

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 32

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 23, 2013

## Joan Wickman Leaving Union 28; Interim to be Named



DAVID DETMOLD PHOTO

Superintendent Joan Wickman

By DAVID DETMOLD

After seven years at the helm of the superintendency school union that unites the elementary schools of Erving, Wendell, New Salem, Shutesbury and Leverett, Joan Wickman is leaving to become the superintendent and middle school principal of Carlisle Public Schools, near Concord. Wickman, who said she attended more than 100 night meetings, on average, each year, in her role as superintendent to four elementary school commit-

tees in Union 28, is leaving at a critical time for the district, which faces the possible loss of Leverett's elementary school to a new elementary district with Pelham and Amherst in 2015.

Voters in those three towns will decide in town elections in November on the plan to form a new three town elementary district, which the town of Shutesbury has also been invited to join. However, members of the regional school planning board from

see WICKMAN pg 10

## Healing Ceremony Held at Discovery Center for the Great Falls Massacre



Joe Graveline, president of The Nolumbeka Project

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS—"The reason we are gathered here today is to continue the process of healing," said Joe Graveline, president of the Nolumbeka Project, as he welcomed a crowd of nearly 80 to the Great Falls Discovery Center on May 19. The

gathering, to commemorate the 337<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre, featured talks by Graveline, Barry Higgins (White Crow) master flute maker of Penacook-Abenaki descent who also played one of his hand-made instruments, and an invocation for peace and healing led by Strong Oak, Circle Keeper of the Vision-

ing B.E.A.R. Circle.

Graveline began his talk by thanking the 2004 Montague Selectboard for initiating the Reconciliation Ceremony held at Unity Park in Turners Falls on May 19, 2004. This ceremony, which took place on the 328<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Captain William Turner's attack on the peaceful encampment of Native Americans at Peskeompskut (Great Falls),

sought to "put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest."

The ceremony last Sunday was an effort to continue and renew the spirit of cooperation and healing initiated in 2004. Two members of that 2004 board, Patricia Allen and Patricia Pruitt, as well as town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, were in atten-

see NOLUMBEKA pg 6



CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTOS

Strong Oak evokes the ancestors during the Nolumbeka Project's Commemoration of the Great Falls Massacre

## Davol Leaves RiverCulture But does Not Abandon Montague



PHOTO COURTESY OF BASE CAMP PHOTO

Lisa Davol (r) takes over at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce from Becky George (l)

By SHIRA HILLEL

TURNERS FALLS—Lisa Davol has been the director of the Turners Falls RiverCulture project for the past seven years, and now she is taking on similar work, yet in a broader context, as she takes over for Becky George as the new Events Manager at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

Davol has already begun part time at the Chamber and will remain in her part time role as RiverCulture director through most of the summer, when her two-year grant funding ends.

Having worked tirelessly to promote arts, culture and the related economy in down-

town Turners Falls, Davol is now headed to the Chamber, "a membership organization dedicated to strengthening and sustaining economic and civic vitality in our region."

Her focus will be less on individual events, which, as Davol knows well from RiverCulture, is very time consuming. Instead, she will take a more global approach.

The Chamber is one of 16 regional tourism bureaus in the state, and currently, there are three member towns: Greenfield, Montague and Erving.

In her new role as the Chamber's Events Manager, Davol will be in charge of event management for all of Franklin County, member-

ship development and marketing. She is hoping to develop more benefits and cultural development for member towns, and to attract even more vibrant member towns.

RiverCulture was created to strengthen the creative and cultural industries and enhance the overall quality of life that Turners Falls has to offer residents and visitors.

Downtown Turners is rich in 19th century brick architecture and home to a contemporary photography school, theater, natural history museum, artist studios, a beautiful scenic riverside bike path, great dining and performance venues, and a

see DAVOL page 12

## Congressman James McGovern Meets with Constituents at the Lady Killigrew



CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

Congressman Jim McGovern talks to a small group of constituents at The Lady Killigrew

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

MONTAGUE CENTER—On Saturday, May 18, Congressman James McGovern, Representative from the Massachusetts Second Congressional District, met at a number of venues in Western Massachusetts to speak one-on-one with his constituents. In one day McGovern managed to hold "open-office hours" in Ware, Amherst, Montague, and Northfield. At the Lady Killigrew, in Montague Center, McGovern, for an hour, answered numerous questions from four residents of Greenfield, three from Montague and one from Leverett. (He also met with Leverett residents in

Amherst.) Among the many topics discussed were cuts to Medicare and Social Security, campaign finance reform, the Keystone Pipeline, the closing of Guantánamo, and the House and Senate Farm bills, particularly focusing on the major cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in both houses. He also offered to help one of his constituents get refinancing of her mortgage; to another, he said he'd do what he could do to find him professional employment in his field. He also commented on President Obama's leadership.

Affable, engaged and articulate, McGovern answered each question with firmness and conviction. When asked

his position on the Keystone Pipeline, he said without hesitation, "I'm opposed to it." He then quickly added, "And to nuclear power, too." He adamantly asserted that he opposed any cuts to Social Security and Medicare, and was fighting hard (along with Senator Elizabeth Warren) to protect these "vital programs as they are."

McGovern also argued strongly for overturning the Supreme Court's "Citizens United" ruling, which effectively gave corporations the same rights as citizens. "It costs at least two million dollars to run for a congressional seat," said McGovern. "As a result, many in Congress are millionaires or multi-million-

see MCGOVERN pg 7

## Pet of the Week A Dainty Dame



### Tinker

Don't confuse me with fairies. I'm a dignified lady with a lot of spunk. I'm pretty smart too. I can live with other cats and even dogs! I played with the dog in my last home.

