates for rehabilitating previous fire damage, and title information.

"I'm checking for hidden costs," he said, and he also has been looking back at all of the town-owned properties and "how the town came to own them and the condi-

see MONTAGUE pg 11

The Ten Lies of Entergy

Speech delivered to a crowd of thousands by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin in Brattleboro, on April 14th, 2012.

"Thank you very much for standing up for democracy. Thank you for standing up to Entergy Louisiana. Thank you for standing up for clean energy and a bright energy future that does not include an aging, leaking nuclear power plant that we're going to retire with your help.

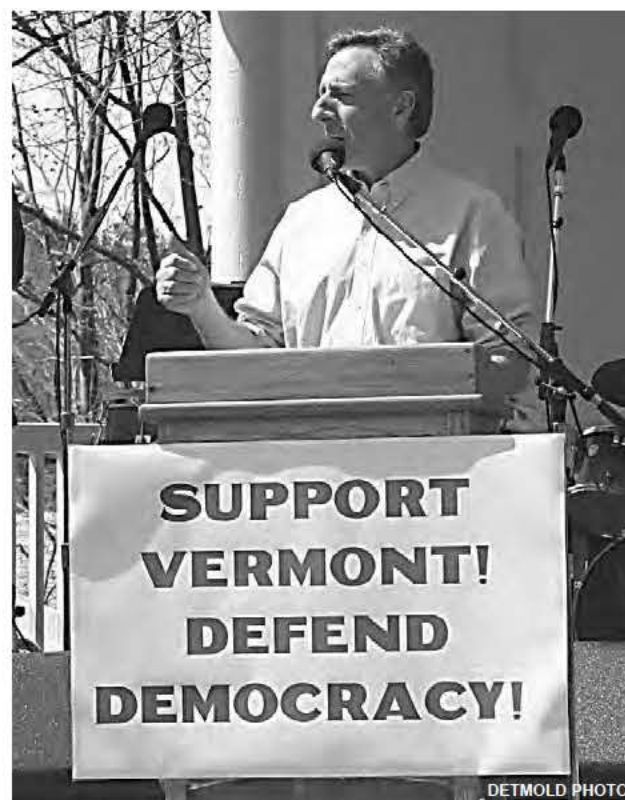
"Without you, we will not succeed in beating the corporate powers of Louisiana against the people of the State of Vermont; that's why your presence here is so important.

"How many of you have a drivers license from the state of Vermont? (Cheers). How many of you would drive without license if the Vermont license had expired? (Laughter). Teach that to our friends in Louisiana, and we'll be there!

"As a kid who was born and raised in this county, that hosts the only nuclear power plant in this state, I think it's worth remembering where we are on this day in 2012, several days after it was promised that the plant would be closed on schedule, meeting its designed life.

"The first promise that was made by Entergy Louisiana when they bought the plant was that it would be shut down on schedule in March of 2012. Somehow that doesn't seem to be true.

"The second promise that was made by Entergy Louisiana was that they would run the plant as they bought it. But the first thing they did once they got ownership was to pump 20% more juice through it than it was designed to generate. They told us they'd keep it the way it was; it didn't happen that way; again it



Governor Peter Shumlin told Entergy VY to get out of town.

didn't seem their word was true.

"The third promise that was made when they bought the plant was that there was so much money in the decommissioning fund to meet the promise of taking it away on schedule when it was shut down that they did not need to put any more money in. Turns out that wasn't true.

"The fourth promise that was made was that they would be the owners of the plant until it shut down in 2012. Turns out with the advent and invention of SpinCo, the company that made AIG and Bear Stearns look like sound Wall Street proposals, turns out they were going to spin us off to a highly leveraged Wall Street drain, leave us with the carcasses of old nukes across America while they took the loot and ran. So their promise that they were going to be the owners of the plant, that wasn't true.

"The fifth promise they made was that they

would report to us when things went wrong. But when the cooling tower collapsed, you might remember the press release they issued: there was a small release at one of the cooling towers. Several days later, a photograph was produced - turns out what they said wasn't true.

"The sixth thing they told us after swearing under oath was that the plant magically had no underground pipes carrying nuclear waste. Turns out, a year later, when they started to leak, that wasn't true.

"The seventh promise they made to Vermonters was that with their great stewardship, we'd get cheap power. Turns out that wasn't true.

"The eighth promise made by Entergy Louisiana to Vermonters was that they would abide by our laws of the great State of Vermont. Turns out, that wasn't true.

"The ninth promise see SHUMLIN pg 8

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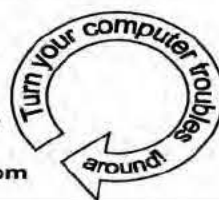
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A Minstrel's Tale

Directed by Emily Samuels, Ed Hines and Jen Zabek



DETMOLD PHOTO

Sarah Waldron and Avery Johnson (left) are jealous of their sister Cynthia Roy Clark's new shawl, not to mention her beauty, as other courtiers look on in Erving Elementary School's retelling of Beauty and the Beast, in the original play, A Minstrel's Tale

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The transformative magic of friendship and kindness overcame the base vices of arrogance and avarice in the delightful all school play *A Minstrel's Tale* at Erving Elementary School on Wednesday, May 2nd.

Directed by Emily Samuels, with help from Ed Hines and Jen Zabek, the play was a faithful retelling of the old French fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast*, and it featured a standout performance by Sophie, the wise merchant's daughter, played with tenderness and sympathy by Cynthia Roy Clark, ably backed by Tyler Zilinski as the surly Beast.

All the familiar accoutrements of the fairy tale were present on the stage, and many new twists were added under the experienced direction of Emily Samuels, who is also credited with authoring the original script with Kathleen Bridgewater, Nita Chase, Ed Hines, Jane Urban and Jen

Zabek.

If these were the same collaborators who choreographed the brilliant dances, nimbly executed by even the youngest of the elementary students, then they deserved a standing ovation from the packed to the rafters auditorium.

Working with a talented pit orchestra featuring Hines and Samuels and a number of versatile accompanists, the students took old English Morris dances and updated them with bold leaps, intricate steps, and props ranging from deer antlers to bells on heels to shimmering tin foil. It was a delight to watch the young students weaving through the complicated figures of the dances like seasoned pros.

After a vain prince (Jack Putula) treats an old woman in the market (Samantha Kolodziej) cruelly, she casts a spell on him with the aid of some willing little goblins and turns him into a terrible beast.

In another part of the realm,

a merchant, (Jaxon Rollins) setting forth to the harbor where his ship will soon land bringing him great riches, asks his daughters what they would like him to bring them on his

return.

The two elder daughters, (Sarah Waldron and Avery Johnson) preening like a pair of peacocks, both want beautiful dresses, but Sophie begs

from SHUMLIN page 7

that was made by Entergy Louisiana, was that they would abide by the memorandum of understanding they signed under oath with the Public Service Board, agreeing to comply with Act 160, and agreeing to comply with the vote of the legislature, Yes or No, about whether their continued operation was in the best interests of Vermont. They supported the bill; they supported the legislative vote, until suddenly it looked like it wouldn't go their way. Suddenly that wasn't true.

And finally, they've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to convince Vermonters on television with slick Wall Street ads that if we

kept the plant running we're going to have cheap power as far as the eye can see. It was a surprise to many Vermonters that even their advertising campaign wasn't true.

"So I say, ten times, ten untruths, in a state where Vermonters value the truth more than any other state in the nation.

You're here today to stand up for truth, to stand up for Vermont, to stand up for our democracy, to stand up for harnessing the wind, and the sun, and our streams, and our woods and forests, and our fields, to stand up for a renewable energy future. To stand up for a Vermont where your kids and my kids know two things: If you do business with Vermont, you keep your word.

only for a flower, and her father's safe return.

Needless to say, the merchant's ship founders. Rather than return home empty handed, he plucks a rose for Sophie from the enchanted garden of the Beast, who threatens him with death unless he sends his daughter to take his place.

The rest of the play is a study in manners, as the rude Beast, after repeated failures, is finally schooled in the niceties of human kindness by a coterie of courtiers, until, like Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*, he wins his belle's heart.

