

Factory Hollow Bridge
Ready for a Makeover

Page 3



Heartbreakingly Close
The Little Library that Tied



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 33 also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell 75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES MAY 17, 2012

Buy Local at Food City



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS - "There's big changes coming to Food City," store manager Jon Steiner said the other day.
"There's new signage up above the deli and produce department, and there's our new pizza stand, with pizza baked on site. That's going well. But the big thing is the emphasis on locally grown produce. We've had Williams sweet corn, before, but now we'll have lots of other items, too, from area farmers through the Pioneer Valley Growers Association. We have native asparagus from Gary Gardner's farm, and soon there'll be sweet corn, strawberries, cukes and all manner of produce from local farmers."
The big question is: "Will local produce cost more?"
"No, no," Steiner said. "Since we're going to be buying direct from the farmers, we're eliminating the middle man, handling and trucking, so our prices will be very competitive."
Ordinarily, farmers sell to a wholesaler who stores the produce in a warehouse. From there, the vegetables are bought from wholesalers by big chains, and trucked to their individual distribution centers before shipping on to various stores. By the time the veg-

see FOOD CITY page 9

ELECTIONS
Gill-Montague School Committee

Cogswell: Commitment to Gill-Montague is in My Blood

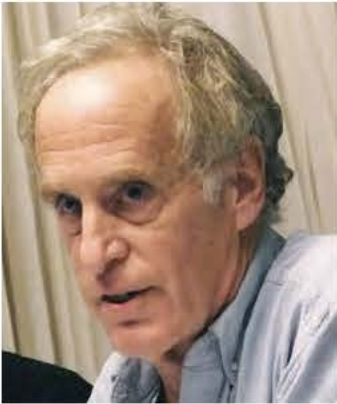


ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
TURNERS FALLS - Lesley Cogswell, of 21 Norman Circle, is running as a write-in candidate for a three-year seat in Montague on the G-M school committee. Cogswell is the mother of two young boys, living in Turners Falls, and expects her sons will soon be attending school in the district. She has a history in education, teaching for nine years, in both Keene, NH and the Bement School in Deerfield. That was before she had her children and settled in Turners Falls.
Cogswell has been a member of the school community council at Montague Elementary for the last four years. She wants to be a positive voice for change on the school committee.
Cogswell grew up in Montague, went to Hillcrest and Sheffield, graduated class of '94 from Turners Falls High School. Her mother was on the school committee.

see COGSWELL page 9

Singleton: Maintain Progress on the School Budget



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
MONTAGUE - In discussing his run for another three year term on the Gill-Montague school committee, Jeff Singleton said one of his primary goals is to maintain the progress the towns and the district have made with the long term budget agreement.
Singleton said the district has seen three budgets passed nearly unanimously at town meetings since the agreement, which he took a central role in crafting, was approved. Singleton emphasized the importance of budget stability, that a reduction in conflict over the budget helps build support in the community for the school district and education. "We can't go backwards," he said.
Singleton expressed strong support for the district's accelerated improvement plan (AIP), calling it essential for

see SINGLETON page 9

Lyons: Will Work for a Stable School District



BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE - Misty Lyons is running for a three year Montague seat on the Gill-Montague school committee in Monday's town elections. Lyons, current vice president for Florence Savings Bank, and member of the GCC Foundation board of directors, has worked in banking for the last 24 years, and gained experience with budget and finances in the process.
She said, "I am a high energy person that likes and wants to be involved. I always try to see both sides of the story, and I like people to try to do the same. Even when things are stressful, I try to stay positive and focused. I am a team player and a problem solver." Lyons is a member of the Montague Elementary School Council.
Lyons said she decided to run for school committee because of her, "seri-

see LYONS page 9

Crane Removal Adds
Another Hurdle at Usher Mill



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
ERVING - The town of Erving recently acquired the Usher Mill property on Arch Street for back taxes, and now the town is preparing to move forward with the demolition of most of the remaining buildings and the cleanup of the site. A giant crane left behind by former owner, Patriots Environmental has raised another hurdle to the town's cleanup of the property. Why did the former owner leave the crane on site? The town has already entertained bids from two scrap dealers for dismantling the crane, or hauling it away.
A call to the offices of Patriots Environmental, a salvage firm in Worcester, led to this comment from owner Ron Bussier. "We'd be happy to finish taking down the building, remediate the site and give the lot to the town, but with the asbestos, and the town being too difficult to deal with, and the taxes and all.... Bussier left that thought hanging, and said, "We're taking the crane out sometime this week; that's up to

our guys when they can do it." He added, "Our attorneys are talking to their attorneys, so we'll leave it at that."
The crane has two dual wheel axles on the back, and two single wheel steering axles on the front. If the carrier engine is in running condition, there should be no problem moving it. If not running, Patriots will need a really big tow truck to haul it away.

Charles Kelley:
Put the Students First



BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
MONTAGUE - Charles Kelley is running for a two-year seat on the Gill-Montague school committee because he believes every child deserves a chance, and has the right to a good education.
Kelley says he is running to make a difference in the lives of children. He says in his work for Montague Community Cable Television he frequently gets to watch the school committee meetings and has become concerned over the lack of civility among the members, and how that impacts the schools.
Kelley said if he is elected he will provide an independent voice on the committee, and could contribute to the process to help improve the way committee members work together, in hopes of putting their differences behind them.
Kelley wants to be part of a committee that views themselves first and foremost as being responsible to the needs of the children in the school district. He praised departing superintendent Nadine Ekstrom and her work in the

see KELLEY page 9

Shelly Clark:
Teamwork and Motivation



BY PATRICIA PRUITT
MONTAGUE - Shelly Clark is running as a write-in candidate for the two-year seat on the Gill-Montague school committee in Monday's town elections. Clark has been serving as a temporary appointee on the committee for the last two months since Emily Monosson resigned in the middle of her term.
Clark said she felt a bit like "a deer in the headlights" during her first few meetings on the school committee. At this point she feels she has gained a better understanding of the committee's work. Sometimes, she finds, it can be difficult to strike a balance between the school district's budgetary constraints and the educational needs of the students. The committee's challenge, as she sees it, is "to find the best education for the money."
Clark cites the report on the English Language Learners program presented at the May 8th school committee meeting by Rebecca Wright and Jean Bean as an example of the enthusiasm, expertise, and energy of district staff

see CLARK page 9

PET OF THE WEEK Bunny Luv



Munchies

Munchies is the funnest kid in the world! He is an eight-month old mini rex rabbit in need of a home. He is a curious and outgoing bunny. Munchies is a brave boy who shows interest in other animals. He's friendly and likes to play with toys. He also likes to snuggle if you let him climb into your lap.

Bunnies are very social; they love to play and form close bonds with their people. They are also easy to litter train, and they are off the scales when it comes to cuteness!

For more information on adopting Munchies, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

Promageddon - Return of the Misfits

WENDELL - For those who want to go out in style, this year's Misfit Ball, dubbed Promageddon 2012 in honor of the Mayan Calendar, will take place at the Wendell town hall on June 9th, from 7:00 p.m. till the END! Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse.

Promageddon will star Dedicated to Delilah, Wendell's Creative Curvy Ginger G. G., and Llama Lasagne.

Prom raffle tickets are on sale at the Wendell Country Store and will be drawn on prom night.

Prizes include a one year subscription to the *Montague Reporter*, an original drawing by Bob Ellis, a copy of *Audacious Aging* by Joe Laur, a cord of wood from Jake

Doody, drum lessons from Karen Copeland, a healing session from Shelley Hines, acupuncture from Karen Traub, math tutoring from Melinda Godfrey, an adult piano lesson with Alyssa Terrien-Queen, an amazing Lou's Upcycles bag, maple syrup from Laura Facey, ice cream for four at the Wagon Wheel, a lovely child's gardening tool set from Melinda Godfrey, gift certificates from the Wendell Country Store, Deja Brew, Hope and Olive, Greenfields Farmers Coop, World Eye Bookstore and Fosters Market, and a free DVD or Blue Ray of *Doma and Alia go Scrapping* along with an autographed poster from Doug Dawson, and more.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

Pop Up Art Workshop

A free workshop in paper art will be held on Saturday, May 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Learn how to make pop-up creations that can be used in greeting cards, books or 3-D art pieces.

Luc Bodin will teach the technique of creating pop-ups from a single piece of paper using single or multiple slits. Once you have the

basic technique, you can make simple or complex designs and overlay them with additional single sheet pop-ups. Bring scissors, a cutting mat and craft knife if you have them. Paper is provided.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.

Stop by the library to see the pop-up art work currently on display.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Sometimes Laughter is the Best Medicine

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *Is there any truth to the old saying, 'Laughter is the best medicine?'*

Lots of truth. Laughter makes you feel good and is beneficial in many ways. We come into this world knowing how to laugh. Infants begin smiling in their first weeks and laugh out loud within months of being born. We must have this ability for a reason.

Laughter has been shown to prevent heart disease, reduce stress, elevate immunity, ease anxiety, alleviate pain, relax muscles, elevate mood, develop emotional resilience, and strengthen relationships.

A study found that humor reduces agitation in people with dementia. 399 nursing home residents with dementia or other age-related problems were visited weekly by an Elder Clown. Participants in the study had a 20% decrease in overall agitation. This benefit lasted for at least 14 weeks after the program ended.

Laughter:

• Relaxes the body: A major guff-



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

aw relieves physical tension and stress, leaving muscles relaxed for up to 45 minutes.

- Decreases stress hormones and increases immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies that improve resistance to disease.
- Triggers release of endorphins, chemicals that promote a sense of well-being and relieve pain.
- Improves blood vessel function and increases blood flow, which helps protect against heart attacks and other cardiovascular problems.

Humor strengthens our relationships by creating emotional connection and buffers against disagreements. And humor is a powerful way to heal hurt feelings.

Send your questions to fred@healthygeez.com.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - May 21st - 25th

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

Monday, May 21st

Senior Center CLOSED

Tuesday, May 22nd

9:00 a.m. Walking Group

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday, May 23rd

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, May 24th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday, May 25th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:30 a.m. Pizza Party
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

Walking Club

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

Monday, May 21st

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi



Jaylice at the second annual Touch a Truck Day last Saturday, May 12th, at the Erving Elementary School, where many happy youngsters were able to touch a truck!

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

Sci Fi Movie Series Presents 'Outland'

On Saturday May 19th at 7:30 p.m. there will be a free screening of *Outland* at Wendell Library.