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

## Leverett Library 10th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us in these events celebrating the milestone. **Saturday June 1 during the day at the library.**

11:00 a.m. Puppet Show  
"TALKING HANDS" PUPPETEER Anna Sobel from Shutesbury will present two animal fables for young children in the library community room

12 noon Outdoor picnic and party under the tent outdoors.

Outdoor picnic and party for all. Bring your lunch, a blanket or lawn chairs. We will provide lemonade and a very special cake to celebrate the library's 10th anniversary.

12:30 p.m. Children's Carnival Games

Parachute, obstacle course, other games

Leverett's own Bob Hepner and his Magic Truck (gentle slide, an Igloo full of stuffed animals, percussive noise makers, dancing sculptures—lots of fun for everyone)

**Saturday June 1 in the evening at the library.**

7:00 p.m. "ABC" Auction for adults with dessert in the library

community room.

Items are currently on display in the library. You may place a silent bid now; final bids will be received during the called auction on the night of June 1 See list of items below

**Sunday June 2 in the Tent on the Library grounds.**

2:00 p.m. Community celebration of the library (please bring lawn chairs) Leverett Community Chorus will sing Reminiscences and recognitions about the library building project

Cake and lemonade for all.

**Leverett Library's 10th Anniversary "A-B-C" Auction**

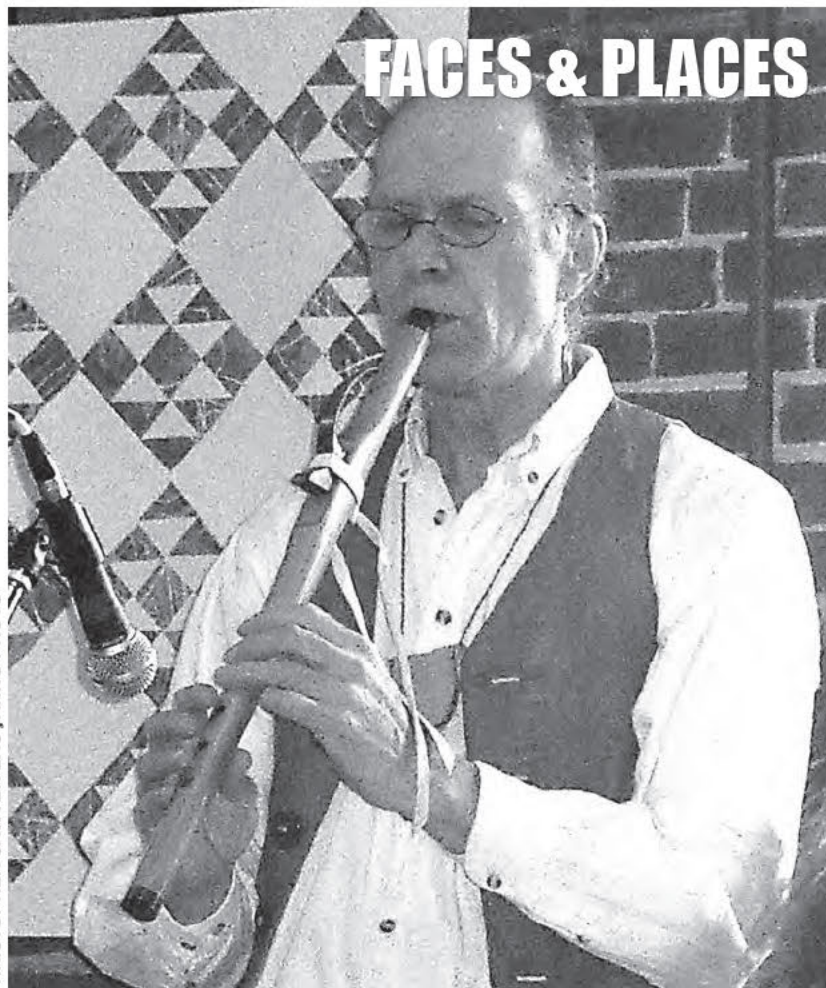
You can bid silently on items from A-Z at the library from Tuesday, May 14 through Thursday, May 30 at 5 p.m. Final bids will be taken at a called auction for adults on Saturday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at the library. Refreshments will be served! Proxy bid forms will be available for those who cannot attend the June 1 event.

### MCTV NEWS

MCTV has hired Tim Lindop to work as Interim Technical Coordinator, replacing Owen Weaver. Lindop, who built the initial MCTV studio years ago, returns to MCTV with a wealth of experience including teaching video and lighting workshops, crewing on productions, editing in Final Cut, and station engineering. In addition to

working at several cable access stations, he has worked as a freelancer for local, national and international news organizations and production companies. Lindop creates complete video packages for Catholic Communications, at the Springfield Diocese, and will split his time between MCTV and the Diocese.

MCTV's Board of Directors recently changed: Anne Harding and



CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Barry Higgins plays a plaintive song on his handmade flute for the crowd during The Nolumbeka Project's Healing Ceremony at the Discovery Center on May 19

Kristi Bodin resigned and John Stewart joined. MCTV seeks additional board members.

On Thursday, May 30, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM at Montague's Town Hall, MCTV will host a live Candidates' Debate for the Selectboard seat from which Pat Allen is resigning. The debate, between Michael Nelson and Jeanne Golrick, will be moderated by Chris Collins and

will feature panelists Chris Sawyer-Laucanno and Patricia Pruitt of *The Montague Reporter*, and Mike Naughton from the Montague Finance Committee and Tech Panel.

Thanks to volunteer producer Laurel Facey, viewers can watch the Tree Rededication ceremony at Peskeompskut Park. Check MCTV Channel 17 program listings at montaguetv.org.

