

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 30

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 9, 2013

A Pipe Dream Dashed

Broken Sewer Line at Industrial Park Proves Difficult to Fix



Joe Dodge, in protective moon suit and respirator, emerges from the earth, like a 17 year Cicada, after working in the depths of a 14 foot deep manhole at the entrance to the mobile home park.

Dodge was hoisted up by a windlass attached to Dodge's body harness.

By JOE PARZYCH

The 8" diameter asbestos cement sewer line, running on the west side of Millers Falls Road, going past the entrance to Industrial Boulevard, is plugged. Most of the removed material is sand and stones, indicating that the pipe is broken.

The Montague DPW installed the pipe in the 1950s, long before shoring regula-

tions. During construction, DPW employees worked in peril of their lives down in an unshored trench as deep as 18 feet. Sandy, unstable soil made it doubly treacherous. Workmen planted a shovel with a handle reaching up 12 feet or more, to indicate where rescuers could dig for their bodies. They were partially buried from time to time, but, fortunately, there were no fatalities. The

DPW has neither shoring nor equipment to comply with today's restrictions, and to dig deep enough to replace the plugged sewer main.

On Tuesday, Joe Dodge of the DPW was lowered into the 14-foot-deep manhole at the entrance to the mobile home park by his co-worker Robert Brownlee, using a hand-operated windlass attached to Dodge's body harness. **see PIPE** page 6

In Memoriam:

Renewing the Memory, Replanting the Trees, Rededicating Our Commitment



Linda Hickman (left), John Hanold (middle), and Max Pellerin (right) plant a tree in Peskeompskut Park in memory of the victims of domestic violence. In the crowd, over Hanold's shoulder, stand Erin and Katie Morrissey, who were only very small children when their mother's life was taken.

By DAVID DETMOLD

The grown daughters of a woman murdered by her boyfriend choked back tears as the community gathered to replant trees in memory of their mother and other domestic violence victims 25 years later. The last of those original memorial trees died last year.

Turners Falls High School students spoke of their deter-

mination to end the scourge of violence that still affects one in four women in their lifetimes, and claims the lives of more than three women in our country every day.

In Turners Falls on Thursday, May 2, the Northwestern District Attorney called on the entire community to work together to end violence against women, and the Montague police chief spoke of the dedi-

cation of his department to making sure each and every person in our community is safe. Clouds gathered, threatening rain, but in the end it was only the tears of the 100 or more people assembled, and their buckets and hoses, that watered the five new flowering trees planted in Peskeompskut Park to replace the **see MEMORY** page 5

Report from the Montague Town Meeting Zoning Change Approved for Smaller Apartments



Al Ross, speaking to town meeting members, advocated for reducing the minimum area required for apartments.

By DAVID DETMOLD

In a seven hour meeting notable for its lack of fireworks, the only article that raised the temperature of town meeting was a motion to lower the minimum square footage for an apartment in a multi-family dwelling in town. Both proponents and opponents of the zoning change acknowledged the issue had come up as a result of the proposed redevelopment of the former Montague Center School, where seven of the 22 apart-

ments that Greenfield's Mark Zaccheo would like to build in a high end, solar-powered development would be smaller than the town's current 700-square foot minimum dwelling space bylaw would allow. Last October, the zoning board of appeals granted Zaccheo a variance to allow that project to go forward. Abutters on School Street have appealed that decision, and more than a hundred Montague Center residents have signed a petition opposing the project, say-

ing the density of the proposed apartments would fundamentally alter the character of the neighborhood, depress property values, and provide an opening for student housing – a la Sunderland – to gradually degrade the rural charm of their historic village center.

Proponents, led by town planner Walter Ramsey and planning board member Frederic Bowman, specified first that the change in zoning would not affect the progress of the present

see MEETING page 10

Heard Easily Wins Re-Election



Christine Heard

WENDELL – Incumbent selectman Christine Heard cruised to an easy victory over her opponent Nancy Riebschlaeger in Tuesday's Wendell town election. Heard garnered 202 votes to Riebschlaeger's 77. All other incumbents also retained their seats. Write-in winner of the open (three-year) Planning Board contest was Alia Kusmaul, who received 30 votes. Write-in candidate Kelli Clemens won the five-year Planning Board seat with 81 votes.

WENDELL May 6, 2013 - Annual Town Election Results
Total Votes Cast: 284
Percent of registered voters: 43%
NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST FOR EACH CANDIDATE

SELECTBOARD (three years)
Christine Heard 202
Nancy J. Riebschlaeger 77
write-ins 2
blank 3
BOARD OF ASSESSORS (three years)
Stephen Broll 261
blank 23
BOARD OF HEALTH (three years)

Jennifer blank 38	Christian	246
PLANNING BOARD (three years)		
Alia Kusmaul		30
Marianne Sundell		21
write-ins		16
blank 217		
PLANNING BOARD (five years)		
Kelli Clemens		81
write-ins		5
blank 198		
MODERATOR (one year)		
Kathy Ann Becker		256
blank 28		
CONSTABLE (three years)		
Anne M. Diemand Bucci		267
blank 17		
CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (three years)		
Richard J. Mackey		236
write-in		1
blank 47		
ROAD COMMISSIONER (three years)		
Harry S. Williston III		212
blank 72		
ROAD COMMISSIONER (one year)		
Geoffrey T. Richardson		257
blank 27		
SCHOOL COMMITTEE (three years)		
John C. Fitzgerald		242
blank 42		
SCHOOL COMMITTEE (one year)		
Jessalyn Lee Zaykoski		221
blank 63		
TREE WARDEN (one year)		
Peter S. Zera		244
blank 40		
LIBRARY TRUSTEE (three years)		
Laurel Brenneman		257
Phyllis Lawrence		256
blank 55		

Pet of the Week Big Love



Bella Lucy

I am a cat of noble girth, and my appetite is only exceeded by my love of people. I am a social and outgoing girl who loves chin rubs. My beautiful white fur is kept in perfect order, I am a very clean cat. Please come and pet me so you can feel my plush coat and hear my rumbling purr. There is a lot of me to love and I have a lot of love to give!

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

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with any questions.

Carnegie Library News Frogs and Friends Program

Children of all ages are invited to join Dawn Marvin Ward at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 11, at 10:30 a.m. for a fun hands-on science program

on amphibians.

This program is part of the tenth annual Crabapple Blossom Festival. For more information, call 863-3214.

Wendell Free Library Film Showing: *Walkabout*

On Sunday, May 19, the Wendell Council on Aging Film Series will screen Nicolas Roeg's 1971 classic, *Walkabout*, at the Wendell Free Library. The film, which Roger Ebert described as "deeply pessimistic," tells the story of a boy and girl from the city, stranded in the Australian outback by horrific

circumstances. Forced to cope on their own, they join up with an aboriginal boy on his traditional coming-of-age 'walkabout'.

This movie is rated R. Showtime at 7 p.m. Contact Doug Dawson at (978) 544-7762, or ddawson@post.harvard.edu, for more information. Free.

Wendell Town Hall Kitchen Renovation Information Meeting

May 15 at 7 p.m. to hear and address questions concerning kitchen renovations. The town hall kitchen group will meet with interested residents to present our findings and to hear from the public before the annual town meeting at which we will be requesting appropriations for the work.

Nina Keller

Katie Nolan

Judy Hall

Alistair MacMartin



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I don't walk so well anymore and I'm considering getting one of those scooters that I see seniors driving. What do you know about them?

They have become increasingly popular since they were invented in 1968. As more baby boomers hit the market for mobility assistive equipment, we will see more scooters.

There are about 1.7 million in the United States using wheelchairs or scooters. About 90 percent of these people have manual wheelchairs. There are 155,000 using electrically powered wheelchairs, and 142,000 riding scooters.

Motorized scooters serve the same function as motorized wheelchairs, but the scooters are easier to maneuver and are more versatile. And because they now have sleek

designs and are marketed primarily as a product to facilitate movement, rather than to assist the disabled, they appeal to a broader spectrum of the public.

I shopped online for scooters. They seem to range from about \$500 to about \$4,500.

If your doctor submits a written order stating that you have a medical need for a scooter, Medicare will help cover the costs under the following conditions:

- * You have a health problem that causes difficulty moving around in your home.

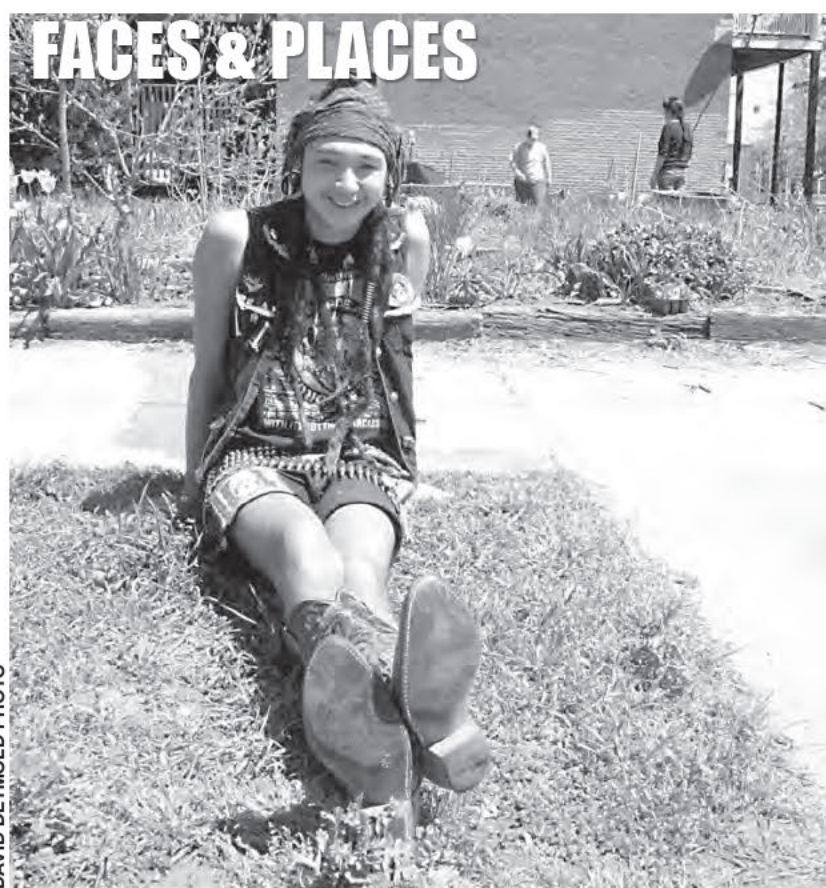
- * You're unable to do activities of daily living even with the help of a cane, crutch, or walker.

- * You can't operate a manual wheelchair.

- * You're able to safely operate, and get on and off the scooter, or have someone with you who is always available to help you use the device safely.

- * You must be able to use it in your home. Medicare won't cover a scooter if it will be used mainly for leisure activities, or if it's only needed to move around outside your home.

A mobility scooter usually has a



DAVID DETMOLD PHOTO

Morgan MacConnell, of Turners Falls, takes in the sun at the downtown community garden.