Marshal W.T. O'Neil (Sean Connery) is assigned to a mining colony on Io, one of Jupiter's moons. When the marshal investigates the mysterious deaths of miners on the colony, he discovers the use of a lethal drug that allows the miners to work continuously

for days at a time until they become "burned out" and expire. Now O'Neil must watch his back, as those who seek to protect their income begin targeting him. The plot has certain similarities with the western, *High Noon*.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call 978-544-3559.

WENDELL COA FILM SERIES

Winter's Bone

Winter's Bone will be shown for free on Sunday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Library.

Winter's Bone is set in the contemporary backlands of the Missouri Ozarks. Jennifer Lawrence plays a 17-year old girl taking care of her two younger siblings and a barely sane mother. Her meth-cooking father has skipped bail, and the sheriff will take the house if he can't be found.

Winter's Bone focuses on a society that has been left behind. It looks like Walker Evans' photographs of the rural Depression, brought forward to today." -Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun Times*



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Katie Parzych!

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Grade 7

Hattie Harvey

Grade 8

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Local Briefs

JESSICA LARVIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Join the Greenfield Garden Club on Saturday, May 26th, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the 17th annual **extravaganza plant sale** at Trap Plain on the corner of Federal and Silver Streets in Greenfield. The sale will feature a wide variety of plants at reasonable prices along with a garden related tag sale and drawing. All proceeds go back into the community in the form of local projects.

Greenfield Savings Bank is holding their monthly **bingo** on Saturday, May 19th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls with guest caller Becky Caplice, GSB bank president.

An **adult bear** visited the neighborhood on the corner of Center Street and Federal Street in Montague Center last Saturday evening, May 12th. The black bear arrived at sunset, out of the watershed, crossed a creek and driveway over to the woods on the edge of some private property and appeared very hungry.

The members of Harmony Masonic Lodge in Montague City, on Masonic Avenue, are hosting a **Child Safety Day** on Saturday, June 2nd, starting at 10:00 a.m.

The event will feature bicycle

and fire safety events conducted by local police and fire departments along with a three bicycle giveaway.

Children that complete the bike safety course will be eligible for a drawing of bikes and helmets. For more information, contact David Kuklewicz at 413-326-8760.

The Montague Parks and Recreation would like to remind residents of the town requirement to **clean up after your dogs and cats**, especially in the town parks and sidewalks. Exposure to animal feces is not healthy for humans or other pets.

The town of Montague health department has a pooper scooper regulation for dog and cat owners that fines violators \$25.00 for the first, er... offense, \$50.00 for the second, and \$100 for the third and each subsequent violation (with a potential fine of up to \$1,000). So, come on people, scoop that poop!

The Great Falls Discovery Center (GFDC), on 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls is now open 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Starting on Friday, June 1st, the GFDC will be open for the first time on Friday and Saturday evenings until 8:00 p.m. through the summer.

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

New Library Software System to be Installed Memorial Day Weekend

MONTAGUE - Many local libraries will be making a major software change over Memorial Day weekend as the C/W MARS library network plans to install new software for all member libraries. Local C/W MARS libraries include the public libraries in Montague. From May 26th to May 29th, some library services may be limited or unavailable.

The new "integrated library system" is called Evergreen and will change how library staff check out materials, process inter-library hold requests, and generally conduct business at the circulation desk. It will also change the online catalog, how patrons search for items, place holds, and check their library card record.

Once the new system is online, there are a few current options that will not carry over to the new system. For library patrons, this will include:

- **Their Current PIN/Password:** Patrons will be able to login to their

online catalog account using their last name in upper case as a password. They will then be required to create a new password during that first login.

- **Reading History and Current Wish Lists:** For the current Reading History and Wish Lists, patrons have the ability to export lists or print from a computer. There is a button to choose "Export List" at the top of the list. Choices are limited, but the Brief Display (Author, Title, Published fields) is recommended. These can be sent to an email address as a text file or displayed on the computer for printing.

The last time the C/W MARS network changed their integrated library system was the fall of 1999. The Evergreen system has many new features such as easily searching all network libraries in Central and Western Mass., and the ability to share reading lists and recommendations with others. For more information please contact your local library.

Montague Dog Owners have until May 31st to Register Dogs

BY DEB BOURBEAU - The deadline to register dogs in Montague is May 31st. Thereafter, a fine of \$20 will be added to the registration fee. On June 1st, the chief of police will receive a list of delinquent dog owners for enforcement.

Dogs are licensed at the town clerk's office. A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5, and a license for an unaltered dog is \$10.

The clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided.

The town clerk's office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Fridays. For more info: contact the office at 863-3200, ext. 203 or at townclerk@montague-ma.gov.

Medicine Mammals

BY LORIL MOONDREAM WENDELL - Medicine Mammals, a non-profit wildlife rehab facility in Wendell, will hold its annual spring clean-up and work party on Saturday, May 19th. Work hours start at 11 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m., followed by a fire circle, with guitars and song. There will be jobs for everyone, followed by lots of fun. So come one, come all to 101 Morse Village Road in Wendell. Bring shovels, rakes and hammers and anything you think could help.

We have lots of storm damage to clean up, so please come help us get our facility back in shape.

Turners Falls Fishway Open for the Season

BY BETH PELTON - Spring on the Connecticut River offers an unrivaled opportunity to witness the migration of shad, sea lamprey and other anadromous fish. These fish migrate from the ocean and head upriver to spawn in the rivers of their birth.

A visit to the Turners Falls Fishway provides an opportunity to learn about these amazing fish and their journeys. Admission is free.

The Turners Falls Fishway will be open from Saturday, May 12th through Sunday, June 17th. The facility is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fishway is located on 1st Street, off Avenue A, in Turners Falls. For info please visit www.firstlightpower.com/northfield or call: (800) 859-2960.

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Factory Hollow Bridge Past Due for Repairs

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - As shown in this photo, beams and braces under the Falls River Bridge, on Route 2 in Factory



PARZYCH PHOTO

Hollow, are rusted completely away in places. The drain, seen at the top of the photo, sheds surface water laced with corrosive road chemicals onto steel beams and braces, deteriorating them along with concrete abutments and structures.

Essentially, the entire bridge, except for the center piers, which need reinforcement, is slated for demolition and replacement. Not a moment too soon.

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Containing Health Care Costs in Massachusetts

BY GOV. DEVAL PATRICK

BOSTON – (excerpts from a speech to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday, May 15th)

"We have a lot to be proud of when it comes to health care reform.

"We started with the belief that health is a public good and that everyone deserves access to affordable, quality care. That, for us, is a basic value, an expression of the kind of Commonwealth we want to live in, meaningful enough to motivate a broad coalition of legislators, and business leaders and labor leaders and patient advocates and policymakers in 2006 to reform the way we access health care.

"And that reform is working. I just want to review some of the facts:

"Almost everyone has access to health insurance; 98.2 percent of our total population is insured; 99.8 percent of children. No other state in America can touch that. While the national trend between 2006 to 2010 was going in the other direction, we increased the number of people insured in Massachusetts by more

"Health care reform is working in Massachusetts. It's especially important to acknowledge that truth since we see a lot of misrepresentation about this on the national political scene these days.

"Our approach favors the purchase of insurance through the private market with public subsidies for those unable to pay. But health care and health insurance remain costly, not just in overall terms but when compared to everything else. Nationally, spending on health care increased 6.5 percent annually in the last ten years, while real incomes fell in the period by more than seven percent. In Massachusetts, per capita health care spending has grown almost three times as fast as median family income in that time. This problem predates and is unrelated to health care reform. And it is unsustainable.

"It's also unnecessary. Experts estimate that as much as 20 to 30 percent of current health care spending is wasted on overtreatment, avoidable hospital readmissions, preventable errors, unnecessary



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

GUEST EDITORIAL

Bank of America Gone Astray

BY CHUCK COLLINS & SCOTT KLINGER

WASHINGTON, DC - The father of Bank of America wouldn't recognize it today. The 'built-to-last' institution he founded has turned into a 'built-to-loot' operation obsessed with short-term gains.

Amadeo P. Giannini built Bank of America into the first nationwide financial institution. The Italian American's success hinged on his determination to challenge the notion that banks should benefit society's wealthiest members.

As the son of immigrants who had settled in California, Giannini knew that many Americans of modest means could greatly benefit from access to the banking system. In 1904, he opened the doors of the Bank of Italy in San Francisco and welcomed customers others would not serve. He sold mortgages to aspiring homeowners with no prior credit. His business thrived.

Two years later, after an earthquake shattered most of San Francisco's infrastructure, Giannini made loans — often on little more than a handshake — to people who were eager to rebuild their broken community.

While helping others improve their lot and their communities, he built a booming, solid business.

In 1928, Giannini bought Bank of America. By 1945, it was the largest bank in the United States, with customers throughout the country.

The demands of new business spurred Bank of America to innovate. It created the nation's first automatic check processing system, which enabled working families of modest means to open checking accounts. Years later, it offered customers the first bank-based credit

card, BankAmericard. For the first time, the middle class could enjoy the convenience of credit cards, previously only available to the wealthy.

By the 1980s, Bank of America's built-to-last business model had given way to a built-to-loot system. The now giant bank recklessly pushed loans to developing nations, in a bid to reap large profits as extractive industries entered to produce oil, metals, and food for export. Many of the loans went bad, leaving the world's poorest citizens poorer still and Bank of America facing a financial crisis.

After many years of retrenching, it eventually began to gobble up other banks around the country. When the financial crisis erupted in 2008, Bank of America absorbed one of the nation's largest and most reckless subprime lenders, Countrywide Financial. Soon, with bad loans rocking, taxpayers had to bail out Bank of America to the tune of \$45 billion.

Amadeo P. Giannini must be rolling in his grave. The new Bank of America has become a modern-day version of the 19th-century banks that only served the wealthiest customers, a model he wisely transcended. If he were alive today, Giannini might even have participated in the protests that marked the bank's recent annual shareholder meeting.

Over the last three years, Bank of America has extracted more than \$28 billion of service fees from its customers. The bank notes in its recent annual report that its service fees fell \$1.3 billion in 2011, largely because the Federal Reserve has placed limits on exorbitant fees for bounced checks.

It has foreclosed on the homes of hundreds of thousands of working American families. It sits on more

than \$120 billion in cash, and yet up until it recently agreed to the terms of a court settlement, refused to refinance the mortgages of those who have faithfully paid their bills every month only to find themselves owing more than their homes are now worth. Rather than making money available to those who want to rebuild our economy, Bank of America has parked more than \$18 billion overseas, much of it in one of the 115 subsidiaries it operates in tax haven countries.