Sophie's gift of friendship is enough to turn the Beast back into the proud and not much changed Prince, leaving the audience on the point of crying out, like Greta Garbo before them as she watched Jean Marais in the unrivalled film version of the same tale by the great Jean Cocteau, "Give me back my Beast!"

But wait. That's not the message our school children should take home. "I've changed!" protests the Prince. "I'm kind to everyone now!"

These players get a gold star for a heartwarming production that pleased the entire town, proving once again that virtue is worth more than gold, and a rose, however its petals may curl and its thorns may pain, is still, in the end, a rose.

And second – we have a bright jobs future, a bright economic future, by showing the rest of the nation how to get off of our addiction to oil, stop spending dollars in countries that mostly don't like us, use less resources, not more, go to small, community-generated Green Power, and say to the aging nuclear industry in America, including here in Vermont, Shut 'em Down, go home, tell the truth, we're moving on, you're moving out, you go first, we're not going to rest until you're gone, decommissioned, and returned to a green field.

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Randolph Suhl Reflects on Nine Decades of Life and Times

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

TURNERS FALLS - At 96 years old, Randolph (Randy) Suhl has time to reflect on what he feels is important about his life and times.

Sita Lang, an independent home care aide from Turners Falls who recently started her own business called "In Good Company," introduced me to her client Randy last week, and he related his life story to me.

Now I will relate his story to you.

Randy got his start in life thanks to a German immigrant father and mother back 1916. Randy speculates the name Suhl may have come from the town in Germany from which his father's parents emigrated.

His father built the family home on River Street in Greenfield. It still stands across the street from the Barn discount store.

River Street was known as Greenfield's German neighborhood in Randy's youth.

His father was a career employee of the Greenfield Tap and Die (GTD), where he was the foreman and master machinist for many years.

It was the practice at GTD to hire the sons of skilled employees, so eventually Randy's older brother, a talented toolmaker in his own right, was hired by the company. At 19, Randy also joined the work force at GTD.

He became a skilled thread grinder, specializing in fine gauges. It was 1935, and there were plenty of job openings.

When America entered WWII, working for the GTD earned many employees exemptions from war service, because GTD produced essential parts for

the war effort. So important was the fine gauge department that the company built a separate building to house it on Sanderson Street, with its own air conditioned inspection room.

After work, Randy would drive to Turners Falls with friends in his dad's car. He was the only one in his circle of friends with a driver's license. On the front porch of one of the corner groceries in Turners, Randy met his future wife, Rita. She was the daughter of the store owner, and she used to hang out on the porch with her friends; she was a junior in high school at the time.

Although they were attracted to each other, Randy says it wasn't until Rita invited him to be her escort to the prom that "things became serious."

In 1940, they married, despite being of different religious backgrounds. Although neither of their parents ever said anything about it, Randy always thought Rita's mother was not so keen on the union. Because Rita was Catholic and Randy was Lutheran, they were not able to be married in the church.

Randy always accompanied his wife to mass at Ste. Anne's, and eventually took instruction from a young priest at the church. Randy converted to Catholicism rather than have his family divided on religious grounds. Soon, two babies were born, a boy named Randy, a girl named Jane.

In the 1950s, lots came up for sale on Montague Street, and Randy was one of the first to buy. He exchanged skills with a friend to build each other's houses. Randy was good at laying the foundation, and knew how to square the corners; they shared the same carpenter. All the work

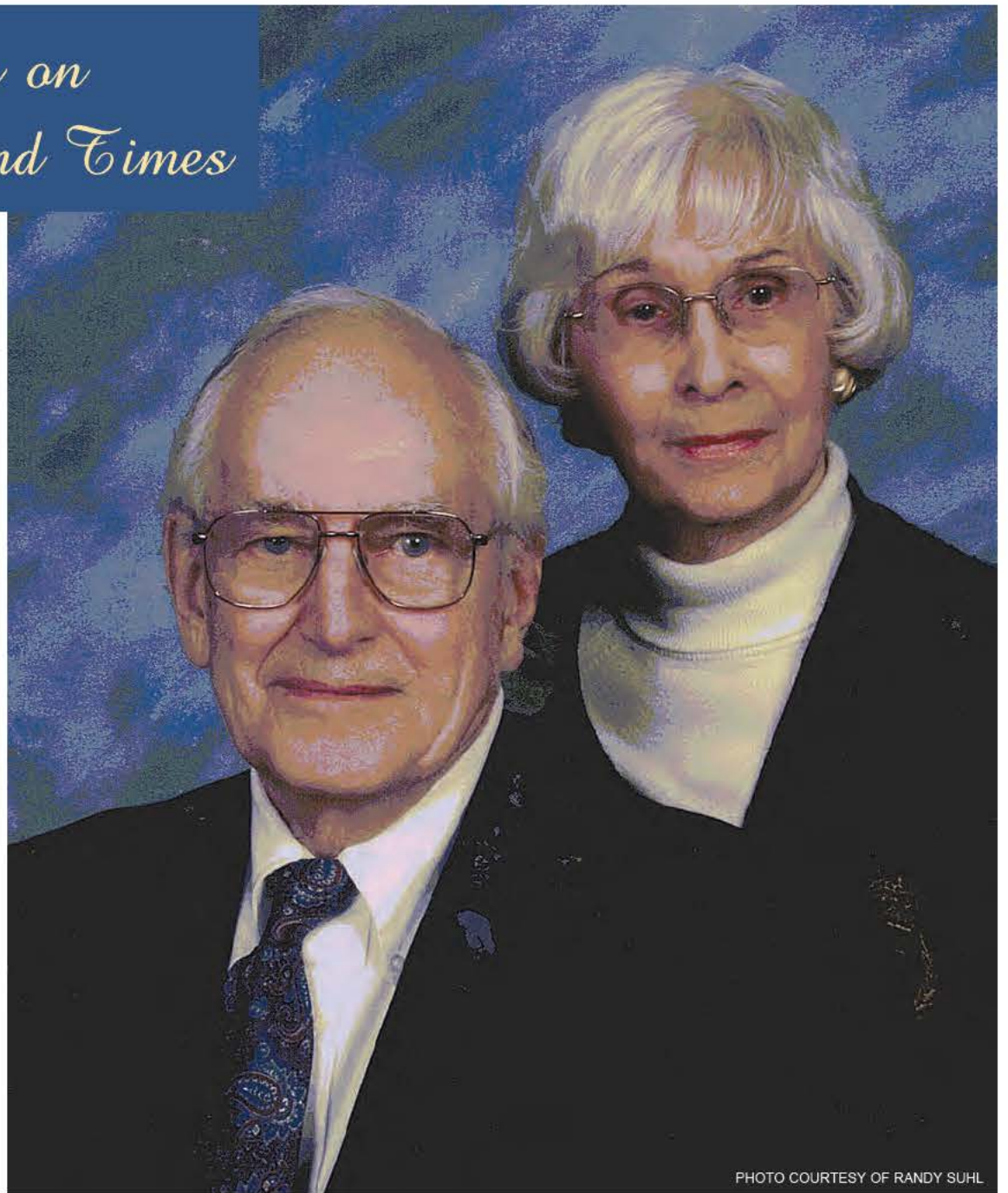


PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDY SUHL

Randy and Rita Suhl

was done on weekends. It took about a year before he and Rita could move in, though the inside was still unfinished. Randy was able to trade his masonry skills with a master plasterer from Greenfield who plastered his living room walls perfectly. That cooperative building method took time, but saved money and mistakes in the long run.

After the war, the Tap and Die business began to change. The parts supplied by Jones and Lamson of Springfield, VT became obsolete. New business grew up with Germany and the Reischauer company. Randy was adept at learning and demonstrating new machines and was often chosen to run a new machine.

Randy retired in 1983 at age 67 from Greenfield Tap and Die. His wife Rita passed on two years ago. But for Randy, their mar-

riage still lasts; he counts 72 years of married life.

Now, Randy is able to get around with his walker. He maintains his home and daily life with the help of a gardener, a housekeeper and the companionship of Sita Lang, who comes in a few hours a week for conversation. As a result, Randy says he doesn't suffer from loneliness. He feels he can discuss anything on his mind with Sita. She and he are good friends.