Leverett Library Reading of *The Call*

Yannick Murphy, author of *The Call*, our 2013 *Read it Leverett* book, will visit the library Saturday May 11 at 2:30 p.m. to read from and talk about her book. Please stay following the discussion for refresh-

ments.

Leverett Library, 75 Montague Rd., P.O. Box 250, Leverett, MA 01054. More information at www.leverettlibrary.org

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

The Scoop on Scooters

swivel seat over three or four wheels, a flat area for your feet and handlebars to steer it. Mobility scooters are usually battery powered.

The scooters come in models with front-wheel drive or rear-wheel drive. The front-wheel-drive scooters are usually smaller and are used indoors. They usually hold up to 250 pounds.

The rear-wheel-drive scooters are used both indoors and outdoors with a typical maximum capacity of 350 pounds. There are heavy duty rear-drive scooters that can carry up to 500 pounds.

Scooters have a few advantages over wheelchairs.

- * Swiveling the seat of an electric scooter is generally easier than moving the foot supports on most conventional wheelchairs.

- * A major selling point of mobility scooters is that they do not look like wheelchairs, which evoke negative feelings in some people.

- * Mobility scooters are usually more affordable than powered wheelchairs.

However, there are disadvantages when compared to powered wheelchairs.

- * You need to be upright and

have upper-body strength to operate a scooter.

- * Scooters also have fewer options for body support, such as head or leg rests. They are rarely designed for ease of patient transfer from seat to bed.

- * Scooters are longer, which limits their turning radius and ability to use some lifts or wheelchair-designed access technologies such as kneeling bus lifts.

- * Some mobility scooters have low ground clearance which can make it difficult to navigate certain obstacles, such as traveling in cities without proper curb cuts.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Dizarre Lopez

Grade 7

Amanda Cooke

Samantha Kolodziej

Grade 8

Jemma Dickson

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Senior Center Activities - May 13th to May 17th

GILL-MONTAGUE

Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.p. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter.

For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 5/13

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo

1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

Tuesday 5/14

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga with Jean Erlbaum

12 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Sing-Along with Morningstar

Wednesday 5/15

10 a.m. Aerobics

12 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/16

9 a.m. Tai Chi

12 p.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 5/17

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

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

Monday 5/13

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

12:30 p.m. Movie- TBA

Tuesday 5/14

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

9:30 a.m. C.O.A.Meeting

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 5/15

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

10:30 a.m. Greenfield Savings

Bank craft

Thursday 5/16

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Posture Perfect

12 p.m. Cards

Friday 5/17

9 a.m. Bowling

9:30 a.m. Sit and Knit

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

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



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled By **DON CLEGG**

It's May and the **Turners Falls Fishway is opening** for the season on Saturday, May 11. Underwater viewing windows offer visitors of all ages a chance to see American shad, sea lamprey and other migratory fish during their upriver spring journey to spawn. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as on Monday, Memorial Day, May 27. Free admission, no reservations required. The Fishway is located on First Street, off Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will conduct its **21st annual food drive** to combat hunger on Saturday, May 11. Letter carriers across the country will collect food donations on that day as they deliver mail along their postal routes. People are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meats and fish, pasta, rice or cereal next to their mailbox before the regular mail delivery. Check with your local post office to see if they are participating.

It is the nation's largest single-day food drive, and is held annually on the second Saturday in May in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states. Last year, letter carriers collected 70.7 million pounds of food donations along their postal routes, bringing the total to 1.2 billion pounds for the NALC's food drive, which began in 1992.

Come one, come all for **Bingo at GSB**, in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Branch Manager. Linda Ackerman will be our caller. GSB will provide cards, prizes and light refreshments;

all you need to bring is yourself. Seating will definitely be on a first call, first reserve basis. Call Christina or Kerri at (413) 863-4316 for a reservation. Saturday morning bingo is a monthly event with different callers each time. No one will be admitted without a reservation...

Sunday, May 12, Mary Howe of the Swift River Valley Historical Society will lead a **hike along the old Quabbin railroad bed**, Rabbit Run. This free hike on level terrain will leave at 11 a.m. from Gate 35, on Old North Dana Road in New Salem, and return at 3 p.m. This is the first of several Quabbin hikes Howe will lead this season. The hike will be canceled in the event of steady rain. Hikers should bring lunch, drinks, cameras, binoculars, and bug repellent. No smoking, please. Call (978) 544-6882 or email svhsmuseum@gmail.com for more information

Also on Sunday, May 12, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, environmental educator Dawn Marvin Ward will lead a **family hike at Ruggles Pond** in the Wendell State Forest. We will be guided through the meadow and woods and along the pond's edge to listen for birds, look for signs of creatures, and spend time relaxing, while following the book "Over The Meadow" illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats. Best for children 2 to 9 years of age. Meet in the parking lot near Ruggles Pond. Simple trail mix will be provided. Bring your own lunch to picnic after the hike. This free hike is offered by the Union 28 Community Network for Children program. Call Gillian at (978) 544-5157 to pre-register.

Local artist Cathe Janke will be showing art and photos from her recent journey to Myanmar (Burma) at the Brick House Community

Resource Center, at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, at 7 p.m. this Monday, May 13. Advocates of democratic reform are divided as to the benefits foreign visitors bring to the people of Myanmar, with some maintaining a call for a boycott, and others arguing that building connections between people can only be helpful. The U.S. government has begun to reduce its economic sanctions on the country. Anyone who received art or postcards from Janke's trip is invited to bring them along to share.

The **5th Annual Community Awards Celebration** will be held on Wednesday, May 22, from 6 to 8 pm at the Montague Elks Lodge. A multi-cultural dinner featuring entertainment, activities and awards to youth and adult, "unsung heroes", that have helped make Gill and Montague a better place. This event is free but you must pre-register by May 13 to attend as seating is limited. Register on-line at manager@gmpartnership.org, or call Kara 863-7512 or Cate at 863-3604.

Bridge of Flowers annual plant sale is Saturday, May 18, from 9 am to noon at Trinity Church Baptist on Main St. in Shelburne Falls. The Bridge of Flowers, visited by over 35,000 people each year, is a treasure in the village of Shelburne Falls spanning the Deerfield River. This sale offers plants dug and potted from the bridge, as well as handmade tools, native wildflowers, art and gifts inspired by the garden, and a special collection of gently used pots. It is a delightful morning, and a major fundraiser to keep the bridge blooming and beautiful. Rain or shine.

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Two Candidates Declare for Montague Selectboard

Michael Nelson and Jeanne Golrick have returned their nomination papers to the town clerk to run for the unexpired selectboard seat currently held by Patricia Allen. Allen decided to step down as a member of the selectboard shortly before the end of her fifth term.

The election will be on June 25, in conjunction with the race for the U.S. Senate. The successful candidate will take office the

following day.

Nelson, who lives on Greenfield Road, is a member of the Board of Health and organizer of the Pumpkin Festival and the Spring Parade. He is also on the ballot of the Montague Democratic Caucus to be held at town hall on May 16 from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Golrick, a resident of Millers Falls, has been a long-time town meeting member and activist.

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CORRECTION

Due to an editing error in "Sullivan Accepts Offer from Gill-Montague School District" that appeared in the April 25 issue of the paper, we incorrectly reported Michael Sullivan's annual benefit package. The correct number is \$7,500 for benefits, not \$75,000 as we reported. His annual salary was correctly reported as being \$130,000. We regret the error.

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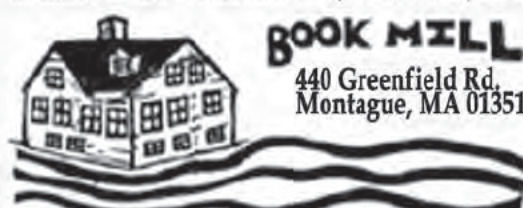
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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Eight Storeys vs. 3,122 Stories

On March 25, 1911 the worst industrial accident in the history of New York occurred. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire claimed the lives of 146 young women. The owners were arrested, but acquitted of criminal charges. A civil court did find them guilty, and they were forced to pay \$75 per deceased victim. On April 2, 1911 Rose Schneiderman, a union activist, addressed a large crowd of mainly women who were members of the fledgling Women's Trade Union League. In part, she said this: "I would be a traitor to these poor burned bodies if I came here to talk good fellowship. We have tried you citizens; we are trying you now, and you have a couple of dollars for the sorrowing mothers, brothers and sisters by way of a charity gift.... I can't talk fellowship to you who are gathered here. Too much blood has been spilled."

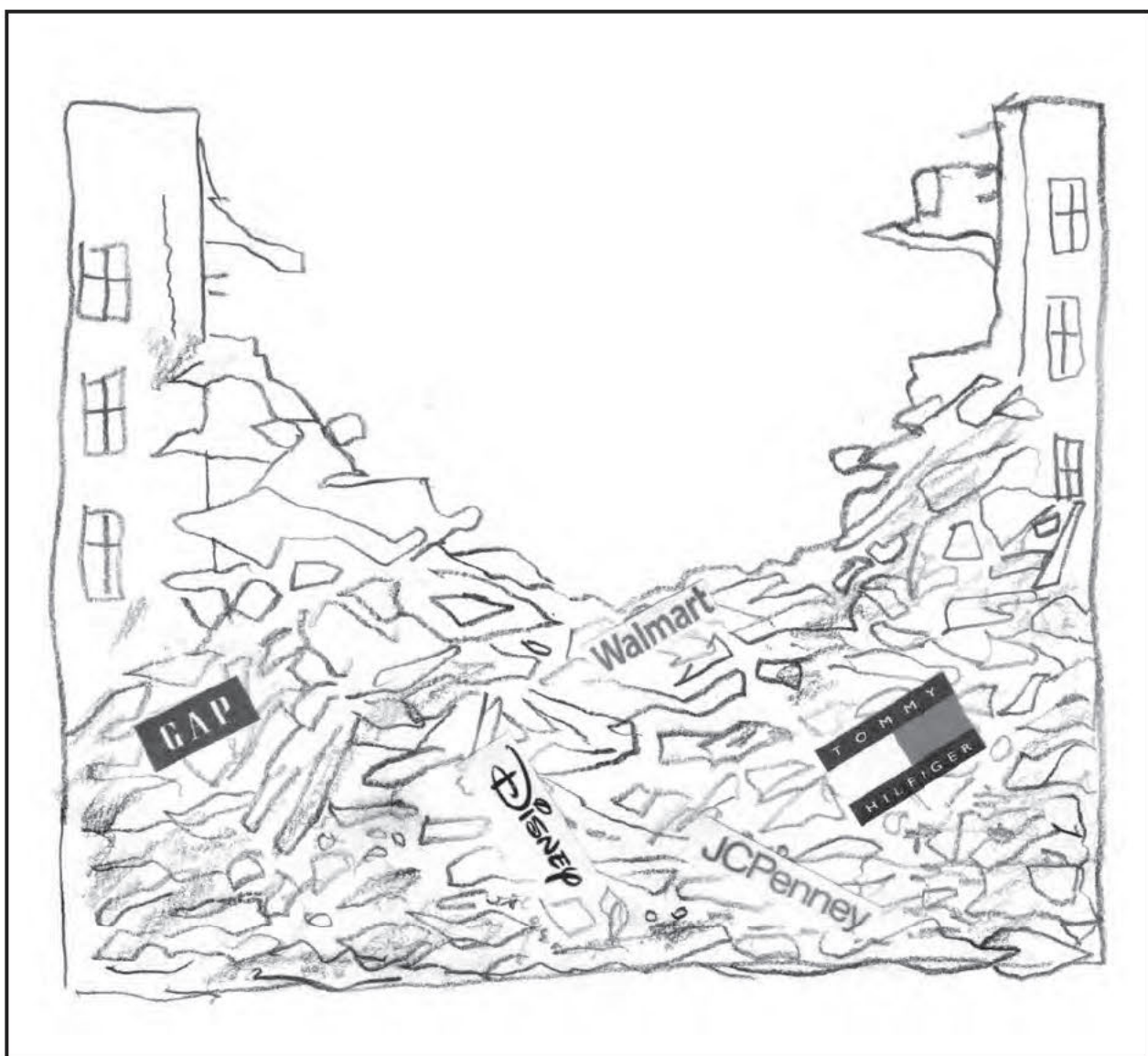
Schneiderman's words are as appropriate today as they were in 1911, but this time it is another tragedy in a far-off country that compels us to remember what she said more than 100 years ago. She could be speaking about the 800 workers who died in the collapse of Rana Plaza in Bangladesh. As in New York, Bangladeshis have taken to the streets to protest the conditions at the factories they are forced to work in, and to demand that compensation be paid to the survivors. It's unclear, though, whether they will have the same success as those who rose up in New York, and who put such pressure on legislators that laws were actually changed, salaries and working conditions improved. Bangladesh factories rake in \$20 billion each year from foreign companies. These companies seemingly have no qualms about the oppressive conditions of the workers, since profits trump everything else.