Unlike its founder, who had little interest in amassing personal wealth and often worked without a salary, those who have followed at Bank of America's helm have lined their own pockets. Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan pocketed more than \$8 million in compensation last year. Moynihan's predecessor, Ken Lewis, took home even more in the two years before the 2008 economic earthquake unleashed a tidal wave of foreclosures.

Shifting our businesses back to 'built-to-last' mode will require new rules that promote fair lending, consumer protections, and a smaller gap between CEO compensation and workers' paychecks. If we want to live in a 'built-to-last' society, we'll need to rein in the unchecked power of 'built-to-loot' corporations.

Chuck Collins is a senior scholar and Scott Klinger is an associate fellow at the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies.

Collins, a former resident of Montague, is the author of the new book: 99 to 1: How Wealth Inequality is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do about It.

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PHOTO: ERIC HAYNES

Governor Deval Patrick addressing the Boston Chamber of Commerce

than 400,000 people.

"Over 90 percent of our residents have a primary care physician, and four out of five have seen their physician in the last 12 months.

"More businesses offer health insurance to their employees today than before our reforms took effect, some 78 percent of Massachusetts businesses as compared to the national average of about 69 percent.

"We are healthier, too. Preventive care is up: more people are receiving cancer screenings, more women are getting pre-natal care, visits to emergency rooms have decreased. One hundred and fifty thousand people stopped smoking once we expanded coverage for smoking cessation programs. Women, minorities and low-income people have experienced the biggest health improvements.

"Expanding coverage added just over one percent to net state spending — meaning that the expansion of coverage has not busted the budget.

administration, and things like that. All in, spending on health care is \$67 billion every year here in Massachusetts; so, that means you and I spend somewhere between \$13 and \$20 billion that we do not have to every single year. The unhealthy choices we make in our own lives also add to cost. And we all pay for it — with or without a system of universal access.

"We are certainly bending the cost curve here in the Commonwealth. Small businesses and working families have saved over \$600 million since 2010 as average increases in health insurance rates have dropped from about 16 percent on average to less than one percent today. Providers and insurers have reopened contracts and reduced preset increases, cutting millions out of future cost growth.

"Of the 32 newly created so-called Pioneer ACO's in the United States — organizations pioneering cost-saving partnerships with the federal government — five of them

are here in the Commonwealth. One other state has more, and that's six in California.

"State government is modeling the move toward more efficient models of care. As a result, the Connector has reduced premiums in the past two years by ten percent. Nearly a third of employees insured through the Group Insurance Commission opted for limited network plans, saving themselves and the state more than \$30 million. Through these and other moves we shaved nearly a billion dollars off of the projected growth in health care costs in the current fiscal year. We

are projected to shave another \$700 million off next year's growth as well.

"I am a capitalist. But I am not a market-fundamentalist. I don't believe the market always gets everything just right, at just the right time. And the health care industry is most certainly not a perfectly rational market. So, the question is not whether there is a role for government. The question is what is the proper role for government. Just as the public and private sectors came together to solve the challenge of health care access, we are going to find a solution together to containing health care costs.

"As we work together [with the House and Senate] over the next few weeks, there are a few core principles that I expect to see reflected in a

final bill. They are: a cost containment goal, flexibility in how to achieve it, accountability for failing to do so, and sensible tort reform.

"First, the goal. The House and the Senate bills set goals for total health care expenditures as a proportion of Gross State Product. Tying the goal to the overall growth of the state's economy makes sense to me, since all we're trying to do is make sure health care costs don't outgrow everything else. In business, they shouldn't crowd out the ability to add more people to the payroll or to invest in innovation. In government, they shouldn't crowd out investments in education and public safety and job creation.

"What goal is reasonable is a fair subject for debate. When you hear that per capita spending has grown three times as fast as median income and that 20 percent or more of current medical spending may be unnecessary, that suggests to me that an industry as dynamic and innovative as our health care industry should be able to find a way both to reduce costs and pass those savings on to you. In other words, an ambitious goal ought to be realistic.

see HEALTH page 5

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Cogswell, for Change

A vote for Lesley McCord Cogswell is not just a vote for change. It is a vote for an extremely concerned parent and educator.

Lesley is a believer in public education who has been through the Montague school system. That education has served her well. She wants her children as well as all children in the district to have the best quality of education available. She is an intelligent voice of reason that will serve the school committee and citizens of Montague, young and old, with her clear thinking and her voice of reason.

Please place a write in vote for Lesley Cogswell, 21 Norman Circle, for a three year Montague seat on May 21st.

—Barbara Bodenstein
past chair

Gill Montague School Committee

Singleton Does his Homework

I am writing to support the reelection of Jeff Singleton for three reasons.

Firstly, his experience with budgets and finance surpasses most of his colleagues.

Secondly, he has demonstrated his ability to think outside the state

Singleton: to Improve Schools, Community

A vote for Jeff Singleton for the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee is a vote to rid the committee of its past dysfunction. This dysfunction dates back to the school committee voting to close the Montague Center School; a school that had outstanding test scores in combination with a curriculum that integrated learning standards with math and science into the performing arts.

The model of this now defunct school is currently being used at many area charter schools.

In addition, Jeff was a history teacher at Boston College for 20 years. History is an important subject in regard to human development. It can direct people to not repeat old mistakes and solve problems for future generations. Jeff Singleton understands the big picture in educational funding in regards to money trickling down to small, rural communities in western Massachusetts, and will work for the betterment of the community.

—Jan Atamian
Lake Pleasant

box.

Lastly, I cannot trust our district to a write in candidate who, by definition, basically couldn't file her papers on time. So for those of us who think, it's really a no brainer.

—Kathy Lynch
Montague

Singleton an Asset to the Gill-Montague District

The upcoming election for the Gill-Montague school committee members is an important one. The district needs members who are professionally experienced, who understand district and town finances, who are familiar with the dynamics of state and local funding streams, who have demonstrated a capacity to develop and pursue broad education policies in our district, and who are committed to work hard and consistently at these issues. Of equal importance, this district needs new, imaginative, and knowledgeable approaches to education at the elementary level - approaches that can work with and reach beyond the dictates of state administrative bodies.

We believe that of all the candidates for the school committee, Jeff Singleton most completely meets these district needs. He was the initial inspiration for the compact and financial plan that ended years of budget battles between the district and the towns. He has worked consistently with us and the district superintendents to help implement the plan adopted by all the parties to the compact, which so far has produced three years of budget peace and fiscal sustainability.

As a long time member of the Montague finance committee, Jeff has a detailed understanding of town finances and their relationship to district funding. From his work on the

technical panel, he has developed a close understanding of the state's Chapter 70 formula, how it affects the funding for our district, and why we are not receiving increases in Chapter 70 funding. Based on that knowledge he has ideas on what can be done to achieve the annual increments needed to make the financial plan work. In addition to all this financial knowledge and leadership, Jeff has this year produced a full scale, long-term education plan for consideration by the school committee.

Finally, throughout his time on the school committee, Jeff has stood loudly against any idea that this district cannot or should not grow from its past and develop a new future of academic and social excellence in which the interests of students truly come first. In the long run, this may be the most important element of his agenda.

From working with Jeff on the technical panel for almost three years, and as a colleague on the Montague finance committee, we are confident that Jeff is the school committee candidate who brings serious and hardworking experience and knowledge to the table. He is an asset to the district and should be re-elected.

—Tupper Brown, Gill
—Mike Naughton, Montague

Declining Enrollment at Issue in

Monday's G-M School Committee Election

I am writing as a former Gill-Montague school committee member who resigned out of frustration this year, in part because of the view that interest in increasing enrollment is somehow in conflict with the Accelerated Improvement Plan.

A committee that embraces enrollment issues is a committee not only devoted to turning the district around, removing itself from Level 4 but also a district with confidence that it has something more to offer the children of Montague and Gill. That it is willing to become an innovative and forward thinking district. As a member of the school community council I am still highly invested in the district, particularly in the high school, and one of my priorities remains enrollment.

Although the school offers a surprising number of advanced placement classes for such a small school, I am concerned that declining enroll-

ment may impact not only these upper level classes but the capacity for the school to offer a diversity of classes. How to fulfill the course requirements for college applications within the current block scheduling and with the limited number of course offerings is a constant struggle for students. The graduating class this year is about 53 seniors. This is a particularly small class, but still, back in 2003, over 100 graduated.

I've always said that TFHS is one of the best kept secrets: offering small classes almost like a private school, but the flip side is that the smaller we get the more difficult it will come to maintain courses, teams, and bands. We are losing our young talent in this town to other districts. So I would ask voters to consider this in deciding which box to mark in next week's election.

—Emily Monosson
Montague

The Singleton Question

Every now and then a local election has serious consequence. For the towns of Montague and Gill and the Gill-Montague Regional School District this is one of those crossroads where a single individual may dramatically affect the future of education in our towns.

Jeff Singleton's voice joined the education policy conversation at a crisis moment. His leadership and knowledge of education and of school financing was a critical asset to the towns and the school committee. The crisis in education continues, but one aspect of the crisis has abated. For two years in a row the budget wars at town meeting have cooled. Two school budgets in a row have passed with guarded but

overwhelming support, devoid of the acrimony that had become the sad focus of the education debate. Singleton was pivotal in that turnaround.

The schools problems are not yet cured. Our Level 4 status persists, but the school system is no longer in full crisis. I believe Singleton's views and contributions have been critical in moving Gill-Montague ahead. Others may differ, but I for one cannot believe that losing his voice and vision will not jeopardize the progress so dearly earned.

Support the progress toward a strong and effective educational system. Re-elect Jeff Singleton.

—David Jensen
Lake Pleasant

Statement of Solidarity from W. Mass Affinity Groups of SAGE Alliance to the Pilgrim Coalition

On May 10th, the caucus of Western Massachusetts affinity groups of the SAGE Alliance issued a Statement of Solidarity (reprinted below) with the people working to close the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, MA. Several members carried the statement to an action on the Sagamore Bridge on Sunday, May 13th.

It should be noted the current evacuation plan in the event of a disaster at the Pilgrim nuclear power plant is to close the bridges to Cape Cod, to prevent anyone on the Cape from leaving and interfering with the evacuation of the mainland. If you have any questions about the work going on to close Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim, contact me on my cell at 978-846-9348 or at tracy.sharon@gmail.com.

The W. Mass caucus of affinity groups of the SAGE Alliance sends this message of support to the Pilgrim Coalition, and other local groups and individuals living in the shadow of the Pilgrim nuke.

Like you, we live in the evacua-

tion zone of a 40-year-old, Mark I, Entergy-owned reactor – VT Yankee – that should have been shut down years ago. That should have never been built.