Randy is very proud of his children. His son was admitted to Deerfield Academy day school at the suggestion of Russ Miller, then acting head of Deerfield, and much encouraged in his choice of college by John Boyden. He is sure none of that would have happened if his wife Rita hadn't worked in the country store behind the Tavern in Deerfield at

the time of Mr. and Mrs. Flint, the great restorers of Old Deerfield. Randy himself helped out delivering orders on Saturdays, thus meeting Russ Miller and other teachers at the school. His daughter Jane is semi-retired from the Department of Social Service. Now, his son is retired, too, and visits from Virginia once a month.

Randolph 'Randy' Suhl has lived a long and full life. He still enjoys it fully, and is happy to have kept his keen wits and his goodness of heart.

Other elders who may be in search of Good Company, might give a call to Sita Lang, and In Good Company. She is hospice trained, CPR certified, and able to provide non-medical services. She offers listening with an open heart, listening non-judgmentally to the elderly in our community.

Resources for Area Seniors

A good local resource for a variety of elder services is the Franklin County Home Care Corporation in Montague City, reachable at: www.fchcc.org or 413-773-5555. FCHCC provides counseling and assistance for seniors for a variety of services, including in-home care,

pay for caregivers, caregiver grants, caregiver support and respite, legal questions, fuel assistance, housing options, caregiver respite and more. FCHCC can provide information to professionals as well as elders, caregivers and persons with disabilities.

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from **LEVERETT** pg 1

Responding to questions from the floor, d'Errico said properties could have multiple connections; the committee was considering a two to five year contract for an internet provider, but could go with a shorter initial contract to ensure the provider gave good service; and the \$3.6 million being considered was less than 1% of the town's total valuation. Leverett has an excellent bond rating, so there was likely to be no problem with future borrowing. Yes, d'Errico told one questioner, a fiber optic network requires electricity and would not work if the power is out.

On the question of a property owner opting out of high speed access, d'Errico said the committee had not considered that, viewing the fiber optic system as a public utility like roads. Even people who did not subscribe to the internet or phone service would want the connection available for the future, d'Errico opined.

Speaking in support of the article, Gary Gruber, said, "Thanks for thinking out of the box. It comes down to economics. If this passes, even if taxes go up, the value of houses for resale will go up tomorrow."

One North Leverett resident said moving to Leverett had a "huge negative impact" on his life, because of the poor internet and phone connections. "We absolutely need this," he said, "unless we want to install butter churns on every front porch and call ourselves 'historic Leverett'."

One speaker said, "I'm not sure we have enough information to approve this. Construction is the easy part; operation is harder. I'd like to see more detail."

Stewart Olsen asked, "What happens if we piss off Verizon and they don't let us use their wires?"

D'Errico said in several states, Verizon and other telecommunications companies had succeeded in passing laws making it illegal for municipalities to share utility infrastructure. But, he said, it's a different story in Massachusetts, where the state government is committed to increasing internet access. If Verizon tries to slow the town with legal actions, "The Attorney General would work with us," to fight them, he said.

Using paper ballots, the meeting voted 306 to 33 to approve

the project.

Shively Defeats Roberts for Selectboard

The meeting, which packed the Leverett Elementary School gymnasium with more than 300 people, three times the normal turnout, began with election of town officers. The only contested race was for the selectboard seat currently held by Julie Shively. Richard Roberts III was nominated by Isaiah Robison of the conservation commission. Asked if Roberts was present at the meeting, the gym filled with laughter when Robison said Roberts was at work and, "He has no idea he's been nominated."

Robison added he was sure Roberts, who is currently on the capital planning committee, would be willing to serve the town on the selectboard.

In her short statement, Shively said she had been on the selectboard for one term, and "I have my feet on the ground." She said she has been working with the school committee and regional school planning committee and wanted to continue working on the issue of school regionalization.

In a short statement for Roberts, Robison said Roberts can represent younger residents, providing "more balance and a broader spectrum" of viewpoints. He cited Roberts' business degree and work in his family's business as qualifications for the job.

Shively was re-elected on a paper ballot vote, receiving 157 votes to Roberts' 56.

Kip Fonsh and Sarah Dolven were handily re-elected to the school committee. And candidates were found to fill the seats vacated by long time members Farshid Hajir and Pam Stone. Catherine Brooks and Aaron Osborne were dragooned into service; they will attend their first school committee meeting on Monday, May 7th.

The Leverett annual town meeting starts on a Saturday morning, works until midday, adjourns for lunch, and reconvenes to finish work in the afternoon. When the lunch break was called, many residents left the gym for the sunny 60 degree weather on the playground, talking politics, eating picnic lunches, pushing children on swings, or walking to loosen joints stiffened by a long morning sitting in

folding chairs. Others went to the school cafeteria, where the Leverett historical society put on a fundraiser soup and sandwich lunch.

I sat and ate at a table with two men who were discussing the morning session. "Leverett is the leftest of all the left towns in the state," said one. "Even in this Blue state, Leverett has to be the farthest left."

I looked up from my curried lentil soup and said, "Wendell might give you some competition there."

"Yeah," he answered, considering this, "but we're grounded in reality."

The crowd returning to the gym after lunch was smaller than before. The long awaited fiber optic network issue having been resolved, many citizens left to enjoy the lovely Saturday afternoon.

Teawaddle Farm CR

The remaining voters authorized spending \$170,000 from Community Preservation Act funds to add to \$25,000 in private donations and \$240,000 in state funding to purchase a conservation restriction (CR) on 147 acres at the Teawaddle Hill Farm.

Conservation commission chair Dave Powicki described the land as a working farm with woods and fields, sugar bushes, and "the most spectacular view in town."

The CR would keep the land as an active family farm, allow public access along trails for hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, allow unrestricted hunting on 80 acres and hunting with permission of the landowners on 67 acres. Fishing, mountain biking and horseback riding would be allowed with the permission of the landowner.

Kip Fonsh commented that, although he supported the article, he had some concerns about the underlying philosophy of historic and environmental preservation, and the continued effort by the town to preserve land that could be developed. He noted there was only one item related to affordable housing on the community preservation committee's project list. He warned about a "vision of the town of Leverett being for the 1%."

Conservation commission member Christine Nelson spoke forcefully against the article, saying the conservation rights being

purchased with the CR were already in place under the terms of the Teawaddle Trust, which owns the farm. The purpose stated in that 1973 trust document is to "preserve the land as close as possible to undeveloped" and, Nelson said, the land can only be transferred to the town, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or a certified conservation trust, all this at no cost to the town.

Still, the article carried with a hand vote of 202 yes and 45 no.

Cell Tower Bylaw Falls

The crowd had dwindled further by the time Article 17, a revised wireless telecommunication facility (cell tower) bylaw, came up. Planning board chair Jeff McQueen introduced the revision by saying, when the original bylaw was written ten years ago, "I was one of the ones against allowing cell towers." However, McQueen said, "Times change and people really want cell phones."

The current bylaw limits cell towers to commercial districts in town, which McQueen said were in low lying areas, not practical for siting cell towers. The proposed new bylaw would have allowed cell towers in any zoning district in Leverett, with control of siting by special permit from the planning board, and with setback requirements for residences, schools, playgrounds, historical districts, and wetlands. The revised bylaw would have allowed only monopole and lattice towers, with a maximum height of 199 feet, and no lights on towers.

McQueen noted there had been some opposition to less restrictive rules at the hearings on the bylaw, "mostly aesthetic and health concerns." He said the board had looked at, but was not in a position to make a definite call on the possible health issues. "We didn't feel the health concerns would warrant not bringing this article forward."

Nancy Grossman asked the meeting to vote the article down, saying further study is needed. She said that electromagnetic frequency (EMF) exposure from cell towers could be a health risk. "I would have loved it if the planning board had done an in-depth study of EMF," she said.

In a letter to attendees, Grossman and other residents wrote, "Some (though not all)

available research has pointed to negative effects on human health, such as increased cancer clusters as well as increased headaches, insomnia, biological stress indicators, concentration issues, etc." The letter also said, "Every study that has been reviewed to date indicates hazards for wildlife living or breeding too close to a tower..."