The garment workers at Triangle Shirtwaist were paid between \$7 and \$12 each week. The pay for the 3,122 women who worked at Rana Plaza averaged \$9 to \$12

per week. Five months ago, 116 women were killed in a devastating fire that broke out in another factory in Bangladesh. Smaller disasters at other factories in the five years previous to the more recent horrendous events killed more than 500 other women. And while a host of Western retailers along with Bangladesh authorities may now be talking about improving safety, if the past holds true, we can expect little change. And nobody is talking about raising wages above 1911 U.S. standards. The reality is that the retailers get an awfully good deal. For little in outlay, they receive garments that can be marked up 250 to 1000 percent. Meanwhile, they have been quite cunning about distancing themselves from tragedies in the workplace. It wasn't us directly who employed these women, they say. It was the wholesaler, the bad Bangladeshi, the uncaring owner, whoever. We didn't know. And oh, how terrible! They've uttered these same phrases before but the bottom line has always been profit.

Perhaps the only way we at home can support these Bangladeshi workers is to ensure that the folks who supply us with our cheap shirts and pants and socks and underwear get a strong message from we who buy their goods. We can protest in a variety of ways. We can inundate corporate headquarters with letters and emails demanding they pay fair wages and ensure the safety of their workers. We can contact our legislators to pressure the corporate giants. We can withdraw our investments in these companies. We can stop buying clothes made in Bangladesh (or China, for that matter). We can become conscientious consumers, checking labels, buying second-hand clothes, even, perhaps, paying a little more for what we wear.

The bottom line in a factory should be safety, decent working conditions and livable wages. Profits will still mount, but deaths will not.



C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editor

Thank You, Franklin County Technical School, for Another Successful Community Project!

Three years ago we contacted Mark Amstein of the landscaping program about the conditions of our playing field to see if the school could help us. Shortly thereafter, the FCTS bus arrived at our school with Mark at the helm and his class of 2013 landscaping students armed with measuring tapes, test kits, notebooks, and questions to do a full scale analysis of our field conditions.

The class was able to provide us with the necessary directions and a list of supplies needed to grow some hearty grass. Reid Van Id-

erstine, one of the class members from our town, began volunteering his services and turned this into his capstone project. Each week Reid would come by to examine his work which consisted of liming, aerating, seeding, taking pictures, and documenting the progress. Being a volunteer fireman, he offered to bring the tanker down to water the field if need be. Thanks to these dedicated efforts we now have grass covering our field and Reid continues to help maintain this project. Our community is fortunate to have FCTS and the many choice programs it offers,

along with hands-on education and training for students.

So, the next time you see the small bus that says Franklin County Technical School, be assured that a group of students are on board heading to another town to work on their education and volunteer their learning skills towards another project. Best regards to the class of 2013 and a successful journey.

— Larry Ramsdell
Custodian, Swift River
Elementary School
New Salem-Wendell

Where is Great Falls?

As a native of Turners Falls – presently a Greenfield resident – I visit my home town on a regular basis for any number of reasons. A few things seem to taking place there that I consider... disconcerting. Not on a hard-core basis, but, of a more pragmatic nature.

Over the past twenty years or so, I see the name of Great Falls heading such venues as the Middle School and the Discovery Center. Surely an impressive mark. The impetus for the Great Falls moniker is the dam at the river – before that a 30-foot water fall – that stitches Turners Falls and Gill... a great falls indeed.

I read The Montague Reporter regularly and it frequently introduces some of its articles or story content as originating in or from... Great Falls.

As the header for this letter asks... Where is Great Falls? I don't recall any formal name changes for the Village of Turners Falls being relegated to Great Falls. However, I do recall a few months ago that there was a one-person campaign

to formally change the name of the village from Turners Falls to Great Falls; due to that person's inept attempt to interpret the historical goings-on in our immediate area in 1676, that singular endeavor is optimistically deceased.

It seems to me that if a locally respected weekly newspaper is going to report what it is committed to report, it should – or must – correctly name the village that the news, or other content originate from; i.e. Turners Falls... not Great Falls.

Additionally, regarding the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge... which is, by-the-way, the proper name for the structure.

As in the aforementioned Great Falls scenario, it seems there are some in town, or elsewhere – a desk-bound Boston engineer or administrator who visits this area once in their lifetime – that's apparently dedicated to arbitrarily re-name the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge to the Gill-Montague Bridge, or the Gill-Turners Bridge

A recent visit with Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, I find

that there is no formal reference in the town archive to re-name the bridge... or the town! Understandably, the Town of Montague integrates the Village of Turners Falls in its realm. However, the bridge's south portal originates in Turners Falls in the Town of Montague. It might be nice to use Montague in the name... but, it is inaccurate to call the bridge the Gill-Montague Bridge. I understand that it's not a malicious attempt to change the names. I also understand that the proper names must be engaged as initiated.

Therefore, I do believe an arbitrary use of the names Great Falls in place of Turners Falls, and Gill-Montague Bridge in place of Turners Falls-Gill Bridge are incorrect.

The proper names... Turners Falls and the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge should be used whenever attention is directed to this village and bridge.

— Ed Gregory
Greenfield

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Letter to the Editor

Turners Falls in 1987, '88, and '89 (4 women die from domestic violence), Newtown, Columbine, Aurora, Boston and many more.

God's answer to Evil is The Cross. People of the world need to get back to Religious basics.

— David Yez
Monmouth, Illinois

Spring Bulky Waste Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding a "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on Saturday, May 18th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South, the Northfield Highway Garage on Caldwell Rd., and the Whately Transfer Station on Christian Lane.

Residents of any town in the District may bring a range of items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recy-

cled whenever possible. No pre-registration is necessary for the collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected from residents during check-in at each site. Businesses may participate. A complete list of prices for the most common items is available at participating town halls, town transfer stations, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and online at: www.franklincounty-wastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html

For more information call the District office at 413-772-2438, or email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.

MEMORY from page 1

trees planted there 25 years ago, as memorials to victims of domestic violence in our town.

Four of the trees replanted last week were in memory of the four women who died in Turners Falls, from 1987 to 1989: Vivian Morrissey, Virginia Ferrer, Catherine Gochinski, and Tracy Sheperd. The fifth tree was planted, as Mary Kociela, domestic violence projects coordinator for the Northwestern DA's office, said, "in memory of domestic violence victims whose names were never known."

Kociela said, "Let's remember why these trees were planted 25 years ago and why we plant them here again tonight. The rebirths of trees and flowers in spring are symbols of the power and strength of nature and the miracle of renewal after the darkness of winter. As we stand together, let tonight be a renewal of our conviction that violence in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Let tonight be a renewal of our pledge to give a voice to those survivors who cannot speak for themselves and the victims whose voices have been forever silenced."

Survivors spoke of their long spousal abuse nightmares. Betty Guetti, a volunteer advocate who speaks in schools to raise awareness of domestic violence, said her experience of abuse began when she was still in the womb, when her father kicked her mother, trying to end her pregnancy.

"I lived through 32 years of domestic violence," said Guetti. "There was no help in those days. The first guy who said those three magic words - 'I love you' - got me. I went through 18 years with this wife beater. He's still walking the streets. Now I help victims of domestic violence get restraining orders." Guetti said the continuing cycle of domestic violence came home to her when one of the victims she was counseling told her the name of her abuser, and she realized, "Oh, you've been abused by my ex-husband. He raped and beat her. I stood in front of the judge and got her a restraining order."

Family members of three of the women from Turners Falls who were

killed by their partners in a 20-month period from 1987 - 1989 were present at the replanting ceremony. But the five children born to Virginia Ferrer, who lived with her mother in a small wood frame house on 5th Street, were all given to various foster homes after her ex, Jose Reyes, killed her. The children could not be contacted to attend the rededication ceremony at the park. Patsy Prest, who lived next door to Ferrer at the time, did come up to the microphone to remember Virginia. She said afterward that she saw Virginia get killed, in broad daylight.

"Her restraining order expired. She was going to get it renewed that day," said Prest. "He knocked on the door, and her mother answered, and he asked if he could talk to her. There was no chance for the police to be called. He started stabbing her right away." Ferrer died in the alley outside her house. Reyes was the father of four of her children.

Prest was also close to Tracy Sheperd, who was strangled to death by her boyfriend, David MacDonald, who lived with her above the 2nd Street bar where they both worked in 1989. Prest said she and Sheperd delivered their babies in the maternity ward at the same time. Sheperd's son Trevor was 6 years old when his mother died, her body found in a sleeping bag covered with leaves in the woods off Route 63 by the Leverett line, on the same week that area women's groups held the first "Week of Awareness" on domestic violence in Greenfield and Turners Falls in May of that same year. It was during this consciousness raising week that two of the original memorial trees were planted in Peskeompskut Park.

Prest recalled Sheperd as a "girl with a heart of gold. She didn't deserve this at all. She was my best friend." Sheperd's aunt and uncle were present in the crowd.