**RECYCLE**  
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION  
By FRED CICETTI

*Q. It seems like a lot of my friends are watching TV with the volume way up, and accusing everyone of mumbling. How common are hearing problems among seniors?*

About one in three Americans over 60 suffers from loss of hearing, which can range from the inability to hear certain voices to deafness.

There are two basic categories of hearing loss. One is caused by damage to the inner ear or the auditory nerve. This type of hearing loss is permanent. The second kind occurs when sound can't reach the inner ear. This can be repaired medically or surgically.

Presbycusis, one form of hearing loss, occurs with age. Presbycusis can be caused by changes in the in-

ner ear, auditory nerve, middle ear, or outer ear. Some of its causes are aging, loud noise, heredity, head injury, infection, illness, certain prescription drugs, and circulation problems such as high blood pressure. It seems to be inherited.

Tinnitus, also common in older people, is the ringing, hissing, or roaring sound in the ears frequently caused by exposure to loud noise or certain medicines. Tinnitus is a symptom that can come with any type of hearing loss.

Hearing loss can be caused by "ototoxic" medicines that damage the inner ear. Some antibiotics are ototoxic. Aspirin can cause temporary problems. If you're having a hearing problem, ask your doctor about any medications you're taking.

Loud noise contributes to presbycusis and tinnitus. Noise has damaged the hearing of about 10 million Americans, many of them Baby Boomers who listened to hard rock with the volume turned up as far as possible.

Hearing problems that are ig-

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Hearing Problems Among Seniors

nored or untreated can get worse. If you have a hearing problem, see your doctor. Hearing aids, special training, medicines and surgery are options.

Your doctor may refer you to an otolaryngologist, a physician who specializes in problems of the ear. Or you may be referred to an audiologist, a professional who can identify and measure hearing loss. An audiologist can help you determine if you need a hearing aid.

There other "hearing aids" you should consider. There are listening systems to help you enjoy television or radio without being bothered by other sounds around you. Some hearing aids can be plugged directly into TVs, music players, microphones, and personal FM systems to help you hear better.

Some telephones work with certain hearing aids to make sounds louder and remove background noise. And some auditoriums, movie theaters, and other public places are equipped with special sound systems that send sounds directly to your ears.

Alerts such as doorbells, smoke detectors, and alarm clocks can give you a signal that you can see or a vibration that you can feel. For example, a flashing light can let you know someone is at the door or on the phone.

If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of "How To Be A Healthy Geezer" at <http://www.healthygeezer.com/>.

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

### Senior Center Activities - May 27th to May 31th

**GILL-MONTAGUE**  
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. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter.

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

**Monday 5/27**  
Senior Center Closed  
**Tuesday: 5/28**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga with Jean Erlbaum  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 PM Knitting Circle  
**Wednesday: 5/29**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday: 5/30**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday: 5/31**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

**ERVING**  
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals.

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

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

**Monday 5/27**  
CLOSED- MEMORIAL DAY

**Tuesday: 5/28**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday: 5/29**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12:00 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday: 5/30**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Posture Perfect  
**Friday: 5/31**  
9 a.m. Bowling  
9:30 a.m. Sit and Knit

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

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

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# LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled By **DON CLEGG**

Join Carol Kostecki at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 25, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. as she demonstrates **Pisanki, the age old tradition of decorating eggs**. A treasured and cultural expression of geometric lines and shapes with roots deep in Polish and Ukrainian tradition. Pisanki is brought to life with Carol's amazing detail. Kostecki's treasures have been shown at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA and she has been sponsored and featured by several art councils as well as associations. This event promises to be enjoyable and informative. For reservations, call GSB at 413-863-4316.

**Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno** will read from his new book of poems, *Mussoorie-Montague Miscellany*, at All Small Caps at the Deja Brew Pub, 57A Lockes Village Road, in Wendell on Monday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m. Sawyer-Laucanno is the author of more than a half-dozen books, and currently serves as the editor of this paper.

The very popular **Kidleidoscope** returns to the Great Falls Discovery Center for each Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. starting on May 28 and continuing through out the spring and summer months. Kidleidoscope is a kid friendly, environmental experience for very young children. Each weekly topic includes a story, an interactive game, and craft activity to help you and your child understand the natural world around us. Recommended ages from 3-6 years and must be accompanied by an adult.

Enjoy an evening of music at **Wendell Town Hall** on Friday, May 31, starting at 7:00 pm featuring the Wendell Community Chorus and performances by Moonlight and Morning Star, Carrie Ferguson, Doug Tanner, Francis Doughy and Ajika Sawyer. This is a family friendly concert with snacks and refreshments. A suggested donation of \$3 - 8 is encouraged with proceeds to benefit the scholarship fund for Community Chorus participation. The evening is sponsored by the Wendell Recreation Commission and the Wendell Cultural Council.

Recording artists Donna Lee and Bill Shontz will perform the greatest hits of the **Patsy Cline era** on Thursday, May 30, starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, 7 Main Street, in

Shelburne Falls. The show is free and open to the public thanks to funding from the Ashfield and Buckland Cultural Councils, and donations from the Senior Center gift account.

Each Saturday through September, the **American Legion Post #81 Color Guard**, under the leadership of Rick Cummings, will sell hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and hot dogs along with a salad at the Legion headquarters in Greenfield behind Green Fields Market. Food will be on sale from noon to 3:00 p.m. Proceeds will be used to purchase uniforms, supplies, and flags. For more information, please call the Legion at 413-772-0857.

1st annual **"Redecorate your Crown"** event to benefit Relay for Life on Sunday, June 2, noon to 4:00 pm at Route 63 Roadhouse, 32 Federal Street, in Millers Falls. Come shave your head or get it cut short. Help make a change by collecting pledges and redecorating your crown plus help raise money for cancer research at the same time. Contact [moc.oohay@2489pjm](mailto:moc.oohay@2489pjm) for pledge forms and info.