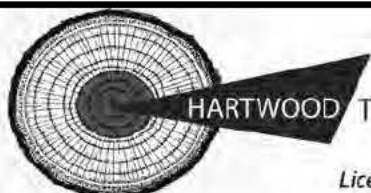
Fonsh commented, "There is not a medical problem" with the towers. He said a National Cancer Society review of the evidence was "quite clear that there is no credible medical issue for routine use of this technology." He said he had traveled to remote Greenland, and found they "have far better cell phone coverage than we have here."

The bylaw change required a two thirds majority to pass; it failed on a hand count vote of 109 in favor and 61 against, three votes short.

Corporations Not People

By majority voice vote, the meeting approved Article 27, Resolution for a Constitutional Amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people. The article proclaimed the town's support for passage of U. S. House H.J. Resolution 88, titled, "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any state, the United States, or any foreign state." In addition, Article 27 supported Massachusetts senate resolution 772, which asks the U.S. congress to pass the Constitutional amendment and send it to the states, asking representative Stephen Kulik and senator Stan Rosenberg to make every effort to pass senate resolution 772.

U.S. representative James McGovern from the 3rd congressional district, author of H.J. Res. 88, was given permission to speak. He told the meeting, "Corporations are not people, they are artificial entities. We create them; we govern them, not the other way around." He told the meeting the Supreme Court's *Citizen's United* decision was "an extreme extension of the corporate rights movement" and warned "our democracy is threatened" see **LEVERETT** page 11



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Massachusetts Suffers High Rate of Lyme Disease



The life cycle of the Ixodes scapularis commonly known as the deer tick or the black-legged tick. (Credit: University of Illinois)

BY LEE WICKS LEVERETT – Twenty-five years ago, I got Lyme disease, an infectious tick-borne illness caused by the spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. I was lucky, because the small tick bite on my thigh developed into a rash that started spreading out into a circle that looked like a bull's eye.

My doctor knew what it was right away and prescribed antibiotics. He took out his pen and drew a line around the site. "If it doesn't start shrinking in a day or two, come back," he said.

It shrunk, and I considered myself cured.

Turns out, that that may or may not have been true. There's

no way to know because blood carries the antibodies for a long time – be it from the old infection or from a new one.

A close friend of mine was not so fortunate. She didn't even know she'd been bitten by a deer tick. They are tiny and hard to see. By the time she developed disturbing symptoms, she had an advanced case of Lyme disease that affected her entire body, especially her joints. She's been on antibiotics for three months and may require stronger drugs to get to all the spirochetes that have multiplied and hidden throughout her body. Her blood could continue to show antibodies even though the spirochetes have been

killed off.

But spirochetes can hide, disguise themselves, and use the body's own immune system to defend themselves. Clinical observation may be the best tool for determining her condition.

Lyme disease – it's hard to prove that you have it, nearly impossible to know if you are cured, and having it once will not protect you from another infection.

No wonder nearly 30 people came indoors on a beautiful Sunday afternoon to attend Dr. Emily Maiella's presentation on Lyme disease at the Leverett Library. Twenty raised their see **LYME DISEASE** pg 13

from **MONTAGUE** pg 7

tions of the buildings" in order to provide town meeting members some context for the rectory building, should they have questions on Saturday.

Abbondanzio reported that the Massachusetts House budget has passed, and "It has protected the additional state aid we were hoping for. Generally, the Senate follows the recommendations of the House on state aid," Abbondanzio explained.

Some fun announcements: Valley Idol needs volunteers at the Shea Theater for concessions, raffles, and ticket sales. Performances are on May 4th, 5th, 12th, and 19th. Call the Shea at 863-2281 to learn how you can pitch in. And, town committees are still in need of members. Get civic minded on the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation committee, the zoning committee, or the finance committee. You know you want to!

from **WRITERS** page 1

the audience wondering, and even shaking their heads a little, and greatly amused.

Next up was Estelle Cade whose story, *A Sisterly Saturday... or Is It Fudge Yet?* revealed the fun of making something for Mom and Dad, and the deep mystery of determining when the fudge was ready to set. Her piece *Courtesy Aunts* was a tribute to all the older women she knew, not actually aunts, but regarded as aunts by her, and the teaching and kindness these ladies bestowed on young Estelle.

Patricia Carlisle also wrote a tribute to her aunt when, upon the death of Carlisle's mother, as she wrote... "We found each other." In addition to hands on, active life skills training, her aunt saw to it that Carlisle went to nursing school in Greenfield.

Lillian Fiske's story, *A Coon Dog Named Mike* brought

poignant sighs and even tears from the audience.

Mike was delivered to Montague Center after a lengthy time in transit by the United States Postal Service and arrived having not eaten during his two week journey. You should buy the anthology (\$12), just to get the moving rest of the story.

The old adage that says, "Experience is the best teacher," was the wisdom Fran Hemond gathered through her three stories. Her first piece took place in the bathroom at the tender age of five, where she had locked herself with the key. Unable to open the door or follow the directions being yelled by her family, she was finally rescued by a neighbor Fran designated as the "first of my many heroes." I don't think Fran was locked in a bathroom again, but perhaps found herself in other situations needing someone to appear, ready and

able to lend a hand.

Her final piece, *Patsy Bolliver* dates, said Fran, from a time when kids had more freedom to roam.

During WWII people kept vegetable gardens and even chickens, "without much enthusiasm for it." There was a bantam rooster who loved to chase little kids back home, and even threatened to nip them in the process. Patsy Bolliver, the rooster, provided effective childcare of a sort.

Robin Papagakos, in her story entitled *Nicknames* drew out the difficulty a person might feel having a name that any and everyone changes to suit him or herself to the point the real name is almost lost or even becomes disliked by the person whose name it is.

This is a self creation story about how the writer came to be named Robin, by legally changing her first name.

These wonderful readings

came to a close with Joseph A. Parzych's stories. His first story, entitled *Furriner Wins Over Old Yankee* and the second, *Summer Vacation Fun* are full of Parzych determination and humor.

In the second story, the author is not above the old writer's stunt, which, like a magician's trick, pulls a rabbit out of nowhere. Like the wife in the story who is amazed at her husband's luck, we too enjoy it thoroughly.

This group of writers has been working together for two years under the direction of Laura Rodley of Shelburne Falls.

As You Write It is the second volume of *A Franklin County Anthology*.

The class is sponsored in part by local cultural council grants, provided through the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fire at Farren, Hit & Run, Illegal Dumping

Wednesday, 4/25

4:20 a.m. Structure fire at Farren Care Center on Montague City Road. Services rendered.

2:20 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Montague City Road. Investigated.

6:31 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Millers Falls Road. Advised of options.

9:49 p.m. Animal problem in area of Rabbit Hill on Turnpike Road. Services rendered.

Thursday, 4/26

1:55 p.m. Fraud at Greenfield Savings Bank on Ave. A. Report taken.

5:37 p.m. Fight on Second Street. Investigated.

7:01 p.m. Officer wanted at Town Hall on Avenue A. Advised of options.

11:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for second offense of operating under the influence, marked lanes violations, operating to endanger, and speeding.

Friday, 4/27

11:24 a.m. Suspicious auto at Millers Falls Rail Yard. Investigated.

1:18 p.m. Trespassing on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Investigated.

2:44 p.m. Suspicious activity on East Main Street. Referred to an officer.

Saturday, 4/28

8:08 a.m. Breaking and entering on O Street. Report taken.

Sunday, 4/29

3:24 p.m. Illegal dumping on East Main Street. Referred to an officer.

from **LEVERETT** page 10

ened by too much corporate money in politics."

In other actions, the annual town meeting:

- Approved allocating costs for the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District between member towns in accordance with the regional agreement, that is, on an equal per-pupil basis.
- Voted to transfer \$60,000 from stabilization to purchase and equip a new one-ton highway truck.
- Transferred from free cash \$10,000 to hire a consultant to evaluate clean water supply options for houses down gradient

of the town landfill, \$2,500 to pay for cleaning and fireproofing the elementary school stage curtains, \$6,000 to repair the kitchen floor in the elementary school, \$3,350 to purchase a new computer for the assessors office, \$300 for weed management treatment at the town boat ramp at Leverett Pond, and \$3,000 to purchase hearing impaired listening systems for the town hall, library and elementary school.