Erin and Katie Morrissey, Vivian Morrissey's daughters, summoned the courage to speak at the microphone, recalling their mother, who died at the bottom of the basement stairs at their Turnpike Road home, strangled to death by her ex-boyfriend, Greg Martino, when the girls were both less than three years old. "When we were growing up, we didn't talk about our mother and what

GUEST EDITORIAL**Is the GMRSD Budget Viable in the Long Run?**

By JEFF SINGLETON

For the third year in a row GMRSD budgets and assessments have passed Montague town meeting with little or no opposition. This year the budget increase was a mere 2.4 %, lower than the increase in the Montague town operating budget, and the assessment increased by only 2% (less debt). This means the district should be on track to get out of "Level 4," which was caused in large measure by local rejection of GMRSD budgets and assessments.

But we are now thinking about the long term and must ask: is the school budget in fact sustainable in the long run?

A list of key "budget assumptions" handed out by the GMRSD at the beginning of the budget process in January suggests that the answer may be no. They showed that the current GMRSD budget, in fact increased by over \$900,000, more than double the district's projected revenue increase. The budget was brought down by plugging in \$379,000 from grants and revolving fund balances to reduce the out-of-district special education line item. In addition, Medicaid reimburse-

ments abruptly increased by about \$130,000.

Both of these could represent the use of one-time revenue increases, one internally reducing a line-item and the other externally reducing town assessments. Together they bring a \$900,000 budget increase down to affordability. But if the pattern of budget increases continues - and this was called a "level-services budget" when it was first presented - similar revenue increases will be needed to maintain affordability.

Or maybe the budget is in fact sustainable. The problem is, no one knows because a) the GMRSD, despite repeated requests, has been unwilling to distribute an updated set of clear budget assumptions similar to those we got in January, and thus b) the oversight boards, especially the school committee but also the town finance committees, do not seem to understand (or feel it is their job to understand) the potential problem.

Finance Committee member Mike Naughton has also requested an "all funds" line item budget, which shows specific uses for grants and revolving funds, consistent with the budget that appears on the assessment sheet. I have some technical questions

about this idea (his proposal may not leave room on the spreadsheet for previous years), but his point is well taken. Right now we essentially have documents handed to the boards and town meeting showing two different ways of calculating the budget. Mike's request was ignored by the school committee.

The attitude on the part of some school committee members appears to be that requests for budget assumptions are picky and "negative," or one of those strange obsessions that afflict budget fanatics like me. As long as the bottom line is OK, the details should not matter all that much. Tough questions equal "bad publicity," which is the cause of declining enrollment and Level 4.

I think this attitude is a recipe for disaster - a recipe for much worse publicity in the very near future. The boards need to get together at the beginning of the budget process next year to determine what documents are needed and how to analyze them. Let's continue to make progress on these key issues.

— Jeff Singleton
Precinct 1 Town
Meeting Member

happened to her," said Erin Morrissey. "I'm just glad so many people are here and talking about her. Thank you." The young women helped to water the first of the newly replanted trees, in honor of their mother.

No one spoke in memory of Catherine Gochinski, who was just 16 years old in February of 1989 when her boyfriend, Joseph Demers, killed her with a shotgun at point blank range at their walk-up apartment on 4th and L. But her friends and family members were there at the ceremony, and helped to replant a tree in her memory.

"We have it in our hearts to remember the victims," said District Attorney David Sullivan. "The trees we plant here today are a symbol of healing, a symbol that Turners Falls still remembers, and still believes we can stop domestic violence. Let's never have another homicide in our

community. As victims of domestic violence know, we will always be with you. We will never forget."

Montague police chief Charles Dodge said, "When I started on the force in 1992, it was sort of like, 'It's not our business.' We'd get a call and we'd knock on the door and we'd say, 'Is everything OK here?' The response would be, 'Everything's fine.' The officers would say, 'We don't want to come back here,' and that was it. Officers have changed, and the DA's programs have raised our awareness."

Dodge continued, "Officers will now speak to the neighbors, speak to the children, and look for signs of a problem. Children will tell us what is going on. The days when we leave saying, 'Is everything fine?' are gone. We fear what's going to happen. Every officer, every employee on the Montague police department has

already taken a pledge to keep our community safe. I hope you know how important each and every one of us in our community are to us."

No one worked harder than Chief Dodge to get the new trees into the ground. It was as if he were personally demonstrating his department's commitment to keeping all the citizens of Montague safe from a repeat of the plague of domestic violence that cast a pall over our town 25 years ago; as Dodge related, the numbers of calls that continue to come into his department indicate that domestic violence remains a present threat in our town today.

To get in touch with counselors at the New England Center for Women in Transition for advice on how to deal with domestic violence, call: 772-0806. A streaming video of the event is at: <http://vimeo.com/mctvchannel17>



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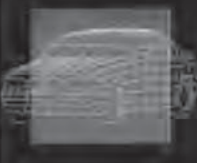
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JOE PARZYCH PHOTOS

The cavalry to the rescue, or so it was hoped.

PIPE from page 1

ness. Dodge wore hazardous material coveralls and a respirator because of the danger of lethal methane sewer gas. Dodge reported that considerable groundwater is infiltrating the manhole.

That manhole serves the Country Creemee stand, Hillside Plastics, and the mobile home park. The crew used the Montague DPW vacuum truck to clean out the manhole until a third transfer pump can be installed to bypass the plugged section of sewer line. They made an attempt to clear the line, but found large quantities of sand and stones had infiltrated the pipe, indicating that the pipe has ruptured. The Town of Greenfield also spent over 13

hours using their vacuum truck in a futile attempt to help clear the line.

When the Montague and Greenfield vacuum trucks were unable to clear the sewer, the much-heralded McVac Environmental Services, Inc. of Connecticut rode to the rescue, like the U.S. Cavalry, in a convoy of trucks and equipment. Their defeat rivaled General Custer's.

There had been hope that McVac could clear the eight-inch main enough to insert a temporary 4" PVC pipe inside it. Those hopes were dashed when McVac made their futile effort on Wednesday morning. They blew their noses, rolled up their hoses, and retreated back to Connecticut.

Paul Gilbert of the engineering company, CDM Smith Inc. of Hart-



The DPW vacuum truck tries in vain to see daylight through the pipe.

Rob Brownlee supervises the operation.

ford, CT, indicated that outside contractors will install a new ten-inch sewer on the edge of Millers Falls Road, parallel to the existing failed sewer. Because of the emergency status of the situation, the bidding process is being waived. Four contractors have been interviewed for consideration of awarding one of them a negotiated contract.

Engineer Gilbert heard I'd installed an eight-inch cast iron water main on Industrial Boulevard in the 1960s, and questioned me about soil conditions and the height of the water table. I informed him that a pipe stub I had to hook onto had been installed across Millers Falls Road and the sewer, but when I dug up the pipe stub, the end of the water pipe had settled about four feet, indicating that the sewer may have begun leaking, then, causing the land to

sink. But that may have been only a contributing cause.

"A break in the sewer main at the pumping station on Industrial Boulevard, out by the school" is where all the sand is coming from, DPW foreman Dick Clough said.

Asbestos cement pipe is joined with O-rings inside collars. Occasionally, an O-ring does not seat correctly, and will leak. Asbestos pipe also tends to soften with age. If a leak is small, problems may not surface for decades, as in this case. The hopes a four-inch PVC pipe being inserted into the eight-inch main to temporarily carry effluent, until a contract can be negotiated, were dashed when a sinkhole began to swallow a McVac truck, indicating that there is a major break in the main in front of Hallmark School, also. That's when McVac's troops retreated.

At present, there are two rented pumps at a manhole on Industrial Boulevard intercepting sewage and

pumping it through rubber hoses around Hallmark School's classroom to a manhole in front of the classroom. A third rented diesel pump is scheduled for installation at a manhole at the entrance to Industrial Boulevard.

The tentative plan is to run a new ten-inch sewer main on the east side of the existing sewer, bypassing the dysfunctional pipe and saturated soil. The new section will then be connected to the existing undamaged pipe at either end, using manholes. Leaving the old pipe in the ground solves the problem of removing and disposing of the asbestos pipe, which is now considered a cancer-causing hazardous material.

Groundwater may pose a problem, since it is infiltrating a 14-foot-deep manhole at the entrance to the mobile home park, across from Hillside Plastics. Diverting the sewer to the opposite shoulder of Miller Falls Road was ruled out when test borings indicated water at three feet below the surface.

"The specifications and drawings are 80% complete," engineer Gilbert, from CDM Smith, said. "That is enough for the contractors to begin negotiations."

The most logical choice of pipe for the new 10" main will be heavy-duty PVC, the most common sewer pipe installed today.



"Ask"

We all know that life is full of questions. When we were young, we bombarded our parents with one question after another. The teen years are packed with questions as well. Then, it's who to marry, where will I work, how many children to have, retirement, and has my life counted.

Life is full of questions and answers.

Albert Einstein said this: "The question you ask is more important than the answer."

We understand the mind of the one who said this, however, there is one question that is most important. The answer is equally important to all mankind.

That question is:

Upon death, where will I spend eternity?

This is the most important question there is. What is your answer to the question?

The Bible says: "Therefore He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him."
(Hebrews 7:25a)

Upon death, where will I spend eternity?
Ask Jesus Christ to be your Savior

This is as written.

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ED'S BARBER SHOP: A DOWNTOWN LANDMARK WITH MEMORIES



JOHN FURBISH PHOTO

Denise Edwards, owner of Ed's Barber Shop.

By JOHN FURBISH

TURNERS FALLS – For close to sixty years, Ed's Barber Shop, now at 74 Avenue A, has been a well-known feature of downtown Turners Falls, although over the years it has been forced to go through multiple relocations along both sides of a two-block stretch of Avenue A.

The shop began in the 1950s with Turners Falls resident Ed Podlenski, a graduate of Turners Falls High School. Ed had served in an Air Force band for four years, worked in American Bosch, and then, deciding to change careers, trained at the Massachusetts School of Barbering in Boston.

Ed started working in 1955 in Fred Baird's "Barber Shop" at 62 Avenue A. The shop was beside Mrs. Drago's Variety Store in a two-story brick building. In the adjacent three-story Moltenbrey building next door, there was a taxicab company. The one-story Carney's Restaurant, now Jake's, was on the other side of the Drago building, and a scone shop, now Loot, further north across the alley.

Ed knew quickly that this was the career path he wanted, and bought the shop from Fred in 1958, renaming it "Ed's Barber Shop." One day in the ninth month of his new business, Ed parked his trusty 1946 Plymouth in front of the shop. It was a busy day and Ed was working through lunch. The dentist, Dr. Sabato, had just had his hair clipped, and climbed out of the barber chair that was bolted to the floor. Three others, a man and two high schoolers, waited in regular seats.

Then, **BOOM BLAST KA-BOOM SMASH** – an explosion

ripped through the floor, tearing it open, and blowing through an 8-foot wall in the adjacent variety store, starting two fires in the basement. Debris was blasted 90 feet across the Avenue. The heavy barber chairs in Ed's were toppled like toys. One waiting customer and a barber chair were tossed outside through the window. Outside in front, the heavy sitting bench was thrown through the air to dent the roof of Ed's car.