Though the evacuation zones of our twin nuclear reactors would interlap, depending on the wind and weather, and on any given day we could find ourselves seeking refuge in each others' homes, our common bond is stronger than our fear of meltdowns.

We join with you in solidarity, east and west, to shut down these deadly reactors before the sirens wail.

We are together with you in the struggle. Politically, bioregionally – we are already one community.

Together we will shut these Entergy reactors down, to protect the health and safety of our homes and families and usher in a safe and Green future for our children, free from the threat of Fukushima in New England. No Nukes!

—Sharon Tracy
Athol

Backing Cogswell

When I learned that Lesley (McCord) Cogswell had decided to run as a write in candidate for the GMRSD School Committee I was thrilled! Everything I know about Leslie makes me believe she will be a wonderful addition to the committee, if given the opportunity to serve.

Lesley's family has lived in Turners Falls for decades, making her a life-long resident of the town of Montague. Over the last 30 years I have had the pleasure of watching Lesley flourish during her 12 years as a student in the school system and then go to college, becoming an accomplished educator herself. Lesley's intelligence, motivation, integrity, loyalty and responsibility make her a perfect candidate for the three-year position she hopes to fill.

In addition to Lesley's character strengths, she has nine years experience in the classroom as a teacher, holds a master's degree in education, has served as a town meeting member, is presently a school community council member and is on the TFHS alumni association board. Lesley is passionate about education and cares deeply about her hometown, the place where she and her husband decided to raise and educate their two sons.

There is a great deal of work to be done due to administrative changes, budget concerns and a "Level 4" label, and Lesley is ready for the demanding yet rewarding experience. She hopes she can help to shape the future of the district for the children, teachers, and taxpayers of the town of Montague.

To insure her election, please affix a label for or write in Lesley Cogswell, 21 Norman Circle, Turners Falls. Your vote really can make a difference.

—Michele Hazlett
Greenfield

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2:15 p.m. - *Welcome to Shelbyville*. Directed by Kim A. Snyder. Change comes to this Southern town as whites, African Americans, Latinos and Somalis grapple with their beliefs, histories and evolving ways of life. Marian Kelner, Discussion Leader

4:00 p.m. - *Lost in Detention*. Frontline. This powerful documentary is about the breakup of immigrant lives for minor legal offenses. Tony Dericotte, discussion Leader

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. - Local Fare Supper: Sliding scale, \$4-\$10

6:30 p.m. - *Mooz-lum*. Directed by Qasim "Q" Basir. Bigotry in the wake of 9/11 attacks as seen through the complexity of one family's life in Dearborn, MI. Mamadou Sarr, Discussion Leader

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Equi's Candy Store 'on Hold' for Now

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH
TURNERS FALLS -

Equi's.
The very name on the sign on the candy shop on Avenue A in Turners Falls brings fond memoirs to mind.

Begun by John Equi and later run by Ed McCray and his wife Margie, who inherited it from her parents, the shop was a busy place. The McCrays made candy in big copper kettles in the back room at the rear of the ice cream parlor. Delicious peanut brittle, taffy, candy of hardened molasses foam, candy canes and all manner of chocolates were just a few of the handmade delights they conjured in that workshop in the back room.

Up front, the shop also offered commercial penny candy and bulk candy by the pound. Tobacco, cigarettes and cigars, as well as newspapers were on sale. A steady stream of customers plied the store for Sunday papers after church services. Equi's was a busy place.

The shop had a soda fountain for the ice cream parlor, a popular destination after a movie date at the Shea Theatre. The "Ice Cream Chairs" had backs and legs of twisted steel with an appropriate heart shape in the center of the back. Round tables with twisted steel legs matched the chairs.

The ice cream parlor also had booths for more intimate seating. A half dozen paddle fans hung from the ceiling. A motor, high on a shelf in one corner, powered a clothesline belt linked to pulleys on the fans whispering languidly as young lovers enjoyed ice cream sodas, also whispering sweet nothings in the intimate seclusion of the booths.

The McCrays sold the chairs and

tables, discontinued the soda fountain and ice cream part of the business to concentrate on the candy business.

When Massachusetts established the lottery, the shop engaged in the easier and more lucrative lottery ticket sales to accommodate the gullible public with dreams of hitting it big and telling their boss to take their job and shove it.

The McCrays lived in the white house on 4th Street behind the store, also inherited from the original owner, John Equi, according to information supplied by librarian Susan SanSoucie. The McCrays later moved to a new house on "the Hill" in Turners. Ed McCray worked for the state in the traffic division during the day and at the store evenings.

When he retired from his job with the state, the McCrays sold the shop to James and Kathleen Parent. The Parents resumed candy making, but Jimmy died and Kathy married Donald Brown. The Browns ran the shop while living in Gill, for a while, before selling the shop to Walter Williams and retiring to Cape Cod.

This week, the sign on the door says Closed, the candy counters are cleaned out, and rumors swirl



DETOLD PHOTO

like the patterns on the multi-colored candy canes school children used to peer at with their noses pressed against the cool display panes. Perhaps a restaurant may soon be established in the old store front.

But Williams insists the candy store is not closed for good.

"It's on hold right now," said Williams, "looking for a new location, to be determined."

"I don't want to kill the dream," he added.

Generations of children who eagerly begged pennies from their parents for a piece of toffee or a square of fudge nod their heads in silent agreement.

HEALTH from page 4

unnecessary, that suggests to me that an industry as dynamic and innovative as our health care industry should be able to find a way both to reduce costs and pass those savings on to you. In other words, an ambitious goal ought to be realistic.

"I look forward to working with the Legislature and all of you on a final goal. I think the industry can do better than GSP. I certainly could not imagine accepting GSP plus anything, for three reasons: the industry has already shown us they can do better than that; they have shown they can do so without jeopardizing the quality of care; and any goal that foresees increases above GSP just postpones the day when health care is all we can afford to buy.

"Whatever the goal, the health care industry will need flexibility and may need new tools in order to meet it. The consensus among health practitioners is that transitioning to integrated care will improve the quality of care and also be more cost effective. The industry is moving in that direction and we have and will continue to help support these moves. But mandating global payments or any other specific means is unnecessarily limiting. The bill I filed required all state agencies to move away from fee-for-service (basically as a way to assure we are using the state's buying power to move the market and modeling the change that works), but we left room for fee-for-service in the private market so long as costs were controlled. I do think it is important to allow that kind of flexibility. It's lowering premiums and maintaining quality we care about, not necessarily the details of every method of care delivery.

"Thirdly, it is critical that the industry be accountable for reaching the goal. Government has a role in that, obviously working with health care experts and allowing sufficient latitude and time to get there. I'm not interested in government intervention for the sake of government intervention. I am interested in completing the vision of health care in Massachusetts: accessible, high quality and affordable care for everyone. That is the public's interest, and government's job is to serve the public interest.

"The fourth principle for the final bill is sensible tort reform. Everyone is in agreement that we need it in this bill.

"So that's what I am looking for: a realistic goal, assured flexibility in how best to achieve it, a means to hold the industry accountable for meeting it, and a mechanism to reform medical malpractice. We can accomplish that within the framework of the various proposals pending before the legislature today.

"The health care industry is important to Massachusetts, to me. It is a source of jobs and economic development, a source of healing and miracles, and a source of enormous civic pride for all of us. It stretches across all sorts of different disciplines and all corners of the state. No one wants to cause undue harm to the industry.

try. The goal of the initiative to contain costs is to help bring balance and efficiency so that we can improve our economic competitiveness for everyone, not harm it. I have no doubt that the solutions to these challenges will come largely from the innovative, creative and caring women and men who work in the industry. I am proud of the strong partnership we have built and I am certain we will reach a good legislative conclusion together in the next few weeks.

"We have challenged each other to make a big change. That's what we do in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I know we can accomplish this. My confidence comes from the undeniable fact that, working together with many of you in this room, we have addressed problem after tough problem that had been talked about and yet left unresolved for decades.

"From shutting down the Turnpike Authority, collapsing six different state agencies into one and saving a quarter billion dollars in transportation; to lifting the charter school cap and raising teacher and student performance; to eliminating the abuses and saving \$5 billion in the public pension system; to strengthening the municipal health care system and the ethics laws; to fixing the criminal records system so that a minor record doesn't serve as a life sentence; to putting civilian flaggers at construction sites, we have imagined a better Commonwealth, and then together we have reached for it. Time after time we have moved beyond stale and tired slogans, false choices and political expediency to meet our responsibility to leave the Commonwealth better for those who come behind us. We have more work to do but let's recognize how far we have come — and take some confidence from the fact that, as it turns out, our biggest challenges are not beyond our capacity to care about and to solve."



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The Solar Rollers are an anti-nuclear bicycling group formed in summer 1978 to ride to the demonstration at the Seabrook Nuke. On the way to Rocky Flats, Colorado, they met Laurie that year in Lincoln, Nebraska... and the rest is history.

The Solar Rollers are touring Vermont for three weeks this spring, starting May 25th, in an outreach campaign to close Vermont Yankee. Get on a bike and join them!

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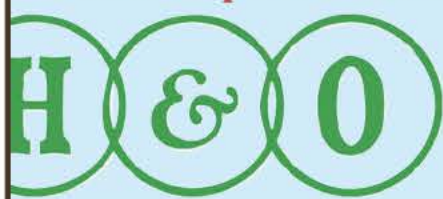
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SHUTESBURY FAILS TO BREAK THE TIE



Shutesbury Librarian Mary Anne Antonellis at the 900-square foot Spear Memorial Library

BY PATRICIA PRUITT - Of all the stories crowded around the M.N. Spear Library, the most amazing may be the one that took place in the voting booths at the Shutesbury town hall on January 10th, the day the residents of town got together to cast their votes on a plan to put up a brand new library building.

Shutesbury's board of library trustees had proposed a new 5000-square foot building, with sustainable energy features, at a cost of \$3.5 million. Shutesbury was one of eight libraries chosen by the Massachusetts Board of Library

Commissioners last year for new library funding, out of 29 applicants statewide. The funding offered by the state is considerable and would amount to 60% of the project's total cost.

The town was asked to put up \$1.4 million for the new building in a debt exclusion vote that would have added \$75 to the average property tax bill for the next 20 years.

But when the citizens of Shutesbury got together for a final vote on the new library in January, the ballots totaled up to an amazing, and for library proponents heart-

breaking, 522 – 522 tie.

A ruling earlier this month by Franklin Superior Court Judge Mary Lou Rup tossed out two pro-library votes, sending the plan down to defeat. Even if the original tally had been affirmed in court, funding for the new library would have failed by virtue of the tie. But the uncanny symmetry of the balloting has elicited support from many unlikely sources, and proponents are not quite ready to abandon all hope for the new building.