Send local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## Historic Hidden Valley Memorial Forest Protected in Wendell

**WENDELL**—Mabel Cronquist donated the 67-acre Hidden Valley Memorial Forest to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust in 1996. Now, the trust has added a second level of protection to the property, selling a conservation restriction on the land to the Town of Wendell. The Town funded the acquisition through a grant from the USDA Forest Legacy Program.

Charles Smith of the Wendell Conservation Commission described the Commission as "Pleased with the decision to give us the conservation restriction." He added "It's in keeping with our mission for the Commission to hold conservation restrictions and thereby ensure that the interests of the Town are met by Mount Grace as it manages its stewardship of Hidden Valley Memorial Forest."

The forest is traversed by New England's National Scenic Trail and lies entirely within the Wendell State Forest. It is dedicated as a memorial to the life and work of internationally known botanist Arthur Cronquist (1919-1992)—an expert on Asters who became best known for developing the Cronquist system of taxonomy for all flowering plants. Cronquist, who observed that "time here refreshes my soul," owned the property and used it as a research site.

"This conservation restriction helps complete the Metacomet-Monadnock Forest Legacy Project—named for the trail which was

recently designated New England's National Scenic Trail—which has protected 1,069 acres in six towns around the trail," said Mason Phelps, long-time member of the Wendell Open Space Committee.

"The Forest Legacy Program protects environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses," explained Mount Grace Project Manager Paul Danielle. "The USDA Forest Services provides the program funding paying up to 75% of acquisition costs. Mount Grace secured the remaining 25% of Metacomet Monadnock Forest cost share from landowner contributions (including bargain sales and easement donations) and state agency partners."

Mount Grace will commemorate the completion of this project on June 20 when the Massachusetts Walking Tour stops in at Hidden Valley to perform a free concert. The tour, which celebrates local art and culture in Massachusetts towns, will follow the New England National Scenic Trail. Musicians Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards will be hiking from performance to performance during the summer and will play at Hidden Valley between shows at Montague's Red Fire Farm and the Hitchcock Center in Amherst.

Partners in the Metacomet-Monadnock Forest Legacy Project include local towns, Mount Grace, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the

Greater Northfield Watershed Association, and the USDA Forest Service, which provided a \$1,645,000 grant to conserve the land. DCR's Bureau of Forestry serves as the lead agency to administer the Forest Legacy Program in Massachusetts. Other grants in support of the project were provided by the Bafflin Foundation, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and the Fieldstone Foundation.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust ([www.mountgrace.org](http://www.mountgrace.org)) is a regional land trust that serves 23 towns in Franklin and Worcester counties and is supported by more than 1,000 members and by private, state and federal grants. It protects significant natural, agricultural and scenic areas and encourages land stewardship in Massachusetts for the benefit of the environment, the economy and future generations. Since 1986, Mount Grace has helped protect nearly 27,000 acres.

### World-Wide March Against Monsanto Day

Saturday, May 25th is the world-wide March Against Monsanto day. Meet on the sidewalk in front of the Amherst Town common at 2:00pm. We will march through Amherst and stand in solidarity against the atrocities that Monsanto has perpetrated. Bring a sign to show how you feel.

### FOR SALE in ERVING

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

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

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

### FOR SALE in ERVING

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

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

Erving BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Eugene M. Klepadlo, Chairman

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# The Montague Reporter

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August, 2002

## The Farm Bill is a Travesty

There was a time, not all that long ago, when both Republicans and Democrats rallied around the idea that no one should be hungry in America. In the Johnson and Nixon eras conservative Senator Bob Dole worked with liberal Senator George McGovern to create more accessibility to food stamps and strengthen nutrition programs. President Reagan, on the other hand, and his ally in the house, Newt Gingrich, made attacking food stamps and food stamp recipients a Republican cause. But even their efforts pale in comparison with the current Republican politicians in the U.S. House. On May 16 the Republican-controlled House Agriculture Committee voted 36 to 10 to approve the \$940 billion (over ten years) 2013 farm bill. Every Republican on the Committee, and even a few Democrats voted for it.

The highest casualty program in the entire farm bill was SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The Agriculture Committee voted to cut \$20 billion from this program over the next decade. If approved, the cuts will go into effect in November affecting 50 million Americans who cannot consistently afford enough food, and who, therefore, receive SNAP benefits.

Our representative in Congress, Jim McGovern, put the cuts in perspective in his speech during the debate: "... Cuts in this bill will kick 2 million people off of SNAP. That's 2 million hungry Americans who currently rely on SNAP to help feed themselves and their families. That's 2 million low-income Americans who are having trouble making ends meet. These cuts will cause 850,000 households to see their SNAP benefits reduced by \$90 a month. That's a big cut for poor families struggling to get by. The cuts in this bill will cause 210,000 children to lose access to their free school meals. These 210,000 poor children currently receive free school meals because their parents can't afford to pay for their meals. But the cuts in this bill will result in 210,000 losing access to free school meals. This bill even cuts the nutrition education program – a program that is designed to help educate SNAP beneficiaries about how to buy and prepare more nu-

tritious food. Imagine cutting this critical nutrition education program while obesity and access to unhealthy food is on the rise."