All five in the shop and an 18-year-old standing by his parked car in front of the Moltenbrey building next door were injured by the effects of the blast: shock, flash burns, punctures and bruises, and one concussion. Ed's leg got ripped open by the lever arm of a toppled barber chair. Good Samaritan Norma Derry took Ed to the Farren Hospital, where all five victims spent the night in fair condition. Ed's wound took a month to heal.

The toll of victims could have been larger. The Variety store beside Ed's was closed that day (and Mrs. Drago was at the bank at 1:30 when the explosion happened). Two men had just vacated the bench in front of Ed's. Two ten-year-olds and the mother of a five-year-old had seen too much of a line for them to come into the shop, so four more people were not squeezed into the waiting chairs at the time of the explosion.

Down but not out, Ed moved his business across the street to the Shea Building from

1959-73. The Recorder office and entrance to the theater were on one side of him. On the other side were Koehler's Appliances, Pleasant Insurance (Ed Pleasant was his first customer after the move), and the Cumby's convenience store at 85 on the corner of Third Street. Ed would have stayed longer by the Shea, but the roof kept leaking and the landlord would not fix it.

As a result, he moved his business in 1973 (including the things he'd collected) across the Avenue to 78 in the Moltenbrey Building. At that time, the smaller shop front at 74 (where Ed's is now) was empty. The next calamity in the life of Ed's business happened when he was at 78 Avenue A, when an upstairs resident started a fire. The fire spread up the three-story building and went through the roof.

Just to stay open, Ed moved – temporarily, he thought – to a

Erving Election Results

The Erving town election was held Monday May 6. There were no contested seats.

According to assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard, the following candidates were elected:

Selectman, 3 years – Eugene Klepadlo
Assessor, 3 years – James Carpenter
Tax Collector, 3 years – Michele Turner
Library Trustee, 1 year – Mackensy Bailey
Moderator, 1 year – Richard Peabody
School Committee, 3 years – Rene Tela
Tree Warden, 1 year – Christopher Stacy
Constable, 3 years – Richard Newton
Planning Board, 3 years – Jacquelyn Boyden
Planning Board, 3 years – Michael Shaffer
Recreation Commission, 3 years – Jillian Betters
Recreation Commission, 3 years – Melinda LaBelle
Board of Health, 3 years – Leo J. Parent, Jr.

There were no candidates on the ballot for the following offices:

Library Trustee, 3 years – There were 10 write-in votes, but each person only got 1 vote, so there was no winner. The seat remains open.

School Committee, 3 years – Nathan May won with write-in votes. May is still considering his acceptance.

School Committee, 1 year – Melanie Burnett won with write-in votes. Burnett is still considering her acceptance.

Planning Board, 1 year – There were 10 write-in votes, but each person only got 1 vote, so there was no winner. The seat remains open.

too-big space across the alley from Carney's, in the old scone shop. He thought his old space in the Moltenbrey had been promised him, but after repairs he found that the landlord had rented it out. He did get offered the old Moltenbrey Barber Shop (an interior wall of which remains at 43 Third Street), but that was not comparable to his space at 78 Avenue A, so Ed felt himself squeezed out by the landlord.

Ed moved yet again, crossing the Avenue again, to 115 Avenue A. Starbuck Plumbing, the former occupant, moved to an alley space in the back, and Ed's shop moved to the front at 115 Avenue A, where Gary's Coins is now. There was a luncheonette at 113.

The barbershop changed a lot in the next few years and in the early part of the century. Denise Edwards was hired in 1995, and Mariann Wales in 2001. Denise took over the business.

Ed decided to retire and follow his family to Arizona. He had a satisfying career, and old customers are among the old friends of his still vivid memory. He easily remembers the firefighters who put out the 1959 fire in his floor. Ed enjoyed a full fifty years, and we are lucky that he could take all his memories, but not his mementoes, with him. All these can be seen now in the barber poles in front, as well as arranged in wall and cabinet displays along two walls.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fights and Threats

Monday, 4/29

3:46 p.m. Threatening/harassment, Basically Bicycles, 88 Third Street. Referred to an officer.

4:33 p.m. Shoplifting, F.L. Roberts, Third Street. Services rendered.

5:12 p.m. Burglary / breaking & entering, Turnpike Road. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 4/30

3:04 a.m. Larceny, Turners Falls Road. Report taken.

10:26 a.m. Domestic disturbance, G Street. Services rendered.

11:17 a.m. Burglary / breaking & entering, L Street. Services rendered.

12:24 p.m. Car fire, Black Cow Burger Bar, rear, Fourth Street. Services rendered.

3:07 p.m. Larceny, F.L. Roberts. Advised of options.

3:34 p.m. Assault & battery, Franklin County Technical School. Advised of options.

5:02 p.m. Threatening/harassment, Shattuck Street. Referred to an officer.

5:27 p.m. Arrested, ,

for failure to register as a sex offender.

Wednesday, 5/1

8:45 a.m. Unwanted person, Coolidge Avenue. Peace restored.

12:35 p.m. Larceny, Fifth Street. Investigated.

2:10 p.m. Drug/narcotics violation, Connecticut River Internists, Burnham Street. Investigated.

4:40 p.m. General disturbance, Third Street. Verbal warning.

Thursday, 5/2

2:04 a.m. Arrested, ,

, on a straight warrant. 8:21 a.m. Illegal dumping, Second Street. Referred to another agency.

2:29 p.m. Initiated traffic control, Hassey Savage Company, 10 Industrial Boulevard.

3:41 p.m. Vandalism, Turners Falls Road. Advised of options.

6:05 p.m. General disturbance, Plains Road. Unable to locate.

9:50 p.m. Neighbor disturbance, 12 Park Street. Investigated.

Friday, 5/3

6:33 a.m. Domestic disturbance,

Old Stage Road. Services rendered.

8:16 a.m. Structure fire, Red Fire Farm, 184 Meadow Road. Services rendered.

8:48 a.m. Trespassing, 40/42 Main Street. Advised of options.

1:55 p.m. Threatening, Turners Falls High School. Peace restored.

4:32 p.m. Burglary / breaking & entering, Fifteenth Street. Investigated.

4:35 p.m. Brush fire, Montague Center School. Services rendered.

6:56 p.m. General disturbance, Fifth Street. Advised of options.

8:55 p.m. Loud noise disturbance, Oakman Street at Sunset Drive. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 5/4

1:12 a.m. Fight in the vicinity of Suzee's Laundromat, Third Street. Arrested, ,

, for disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and assault & battery on a police officer.

1:10 p.m. Brush fire, Greenfield

Road. Services rendered.

5:17 p.m. Accident with property damage, in front of Chick's, Third Street. Citation issued.

11:14 p.m. Domestic disturbance, East Main Street. Arrested a 33-year-old resident of South Prospect Street, Millers Falls, for assault & battery, domestic, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace, subsequent offense.

11:49 p.m. General disturbance, Fourth Street. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 5/5

6:43 a.m. Domestic disturbance, East Main Street. Issued a summons to the above resident of Millers Falls for assault & battery, domestic, and witness intimidation.

7:07 p.m. Threatening/harassment, Federal Street. Services rendered.

7:58 p.m. Arrested, ,

, Millers Falls, on two default warrants, at Jay K's Liquors on Avenue A.

9:30 p.m. Drug/narcotics violation, Park Villa Drive. Advised of options.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Lower Electric Bills, No to Alcohol Permit

By KATIE NOLAN

Hampshire Power's Ken Elstien came to the May 6 selectboard meeting to see if there were any questions about article 32 on Wednesday's annual town meeting warrant. If passed, the article would allow the selectboard to develop and participate in a contract for power supply through the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG). All three selectboard members told Elstien they had no questions about the program.

Under the Hampshire Power municipal aggregation program, HCOG would buy electricity in bulk and sell it to consumers. Hampshire Power says that this will result in lower electric bills for residents and small businesses.

The towns of Gill, Leverett, Montague and Wendell have completed all approvals required for participation in the Hampshire Power program.

Town moderator Rich Peabody came to the meeting to see if the selectboard had any concerns for the town meeting. Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden said she had already heard questions about the cost for a proposed copier (\$12,000) and telephone sys-

tem (\$20,000) for town hall offices. She said she would be able to speak in favor of these purchases at town meeting. Peabody praised the selectboard for preparing a streamlined warrant of 34 articles. "You did a nice piece of work to get here," he told the board.

Selectboard members asked Peabody to inform the town meeting about the "opt out" provision of Hampshire Power when article 32 is discussed. Under this provision, if the selectboard enters into a municipal aggregation contract with Hampshire Power, WMECO and National Grid customers would automatically become Hampshire Power customers. In order to stay with WMECO or National Grid, the customer would be required to actively opt out of Hampshire Power.

Veterans' agent Leo Parent, Jr., said he would speak about the veterans' services line item included in article 2 of the town meeting warrant. He said that costs have increased because there are more veterans and veterans' survivors applying for services.

Parent said it was hard to forecast expenses, because "you have no idea who's coming in the door." Selectboard

member Andrew Goodwin asked that for the coming fiscal year, Parent give the selectboard a 3-month report on spending, so the town can raise and appropriate needed funds.

The selectboard asked town administrator Tom Sharp to get more information from town counsel Donna MacNicol about the requirements (hearings and/or waiting periods) for creating a town bylaw requiring the fire chief to reside in town. Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin said his goal was to see "how quickly we can get it on the books."

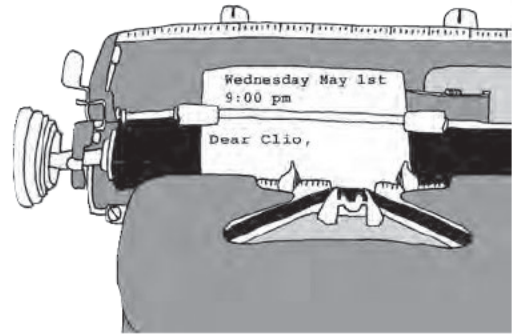
Goodwin asked Sharp to ask MacNicol about creating a residency bylaw for the police chief, town administrator, and highway supervisor as well, but excepting current incumbents in those positions.

Boyden cautioned that a residency requirement could lead to problems because the positions are specialized and Erving has a small population and limited housing and rental stock.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan commented that a residency requirement wasn't needed, because "There's nothing wrong with

see ERVING page 9

Dear Clio,



My husband retired last year after spending his whole life working 9 to 5, and sometimes more, 5 days/week. I worked, too, but got laid off in 2009 and couldn't find another job. He gets some retirement and social security, and I can get my own social security next year.

So we're OK financially as long as we are careful. The problem is that my husband doesn't want to spend a dime on anything except what he says are necessities.

He tells everybody we're poor, which we're not. He buys the cheapest food he can. He also spends all his time fixing things around the house even when he doesn't need to, but because he doesn't want to spend money, he uses lousy materials.

How can I convince him that we still can buy presents for our kids and grandkids, that we could eat out once in a while, that we could buy some new clothes for ourselves not just at Sallie, that he could buy materials he really needs to fix the things he thinks he needs to fix?

He was never like this before. What happened? And what can I do?