About a half mile down Leverett Road, the town of Shutesbury pur-

chased 20 acres of land, including four acres set aside for the new library. The town still has until the Board of Library Commissioners' June 30th deadline to confirm the local funding match, either by raising more money or scaling down the project, to take advantage of the state funding.

Otherwise, it could take another decade for Shutesbury to reach the top of the MBLC waiting list again for new library funding.

Who could have imagined the town would be so divided on the issue that the vote would result in a literal tie?

As librarian Mary Anne Antonellis put it, "These are challenging economic times." She felt, perhaps, that proponents could have mounted a more effective townwide campaign to communicate the need for the new library before the vote. Perhaps some of the arguments for the new library "sounded elitist" to some residents, she said.

On the other hand, the M.N. Spear Memorial Library is 110 years old and stands 900 feet square in its single story, with no running water. The square footage is equal to approximately six square inches of inside library space for each of Shutesbury's 1800 residents, if the building were empty of books and full of townfolks.

(An inside view of the Spear Library can be seen on Youtube under the title, "Where would you be without your library?" www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUQ1vdiQWn0)

Viewing it offers a chance to see a most charming group of people – young and otherwise – appealing through musical accompaniment for help in building a new, more accommodating library. Forty-four thousand people have viewed it so far.

Late last week, Antonellis moved rolling shelving units up against the built-in stacks to create room for more than one person to sit down and talk. I sat at the single public use computer table. The library was not officially open, so no library patrons

needed to use the computer during our talk.

In the present building, there is little or no room for handicapped, or wheelchair bound people; there are no programs for middle and high school students, or summer or school vacation programs. Shutesbury has 400 students under 18; they have no place to meet in town. Antonellis hoped the new library would be able to address this need.

She cited the new Wendell Free Library as doing a great job of drawing teens and middle school students into the library, providing a gathering place to create community among their peer group.

So, though the odds are long, the library building committee plans to keep fundraising. Antonellis said so far \$238,000 has been raised through private donations, with about \$85,000 left to go to realize a full dollar for dollar match on a pledge of \$150,000.

But even if that pledge total is matched entirely, the trustees will still need to raise about half a million more before June 30th in order to bring a somewhat reduced project in on schedule, before the MBLC gives the grant funds to one of the other 17 libraries on the waiting list.

"The clock is running, and it's really running fast," said Antonellis. "We need an angel to step forward."

Meanwhile, the plight of the Spear Memorial Library has been recounted in the *Huffington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, two *National Public Radio* programs, and by actors and writers including Margaret Atwood.

Donations have come in from 18 different countries and from 45 different states.

The librarians at the Strafford Public Library in Strafford, Ontario donated \$125 from their dress down days in April.

Indeed, the Spear Library has gathered many supporters from around the world, but it fell just a few votes short where it counted the most. In Shutesbury.

HOW THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY GOT TO AVENUE A

BY PATRICIA PRUITT TURNERS FALLS - There's a new library on Avenue A and it's a gift to Montague.

One day an email came to Jeri Moran's inbox from a friend in Maine who sent her the link to littlefreelibrary.org, and Moran, being curious about all things librarial clicked on the link.

The Little Free Library was begun by a Wisconsin man who wanted to make a neighborhood memorial for his mother who had loved libraries. So he built a small one in his neighborhood for people to borrow and donate books for others to read. The idea has caught on and there are now about 800 Little Free Libraries around the world.



Moran, a Montague Center resident who works at the Greenfield Community College library, liked what she read and decided to make one. Her second decision was to place it on Avenue A, so it could be used by people in the downtown neighborhood. Her

enthusiasm meter rose high and higher just thinking about a little library for any and all to use, where one could donate books, a place for small friendly gatherings to happen, perhaps.

Moran knows herself very well, and knew enthusiasm so high could fall just as rapidly if she did not get started on making the Little Free Library right away. However, doing so involved carpentry, and following a building plan available online from the Little Free Library website.

Moran quickly realized carpentry was not among her areas of expertise, and knew she needed help. Fortunately her friend Frank "without whom I could not have done it" Citino was willing and able to follow the plans and cut the pieces of the building exactly as required.

Moran, who is a bit of a painter, painted each piece with three or four coats of paint, then took them back to Citino to assemble into the Little Free Library building. This building phase took about a month.

The Montague selectboard approved the project location on Avenue A in a planter in front of Nina's Nook. Nina Rossi has been very eager to help the little project, feeling an affinity for small unique spaces, and Rossi has been a friendly guardian during her business hours. Moran herself has supplied

the books for first stocking of the library shelves. The ones that disappeared the quickest were, as she expected, the children's picture books, *The Hunger Games*, and *Twilight*, a vampire book. There is room for about 20-25 paperbacks. The upper shelf holds magazines such as "Skateboard" and "Rolling Stone."

Moran's neighbors and friends, as well as GCC faculty and staff, gave her books for the free library. As Moran sees it, the Little Free Library will be interesting as long as what people find inside it is interesting. To that end she has a note so borrowers and donors of books can make sug-

gestions or requests.

The final finish will be a plaque mounted on the side of the free library noting its builder and original librarian.

PLANT SWAP!

WENDELL - The Wendell Plant Swap will be held Sunday, May 20th at 10:30 a.m. on the common near the gazebo. Bring your extra perennials or annuals. If you don't have plants to swap, maybe you can work another barter or get a plant for free. Good times, good connections, and always an interesting collection of plants (and people).

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Bid Accepted to Rebuild Cooleyville Bridge

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - The full Wendell highway commission - Harry Williston, Robert Clough, and Mike Gifford - met the Wendell selectboard at its May 9th meeting along with Jeff Collingwood, representing Stantec Engineering, and several members of Virgilio Construction Company, of Westfield, to encourage the selectboard to accept the low bid of \$195,937 for reconstruction of the Cooleyville Road bridge.

The board followed their advice and accepted the bid. The second lowest bid was \$209,253.10. This money will take most, if not all of Wendell's Chapter 90 funds for this year. In 2011, after several delays pushed the start date late into fall, the project was dropped for the year to avoid difficulties of working through the winter. Following Hurricane Irene, the state insisted on a larger opening for the water, and that change raised the estimated cost of construction from about \$50,000 to the higher figure.

Librarian Rose Heidkamp opened the meeting with Wendell's computer and networking expert, Robbie Heller, and Doug Norton from Access Plus, the company that has supplied the antennas and hardware to allow the library and police station higher speed internet access. Norton explained that the internet signal currently travels from Springfield to Mount Grace to the Wendell police station and library using line of sight technology. He talked

of the possibilities to extend the range of that wireless service with repeaters. The board gave permission for the box containing Access Plus's electronics to be moved outside of the library to allow the company to have access during hours the library is closed.

Representing the energy committee, Betsy Ames met the selectboard and told them the energy committee intends to apply for a USDA grant for promoting local food security, though probably not this year. Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser asked what exactly the grant money would be used for, and Ames said it would promote farmers markets and more regional food distribution, including a web exchange of growers' and consumers' needs and offerings. Ames rented the town hall for Sunday, May 20th, for a joint meeting of the energy committee and the transition town group focused on local food security. There will be a break in that meeting for dessert, with a performance by the Wendell chorus.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich announced a board of health regulation to prohibit smoking in public places, beginning June 1st, 2012. Selectboard member Dan Keller questioned how the rule would apply to outside areas such as the town common. There was no answer.

Aldrich also relayed a written request from neighbors of the Locke Hill radio tower, which once carried a microwave relay station but has been unused for several years. The neighbors asked

for the tower to be removed.

David Lenart, a consultant specializing in dams, met the selectboard along with Fiske Pond advisory committee member Don Chapelle, citizen Melinda Godfrey, and finance committee member Jim Slavas, to provide an update on the status of the Fiske Pond dam. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) considers the dam to be 'low hazard,' the group said. Therefore, the state is not likely to take action on the dam soon, but the dam itself is in poor condition. The retaining wall that supports the earth structure is about a foot out of plumb, leaning downstream, and its movement has opened three sinkholes in the soil.

Lenart provided a diagram of his plan to save the dam by using reinforcing boulders and rocks on the downstream side to support the dam. The stones would extend over the wall and up to the level part of the earth dam, so if water comes over the dam it will flow over stones and not erode the soil. The cost for Lenart's consulting work and for Geoff Richardson, local excavator, to build the stone reinforcement will amount to \$10,000.

Beyond that repair, Lenart recommended lowering the pond depth by one foot and lining the spillway with stones to keep it from eroding.

Pooser asked about the feasibility of installing a low head electric generator in the dam, but Lenart said the cost of an appropriate turbine would be prohibitive, with a payback time of about a century.

Gill Police Chief Contract Settled

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Selectboard member John Ward said Wednesday that the Gill selectboard had reached agreement and signed a new three year contract with Gill police chief David Hastings on Tuesday.

All the terms of the contract remain the same, except for a clause that stipulates the chief's severance pay in the event his employment is terminated for any reason other than just cause before the duration of the contract expires.

In the previous contract, Chief Hastings would have received severance pay equal to the remaining term of his contract.

In the new contract, Hastings would receive severance pay equal to 12 months pay, which under



Gill Chief of Police David Hastings

Massachusetts law, "is identical to the protection he would be afforded if he had no contract at all," Ward said.

Chief Hastings, who is at the top step of his pay grade, will continue to receive \$29.42 an hour for 52.5 hours a year, or \$61,782, with the possibility of receiving a cost of living increase whenever

town employees get a COLA. This year, the recommendation from the personnel committee is for town employees to receive a 3.3% raise.

The contract, which becomes effective July 1st, also stipulates that if the chief resigns, he must give the town 90 days notice, instead of the previous 30 days.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Erving Approves All 40 Warrant Articles

BY KATIE NOLAN - The Erving annual town meeting proceeded in a business-like manner, passing 40 warrant articles in a 2½-hour meeting on May 9th.

The only significant debate occurred over the Erving Elementary School's FY'13 budget of \$2,411,531, a 13% increase over FY'12. The school's budget was ultimately accepted, despite the finance committee's recommendation to hold the school budget to a 5% increase.

Discussing the elementary school budget, finance committee member Daniel Hammock contrasted the per pupil expenditure at Erving Elementary, which the finance committee calculated at between \$14,600 and \$19,000, with much lower per pupil expenditures in Orange, Petersham, and Florida (approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000, according to Hammock). "We're getting a reasonable education, we're just paying more for it," Hammock said.