- Reserved CPA revenues for open space, historic resources, and community housing, appropriated \$7,500 from the CPA fund for administration and operating expenses, appropriated \$15,000 to restore metal fencing at the Moores Corner Cemetery

and \$25,900 to restore grave stones in the North Cemetery.

- Changed the town's code to allow the selectboard to set the date of the annual town meeting between April 15th and May 30th each year, to be decided by October 1st of the previous year, rather than holding the meeting on the last Saturday in April. An amendment specifying that the meeting would be held on a Saturday was approved.

A citizen petition article proposing regulations for restraining dogs on tethers, cables, or in fenced yards was withdrawn by the petitioner, who said the regulations needed to be revised before being considered by the town.

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MEETING from page 1
constructed with funds already raised by Montague Center residents, but the town would assume long term maintenance of the foot bridge. The last bridge to the conservation land washed out years ago, discomfiting dog walkers and nature lovers.

Article 26 would add 'inoperable motor vehicles' to the bylaw now governing the number of unregistered motor vehicles that may be stored on private property in town.

Article 28, brought by petition, would create a committee to study possible revisions to the agreement between Gill and Montague that determines the makeup of the regional school committee.

An article affirming the right of people to farm in Montague, with attendant noise and odors, is on the warrant, as is another petitioned article supporting a Constitutional amendment to clarify, for Supreme Court Justices who may be confused, that corporations are not, in point of fact, people.

Annual town meeting will be preceded by a special town meeting at 8:30 a.m., with three articles on the warrant, including one to appropriate \$30,000 for the renovation or demolition of the Cumberland Farms building.

This sum, if appropriated, would be put to use if the cur-

rent plan to lease the building on Avenue A and 2nd Street to a consortium including Montague Community Television, Turners Falls RiverCulture and the Montague Business Association falls through.

A second article asks the town to accept a gift of the former Ste. Anne's Rectory on 6th Street from the mortgage company, City Mortgage, which currently holds the deed to that building, in exchange for forgiveness of about \$2,000 in back taxes, and the assumption of long term maintenance of the property, if a buyer cannot be found. Renovation costs have been estimated at \$125,000.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the Gill-Montague senior center has expressed some interest in the property.

Abbondanzio said if the town accepts the building, and a town department use cannot be found for the former rectory, then it is likely the town would seek a buyer through the commercial homesteading program that has successfully placed buildings like the Ristorante DiPaolo and the Northeast Foundation for Children's conference facility back on the tax rolls.

A third article on the special town meeting warrant seeks \$1900 to replace flags for public display during holidays.



WENDELL from page 6
equipment gets replaced.

Heard reported the spring litter pick up in town will not be happening as an organized, one-day event this year. Instead, citizens can pick up trash and leave it in bags on the side of the road at their convenience over the next two weeks; on May 19th, Anne Diemand and Ted Lewis will drive the town truck around and pick up the bagged litter. Anyone leaving a bag of trash at the roadside should call Diemand, 978-544-6111, or Lewis, 978-544-3329, and give the trash location.

The selectboard approved Katie Nolan's request for the accountant to establish a donation account that can receive community garden donations that can then be used for garden expenses. As chair of the community garden committee, Nolan also said the garden committee and gardeners are looking for ways to get water to the garden.

There is a well in the lower part of the garden, and for now gardeners pump water into buckets and carry it, sometimes a good distance, to their garden plots. There is another well behind the office building and close to the town leach field, higher than the garden plots, and so more convenient for a gravity feed system.

Keller said the leach field should not affect the water in that well, but testing the water

before using it might be worth the time and expense.

Other ideas for water for the community garden range from collecting office building roof runoff, to pumping water at the current well and lifting it into a gravity feed storage tank, to connecting an electric water pump and running pipes to spigots around the garden where hoses can be connected.

Keller said Matt Edwards has finished the job of trimming brush on the wall by Morse Village Road for less than the estimate he gave. Wood chips are piled by the garden tool shed for mulch and paths in the garden.

Keller reported that he and firefighter Alia Kusmaul had driven around town and made a list of houses that do not have a clearly visible numbers for emergency responders. They missed only nine roads with a few houses, and Pooser and Heard divided those roads between them so they could complete the job.

Workers supplied by the sheriff's department have already installed 50 number signs. Heard said both the town office building and the library need number signs.

The finance committee closed out the meeting with a discussion of expenses the town will face at annual town meeting.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas suggested having a

draft version of the budget on the town website, so citizens at town meeting can be ready ahead of time for the budget article.

The selectboard liked that idea, but Pooser added the caution that budget information should be updated regularly, to keep the information accurate.

The finance committee is recommending a 1.8% cost of living raise for town employees. Coordinator of buildings and grounds Ted Lewis and town custodian Larry Ramsdell made a list of repairs needed at town hall, mostly just small repairs. The former town hall tight tank is in the way of changing the grade on the east side of the building so runoff from the building no longer floods the neighbor's field; the tight tank should be removed. The council on aging has asked for money to paint the community and senior center. The highway department is looking for \$70,000 to replace a dump truck, and after hurricane Irene the DEP mandated that the size of the Cooleyville Road bridge, or culvert be increased. That will cost \$200,000 and use up all the town's state aid for roads.

Finance committee member Doug Tanner said the Green Repairs at Swift River School are dragging on and on. Wendell and New Salem pay for the work as it is done, and the state reimburses the towns.



from **RACE** page 6

student at Greenfield Community College. He has lived in Erving all his life. He cites watching his father, Richard Newton, in his work as town clerk as an inspiration for his decision to run.

Newton wrote recently in the Around Town newsletter, "I want to help people bring their views into play in town politics, and help make the government work more efficiently." He said, "I will also bring a literal 'fresh face' to the town government, a true independent voice on the board of selectmen and a member who always has his ear to the ground in listening to the pulse of the town."

Newton said, "One of the strongest things I will bring to the job is the ability to discern between opposing positions, and

compromise in the name of the greatest good... I try to discern different points of view and understand where they are coming from and act accordingly. I strive to see the core arguments, and understand them." He added, "What I don't know, I can and will pick up on fast."

"If I am elected to this position, it will have my total dedication and focus. I have already been attending the selectboard meetings over the past several weeks, and I have not observed anything I could not myself do."

According to Newton, "There are several issues in the town that are important. To name a few: the school, taxes, and the senior center. However, most of those have a committee that oversees what is done. I am not a micro-manager. I will be more than happy to offer my thoughts and input if asked, but I will allow

the committees to do their job."

Newton said, "Erving has an excellent location. The highway runs right through our town. The opportunity for business and private enterprise is large. I am very pro growth. However, at the same time, I am concerned with maintaining the environment. I also realize the selectboard has limited power, but I will push for those things when I can. I do not believe that they are mutually exclusive."

Margaret Sullivan

Margaret Sullivan of Old State Road is on the ballot as a candidate for selectboard. She is currently chair of the board of assessors, town treasurer, and water collector.

Sullivan has 30 years of municipal experience, including working at Franklin Regional Council of Governments, as well as at Erving town hall. In the past

she has been a paint store manager, and she currently manages two rental properties in Erving.

Sullivan said running for selectboard has been "in the back of my mind" for several years, and she decided, "It's time I helped a little bit more. I have the time."

Sullivan wrote in the Around Town newsletter, "I have a wide variety of municipal experience which would be beneficial to the selectboard." She said because she frequently attends selectboard meetings and works in town hall, she knows how town departments work.

"I already know and understand what the selectboard does, so my learning curve would be short. My expertise will help the town run well."

According to Sullivan, one of the important issues facing the town is the redevelopment of the

former Usher Mill. She said she does not have an opinion on how it should be redeveloped, and is looking to the report from the Usher re-use committee for more information.

Another potential issue she sees is the stability of the U-28 superintendency union, if Leverett and Shutesbury decide to withdraw from Union 28. She expressed confidence that the regionalization study committee is doing the legwork and considering the town's options in case U-28 breaks up. She approved of the selectboard's recent reorganization of the department of public works, but feels there are still issues that need to be dealt with.

Sullivan said she believes Erving is "moving along in a nice direction." She added she wants to see Erving "keep moving forward, and I think that can happen."