We couldn't agree more with Congressman McGovern. Nor could we disagree more with another portion of the farm bill that continues to subsidize large agri-businesses through crop insurance payments. While cutting SNAP, as well as some other farm subsidies, the House committee voted to expand crop insurance spending by \$9 billion over a decade. In 2011, more than 10,000 individual farming operations received federal crop insurance premium subsidies ranging from \$100,000 to more than \$1 million each. Some 26 farming operations received subsidies of \$1 million or more last year. 26 farm businesses benefited from \$1 million in subsidies to buy crop insurance in 2011. Ten percent of farm businesses received 54 percent of all insurance subsidies in 2011, many of them tobacco companies. We are hopeful that the Senate farm bill will eliminate these unnecessary payments to corporate farmers.

The House bill also seeks to weaken USDA rules regarding abusive practices used by some meatpackers and chicken processors to cheat ranchers and livestock producers. The 2008 farm bill directed the USDA to write rules to address commonplace abuses in the meatpacking and poultry industries, but the meat producers have been aggressively lobbying key members of congress ever since. After years of fighting to get those rules in effect, the House Agriculture Committee's version of the Farm Bill repealed the few remaining provisions of the "Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Rule" which prohibited some of the more abusive practices huge chicken companies levied on contract poultry growers. The amendment also prohibits the USDA from taking any action to curb emerging abuses in the meatpacking and poultry sector. Fortunately, the Senate bill does not contain this provision to repeal the rules.

All in all, the House farm bill is a travesty. "It is just not right," said Representative McGovern. We couldn't agree more.



"Hey Kid, dog License, registration, and proof of poop bag, please."

C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editor

### Create New Nuclear Regulatory Agency

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Leverett to make you aware of recent Town Meeting action. On April 27, 2013 at our Annual Town Meeting the following resolution was passed:

#### To Abolish the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and to create a new Regulatory Agency

The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, owned by the Entergy Corporation of Louisiana, is located about 20 miles as the crow flies from Leverett. It is a Mark I reactor built by General Electric, and is one of its first generation of reactors. It has been recognized from its beginnings in the early 1970s as poorly designed for safety. Vermont's reactor is exactly the same as the ones that melted down at Fukushima, Japan. It has been plagued by so called "minor" accidents for years. The company has repeatedly lied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the public, and to officials from the State of Vermont on matters concerning its design, operation, and condition. The plant is vulnerable in several ways:

- Its diesel pumps, which are located right on the edge of the Connecticut River, are vulnerable to flooding, the cause of the meltdown in Japan.

- The cooling pool for spent uranium fuel rods is located seven stories above ground, and is vulnerable to a seismic event or terrorist act. The potential for radioactive poisoning from this source dwarfs the Hiroshima bomb, could endanger Boston's water supply, and would create a vast sacrifice zone around the plant, including Leverett. In the worst case scenario, we would all have to permanently evacuate our homes. The company could reduce the risk by moving the older spent fuel rods to dry cask storage, but fails to do so because of the expense involved.

- The containment vessel as designed is vulnerable to high pressures, and this plant is now 41

years old, beyond the age for which it was designed.

With strong support from surrounding states and local jurisdictions, including Leverett acting through its Select Board, the legislature and the governor of the State of Vermont have sought to close the plant. Vermont demanded the right to rule on re-licensure of the plant at the end of its 40 year operating license, and the company agreed to that demand when the State approved the purchase of the plant by Entergy. Federal courts, favoring corporations over the states and the people, have ruled that the contract Entergy signed with the State of Vermont need not be honored, and that the sole authority to regulate the safety of nuclear power plants lies with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In 2011 The NRC renewed Vermont Yankee's operating license for another 20 years starting in March 2012. The NRC has never turned down a nuclear industry request to re-license a plant. Thus, people all over the US, including the people of this region have been denied our democratic right to protect our safety.

The citizens of Leverett, Massachusetts feel an urgent need to protect our beloved land and culture from the clear and present danger of nuclear annihilation. Given its past callous disregard for public safety we hereby express our lack of faith in the existing Nuclear Regulatory Commission to protect us from nuclear accident. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission receives much of its funding from the industry itself and has consistently served as its protector and promoter. We appeal to the President and to the Congress to abolish the NRC, and to assign the regulatory role to a new or different agency, such as the Environmental Protection Agency. We appeal to the Federal Court to honor the contract signed by Entergy with the State of Vermont, and to enforce Vermont's order that Vermont Yankee cease to operate.

Given our immediate proximity

to Vermont Yankee, a facsimile reactor to Fukushima, whose radiation plume spread much more than 50 miles to Tokyo, we require for our citizen and school safety a more effective evacuation plan.

Therefore we demand that the Entergy Corporation expand from 10 to 50 miles the minimum radiation hazard evacuation zone. After the Fukushima disaster the Nuclear Regulatory Commission advised US Nationals in Japan to evacuate if they were within a radius of 50 miles.

Further we demand that Governor Patrick and our Congressional delegation press Entergy and relevant governmental agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Consumer Protection Board to create such a 50 mile evacuation zone and also demand that Entergy make funds available to construct and practice such evacuation plans in conjunction with local first responders, school officials, related governmental and department heads.

We direct the Town Clerk to send this official act of our Town Meeting to the NRC, Federal Judges, our governor and our representatives in Congress—McGovern, Warren and our interim senator. We urge our Congressional representatives to represent our interests by introducing a bill into Congress to eliminate the NRC and to assign its regulatory role to another agency.

We thank you for your continued support of our community and its concerns.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Stratford, Town Clerk

### Hats Off

My hats off to the members of The Montague Police Dept. A look at the police logs in The Reporter, both past and present, indicate how busy they are keeping the peace in the towns in Montague. The evolution of some members of society is one of wonder and despair. Have we reached bottom yet? Look at the poetry page in the same edition and see what the youth are writing. Four out of five poems cry out. I get the feeling they want change as well. The English teacher at Franklin Tech is doing a marvelous job with these kids. Their poems reflect what is happening today in our society. "Out of chaos comes order"

—David Yez,  
Monmouth, Illinois.