School committee chair Jarod Boissonneault told the meeting that the proposed increase in the budget was needed to fund a speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, and special education teachers to meet needs that have been present at the school for a long time.

Asked about what had changed at Erving Elementary to require a 13% budget increase over last year, school committee member Scott Bastarache said,

"The need was there last year and the year before, but this year we put our foot down and put in money for the extra personnel."

Jeffrey Dubay told the meeting, "We're very lucky; we have a low tax rate. All other town government expenditures are expenses. The money for the school is not an expense, but an investment, and it's an investment that pays back a thousand times."

Union 28 superintendent Joan Wickman said the Erving and Orange elementary schools cost comparison was not useful, saying Orange elementary schools are rated at Level 3 (needs improvement) and have not made "adequate yearly progress" according to state standards in a number of years. She said the computers at the Orange elementary schools are more than ten years old, the buildings are in disrepair, and the textbooks are out of date.

The finance committee amendment decreasing the Erving Elementary budget failed by a vote of 23 for holding the increase to 5% and 50 against. The higher budget amount proposed by the school committee was then approved by majority voice vote.

With little discussion, the meeting voted unanimously for a FY'13 municipal budget of \$3,250,646, separated into line items for general government, protection of persons and property, health

and sanitation, highways and cemeteries, human and veteran's services, libraries, parks and recreation, and insurance and payroll expenses. An additional \$95,731 was approved for salary and compensation for elected town officials.

Without discussion, the meeting voted unanimously to approve \$1,018,932 for secondary education of Erving students. Franklin County Technical School committee member Robert Bitzer introduced the Tech School cost of \$297,076, which passed unanimously.

The meeting voted unanimously to amend the town zoning bylaws for floodplain districts. Planning board chair William Morris told the meeting the current bylaw is out of compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines. Morris explained, in order for townspeople to get FEMA-subsidized flood insurance and disaster assistance, the bylaws must be updated.

The town meeting voted unanimously to fund the town's wastewater operations, using \$179,806 from town of Montague receipts, \$120,000 from the wastewater enterprise fund, and \$377,172 from taxes.

Voters agreed to put \$737,767 into the stabilization fund at the end of the meeting, bringing the total of that fund up to around \$6 million.

see ERVING page 9

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Vandalism; Assault with Weapon

Monday, 5/7

11:46 a.m. Breaking and entering reported on Pleasant Street. Report taken.

10:05 p.m. Report of noise disturbance at Pratt Street residence. Spoke with subjects involved and agreed to quiet down.

Tuesday, 5/8

2:50 p.m. Report of disabled motor vehicle in the middle of the travel lane on Route 2 at Mountain Road. Gone upon arrival.

Wednesday, 5/9

3 p.m. Lock out of motor vehicle. Caller hung up before giving her location. No call back number.

5 p.m. Trash complaint at River Road residence.

5:15 p.m. Past breaking and entering reported at Pratt Street. Report taken.

5:25 p.m. Report of automatic gun fire on Northfield Road. Made contact with same. Was licensed.

6:30 p.m. Report of breaking and entering and larceny into a motor vehicle on River Road.

7:38 p.m. Officer requesting assistance in Orange at Mechanic Street. Several people fighting. On scene to assist.

Thursday, 5/10

10:10 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at Prospect Street. Assisted state police with same.

3:50 p.m. Landlord/tenant dispute at North Street. Report taken.

Friday, 5/11

7:11 p.m. Located possible stolen item. Was found to be misunderstanding.

Item returned to proper owner.

Saturday, 5/12

8 a.m. Vandalism at Red Lantern Café. Report taken.

9:30 a.m. Report of animal cruelty at Pratt Street residence. Cat found to be fine.

2 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for assault with a dangerous weapon, intimidation of a witness, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, breaking and entering into a vehicle, and attempt to commit a crime.

2 p.m. Arrest of [REDACTED] for assault with a dangerous weapon, intimidation of a witness, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, breaking and entering into a vehicle, and attempt to commit a crime.

4:30 p.m. Welfare check at Old State Road residence. Subject was fine. Advised concerned parent.

Sunday, 5/13

7:15 a.m. Assisted Montague police with domestic disturbance on East Main Street in Millers Falls.

7:20 p.m. Call received regarding retrieval of property in Erving. Spoke with same and resident will make arrangements.

9:10 p.m. One-car crash on Gulf Road in Northfield. Report taken.

Monday, 5/14

3:46 a.m. Call of suspicious black truck on Pratt Street. Was found to be paper delivery.

Tuesday, 5/15

3:17 a.m. Abandoned 911 call at Prospect Street. Possible problem with phone line due to rain. Checked same

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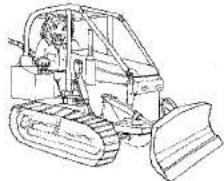
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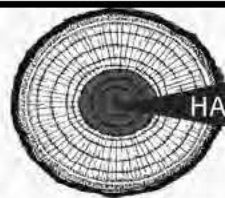
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from **COGSWELL** page 1
Speaking of her commitment to the school district, she said, "I guess it's in my blood."

One reason she is running for school committee, Cogswell said, is because she is very concerned about the turnover in administration. "I'm a very positive person, fair, try to see all sides, and give people the benefit of the doubt before I form an opinion."

Cogswell would like to have an impact on the choice of the new superintendent, and to serve on the search committee. With deep roots in the community herself, she would like to see a local person in the top position, someone who is invested in the towns and would remain at the helm of the district for a good period of time.

"I feel it takes a village," she said, expressing pride in the people of the community who are so gifted, and artistic. "We need to stick together."



from **SINGLETON** page 1

getting the district out of Level 4 (needs improvement) status. He supports innovation and problem solving, elements included in the AIP, but stressed that problem solving needs to be done without finger pointing or laying blame.

One major issue Singleton would focus on if re-elected is declining enrollment in the school district. Singleton said district enrollment loss is approaching 30% over the course of the past decade. One consequence of this enrollment decline is reduced state aid, which is tied in part to enrollment. Therefore, Singleton said, lower enrollment means less options for the students, as the district doesn't have the funds to support a wide variety of programs. If re-elected, he hopes to bring the school committee's attention to this subject in the near future.

Singleton, a town meeting member, served two terms on the Montague finance committee. He

has a son in Turners Falls High School and is a big supporter of after school sports programs.



from **LYONS** page 1

ous commitment to our community and public education." The mother of children aged 9, 8, and 2, Lyons said she plans to serve, if elected, with her children's best interest at heart.

"My nine- and eight-year olds started off at Hillcrest and now attend Montague Elementary. Every single teacher my boys have had, beginning in preschool, have been excellent and extremely dedicated. Over the past few years, I have seen the teachers struggle with trying to stay positive and focused. I believe part of this is due to the extreme change of administration. Three superintendents in four years is too much for the district to handle. We need some stability."

Lyons pledged to work with other members of the school committee to bring stability to the district schools. "We need to keep our administrators and teachers. I am hoping to bring some positive energy to the school committee in hopes we can work effectively together and get things done. I want to move our district out of a Level 4 status, and will work very hard with others on the committee to get this done."

She added, "I feel we spend too much time talking about what is wrong with our district instead of focusing on the positive things the GMRSD has to offer. This is one of the reasons so many people choose out to other districts. I want to make GMRSD a place where parents want to send their children to school, and are proud to do it."



from **KELLEY** page 1

Gill-Montague district and expressed his disappointment that

she has decided to leave. He believes the school committee needs to get training in rules of order to which they would all agree to adhere, so meetings could be run in a productive manner, where members could focus on the educational needs of the students in the district.



from **CLARK** page 1

that motivates her to run. Clark is trained in special education and works as co-chair of SPEDPAC, a parent advisory group.

Clark lists the upcoming superintendent search, moving the district forward through the Accelerated Improvement Plan, and keeping the public informed about district developments as a way to raise support and interest in the school district. She emphasized her readiness to follow the open meeting law and other rules and protocols governing the school committee. Clark said her only cause is the education of all district students. She intends to stay open minded about issues that come before the committee, and hopes to work as part of a team.

Clark added that her third grade son is proud of his school. She believes everyone would like to feel proud of the schools in their community.



Jennifer Waldron

Jennifer Waldron, of Walnut Street in Gill, is running unopposed for a second three-year term on the Gill-Montague school committee.

Town Elections

Town and school district elections take place on Monday, May 21st. Voters in Gill and Montague may vote for school committee candidates from both towns. Polls are open in Montague from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Polls are open in Gill from noon to 8 p.m.



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

Marquette Monette, 21 months old, from Northfield, at Saturday's 'Touch a Truck' event at the Erving Elementary School

from **FOOD CITY** page 1

gies get to market, they're getting close to voting age.

Each step, whether from farmer to wholesaler or distribution warehouse to individual stores, increases the cost for storage, handling and trucking, and burns fossil fuels, adding to the cost to your pocket-book and to the environment.

Buying locally means vegetables go direct from farm to store. Buying locally means a better price and fresher food for the consumer. It also helps keep local farmers in business.

Food City is a customer friendly place. Clerks know many regular customers by name, and a smile makes the store the more special. Food City makes generous contributions to the Gill-Montague senior center, and recently donated refreshments for the reading of *As You Write It*, a book written by local seniors.

Food City clerks strive to stock groceries in the same place as much as possible, so customers are not frustrated by being unable to find what they came in to buy. Specials are prominently displayed at the

point of entry. Bakery workers display baked goods in cases and on tables. For older folks, or people living alone, a half or even quarter section of pie is conveniently packaged, and there's always something different on display to tempt the palate on the bakery tables or at the deli counter, where lines form at lunch time.

The meat department takes elderly and single people into consideration. Meat cutters may package a couple of chicken legs, for instance, in addition to family size packages for folks with a mob to feed.

With the bridge construction seeming to leave Turners Falls residents isolated, Food City is an important source of access for shoppers as well as construction workers who are able to pick up hot food at the deli counter at reasonable prices.

Steiner is making every effort to make Food City attractive to his customers. "We have a lot to offer," he said.

"Every day is a bargain day at Food City," could well become the store's new motto.



from **ERVING** page 8

The selectboard dedicated the annual town report to Gary Burnett, who thanked the selectboard and recommended that residents "get involved in any aspect of government or volunteer work" for the town.

The selectboard cited Burnett's 50 years of service as a firefighter, his work in fixing up Veteran's field and Zilinski Field in the 1970s and 80s, his service on the Erving school committee (1972-1975) and the personnel relations review board (1991-2005). He currently serves on the Usher Plant re-use committee.