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ -

(This is the last of three columns on meditation.)

Meditation is classified as a mind-body practice. It is used to move the focus of your attention away from the noise of the mind to the inner self, where there is silence and peace.

Meditation has been practiced for thousands of years. Most meditation originated in ancient

spiritual traditions. There are many types of meditation. In this column, I will give you step-by-step instructions based upon several eastern methods.

Choose a quiet, dimly lit location. Total darkness can put you to sleep. Bright lights can distract you.

Sit with your back straight. You should be erect, but comfortable. This position will keep you from dozing off and will enable you to breathe deeply and easily. You want to achieve wakeful calm. However, if you are having trouble sleeping, meditation will help you to go to sleep. Just try it lying down in bed.

You can meditate sitting on a chair with your feet flat on the floor, or you can sit down on a

padded floor mat. Most Zen Buddhists sit on the front third of a firm cushion placed on a floor mat. This keeps their spines straight. They usually sit in one of several cross-legged configurations.

You can also kneel on a mat. Some sit on a low bench with their legs tucked under. Choose a method that is most comfortable to you.

Place your hands in your lap or on your knees. Again, choose a position that is comfortable. It's important that your hands don't distract you. I find that folding my hands in my lap works well.

Close your eyes. Many meditators leave their eyes open just a crack and let their vision go out of focus. Do what works for you.

Your mouth should be closed with the tongue up against the roof of your mouth. Breathe through your nose. If you have a cold, it's okay to breathe through your mouth. Keeping your tongue against the roof of your mouth reduces salivation, which can distract you.

Inhale slowly and deeply. Exhale slowly. Do this several times.

Concentrate on relaxing your body in stages. Start by thinking of your feet, then your legs, abdomen, chest and head.

Begin to breathe slowly and rhythmically.

There are several devices for moving your attention away from the constant activity of your mind to a place within you that is silent

and peaceful. You can use one or more of them. Whatever works for you. You can count your breaths, repeat a word or sound to yourself, concentrate on a pleasing mental image, chant out loud, recite a prayer over and over.

I like to dwell upon the sounds of my breaths entering and leaving my body. I also focus my eyes on the back of my eyelids.

As you meditate, your mind will want to intrude. Don't fight it or worry about it. This is normal. Just move gently back to your breathing and your device(s). In time, the mind will become less and less intrusive. You will become calmer and you should get a sense of self unattached from the outside world.

Meditation will make you happy. That's why it's been around so long.

If you have a question, write to fred@healthygeez.com.

LYME DISEASE from pg 11 hands when Maiella asked how many had had the disease.

Maiella is a naturopathic physician and founder of Valley Naturopathic Family Medicine, a naturopathic medical facility in Montague. Frustrated, frightened by lingering symptoms, and eager for answers, the group remained silent through most of her thought-provoking slide presentation and then began asking one question after another. The session ended when the library closed at five, but could easily have continued on for hours.

According to surveillance records kept by the CDC, there were 1,158 reported cases of Lyme in 2000. By 2009 that number had grown to 4,091. The CDC itself says that number represents just a fraction of the real cases, since the Center's reporting requirements insist that the patient have the bull's eye rash and positive test results on two separate tests. Since only 15 to 50 percent of infected people develop the rash, and the tests may not

reveal presence of the disease if they are administered too early, the actual cases of Lyme may be ten to a hundred percent greater than those reported by the CDC, making Lyme disease a significant public health problem in the states where it is prevalent.

Massachusetts has one of the highest rates in the nation.

Maiella has been a member of the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society (ILADS) for the past five years, and subscribes to the school of thought that Lyme disease can be a chronic and debilitating disease. But all doctors do not share this opinion. In fact the IDSA (The International Disease Society of America) believes Lyme disease is over diagnosed and over treated, that chronic Lyme does not exist, and that there is no evidence for repeated treatments or prolonged treatments.

Maiella disagrees and recommends treatment with antibiotics for a at least a month, along with herbal remedies to strengthen the

body's immune system, improved diet, and measures to detoxify the body.

In her presentation, Maiella said, "While getting rid of the infection is important, it is also important to strengthen the immune system, treat intestinal dysbiosis, metals and allergies, detoxify and restore hormonal balance. If the body is weak or disrupted, then it may not respond to Lyme treatments."

Maiella said Lyme disease can affect every organ system, and symptoms may migrate and change daily, making diagnosis and treatment extremely difficult. "Treating Lyme disease is both an art and a science," she said, comparing it to the changing drug combinations that have been effective in treating HIV.

She added, "Lyme disease affects the neurological system, causing everything from headaches to loss of coordination and equilibrium. It has a psychological affect than can manifest itself in depression; mood swings, insomnia, memory loss

and cognitive dysfunction. It can damage vision, the heart valves and the myelin sheath that surrounds muscles."

The highest rate of new infections is in children between the ages of five and nine. Maiella said, "Kids under three that had an early tick bite or congenitally acquired Lyme can present with severe hypotonia (poor muscle tone) and developmental delay. In older children symptoms can include behavioral issues, sensory integration disturbances, rage, visual disturbances (which often manifest as a learning disability), delay in both fine and gross motor skills, headaches, joint pain, fatigue, poor temperature regulation and burning in the soles of the feet."

Deer ticks carry other diseases as well, and there are possibilities for co-infection, each with its own set of disturbing symptoms and inconclusive tests. Furthermore, in the chronic form of Lyme, other factors can take on an ever more significant role: immune dysfunction, opportunis-

tic infections, co-infections, biological toxins, metabolic and hormonal imbalances, Maiella said. She also noted that patients treated for Lyme disease with a recommended two to four week course of antibiotics may have lingering symptoms of fatigue, pain, or joint and muscle aches. In some cases, these can last for more than six months.

Although often called "chronic Lyme disease," this condition is properly known as "Post-treatment Lyme disease Syndrome" (PTLDS). The exact cause of PTLDS is not yet known. Some medical experts believe the lingering symptoms are the result of residual damage to tissues and the immune system that occurred during the infection.

Many sources offer the reassuring news that only a small percentage of ticks actually carry Lyme disease, and those that do must stay attached to a person for 24 hours in order to empty its gut content into the host (that would be you or me). However, Maiella

see **LYME DISEASE** pg 16

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Scam Reported River Road; Breaking & Entering

Tuesday, 4/24

1 p.m. Report of red pickup truck in bad location on Route 2 in Farley. Gone upon arrival.
4:35 p.m. Assisted resident with motor vehicle lock out on Union Street.
4:45 p.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle on Route 63 with

flat tire. Tire changed and motor vehicle moved along.
5:05 p.m. Report of larceny at Moore Street residence. Report taken.

Wednesday, 4/25

10 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at Farley Flats. Vehicle off roadway. Not a haz-

ard

Thursday, 4/26

4:40 p.m. River Road residents report a scam. Report taken.
10:05 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Route 2 at Wheelock. Same towed.

Sunday, 4/29

2:40 p.m. Lockout assist at Box Car Restaurant on Main Street.

Monday, 4/30

2:20 p.m. 911 call from Pratt Street residence. Found to be verbal altercation.

5:45 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with breaking and entering at Cross Road.
7 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license for operating under the influence.



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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XXXVIII

Boston 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL

"I just - I'm tired of hiding and keeping secrets. I want a normal life. I'll get rid of the doppelganger, go back to sleeping at night."

"OK, fine," Jason says. "Is it OK for Theresa to stay here until she goes to Philadelphia, then?"

Dave answers. "Of course."

Marissa looks less sure but says, "Yes, you can stay."

I decide to work extra hard so they will want me here. "I'll get started on those floorboards," I say.

In addition to working on the Big House, I spend that night cleaning the other house top to

bottom and the following night getting things organized for the farmers' market. I am pleased that Dave wants to work with me both nights until 10:00. I am also relieved that someone has told him about the doppelganger. Now I am no longer keeping a secret from him. He seems impressed that I took down the bank's computers. Even though none of it was my idea, I let him admire me for it.

Toward morning I lie down on Marissa's floor to sleep. I wake up in my own room at home and jump out of bed. I want to leave for Boston by 6:30 and miss the traffic. Even though it's 5:30, I have gotten

more than eight hours of sleep. I feel well-rested and energetic, not like I used to feel going to Boston this early.