— Frustrated, But Not Poor

take, many of us find something that we can control, and hang onto it for dear life.

Whenever I hear that another friend has been diagnosed with cancer, for example, I start paying more attention to my diet and eat an extra big salad for dinner. Of course I know that I cannot really protect myself and my loved ones by serving salad, but it is one thing that I can control in a situation that feels terrifyingly out of control. When we are worried, most of us want to feel like there is something we can do about it. We don't like to feel helpless.

If buying his clothes at Salvation Army makes your husband feel more in control, that seems pretty harmless to me, but obviously it is not all right for him to dictate where you buy your clothes. I agree that you have a right to stand up for yourself here. The question is how can you make your case without having the same dead-end argument you have already had before?

If bargain hunting is making your husband feel more in control of his life, my guess is that he will cling to it like a life raft. When the two of you argue about finances, he will feel like you are threatening his life raft, and that will make him hold on even tighter. My suggestion is that you try to get to the bottom of what is really bothering him. You probably know this man better than anyone else does, so you are in a perfect position to do it. Maybe you can talk to him about retirement, or about getting older, sometime when you are not in the middle of a fight about money.

If you can figure out together what has him so stressed out, it will surely make him feel better, even if it's only a little bit better. More importantly, he will have a chance to remember that the two of you are on the same team. Of course you

both want to be secure and happy in the years to come!

Can you come up with a few budget strategies that would work for both of you? I have a friend who puts away \$20 every month for gifts so it's never too much at once. There might be items you can cut out of your budget that your husband has not thought of, things that you would not miss as much as gifts for grandchildren or new clothes.

Once your husband is feeling a little calmer and has had a chance to remember that you are in this together, you can bring up the topic of spending a little extra on quality items that will last. Maybe you will have gained some insight that will allow you to put a new spin on the old arguments, and maybe he will have relaxed enough to hear you.

My guess is that you will have this argument a few more times before you are able to find a solution that works for both of you. Don't give up, though! You say your husband was never like this before. That means he does not have to be stuck in this behavior. It will probably take patience, but I am betting that you can figure this one out together. Good luck!

Yours,
Clio

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Last Year's Grow Site Found

Monday, 4/8

9:00 a.m. North Leverett Road resident reported two new rolls of woven wire livestock fencing stolen from a pasture construction project on Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Theft occurred over the weekend of 4/6 to 4/8. Area scrap dealers checked, negative results. Report taken.

Tuesday, 4/9

2:50 p.m. Caller from Richardson Road complaining of upstairs neighbor creating a disturbance. Officer checked, unfounded.

Wednesday, 4/10

4:35 p.m. North Leverett Road resident reported possible Craigslist scam. Officer took report. No money lost.

Friday, 4/12

1:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on North Leverett Road at Hannabrooke Drive.

██████████ lost control of her 1989 Honda on the sleet-covered roadway, went off the road, and collided head-on with a 10" diameter tree. No injuries. Vehicle towed by AAA. ██████████ issued a written warning for speeding.

Monday, 4/15

9:37 a.m. Officer discovered loose pit bull in the area of Shutesbury Road and Number Six Road. Owner located and secured dog.

4:47 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with a motor vehicle vs motorcycle accident on North Main Street.

Friday, 4/19

5:23 p.m. Shutesbury Road resident reported hearing gunshots behind her residence. Officer checked the area and found a neighbor engaged in target practice behind his own home. No violation found.

Sunday, 4/21

12:48 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury PD with a motor vehicle stop.

12:50 p.m.

Fire Alarm at a Lead Mine Road residence. Leverett FD to cover.

Sunday, 4/28

10:13 a.m. Medical call at a North Leverett Road residence. Subject transported by ambulance to Franklin Medical Center.

Monday, 4/29

3:10 p.m. Shutesbury

Road landowner reported finding a possible marijuana grow site on his property in the woods. Officer checked, last season's grow site. Nothing new found.

4:31 p.m. Motor vehicle crash in front of the Elementary School. No personal injury.

██████████, driving a 2008 Toyota Prius, collided with ██████████

██████████ driving a 2010 Toyota Prius. Both operators issued written warning citations. The newer Prius was towed from the scene.

4:36 p.m. Medical emergency at a Montague Road residence. Subject transported by ambulance to Cooley-Dickinson Hospital.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Formalities and Sewer Emergency Update

By PATRICIA PRUITT

In the aftermath of Town meeting approvals, the board signed the Notice to Proceed for Howard S. Dono & Associates on the right of way appraisals for the Greenfield Road project, due to begin construction in November 2013.

They also signed the #4 Loan / Subgrant Drawdown request for the Strathmore Mill Hazardous Materials Remediation project, which is now completed. The board agreed it vastly improved the Strathmore property to have the fire debris removed.

WPCF Superintendent Robert Trombley sought chairman Boutwell's signature for submissions to both the Mass. DEP and federal U.S. E.P.A. copies of the 5-year renewal applications of the NPDES Permit Renewal Application. Trombley said that the current permit expires on October 17, but that it will probably take until 2015 for

the town to receive the new 5 year permit. This is due to a one-third cut in staffing at the E.P.A.

The current permit will continue until the new one is received. This permit sets the standards for what can be discharged into the river. Trombley expects there will be new limits set on the amount of nitrogen permitted for discharge and, in the future, phosphorus also will have an established limit.

Next up was the board's approval of a permit for the Spring Parade in April, 2014, to be organized by Michael Nelson.

In his report, Town Administrator Abbondanzio took up the ongoing declared Sewer Emergency at the Montague Industrial Park. The Mass. Department of Revenue has given the town authorization to spend up to \$500,000 for remediating the broken sewer line at the Industrial Park. This allows the town to solicit quotes without advertising.

He also asked the board to approve and issue a Notice to Proceed to CDM (Camp Dresser McKee) to perform emergency engineering services at the industrial park. (For a fuller report on the efforts to solve the Sewer emergency, see pg. 1 of this issue of the *Montague Reporter*.)

He next asked the board to authorize Franklin County Regional Housing Authority to prepare a block grant application. He emphasized that this year the town was again eligible for a full grant.

The block grant application this year will include LED lighting for replacement of the lamps and poles on Avenue A. The plan is to install lights similar to those newly installed on the Gill-Montague Bridge, though not as tall as those are.

The annual Town election warrant was read by Pat Allen. The election is on May 20, 2013. There are multiple openings in all precincts.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Elementary Plans to Increase Security

By DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboard, finance committee, capital improvements committee, police chief, and fire chief met with three representatives of the Massachusetts State Police, three elementary school teachers, several parents ,and Ed Wilkins, the facilities manager for the Gill-Montague schools to discuss upgrading security at the Gill Elementary School. The meeting came in the wake of the assault weapon massacre of 20 first graders and six educators at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT last December.

Gill Elementary principal Kathleen Adams initiated the discussion, according to members of the selectboard and finance committee who were present at the Monday, May 6 meeting, and the proposal that will likely wend its way to annual town meeting on June 11 would include a request for about \$6,500 to purchase so-called "Columbine Locks," named after another infamous school massacre, for 16 interior doors, along with a double set of locks for the cafeteria, and a number of security cameras to monitor either the inside or outside of the school.

The new security locks would allow push-button egress from the classrooms, but would provide some deterrent for an armed intruder intent on entering the classrooms.

Wilkins noted that security has not, at this point, been upgraded at the regional school district's elementary buildings in Montague, and no proposal for security upgrades at the Hillcrest or Sheffield buildings is currently pending. Attendees at the joint meeting, which took place at Gill Elementary and included a tour of the facility, debated whether the town of Gill or the regional school district should be responsible for paying for the upgrades in Gill, and whether the precedent set would be adhered to if Montague decides to pursue upgrades at their elementary buildings.

State police representatives outlined the latest approach to dealing with an active school shooting incident. Instead of securing the perimeter of the building and waiting for backup, current thinking holds that the first responder to the scene should enter the building and try to engage the shooter, in an attempt to save lives.

In other news, the selectboard met separately at town hall earlier in the day on Monday, and dealt with far more routine matters, including a review of energy use at town buildings. The newly installed fuel efficient furnaces at the public safety complex appear to have reduced fuel use at that building by about 20% during the recent heat-

town hall. Let's hope the new roof doesn't leak!

Speaking of leaks, the Riverside Water District continues to be plagued with an excess of groundwater getting into the drain pipes and sewer system, causing ratepayers an extra burden of pumping clean water underneath Barton Cove to be treated at the Montague sewage treatment facility.

In an effort to get to the root of that problem, which may in fact have something to do with tree roots, or other breaks in the sewer system pipes, the selectboard agreed to spend \$4,590 from Riverside District funds for the consulting firm Tighe and Bond to conduct a Phase I Study of I&I. (No, not

a reggae ballad: it stands for "inflow & infiltration"). The study will recommend options, but probably not in time for town meeting to appropriate funds to ameliorate the problem.

The public is invited to join in the Memorial Day Service at the Gill Congregational Church, Sunday, May 26 at 10 a.m., and from there to proceed across the common to the veterans monument for the conclusion of the ceremony. And the common should be well mowed in preparation for that event, as the selectboard has awarded the bid for mowing grass at several municipal sites in town, including the cemeteries, to Alex Urgiel for the modest price of \$155, each time he mows the public green spaces (not to exceed two times a month).

To find out how to get rid of bulky waste at the upcoming Clean Sweep Day, sponsored by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, on Saturday, May 19 from 9 to noon at the Northfield Highway Garage on Route 142, go to the link on the town website or call 772-2438.

The annual town election takes place on Monday, May 20, noon to 8 p.m., with no competitive races on the ballot.

Security has not been upgraded at the regional school district's elementary buildings in Montague, and no proposal for security upgrades is currently pending.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Chair Extinguished; Fugitive Apprehended

Tuesday, 4/23

9:20 a.m. Report of railroad crossing signal damaged on Moore Street. Damage reported to railroad company.

Wednesday, 4/24

9:10 a.m. Medical emergency, Mountain Road. Assisted on scene. Transported by Orange Ambulance.

Thursday, 4/25

2:05 p.m. Report of stolen scrap from Mountain Road residence. Report taken.

Friday, 4/26

1:15 p.m. Found property at Freight House Antiques. Owner advised.

3 p.m. Youths found vandalizing newly-paved basins on Route 63. Spoke with same and their parents. Basins repaired, and report taken.

Saturday, 4/27

2:45 p.m. Motor vehicle crash, Routes 2 and 2A.
3:45 p.m. Report of lost property.

Sunday, 4/28

3:15 p.m. Suspicious activity on Route 2 near Mountain Road: subjects gone upon arrival.

8:45 p.m.

One-car crash, no personal injury, Route 2. Report taken.

Monday, 4/29

1:47 p.m. Dog complaint, Pratt Street.

7:45 p.m. Illegal dumping, North Street. Report taken.

9:35 p.m. Responded to Weatherhead's Storage for reported chair on fire. Erving fire extinguished same.

Tuesday, 4/30

11:15 a.m. Arrested [redacted] of [redacted] Erving, on two warrants. Arrested [redacted] of [redacted] Millers Falls, on a warrant.