Leo Parent announced that the town's Boston Post gold-headed ebony cane was presented earlier

in the day to the town's eldest resident, Arlene Clark, who is 97 years old.

Among other actions, the annual town meeting voted:

- \$200,000 for purchase of a 2012 or 2013 International 7400 six-yard stainless steel dump truck with plow and inline sander for the highway department.
- \$100,000 for highway work on Moore Street, Lester Street, and Pratt Street.
- \$60,000 for accounting software, components, accessories and software support at town hall.
- \$25,000 for maintaining town buildings.
- To approve up to \$25,000 for purchase of a 2012 or 2013 Ford F-150 truck for the wastewater

department.

- To pay off the U.S. Department of Agriculture loan for the town's water tank, using \$59,863 from the water enterprise fund and a long of \$120,000 from the stabilization fund. The loan from the stabilization fund to be repaid over 10 years at a 2.5% interest rate.
- To accept the state's provisions for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund and establish a fund to pay for future retiree benefits.
- To fund the OPEB Trust Fund with a transfer of \$118,715.23 from the special stabilization fund of employee benefits and \$237,430.41 from the special stabilization fund of retiree insurance.

ance, and \$230,000 from free cash.

- \$12,000 to the special stabilization fund for EES computers.
- \$10,000 for repairing and replacing existing streetlights.
- \$7,220 for computers and software for the police department.
- \$6,500 for turnout gear for the fire department.
- \$6,500 for large diameter hoses and accessories for the fire department.
- \$5,000 for uniform email services and related software for town offices and departments.
- \$5,000 for the Maple Avenue landfill's closure.
- \$4,300 for purchasing space in the Around Town newsletter.

- \$2,500 for computers, hardware, software, and components for the library.
- \$2,500 for computers and accessories for the selectboard office.
- 2,000 for supporting the town hall computer server.
- \$2,000 for maintaining the town's website.
- \$2,000 for valuation of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project.
- To authorize a revolving fund for the Council on Aging to receive funds from rental fees for use of the new senior and community center by outside groups and also to spend that money on maintenance and repair of the new senior and community center



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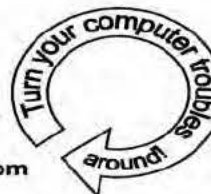
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BY ELOISE MICHAEL -

"OK," I say, "can Neil help me get rid of my doppelganger?"

"But the FBI don't know you have it."

"They definitely suspect," I say.

"Resa, I don't know. I think they might find out."

"Wouldn't they want me to get rid of mine," I say hopefully, "since they wanted you to get rid of yours?"

"I think it might be different," she says, hesitating. "They think - well, they think you might be helping Jason."

I am not sure how to answer, but it doesn't matter because Diana can tell from looking at me.

"Resa, you are! Why?" When I

don't answer immediately, she adds, "What did you do?"

"I helped him put software on a computer."

She looks horrified.

"Once."

"Oh, well, if it's only once," she says sarcastically. "And it was one of Case Pearman's computers?"

"Umm..."

"I already know," Diana says. "The FBI guys told me. I was hoping it wasn't true."

I can't look her in the eye, and I don't answer.

"Resa, why?"

Now I look at her. "Jason was convincing," I say lamely.

"I didn't even know that you were

in touch with him," she says.

"Well, I wasn't, and then he showed up at my house last winter."

"He knew you had the doppelganger!" Diana says in a loud whisper.

"Yeah, he did."

"And then he got you to help him - using the doppelganger! I can't believe it!"

"Well, it was my choice to do it," I remind her.

"Are you glad you did it?" she asks. I hate when she uses a tone like my mother.

"No," I admit. "I kind of wish I hadn't, but I wanted to help out with the strike. There are a lot of people without jobs," I remind her, "or homes. Or food."

"Fine, then you can go on strike. Stand out with a sign like other people. You didn't have to commit a crime!"

I look down. "I know. I'm not really sure why I did it." After a brief silence, I say, "Can you help me now?"

She sighs, sounding again like my mother, then says, "I don't know if we can. I think the FBI will know if we get rid of the doppelganger."

"You think they are watching you and Neil?"

"Yes! Resa, they wanted us to help catch you. They said that we wouldn't get in trouble if we helped them. They know that you'll come here wanting to destroy the other body."

For a moment I am stunned. "Thanks for not turning me in," I say.

"Well, actually, I was hoping that it wasn't true. Now that I know it is..." she trails off. "Rese, it would be easier if I didn't know where you were. Then I couldn't really help them, and I wouldn't be lying."

I know she is right, but I wish she would just help me. "I guess I shouldn't stay at your house," I say.

"No, stay. I'll bet they have been listening to my calls or reading my emails, you know. They probably realize you are coming. We should look at that apartment tomorrow - try to act normal. Then, after that, I think you'd better go back to Massachusetts."

I nod.

It's hard for any of us to relax when we get back to Diana and Neil's apartment. We don't talk much, and I feel like they are mad at me. Diana whispers to Neil that I really did help Jason, but we don't talk about it. I think we are all too scared. I am looking forward to waking up at Ferry Meadow, which is starting to feel like home already. I gratefully go to bed early.

- Continued Next Issue

GOT FOOD?

WENDELL - On Sunday, May 20th, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Wendell town hall, explore the global context of peak oil, climate change, and economic instability and how these forces are already impacting our food systems.

Hear perspectives from a panel of local citizens who are involved in the Wendell food system, exploring our greatest assets and our greatest challenges.

Break for refreshments and a Community Chorus performance. Organize into break-out groups and

engage in a community conversation about where to go from here and what role you want to play in a locally sustainable food system.

Please bring: a snack or dessert to share and your own cups and plates (bonus points for using local ingredients). Coffee and tea will be provided.

Admission is free. Hosted by Transition Wendell and co-sponsored by the Energy Committee: Wendell Local Food Security Project. Questions, contact Betsy at yagas_jai@hotmail.com.

Bid Opening Usher Mill

Sealed Bids for the Abatement and Demolition of the Former Usher Mill at Arch Street will be received by the Board of Selectmen at the Town Hall, Selectmen's Office, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344 until 6:45 p.m. on June 4th, 2012 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The work consists of furnishing all labor, equipment and materials required to perform the Abatement and Demolition of the Former Usher Mill located on Arch Street in Erving. The project includes, but is not limited to, asbestos abatement, hazardous material abatement and demolition of site structures and incidental items as set forth in the specs.

Bid documents may be examined and/or obtained at the office of Tighe & Bond, Inc., 53 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, legal holidays excluded. Contact Jason Barroso at 413-562-1600.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the site on May 23th, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman
Andrew N. Goodwin
Margaret A. Sullivan

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Animal Rescue; Fight on Central Street

Wednesday, 5/9

9:02 a.m. Warrant arrest on Second Street. Referred to an officer.

4:08 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

6:10 p.m. Hit and run accident at Rite Aid parking lot on Avenue A. Services rendered.

6:40 p.m. Animal quarantine on Fifth Street. Served in hand.

10:03 p.m. Larceny at Turners Falls High School. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 5/10

2:01 p.m. General disturbance on Central Street. Peace restored.

4:40 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant. Referred to an officer.

5:38 p.m. Possible weapon shown on Eleventh Street. Services rendered.

9:33 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Second Street. Services rendered.

Friday, 5/11

3:53 a.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Services rendered.

12:54 p.m. Trespassing at Sheffield Elementary School on Crocker Avenue. Services rendered.

2:31 p.m. Summons issued at Sheffield Elementary

School on Crocker Avenue for disorderly conduct and trespassing.

3:08 p.m. Animal rescue at East Main Street in Millers Falls. Services rendered.

5:51 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Canal Street.

7:41 p.m. Trespassing at the Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. Investigated.

7:48 p.m. Assault and battery at Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. Unable to locate.

9:20 p.m. Suspicious auto at Doyle's Car Wash on Montague City Road. Dispersed gathering.

10:43 p.m. Suspicious auto at Southworth Paper Mill on Canal Street. Services rendered.

11:09 p.m. Fight on Central Street. Summons issued for armed burglary, domestic assault, assault and battery, and wanton destruction of property less than \$250.

Saturday, 5/12

12:34 a.m. General disturbance on Third Street. Investigated.

2:39 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Chestnut Street. Advised of options.

2:58 p.m. Hit and run accident on Farren Avenue. Report taken.

Sunday, 5/13

2:13 a.m. Arrest of

for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, speeding, and two instances of possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle near Greenfield Savings Bank on Avenue A.

7:13 a.m. Summons issued for

for domestic assault and battery at East Main Street in Millers Falls.

Monday, 5/14

12:04 p.m. Warrant arrest of

Tuesday, 5/15

12:58 p.m. General disturbance on G Street. Investigated.

2:30 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Highland Circle. Report taken.

3:10 p.m. Fight on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

5:36 p.m. Animals loose on J Street. Report taken.

5:44 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Millers Falls Road. Services rendered.

6:30 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Green Pond Road in Millers Falls. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 5/16

8:49 a.m. General disturbance on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Services rendered.



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Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Open daily, including holidays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Avenue A, Turners: Great Falls Farmers Market, 2 - 6 p.m.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: Acoustic open mic with Dan, Kip & Shultz from *Curly Fingers DuPree* hosting. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

NOW through JUNE 10th

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

NOW through June 1st

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

Industries.

NOW through JUNE 16th

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

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 17th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife: Turtles and Road Ecology*, a chat with David Paulson of MassWildlife. 7 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Richard Chase*, folk rock, free, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 18th

And SATURDAY, MAY 19th

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents, *Three Stooges Film Festival*, music at 7 p.m. Showtime, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 18th

Leverett Elementary School: Echo Lake Coffeehouse presents *Gathering Time*, with Glen Roethel, Hillary Foxsong & Stuart Markus, 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Tumbleweed Company* with special guest Mya Elaine, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Happy Jawbone Family Band, Taxidermists*, free, 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *MV and EE, Crystaline Roses*, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 19th

Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club, Turners Falls: *K-9 Tournament* to benefit the Turners Falls police dog under the care of John Dempsey, 9 a.m.

All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church, Greenfield: *10th Annual Anti-Racism Film Festival*, 1:30 p.m. *The Other Side*: 2:15 p.m. *Welcome to Shelbyville*: 4 p.m. *Lost in Detention*, Frontline: 5 - 6 p.m. *Local Fare Supper*: 6:30 p.m. *Mooz-lum*. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mulholland Band* with TJay, 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Valley Idol* grand finale, 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Movie Outland* with Sean Connery, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dedicated to Delilah*, 9 - 12 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer, The Dance Party*, DJ Greg2000, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 20th

Rendezvous, Turners: *Sunday Locals* featuring *Marlene Lavelle and friends*, 6 p.m. Free

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Laurie McClain*, a benefit for the Solar Rollers, 9 - 11 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 21st

Rendezvous, Turners: *Bingo*, free, 8 p.m.