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**WE WELCOME  
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Montague Reporter

58 4th St Turners, 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

## U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 5/15/13

Wounded	Deaths
17,674	2,223



## ANOTHER LETTER

### Letter to Montague Town Clerk, Deb Bourbeau

I hate to complain, but here goes. I knew today was voting day. I reminded myself over the weekend. And, in the back of my mind I pictured the sandwich boards that have been in front of the library most election days reminding us, as promised that voting is now up the hill at the Fire Station. So maybe I unconsciously relied on that prompt. Obviously I don't need to be reminded that we now vote at the station, but with our voting location now tucked up the hill and out of sight - it's very easy for the day to pass by unnoticed. I wouldn't be surprised if Montague Center, ever active with voting had lower turnout than usual (or maybe it's just me). I

was working all day, writing - but twice passed by the library where the boards usually stand. Nothing. No reminder. Just a regular day in Montague Center.

PLEASE, when you all moved the election location to the fire station, you promised a reminder that it was there - just a visual thing to remind folks in town it's an election day. How much does it take to put the boards out there? Just as you all zip by on your way to the station you could drop it off at the library. Heck I'd help you put it there if you need.

-Thanks!  
Emily Monosson

## All Win in Uncontested Gill Elections

Randy Crochier picked up 59 out of 65 votes to regain his seat on the Gill Selectboard. Peter Conway will continue on the board of assessors. Also winning re-election were Anne Marie Klein (cemetery commission), Elisabeth Greenough (library trustee), Douglas Edson (board of health) and Veronica LaChance (treasurer). The turnout was only seven percent.

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## Levenson Tops Phillips in GMRSD School Committee Race; Boutwell Returns to Montague Selectboard

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

MONTAGUE--In the May 20 town elections in Gill and Montague for the GMRSD School Committee, Marge Levenson, of Lake Pleasant, picked up 382 votes; Joyce Phillips, current chair of the committee, got 303 votes and Charles Kelley received 283 votes. These tallies are the combined votes from both Gill and Montague, where voters can vote for representatives from both towns. Levenson and Phillips, both incumbents, retained their seats. Jane Oakes, Gill incumbent member of the GMRSD School Committee, running unopposed, garnered 513 votes.

Levenson won Gill and scored slim victories over Phillips in Montague Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 5; she and Phillips tied in Precinct 4; Phillips won Precinct 6. Kelley ran behind in all precincts but bested Phillips by seven votes in Gill. In Montague he came within one vote of tying Phillips in Precinct 2 and was just six votes behind her in Precinct 5.

Christopher Boutwell Sr. easily defeated challengers Mathew Mc-

Mullin and Jacobo Roque. Boutwell got 336 votes to McMullin's 76. Roque received 55 votes. In the only other contested race, for a five-year seat on the Montague Housing Authority, Karen Casey-Chretien received 305 votes. Richard C. Thayer got 76 votes, and Matthew McMullin 66.

Voter turnout in both Montague and Gill was extremely low. Only 7.02 percent voted in Gill; only 8.82 percent in Montague.

## Library Director

The Trustees of the Montague Public Libraries seek a new Library Director.

Required: MLS, at least five years experience. Salary starts at \$54 K. Details at [montaguepubliclibraries.org](http://montaguepubliclibraries.org). The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Andrew N. Goodwin  
Select Board Chairman

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### BRUSH FIRES AND OTHER BRUSHES

##### Monday, 5/13

8:30 a.m. Injured bird in front of the Salvation Army on Avenue A, Turners Falls. Unable to locate.

##### 1:03 p.m.

arrested for property damage at the post office on Avenue A, Turners Falls.

##### Tuesday, 5/14

12:53 p.m. Domestic disturbance across from 2nd Street, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

6:42 p.m. Restraining order

violation at West Main Street, Millers Falls. Advised of options.

8:32 p.m. Threatening harassment at F.L. Roberts at 132 3rd Street, Turners Falls. Advised of options.

##### 9:59 p.m.

arrested on Avenue A, Turners Falls.

##### Wednesday, 5/15

2:18 p.m. Vandalism at 7th Street, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

3:23 p.m. Larceny at 12th Street, Turners Falls.

##### Thursday, 5/16

9:39 a.m. Brush fire at the Montague Plains. Referred to other agency.

9:50 a.m. Domestic disturbance at Avenue A, Turners Falls. Area search negative.

10:57 a.m. Burglary and breaking and entering at Lake Pleasant Road, Lake Pleasant. Services rendered.

12:53 p.m. Larceny at F.L. Roberts on 3rd Street, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

1:28 p.m. Brush fire on Industrial Blvd, Turners Falls. Services rendered.

6:54 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Bridge Street, Millers Falls. Investigated.

##### Friday, 5/17

9:08 a.m. Illegal dumping at Aubuchon Hardware, 200 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Verbal warning.

10:03 a.m. Larceny at Food City, 250 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Report taken.

12:54 p.m. Vandalism at Gary's Coins and Antiques, 115 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

see MONTAGUE POLICE page 8

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Out and About and Moving Along

##### Monday, 5/13

12:10 p.m. Sick raccoon at Poplar Mountain Road.

9:15 p.m. Moose in roadway in Farley area.

##### Tuesday, 5/14

12:00 a.m. Assisted Orange police with assault and battery on East Main Street.

9:45 a.m. Medical on River Road; assisted with same.

8:10 p.m. Well being check on Northfield Road resident; same found to be OK, out and about.

9:40 p.m. Probation de-

partment requested check on resident at Northfield Road; spoke with same.

##### Wednesday, 5/15

10:20 a.m. Suspicious person at elementary school; spoke with same and moved along.