4 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle lockout on Mountain Road. Entry gained.

Wednesday, 5/1

8:35 a.m. Assisted state police fugitive team in Erving Center. Subject into state police custody.

8:50 a.m. Report of illegal dumping, Old State Road. Report taken.

12 noon Illegal dumping reported near Renovators Supply. Report taken.

6:46 p.m. Noise complaint on Forest Street. Upstairs neighbor being loud. Spoke with both subjects.

Friday, 5/3

12 midnight Assisted Orange police for domestic disturbance on Prospect Street. Verbal only. Subjects separated for the night.

11 a.m. Logging truck attempted, unsuccessfully, to pass under Arch Street Bridge. Did not hit bridge. Backed same out.

2:15 p.m. One-car crash, Route 2 at the Boxcar. Subject transported to hospital. Boxcar sign

damaged.

4:30 p.m. Report taken of canoe stolen from River Road.

5:05 p.m. Welfare check on East Prospect Street resident. Checked out OK.

Saturday, 5/4

8:45 a.m. Domestic disturbance, Forest Street. Verbal only. One subject left the residence.

10 a.m. Brush fire, Old State Road. Extinguished.

9:05 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] of Greenfield, for operating with a suspended license, lights violation, and speeding.

Sunday, 5/5

12:45 a.m. Noise complaint, Wheelock Avenue. Resident promised to keep it down.

1:35 p.m. Loose dog returned to owner on Northfield Road.

4:30 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with 2-car crash at Bridge Street, Millers Falls.

ERVING from page 8

being within ten miles."

The selectboard voted to designate the town finance committee members as "special municipal employees". Under the state conflict of interest law, unpaid committee members are considered municipal employees and may have a conflict of interest if they take a second position for the town.

The town is considering asking fincom member Jacob Smith to consult with the

town on setting up its new email system, but without special municipal employee designation, this would be considered an illegal conflict of interest.

Special municipal employee status is allowed only in towns under 10,000 population. The special municipal employee must be unpaid, or must hold a part-time position that allows him or her to work at another job, or must work no more than 800 hours per year for the town.

The selectboard appointed

Eric Duffy, Nancy Kruzlic, Brad Peters, and Cyd Scott to the town historical commission. Sharp noted that there are still openings for the seven-member commission and the newly appointed commissioners would love to have company.

The selectboard declined to issue a temporary alcohol permit for a retirement party that organizers were considering holding at the senior and community center.



Poets Wanted!

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

No prior experience necessary, at least as a poet.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 8, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Bikeway on the Home Stretch

The Franklin County Bikeway is finally moving off the drawing board and onto solid ground. With \$2 million in federal and state transportation funds secured, the Canal-side Trail is scheduled to go out to bid by Mass Highway in the late summer or early fall of 2003. The path is designed for bicyclers, pedestrians, runners, rollerbladers and wheelchairs.

Gill Selectmen Get a Lift

The town hall elevator was repaired within sight of the select-board during their May 5 meeting. The work was needed on an emergency basis in order to assure accessibility to the second floor for the annual town meeting later in the

evening. Repairs were completed as the board conducted its business.

Downtowns' Faded Glory

A number of façade improvements are underway on some of the historic buildings in Millers and Turners Falls, including the old Eagle Society building on 3rd Street, now owned by Mike Langknecht and Spencer Peterman, which is seeing an entire renovation of the two-story porch by the Renaissance Builders, on top of a cement wheelchair ramp courtesy of Renaissance Excavators. It is one of several projects underway through a \$330,000 Ready Resource grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Brick House has a New Director

The Brick House, a community resource center in Montague for more than a decade, has a new

director, Mike Bosworth. He has plans to cultivate a network of resources with the Brick House as a vital link. To begin with, he plans to move the Brick House to the MCTV building, a real brick building on 3rd Street, for more space to consolidate his disparate programs under one roof. "People have thought of us in a social service mode," he explains, "but we have now moved more into a prevention mode."

Letter: Slow Down!

Think twice before asking for an order to be delivered from the local pizza house. Once the delivery person hits the road, everyone out and about is at risk. This person continually drives dangerously around the streets of downtown Turners Falls... Please, for the safety of the children and pets in the area, consider picking up your food!

become a productive part of the community."

Bowman said the planning board "finds no significant impact to the quality of life" to Montague neighborhoods from allowing a 500 square foot minimum, which would basically provide enough space for a one-bedroom apartment. "Montague demographics are changing, and family size is shrinking. The current housing stock is inadequate to provide for the diversity of housing needs."

Ramsey said, "Thirty-two

point six percent of the population in town lives alone. The housing stock was designed for larger households." He said a search of zoning regulations in other Western Massachusetts communities turned up no comparable minimum requirement for multi-family dwelling space.

Walter Burnham, a resident of Precinct 1, called for town meeting to impose a moratorium on the proposed zoning change for a year or two, to allow the planning board to gather more input from the villages about what they would like their community to look like. "If the town is interested in the quality of life as much as unloading this building," that would be a more prudent course of action, he said.

Michael Naughton, of Precinct 2, also called for a pause in advancing the zoning change. "Hold off until the... current controversy regarding the Montague Center School is resolved."

But patience is not necessarily town meeting's strong suit, especially when a beautiful spring Saturday has worn away past three in the afternoon with nearly thirty other warrant articles. Among these was one to

spend another \$10,000 in maintaining the empty Montague Center School building, adding to the \$102,945 town meeting had previously approved to insure, heat, repair, and secure the former elementary school since the Gill-Montague Regional School District returned it to the town in 2008, and so a solid majority approved the zoning change.

In other action, town meeting turned down a motion brought forward by the quasi-public Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation to allow \$32,000 previously approved for the remediation of mold, leaks in the roof, and deteriorating conditions at the former Cumberland Farms Building at Avenue A to be also used for demolishing that building, should it come to that. Meeting members voted 45 – 37 to once again, as they did last year, forbid the town to spend money to demolish that building. Many members urged MEDIC to finalize the protracted negotiations with Montague Community Cable, Inc., parent company of Montague Community Television, which hopes to turn the building into a mixed-used television studio, welcome center, and offices for Turners Falls RiverCulture and the Montague Business Association.

Spending for town departments was fixed at \$7,745,203, a \$256,993 (3.43%) increase

see MEETING page 12

MEETING from page 1

litigation, nor, if passed, require the town to start over with a new request for proposals for the Montague Center School project. Although others opined that changing the zoning for minimum dwelling size midway through a contested project would simply allow the developer to reapply under the new regulations, regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit, proponents carried the day, with 63 to 13 voting in favor of the change.

"I'd like to advocate for creating more options for housing in our community," said Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority director Robin Sherman. Sherman said many senior citizens are finding it hard to afford rents in Franklin County, as are young adults, and veterans. She said she realized the prospect of an influx of college students coming to Montague Center had raised alarm, but, "A lot of people in this room came here for an education and stayed to

FOR SALE in ERVING

Sealed bids for a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria black and gray in color, 145,664 miles. Needs a gas tank and rear brakes. Minimum bid \$300.00. Bids will be received by the Board of Selectmen at Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main St, Erving, MA 01344 until May 28, 2013 at 4:00pm. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as "Police cruiser bid".

All bids will be opened and read aloud at 6:45pm on June 3, 2013 in the Select Board Meeting Room at above address. Specifications are available from Police Chief Christopher Blair at 413-423-3310 X2. The Erving Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals as they deem in the best interest of the Town.

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

FOR SALE in ERVING

Sealed bids for a 1999 FL 80 truck. 8.3 Cummins engine, 9 speed trans, 70,830 miles, plow and stainless sander. Minimum bid \$10,000. Bids will be received by the Board of Selectmen at Erving Town Hall, 12 E. Main St, Erving, MA 01344 until May 28, 2013 at 4:00pm. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as "highway truck bid".

All bids will be opened and read aloud at 6:50pm on June 3, 2013 in the Select Board Meeting Room at above address. Can be seen at highway garage. Details at 413-423-3354. The Erving Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals as they deem in the best interest of the Town.

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

LEGAL NOTICE

WENDELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Wendell Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Wendell Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on a Request for a Determination of Applicability concerning a single family home septic repair on property owned by Peter Reddington located at 281 Jennison Road. The meeting will be held at the Wendell Town Office Building at 7:00pm on May 15, 2013.

Charles Thompson Smith
Mary Thomas
Ruth Mazurka

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ALL THE TIME:
EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center: colorful paper quilts and story quilts created by K-8 students.

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

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 9

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

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

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

FRIDAY, MAY 10

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

Studio at 6 Mill St., Greenfield: Poetry reading and book release for Abbot Cutler's *Say Dance*, by Slate Roof Press, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Town Hall, Leyden: *Zydeco Connection*, the *Elementary School Chorus*, and more join in celebration of the 100th birthday of the Leyden Library. Doors at 6:30, zydeco commences at 7:30 p.m. Cake and refreshments available. Free, most likely.

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

dancing apparatus. 7 p.m., \$

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

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

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

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 2 p.m., \$



Ob no! Two zydeco shows run against each other Saturday night: Zydeco Connection, at the Leyden Town Hall, and three more bands at Greenfield's Arts Block Café...

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Sol & Kiel*, instrumental. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, warped americana. 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MAY 13

Bement School Barn, Deerfield: Recital Chorus' *17th Annual Spring Concert*. Students grades 3 to 12, college students, and grown-ups sing old stuff, new stuff, fancy stuff, solo and together. Praetorius, Vecchi, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Gershwin, Daley. Singers are the private students of Ms. Margery Heins, who will conduct. 7:30 p.m., free.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ginevra & Nora's Open Mike Cabaret*, 8 p.m., free.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiznite* with Quizmaster B. Miner, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bevel Summers*, six-piece band from NC with four-part harmony. Go to this. Late show: 11 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

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

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, acoustic rock. 8:30 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Root Hog Or Die*, second screening. Music at 7 p.m.: *Paul Crook & Carol DeLorenzo*, celtic music. Screening at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fresh Beets for Red Fire Farm*, old school dance party. Donations encouraged.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Mud, Blood, & Beer Band*, singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and much more. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Root Hog Or Die*, a 1974 documentary about horse farming in Franklin County. Newly restored. Music at 7 p.m.: *Whistlestop*, fiddle & banjo. Panel discussion featuring director and local farmers. Screening at 7:30 p.m.

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

Greenfield High School: Pioneer Valley Symphony's final "At the Movies" concert, *Mozart and Mahler at the Movies*. They'll do the Overture to the Marriage of Figaro and the *Vesperae solenne de confessorio*, and then Mahler's 4th, all of which should be familiar to the filmgoing public. 7:30 p.m., \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Town Hall, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Blues. Benefit for the Young Entrepreneurs Society. Open mic at 7:30, main act at 8 p.m. Baked goods, sliding scale cover.