Patty Carpenter plays *The Rendezvous* on Thursday May 24th at 8 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, MAY 24th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter*, 8 p.m. Free.

Wendell Community Garden: *Hands-on garden visits* focusing on monitoring for and identifying pests as well as natural enemies (biological control agents), experimenting with tools, pesticide application as necessary, preparing a soil test. Discussion and sharing of methods, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, featuring Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & of course, Tommy Boynton, 8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 25th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Now & Then*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Something Else*, jazz, funk, groove, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fourth Friday Story Hour: Frogs*. Join us for some frog-tastic stories accompanied by a frog themed craft. Ages 3 - 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Montague Bookmill: *Carrie Ferguson, Wishbone Zoe*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Brook Batteau* with special guest Robin Lane, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *The Miles Band*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 26th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Investigation Station: Rocks and Fossils*, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners: Showing of *Rachel Carson's Silent Spring*, 1 p.m. Free.

Leverett Town Hall: *Annual Leverett Historical Society Plant and Garden Book Sale*. Drop off well-labeled plants at Town Hall on Friday night. Drop off garden books anytime in the "plant sale" box at the entryway to the Leverett Library: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners: *Celtic Heels*, 4 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *John Sheldon Band*, 9:30 pm.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 27th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Backyard B-B-Q with Rhythm, Inc.* 8 - 11 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MAY 28th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *3rd Annual Backyard Poetry Festival*, bring a lawn chair or blanket & enjoy, 1-6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 31st

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ray Mason*, the legend, solo, 8 p.m. Free.

7th Annual Valley Idol Singing Competition

A Benefit for the Shea Theater Grand Finale on Saturday, May 19th

Adult Finalists:

Erin Nugent, Greenfield
Kimberly Parker, Wilbraham
Joey Stankiewicz, Hadley
Molly Steinmark, Brattleboro, VT
Daisy Whitcomb-Skelton, Turners

Memorial Hall Theater POT HOLE PICTURES

Friday, May 18th
Saturday, May 19th
7:30 p.m.

Three Stooges Film Festival,
Whoop Whoop Whoop, B&W, 106 min.

Music 1/2 hour before movie:
Fri. Dan Lederer
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CALL FOR ARTISANS:

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



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Planting the Tomatoes

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - Uncle!

The tomato plants are tall and beginning to get leggy and pot bound again in the sunroom. Many are already sporting buds or even blossoms.

Traditional advice to the contrary, I can't wait until Memorial Day weekend.

I have waited until the week's rain ended and the nights remained 50 degrees or above for a week. Then I threw caution to the wind, and set them out.

That said, I have taken good care. First I peeled back the black plastic laid out to snuff out weeds and keep the warmth of the day in the soil. Next I've dug a hole for each plant twice as wide as the roots I was going to set in.

Equally importantly, I made the hole deep enough to set the plant in part way up its stem. Since these plants are a bit top heavy, I have removed the bottom layers of leaves and set the plant in deeply. This will

result in new root development along the stem and create a plant able to handle a breezy day without snapping.

In the bottom of each hole I've put a healthy scoop of compost and another of composted manure. These additions will feed the plant and encourage healthy microbial growth. Good compost, aged for a year, will add carbon, nitrogen, proteins and minerals to the soil as well as microorganisms which will release more nutrients through their wastes.

Anyone can build a compost pile by simply choosing a container and putting every bit of fruit and vegetable waste you have into it. You can establish one inside a hoop of wire and let Mother Nature water it.

If you want to speed up the process, choose a black plastic container with a lid. The heat generated by the sun and the break down of your vegetable garbage will speed the miraculous change into the dark, earthy, sweet smelling product your garden will love.

Many articles on compost recommend turning or forking your compost pile to speed up the breakdown of your leavings.

Personally, I've done very well

as a passive composter. I have two black bins we purchased at the DPW many years ago. One is used for new garbage. At the end of every garden season, I allow that bin to rest over the winter and begin to fill the second. By spring, my old vegetable leavings have turned into "black gold." When I throw out a potted plant, I always add the dirt to my pile, thus creating layers of garbage and dirt which seems to speed up the breakdown of the vegetable leavings.

Once the plant hole has been treated with compost and manure, I set the plant in and press the soil firmly around the roots. When the plants are set, they receive a good dose of water. Then slits in the plastic allow the gardener to replace it around the new plantings to discourage weeds and hold in the warmth of the soil.

Finally, I set wire support cages around the newly planted tomatoes. It's best to do this at planting time before the plants need them. This way, you avoid breaking roots when you set in the cages.

Now, we're good to go until it is time to water if needed, pull a stubborn weed or two, and watch for tomato hornworms. We will look

forward first to the cherry tomatoes and then to Early Girl, reputed to be ready to pick in 47 days.

Meanwhile, the peas are ready for fencing to climb on, the lettuce needs thinning again and the garlic and onion plants look thrifty. I've also invested in some kale and Swiss chard plants in order to hurry the crop a bit.

Having learned from last year's experience with the deer, I've already fenced these beauties in. Of course, the deer can easily jump the fence if they wish, but since the plots are small raised beds, I'm hoping they'll stay away.

I don't mind sharing a bit with the wildlife, but I'm not happy when the entire crop is removed. My dad once traveled to the Boston Zoo for wild cat droppings to ward off the varmints. But the best prevention was always our active, vigilant dog.

Unfortunately, our current house cat is not the least interested in sharing quarters with a dog, so we will have to make due with the fence.

These chores accomplished, I feel entitled to plant some floral "eye candy" in the form of a few hanging planters. Visiting a local grower of annual plants will net me a variety of plant types and colors. Then I will enjoy the pleasure of creating my own growing palette.

It's fun to mix flowers of different shapes and colors, and then to add ivy or another foliage plant for variety.

Try to choose annuals that will last the season rather than short lived ones, however beautiful they may be. Good bets are: petunia, lobelia, impatiens, pansy and marigold. There are also more exotic flowers at many nurseries. Just check the labeling, or ask for help in choosing plants that will bloom all season long with just a little feeding and dead-heading. Watch also for local gardeners' plant sales and swaps.

Enjoy unusual places to hang your selections. My new artisan laundry poles are made of pressure treated wood and amenable to hefty cup hooks for hanging planters. But it's also fun to hang plants from trees, or set them on old stumps on fence posts. Lure some bees into your yard with flowers and they will stay around to pollinate your vegetable crops.

Don't forget to decorate any out-building you may have. We always save hanging plastic pots for reuse until they fall apart; we have yet to purchase any. I also have a few favorite urns and ceramic planters that look nice filled with flowers set randomly around the yard.

Indulge in inexpensive outdoor decorating, and enjoy. The growing season for most perennials, like the gorgeous lilac, peony, iris and many roses is far too short, but hardy annuals will give pleasure throughout the coming summer season, right up until frost. You'll have a lot of color and pleasure for little output in cash or effort, and your non-gardening neighbors will thank you as well.

Open for the Season



DETMOLO PHOTO

Janice Johnson, of Johnson Farm (left) in West Deerfield, tries to tempt Meg Bowman, of 2nd Street, with a choice of tomato plants at the Great Falls Farmers Market. The Great Falls Farmers Market runs through October, each Wednesday afternoon, at Avenue A and 2nd Street, in Turners Falls.

Orphaned Pets Rejoice! Dakin Opens New Addition

BY LEE WICKS

LEVERETT - Leslie Harris, director of the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, is all smiles these days, as she should be. A promise has been kept - beautifully. When Dakin expanded into Hampden County more than two years ago, a pledge was made to remain in the Upper Valley to also provide services for the animals and people here. Those services will now be enhanced by a new 36 by 36 foot addition to the adoption center in Leverett, which opened this week.

With the opening of the new section, Dakin is halfway through improvements to the facility. The organization is now ready to reno-

vate the old section of the building, which upon completion will more humanely (and quietly) house dogs and add office, storage, and community meeting space.

Behind the brightly colored walls of the gleaming new space, contractors are already transforming the old space that had long been woefully cramped and inadequate for animals, staff, volunteers, and clients. Until that work is complete, all the dogs have been moved to Springfield; there will be no dog adoptions in Leverett until July.

But there are cats aplenty, birds, and small animals in Leverett. The cats have a new colony room where they can prow! at will so a potential

adopter can easily assess their personalities: shy or sociable, sphinx-like, minx-like or kittenishly playful.

Actually, the cats look out through the glass as though they are the ones doing the choosing.

The renovated center will provide full accessibility for pet lovers with disabilities, and a platform for increased outreach efforts throughout Franklin and Hampshire counties, including pet food aid, low-cost spray and neuter services, off-site adoption events, and more.

Last year, Dakin distributed 44,000 pounds of pet food to low-income pet owners. Staff members also drive vans into neighborhoods where people don't have transporta-

tion in order to pick up animals that are being surrendered.

"The new facility is wonderful," said Harris. "In combination with outreach we are keeping pets from becoming homeless, and educating the public about the needs of animals." Last year Dakin facilitated 3200 adoptions, with 30 percent coming from the Leverett facility.

Harris said, "Going to the source of animal homelessness is the cornerstone of Dakin's work in our community. The philosophy of Dakin is as much about preventing animal homelessness as it is about providing homes."

At the present time, the Dakin shelter in Leverett will warmly wel-

come adoptions of cats, kittens, and small animals. Until all renovations are complete, dog adoptions will be limited. But, there are dogs in Springfield and anyone interested in one of those dogs and unable to get to Springfield should call Dakin and discuss possible solutions.

The price tag for the renovation is \$650,000; \$510,000 has already been raised. Harris said, "We are grateful for all gifts, of any size."

Gifts can be made online at www.dpvhs.org, or a donor can call Dakin to learn more about giving opportunities. The website also contains extensive info about Dakin's mission, programs, and volunteer opportunities.

Loading Up on Compost



SUSAN von RANSON PHOTO

Loading the truck of his neighbor and compost buyer, Melissa Grader, Jonathan von Ranson worked Tuesday at his property, Commonfarm in Wendell Center. A group of 14 local residents purchased compost cooperatively for their gardens this spring in a 20-cubic yard bulk delivery from Bear Path Farm in Whately. The bulk purchase was arranged under the auspices of the food committee, a subcommittee of the Wendell energy committee. The town-sponsored body is actively encouraging residents to produce food themselves - at any scale - and to make a habit of finding locally grown food for their food purchases.

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