I spend the drive thinking over my trip to Philadelphia. I wonder what it will be like having one body again. I realize that I have been imagining one body living at Ferry Meadow, and not alone in my house.

I walk into the Boston office right on time and flash my badge at the security guard. He smiles and lets me pass. I push the elevator button and then step back so I can see which one comes first. There are others, people whose names I don't know, waiting. They say hello as they arrive. We all stare at the elevators. As one on the end arrives, we all move in front of it.

The doors slide open; we file into the bright empty metal box. I push the button for the 9th floor and then back away. Two women behind me are chatting and laughing. We stop to let people off on the 3rd and 5th floors. Then I am alone in the elevator. I get off on 9, turn right, and walk down the hall.

My boss looks up and smiles in an uncomfortable way. "Come in, Theresa."

I walk in and sit down, feeling uneasy now myself. We exchange awkward pleasantries.

"Back in March," she begins, finally getting down to business, "we couldn't keep up with the work coming in."

She pauses. I already know where this is going. I nod, and mumble, "Mm hm."

"Theresa, at this point, we feel that one person could do the job that you and Charles have

been doing. I'm sorry, but the bank will be eliminating your position in two weeks. You'll be paid until the end of the month."

I'm shocked. If the bank wanted to keep me, they would move me to another job. "Eliminated your position" is a euphemism for "you're fired," and she knows that I know it.

There's not much to say, so I look her in the eye and say, "I understand." I'm pretty sure I do understand.

I am supposed to work two more weeks, which means I have to spend the rest of the day here, in Boston, programming. Every time someone talks to me, I am startled enough to jump out of my skin.

At 5:00, I run out the door and to the parking garage as fast as I can.

-Continued Next Issue

SHADY GLEN from page 1 recently read a soup survey on a blog that rated the soups served at the Shady Glen as #1. That won't change!

Garbiel said the former owner, Elias (Louie) Matheos, who ran the diner for seven years with his wife, Ying, was helpful in making the transition go smoothly and allowing Garbiel to come in and learn the workings of the operation over recent weeks.

The Shady Glen has a prominent place in Turners history. It was former Turners fire chief Fran Togneri who first recognized the potential of the location at First and Avenue A, when he opened up a Tastee Freez there in the early 1950s. Richard and Shirley Broderick added booths and counter service a few years later, giving the place a traditional diner feel. John and Linda Carey operated the establishment for 40 years, starting in 1964.

This week, Garbiel said he plans to spend a lot of his time up front, getting to know his customers. The diner has a good customer base and he hopes, as word gets out, former customers as well as new customers will stop by and try the Shady Glen again.

"The Shady Glen is a people's place," he said.

One change will begin on Monday, May 7th when the Glen will begin accepting debit and credit cards, as a service to customers.

"More and more people come in groups, and we don't want to turn them away for having a credit or debit card. This just makes sense for us and the customers," Garbiel said.

Standing proudly by the front counter, Garbiel expressed a positive, customer-first attitude toward his new business from the very first day.

See you all at the Shady Glen!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Chicken Killed by Dog; Threat to Kill resident

Friday, 4/13

5:20 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road. No injuries. Information exchanged.

Saturday, 4/14

3:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at the Wagon Wheel. Investigated by officer.

4:15 p.m. Alarm sounding at business at French King Highway. Investigated by officer.

7:40 p.m. Suspicious activity at business on French King Highway. Owner and officer cleared parties on scene.

8:20 p.m. Investigated open door at Riverside residence. Owners returned home while investigating.

Monday, 4/16

3:35 p.m. Civil dispute of rental property. Advised all parties involved to calm down and utilize the court system.

5:05 p.m. Assisted Erving Police, by investigating motor vehicle accident in Erving. All

their officers were tied up on other calls.

5:20 p.m. Safety issue on Gill Montague Bridge. Orange fencing was coming down due to the weather.

Friday, 4/20

8:15 a.m. Main Road resident reported another one of his chickens killed by a dog. Officer contacted dog owner for reimbursement of animal and reminder of town by laws.

10:30 a.m. Privacy gate located open on Pisgah Mountain Road. Owners contacted and re-secured same.

10:50 a.m. Removed unwanted subject from French King business.

Saturday, 4/21

7:25 p.m. Officer removed illegally erected signs on state property.

9:06 p.m. Reported family disturbance on Walnut Street. Peace restored and one party left the home for the evening.

9:48 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with motor vehicle

stop on Route 10 for a reported "dead" baby in the motor vehicle. Unfounded.

Wednesday, 4/25

2:15 p.m. Vermont state police requested assistance with resident on Barney Hale Road. Under investigation.

Thursday, 4/26

10:10 a.m. Animal complaint on Ben Hale Road. Not located.

10:30 a.m. Complaint from resident of Ben Hale Road of ongoing parties on their road between the hours of 1:30 and 4 a.m. on Saturdays.

6:15 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported on Boyle Road from earlier in day, after school. Male approached young girl in her yard.

7:15 p.m. Stolen property reported from the Gill Montague Bridge.

11:15 p.m. Alarm at Wagon Wheel. Checked OK.

Friday, 4/27

6:16 p.m. Female reported to be headed toward Gill-Montague Bridge with intention to jump. Located prior to reaching bridge.

Saturday, 4/28

9:35 a.m. Abandoned motor vehicle located on River Road. Removed by family member.

9:15 p.m. Keene, NH police department reported a resident of Munns Ferry Road had threatened to kill a resident of their community. Under investigation.

9:30 p.m. Reported sick looking dog in area of Zak Farm on Main Road.

9:45 p.m. Suspicious blue Volvo reported driving around Riverside area. No plate given.

9:55 p.m. Reported motor vehicle approached a teenage girl in the Riverside area. Left upon second resident approaching. No description of motor vehicle.

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Song Shop Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

ART SHOWS:

NOW through MAY 12th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Fervor from the Truth: Spiritually Obsessive Works*: Edite Cunha, Gina Vemava.

NOW through JUNE 10th

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Images from the '50s*, by Martin Karplus.

NOW through June 1st

Loot, Turners Falls: *Word = Object* featuring works by Chris Janke, Betsy Wheeler, Meghan Dewar, Jess Mynes, and ASIZ Industries.

MAY 11th through JUNE 16

Paper City Studios, Holyoke: *Hidden in Plain View* featuring works by Nina Rossi and Ariel Jones and others.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 3rd

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Side Street Band*, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 4th

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Valley Idol audition night*, 6 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill: *Micah Blue Smaldone*, Cokewee, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Amy Black & Erin Harpe*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pamela Means*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bright Lines*, rockabilly, roots, free, 9:30 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 5th

4H Forest Parking lot near Leverett Town Hall: *Birds and Wildflowers in East Leverett*. Join Phil Crafts & Dan Williams as we look for migrating birds & spring wildflowers in the diverse habitats along Doolittle Brook. Meet at the 4-H Forest parking lot (about a half-mile from Town Hall on Shutesbury Road), 8-10 a.m.

Greenfield Community College Dining Common: *Science & Sustainability Expo & KidWind Challenge*. Showcasing the work of educators & youth in grades 4 to 12. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Used Book Sale*, 10:30 a.m. - noon.

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Artist Reception: Heather M. Craig*, 1 - 3 p.m.

French King Entertainment Center, Erving: *Turners Falls Sports Booster Club's 9th Annual Fundraising Event Presents A Comedy ESP/Hypnosis Show!* Starring Jim Spinnato, pasta, DJ dancing, raffles, doors open at 6 p.m. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Trine Cheile*, 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Valley Idol competition*, round one, 7 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Old-time square dance with caller Bob Livingston & live music by Run Mountain*, 7 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse presents *Zydeco Connection*, 7:30 p.m.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *GAN-e-meed Theatre Project's New England tour of Two-Headed*, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Peachy's*, 9 p.m.