8:15 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on East Main Street, not a hazard; operator made own arrangements to move.

##### Thursday, 5/16

12:05 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Pleasant Street; owner made arrangements

to remove vehicle.

5:30 p.m. Suspicious youths holding signs on French King Bridge; same moved along.

##### Friday, 5/17

10:45 a.m. arrested for warrant out of Orange district court.

6:05 p.m. Brush fire near rest area on Route 2.

7:30 p.m. Disabled motorcycle at entrance of Laurel Lake on Route 2; same started and moved on his

way.

7:40 p.m. Passing motorist reported disheveled female sitting near the North Street roadway; unable to locate.

10:30 p.m. Mutual aid call to Bernardston to assist with intoxicated male subject; same arrested.

11:50 p.m. Well being check on Pleasant Street resident; found to be OK.

##### Saturday, 5/18

10:00 a.m. Medical emergency on High Street; assisted at scene.

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This poem was written by Patricia Pruitt, member of the 2004 Selectboard, for the Reconciliation Ceremony. It was first printed in the *Reporter* on May 24, 2004.

#### Reconciliation Elegy

For the Narragansett People and the People of Montague  
May 19, 2004  
by Patricia Pruitt

Today we gather at the river  
Our place in the living NOW  
Rolling minute into hour  
Hour into centuries. Our home  
is made of history.

Today around the fire  
Narragansetts and Montagueans gather  
On the bank of the shining river  
Along its green and fragile edge.  
Its surface sometimes calm and blue.  
A second sky for us to view, or a  
Momentary grove of trees  
Rippling in a water breeze.

Some say they swirl in dawn's early fog  
Forms still fishing in the river.

Some say they see at sunset a red stain  
On the water, on rocks banking the river.

In our mind's eye, Pocumtucks, Captain Turner  
And his men live on  
Through three hundred, twenty eight years of days.  
(Memory thwarts death in this small way)  
And memory brings us to this day.

Captain Turner and his men  
In full heat for self-protection  
Slew Pocumtucks young and old  
And in turn were slain.

Narragansetts speak their part  
We speak ours. Both from this vantage  
Know a flow of blood is not  
The river to the future.

The earth sustains us one and all  
And life is sweet, but short.

We are searching for the word  
Lost in the swirling tumbling Falls.

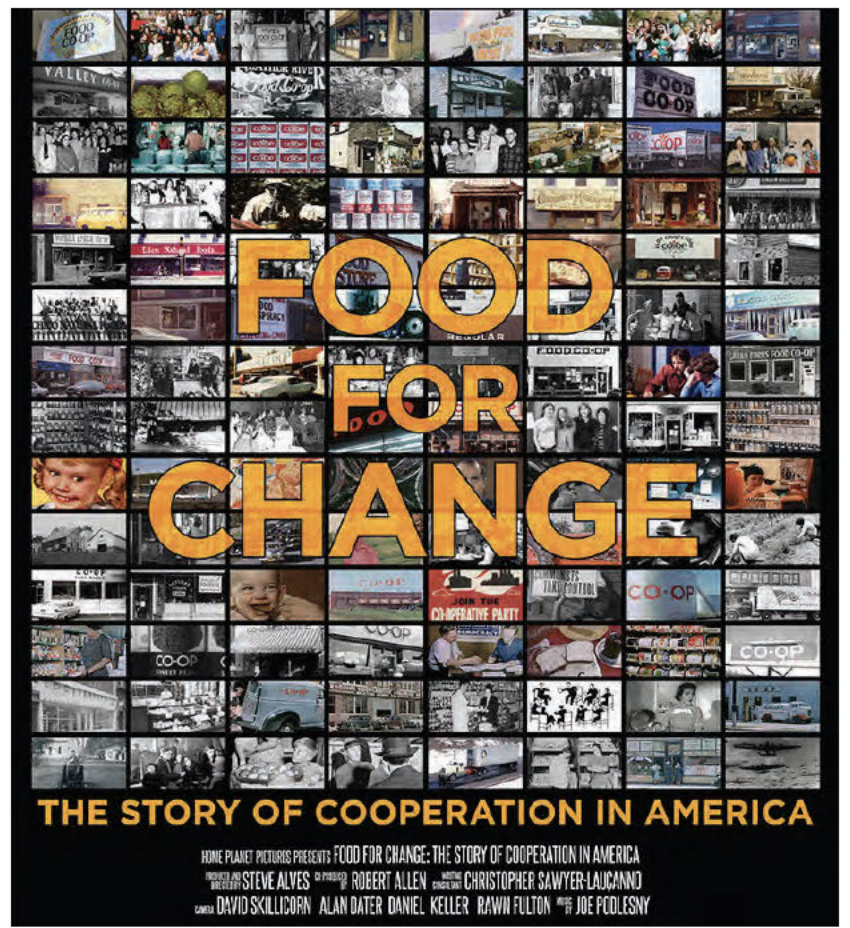
We are searching for the gestures  
To heal and reconcile us all.

Part prayer, part longing for grief  
To cease. Part recognition of our shared  
Estate. The word repeated paves the way  
Til word become road  
And we go in peace.

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## FOOD FOR CHANGE

Filmmaker Steve Alves will show a rough cut of his new film *Food For Change* in the Community Room at Green Fields Market on May 24, and again on May 31 at 5:30. *Food For Change* is a feature-length work-in-progress documentary focusing on food co-ops as a force for social and economic change in American culture. The movie tells the story of the cooperative movement in the U.S. from the Great Depression to the present with a focus on consumer food co-ops—their pioneering quest for organic food and their efforts to create regional food systems. The film also shows how co-ops build communities, strengthen local economies, and create food security. A 15-minute excerpt from the film was shown at the United Nations last fall where it was given an award. The entire film is now in rough-cut form and runs 90-mins. Steve would like to get some reactions to the film before making the final edition.