Montague Bookmill: *Jay Mascis*, guitar player, famous for being in Deep Wound with the guy who would later front Folk Implosion, who did that one song that was in that movie. Openers are Eric Gagne's new *Passerine*, and yodel/psych *Dredd Foole*. OK Mascis is also in *Witch*. Tickets on sale May 11. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Alternaprom*, a benefit for the Cen-

ter School. With *DJ Z* and an '80s photo booth by *Chattman Photography*. Visit *centerschool.net* for tickets. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* dance party, with mystery guest DJ. 9:30 p.m., \$

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m.

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On The Inside, Looking Out

By LANCE RICE

TURNERS FALLS – Many of you have been on the outside looking in at the lives of struggling drug addicts. The media and press have consistently created stereotypes and presented a host of negative misinterpretations. I'm here to share my story, from being on the inside of a never ending nightmare.

I was the kid who was a quick learner. I was always ahead of the rest, always the one trying to accomplish more than I could handle. Never satisfied you may say. I am currently 23 years old. By the age of 19 I was a high school graduate with a degree in culinary arts and on my way to college. I was also service cafe certified and a certified Home Health Aide in Massachusetts. With already four years of experience in the work field at just 19, my plans for the future were nothing less than to further my education and become the most successful person I could possibly be. Unfortunately, as human beings, we sometimes go down paths that may turn our world as we know it completely upside down.

When I was around 15 years old I began experimenting with drugs, as many teens do. I never thought that my life would one day be changed forever due to my curiosity. It started as a fun time: everyone was doing it. I still don't know what made me pick up my first drug. Was it that I wanted to fit in? Peer pressure? If I could go back and change one day in my entire life, it would be that very day that I picked up my first drug. Everything seemed manageable at first. I used to get high and say to myself, "I've got this under control". For a long time it seemed that I did. I accomplished many things that many teens, who don't use a single drug, don't ever get to

accomplish. All through high school I used drugs. At work, at home, after and before everything. My friends and I have many great memories of times when we were high. However, many of those people stopped getting high as they became adults, and before it ever became something that affected them negatively. I on the other hand began to get worse.

I did not have a great childhood. I witnessed many traumatizing events by the age of ten that most adults will never see, such as physical abuse between my father and mother. This, I would later learn, possibly had a lot to do with why I began using. At 16 I was first introduced to the opiate family of drugs, which in the end became my drug of choice and the cause of my biggest downfalls. One thing I do know for sure is the disease of addiction (and it certainly is a disease) does not discriminate. Any and all of us are subject to it.

Some of us will never touch drugs. Some of us will for a short period of our lives, and many of us will die from it. I was headed on that path and gratefully I have a second chance today. I started realizing that I wasn't feeling good most of the time. I suffered from low energy at work. I was unmotivated. But when I popped a pill it went away. I could work better, I felt alive. This is the point where I realized I was physically dependent on opiate drugs. I was 18 years old. It became my whole life. Everywhere I went I had to have them. If I didn't, I felt as if I were infected with the flu virus. On the street we call this being "dope sick". Every cent I had went to buy pills. And I began to need more and more. Suddenly five pills weren't enough. It went to 10, then 20. At my worse point I was doing anywhere from 25 to 40 pills a day,

more than enough to kill somebody quickly if they did not have the tolerance I had.

For those who don't know, I want to explain what being "dope sick" is like. It is by far the worst possible feeling the human body can experience. First it starts with cold sweats where your body is sweating one second and freezing the next. Sometimes you will get very nauseated and vomit or have diarrhea. You get a restless feeling through out your entire body, as if bugs were crawling under your skin and up your spine. You can't sleep or eat. Now picture all those symptoms put together. It is like the flu virus multiplied by ten. I was in a living hell before I knew it, caught up in a vicious cycle that I could not stop.

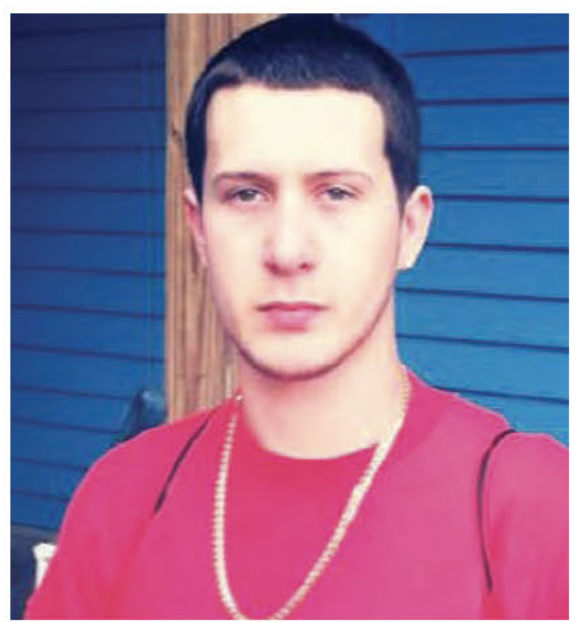
No matter how bad or sick I felt, those tiny little pills would take it all away. It was no longer fun, or something I enjoyed, and quickly it became a problem. But it was the only way I could function. And on those days that I could not get my drugs, I suffered badly. Everything I once knew was now gone: my life, my goals, plans for the future, values, morals were no longer relevant. I went from a bright, motivated, kind young man to living in a complete nightmare. I tried several times to lie on my couch for four or five days in an attempt to kick this habit alone. I failed. The drugs are much too powerful and no one can do it alone.

I was a talented, smart young man, I always wanted the best for my life and myself just like anyone else. In the blink of an eye I was in Hell on Earth. Till this day I truly would not wish that life on anybody, not even on my worst enemy. I can only pray that none of you readers will ever have to experience that torture, or watch any of your loved ones suffer it. Before I knew it, I was using every drug I could get. I began using cocaine, and heroin, and all types of pills. I was a zom-

bie, the living dead. I was truly lost in my world, with no respect for myself at all. It didn't take long before I picked up a needle. That day changed my life for ever.

I didn't like needles. As a child I was always afraid of them. I hated having to stick that needle in my vein all day just to feel normal. It was painful at times. It was a true living nightmare. I remember thinking to myself sometimes as I prepared the drugs to shoot up, "What am I doing? I'm better than this. I'm sick. I need help". But quickly another much louder voice would jump into my head that would say, "You will feel so much better; just do it, one more time." It was a constant war. I remember pulling my mother aside sometimes, and just looking at her and crying. I wanted to beg for help but I was unable to speak. I would just say "Mom, I don't want to stick this needle in my arm anymore." She would tell me, "So don't. Just stop". I would reply with "I can't. I have to. You don't understand".

I would disappear for days, weeks. No one would know if I were dead or alive, and more and more I began to isolate myself from others. I started to lose everything for which I had worked so hard: my job, my apartment, my belongings, my friends. All that did not matter. Heroin would replace it all. I did, however, have one friend, someone with whom I will always be friends, who experienced this whole hell with me. His name is Terrence and



The author, Lance Rice

I bring him up in this story because when I'm writing this he continually pops up in my mind. He saved my life many times, and for that I will always be grateful.

People who knew me no longer recognized me. "Where did our Lance go?" they would ask. I had been, not long before, a person who was very well-liked, and friends with everyone. I was known to be one of the best friends anyone could have. I would give my shirt off my back for a friend, and people knew me to be that person. They were shocked that I was gone. I remember one time walking down the street, weighing only about 120 pounds, in 100 degree weather, wearing a hooded sweatshirt to hide my track marks.

Friends and people I loved were dying all around me from overdoses. With death all around me, you would think that would be reason enough for someone to stop using. But it wasn't. I got worse.

This is part one of two parts. The next installment will appear in next week's paper.

MEETING from page 10

over FY'13. Montague's assessment for the Gill-Montague regional schools was approved at \$7,965,557, or \$115,000 (1.46%) over FY'13.

Voters approved spending \$30,000 to fund right-of-way acquisitions for the reconstruction of Greenfield Road from Montague City to Hatchery Road. This multi-million dollar state funded road project has been in the planning stages for more than 30 years, and has finally reached the 100% design phase. The bulldozers are nearly ready to roll; expect one more public hearing first.

Any chance the bridge over the railroad tracks will ever be rebuilt, to allow traffic to flow once again

between Montague Center and Montague City, asked one interested resident. No chance, answered Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, due to the hydrogeology of the area, and more particularly due to the threat of a lawsuit against the town should the overpass fail again, even if the Guilford, Pan Am, or whatever railroad company owns the tracks in the future is at fault for undermining the bridge abutments.

Town meeting also approved the creation of a seven person broadband committee, to be appointed by the selectboard, which will look into the rapidly changing technology of internet delivered services, and the lack of broadband services in many areas of town, including Chestnut

Hill and Meadow Road.

Montague joined Deerfield in calling on Baystate Franklin Medical to maintain "important medical services at Franklin Medical Center." This petitioned article was brought before town meeting by Baystate nurses, including Mary MacDougall of Precinct 6, who said the Franklin Medical Center no longer provides in-patient pediatric care, among other vital services, and patients are increasingly being diverted to Baystate's medical center in Springfield.

It wasn't all money and issues. Selectboard member Pat Allen and library director Sue SanSoucie, retiring after many decades of service to the town, received a standing ovation for their dedication to Montague.

The best line of the day belonged to finance committee chair John Hanold, who argued in favor of paying the town clerk and treasurer an extra \$1,000 once they completed training to receive advanced certification in their respective offices. "Montague is not the largest town in Franklin County," noted Hanold. "But it's the best." Voters agreed, and approved the motion.



TFHS Students Weigh In on Video Game Violence

By COURTNEY EUGIN

TURNERS FALLS – Students at Turners Falls High School are playing video games rampantly and it could be interfering with their studies, according to recent interviews conducted on school grounds. Children are introduced to video games at a young age. Parents do not often know the effects games will have on their children in later years. Recent reports suggest that video game violence can increase aggression in some individuals, depending on their personalities. In some cases video games have encouraged vulgar behavior in teens.

Patrick Markey, Ph.D., who reported his research in the *American Psychological Association Journal*, stated that, "Children are most likely hostile after playing violent video games." According to Markey, children who view violent video games become easily emotional, and exhibit traits such as "high neuroticism (e.g., easily upset, angry, depressed, emotional, etc.), low agreeableness (e.g., little concern for others, indifferent to others' feelings, cold, etc.) and low carefulness (e.g., break rules, don't keep promises,

act without thinking, etc.)." Studies show that video games are harmless for the vast majority of kids, but are harmful to a small minority with pre-existing personality or mental health problems.

Students at Turners Falls High School shared their views on this discussion. Danielle Bassett, a junior, said that "video games take away sleep from teens which could then cause them to be more violent." Another student, sophomore Liam Ellis, shared his view: "If video games make teens more violent, then they are bound to end up violent either way because video games are harmless." In addition Sam Currier, a sophomore, commented: "If a kid is playing violent video games at a young age, then it plays a part in teen violence. But I don't think it's an excuse, because the kid has his own brain and should know what's right from wrong."

In summary, children who play video games excessively can exhibit increased aggression, particularly those few who are diagnosed with behavioral or emotional issues.

Courtney Eugin is a TFHS student and a Reporter intern.

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