Michelle Brooks-Thompson from Sunderland was the 2010 Valley Idol winner at the Shea Theater. Who will win in 2012? Will it be you? Auditions begin Friday, May 4th at 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shag, Harmaniacs*, Free, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Cottonwood Country*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 6th

Montague Center Town Common: *Montague May Day Celebration*, maypoles, bells, singing and dancing. Six Morris teams to perform, including the: Guiding Star Clog Morris, Wake Robin Women's Morris, Juggler Meadow Men's Morris, Hartsbrook Garland, Johnny Jump-ups, and And Sometimes Y. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Carnival of Hermaphrodites*, gallery opening for luke buckham & vex valkyrie, featuring songs & improv soundscapes with local tuba star Kevin Smith & special guests. 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Occupoetry*, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 10th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dance Party with DJ Bobby Falco*, 8 - 10:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 11th

Hidden in Plain View, Spring Open Studio sat 80 Race Street, Holyoke.

Dozens of artists, including Turners own Nina Rossi and Ariel Jones. 6 - 9 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Coffeehouse featuring Harmaniacs*, 7 - 9 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Tapestry*, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Tokyo Rosenthal*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Trailer Park*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fireseed*, old-time, jazz, cellic, free, 7:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 12th

Mud Pie Potters, Leverett Arts and Crafts: *Mudfest: Clay Extravaganza*. Demonstrations, pottery tour in Leverett, pottery sale, play with clay, refreshments. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Eunice Williams covered bridge on the Green River: Pioneer Valley Institute presents *Nature's Resilience: Life in Our Rivers after Irene*. Aquatic biologist Michael Cole examines the Valley's river life in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene on this informative field trip. 9 a.m.

Cummington Fairgrounds, 6th Annual Hilltown Festival. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kyle Carey with special guest M.R. Pouloupoulos*, 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Valley Idol auditions, round two*, 7 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sam King's Dance Night*, funk, hip-hop, free, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Ha Ha's Improv Comedy Show*, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 13th

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Belly dance party and shimmy-thon*, 3 - 5 p.m., *Mediterranean Feast*, 5 - 6 p.m., *Co-op Jazz* 6 - 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 7:30 - 10 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiznite with Quiz Master Huckle*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 17th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, 8 - 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Richard*

Chase, folk rock, free, 8 p.m.

CALL FOR ARTISANS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Crafters invited to consign work on the theme of *Undersea Life* for July-August 2012. Indoor and Outdoor Wall sculpture welcome; accessories, jewelry, figurines. Email photos to Nina Rossi at naban@verizon.net by June 15th.



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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY - I wake to the soothing sounds of rain on the roof, balm both to the garden-er and to the dry ground. It's been a strange spring.

After the unseasonable temperatures of March, we returned to more temperate numbers, but then windy days scoured the earth and left trees and plants off schedule and parched. We watered new plants, and crossed our fingers against frosts that threatened much too early blossoming.

At last, in late April, we were blessed with steady rains that brought a couple of desperately needed inches of moisture. Then the winds returned.

The end of the month brought several mornings of frost, the final coupe de grace for some farmers' fruit production. Still, even the days starting in the twenties the sun soon warmed to balminess.

The leaves on the trees seemed to pop open overnight,

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Showers and Flowers

and the light green and yellow landscape was transformed to resemble more late May than April. I worried about the magnolia planted just last summer, now heavy with buds.

But nature is resilient. The onion plants and early peas that grew only slowly have added inches, it seems, after the night of rain. The blueberries are bright with white flowers and the magnolia is resplendent with large yellow blooms. Even the late daffodils have responded to the cool nights. They will hold on at least until the end of the week, when summer-like temperatures are again expected.

Finally, the lawn that seemed to crunch underfoot has shot up enough to warrant a mowing, and looks bright green and healthy.

This is the time to pull the weeds, which have also enjoyed the rain. They are easy to pull from the damp soil, and if you catch them now, you will save much work later.

Consider mulching unplanted spaces with newspaper, cardboard or plastic temporarily until

the time is right to plant the warm weather crops. Not only will you keep down the weeds, your mulch will also hold in the heat of the day so when you set in fragile plants: tomatoes, squash and such, the shock to their systems will be lessened.

Although the tomato plants in the sunroom are certainly tall and hearty, I plan to stall the outdoor planting as long as reasonably possible. Mid-May can still bring

thrive. Plants that wait a little longer to go out will catch up and surpass others in heartiness, and in fruit production.

This is still a transitional season. While the bluebirds are back (if they ever left), the white-throated sparrows are lingering before traveling to their summer homes up north. Spring bulbs are still in bloom, even though the magnolia has opened.

Tradition has it that Memorial

Day weekend signals the time to plant fragile annual flowers and tomato plants. No doubt this New England custom has lasted for good reason.

However, if it warms up again, and you just can't wait, try some tomatoes in "walls of water" that keep the plants warmer on chilly nights. Pay attention to frost warnings and cover what you can.

Wait even a little longer to plant squash, cucumber and even beans. These plants want the soil to be warm and to stay that way, day and night.

It's hard to wait to get into gardening, even following the mild winter of this year. We itch



What could be more elegant than a fragrant gardenia?

frosts, and while a string of hot days will have many of us running for the shovel, experience tells us that the end of the month is often cool and windy. Putting tender plants out too soon unfortunately gains nothing. Your

plants may survive chilly or windy days, but they won't have our hands in the dirt, to plant something green and watch it grow. Plant all of the early crops you wish and enjoy tending them. Treat yourself to a flowering plant or bunch of flowers to brighten your home.

While you're stretching your patience, enjoy savoring some early spring delicacies. The fiddleheads of ferns and local asparagus are available. Enjoy as a vegetable or try as a soup made with chicken broth and cream.

Rhubarb is in season. Temper its astringent taste with some California strawberries for a wonderful warm fruit sauce or pie. Snip some early spinach or arugula and add greens with feta cheese to an omelet.

Enjoy spring; it will be sultry summer soon enough!

Favorite Spring Pie

- 3 cups sliced rhubarb
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- Mix together:
 - 3/4 cup sugar, 2 Tablespoons flour and 1 egg.
- Stir this mixture into the fruit.
- Fill an unbaked pie shell and cover the fruit with a lattice top.
- Dust with cinnamon sugar and bake at 425 until the filling bubbles.
- Yummy and sweet-tart, just like the season.

LYME DISEASEfrom pg 13 said there is growing clinical evidence that this may not be the case. She explained it may take four hours or less to contract pathogens from a tick bite. She added, "Pathogens have been located in the salivary apparti of the tick in addition to the gastrointestinal tract and

may be expelled on initial bite when anodyne and anticoagulant materials are released from the mouth."

Just when it seemed that there was nothing but bad news to report, Maiella began offering strategies for both prevention and treatment. She would not recommend that a person

who loves the outdoors remain cloistered in a "safe" environment. Instead, her strategies

include a prescription for health. Clean up the home, she advises. Keep the mice out. Along with migratory birds, mice are significant vectors of disease. To illustrate this point she showed a slide with both a mouse and a bird covered in deer ticks. Clean up the body. In addition to a healthy diet designed to strengthen the immune system and various herbs that also restore the body's balance and remove toxins, a hot shower after a walk in the woods will help remove any ticks that might have attached while you were out. Putting the clothes you wore into a hot dryer will also kill any ticks hiding in the folds. Ticks do not like heat, which explains why they thrive in tall grasses and

leafy forest floors.

If you do get bitten, save the tick and send it to Craig Hollingsworth at the UMass tick-testing center. By doing this you will know if it was a deer tick (they can be confused with small dog ticks) and if it was carrying Lyme Disease (not all ticks do). The website has instructions for sending the tick and lots of other useful information on infections, www.UMass.edu/tick.

If an infected tick bites you, Maiella advises against getting tested right away. "Testing too soon often results in a false negative finding, because there hasn't been sufficient time for antibodies to form," she said. If you are displaying some of the symptoms of Lyme disease, it is

also essential to rule out all possible causes for those symptoms before treating for Lyme. Maiella will work with a patient's primary care physician or conduct the necessary tests to rule out other possible diagnoses. She said, "I never assume that Lyme is the only thing going on."

Although Maiella is a naturopathic physician, she does advocate the use of antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease, along with botanicals, vitamins, and diet modification. She is committed to treating the whole body, not just the disease. "A body overloaded with toxins and the effects of an unhealthy lifestyle may not respond as well to treatment," she said.





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