#### NOLUMBEKA from pg 1

dance. Allen Ross, the third member of the 2004 board, was unable to attend.

Graveline noted that 20 generations had the opportunity to shift the sinister and negative energy to a positive and healing focus, but only in 2004 did this begin to happen. He stressed that for over ten thousand years this site had been a place of peace, and that it should be again. The Pocumtucks and their ancestors had long welcomed Native peoples from throughout the region, as the village was located at the confluence of two major Native American travel routes, the Mohawk Trail and the Connecticut River. Diplomacy, marriage, trade, and ceremonies had been held on the site for thousands of years. In the spring, when the salmon and shad ran the river, Native peoples from far and wide came to partake in the river's spectacular bounty. It was precisely this traditional gathering that was attacked on May 19, 1676.

Graveline said he did not expect those gathered to forgive Captain Turner, but he did urge the crowd to try to understand who he was and what he was up against as a human being. He recounted Turner's past as a Boston tailor and a marginalized Baptist, who was thrown in jail in Boston for his beliefs. With the outbreak of Metacom's War (King Philip's War) in 1675 Turner was re-

leased from prison in return for his commitment to raise a company of men to fight the Indians. By this point, however, Turner was already in ill health, suffering from advanced tuberculosis. Indeed, said Graveline, he was very likely near death.

Turner, nonetheless, recruited a company of men. At dawn on May 19, 1676, with 50 garrison soldiers, among them Lieutenant Samuel Holyoke, and 100 other men, mostly farmers, the company led a surprise attack on the main Indian camps at Peskeomskut. Although the accounts of the number of Indians killed varies from 200 to 350, what all agree on is that the victims were mainly elders, women and children. Graveline also said that after the initial attack, Turner was somewhat aghast at what he had done but that Holyoke urged on the colonials by dragging three children from their hiding place and killing them with his sword. Turner, along with 36 of his men, was killed on the retreat to Northampton; Holyoke was wounded but survived.

In speaking of Captain Turner's Baptist religion as making him an outsider in Puritan society, Graveline said "Marginalization of a person creates hostility in that individual toward others who are also marginalized."

Barry Higgins in his address drew comparisons between Turner's attack at Peskeomskut and the Wounded Knee Massa-

cre. In both instances, innocent Indians were killed. At Wounded Knee it was a land grab; at Great Falls, it was an attempt to break the back of the Native people during Metacom's War. He followed up his talk with a soulful and plaintive flute piece that he played on his own hand-crafted flute.

Following Higgins, Strong Oak intoned a prayer for healing and reconciliation, and then led the assembled group in an Ojibway prayer to the four directions.

This moving event was followed by informal conversation, a sampling of food and drink, and outside the Center, a lighting of sacred herbal incense as a way of sending prayers for healing upwards into the gray skies slaked with rain.

After the ceremony, which lasted about 90 minutes, all were invited to tour the Wissatinnewag property in Greenfield. This property, a sacred Native site stretching back 10,000 years, was bought from Peter Mackin by The Friends of Wissatinnewag, a group co-founded by Monique Fordham and Howard Clarke, on March 30, 2001. The Friends of Wissatinnewag blended into the The Nolumbeka Project on February 4, 2013.

The Nolumbeka Project's website [http://www.nolumbekaproject.blogspot.com/p/blog-page\\_1081.html](http://www.nolumbekaproject.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_1081.html)

states their mission as follows: "To promote a deeper, broader and more accurate depiction of the history of the Native Americans/American Indians of New England before and during European contact and colonization; to protect and preserve sites sacred to, and of historic value to, the Native Americans/American Indians of New England; to create and promote related educational opportunities, preservation projects and cultural events; and to work in partnership, as much as possible, with the tribes."



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## Unity Park Project Reconstruction: Final Stage On Schedule



Taylor Davis stands in front of his Volvo ECR 145 CI Excavator. The bucket can tilt and revolve 180 degrees.

By JOE PARZYCH

Unity Park is seeing the final stage of reconstruction. Last Monday, Taylor Davis Landscaping and Construction of Amherst, MA, began construction of a basketball court by tearing up the old concrete and asphalt basketball court. The firm has begun construction of new sidewalks with fitness stations. Eventually the firm will grade the site, including the field adjoining the existing ball field. The project is a joint effort of Taylor Davis as subcontractors to Diversion Construction who are doing 5% of the project while Taylor Davis is doing the lion's share of 95%.

The project shows no shortage of late model excavation equipment with two Volvo ECR 145 excavators with buckets that tilt and rotate 360 degrees, an International 10 wheel dump truck, a three cubic yard Volvo 190E front end loader, an ASV rubber tracked loader, and a sophisticated laser guided Level Best grader that can

maintain a less than 2% cross pitch grading of sidewalks to conform to handicapped accessibility standards. In addition, the work crew is using a Dyna Pac Vibratory Roller.

The project is going well, according to Davis. "We ran into some shot rock that came from the construction of the power canal," Davis said, "But we haven't encountered any water problems or anything else to slow the project."

Workmen poured concrete bases for basketball post bases with steel stay-in-place forms. The forms have steel reinforcing bars welded in place prior to installation. Davis' crew stripped and stockpiled loam for future landscaping. The basketball court and sidewalks have a base of crushed red rock gravel from Mackin's quarry on Adams Road in Greenfield. "I love the stuff," Davis said. "It grades and compacts great."

Davis sees no problem in completing the job by the deadline at the end of September this year.

## Family Fish Day at the Discovery Center

By DON CLEGG

### TURNERS FALLS—

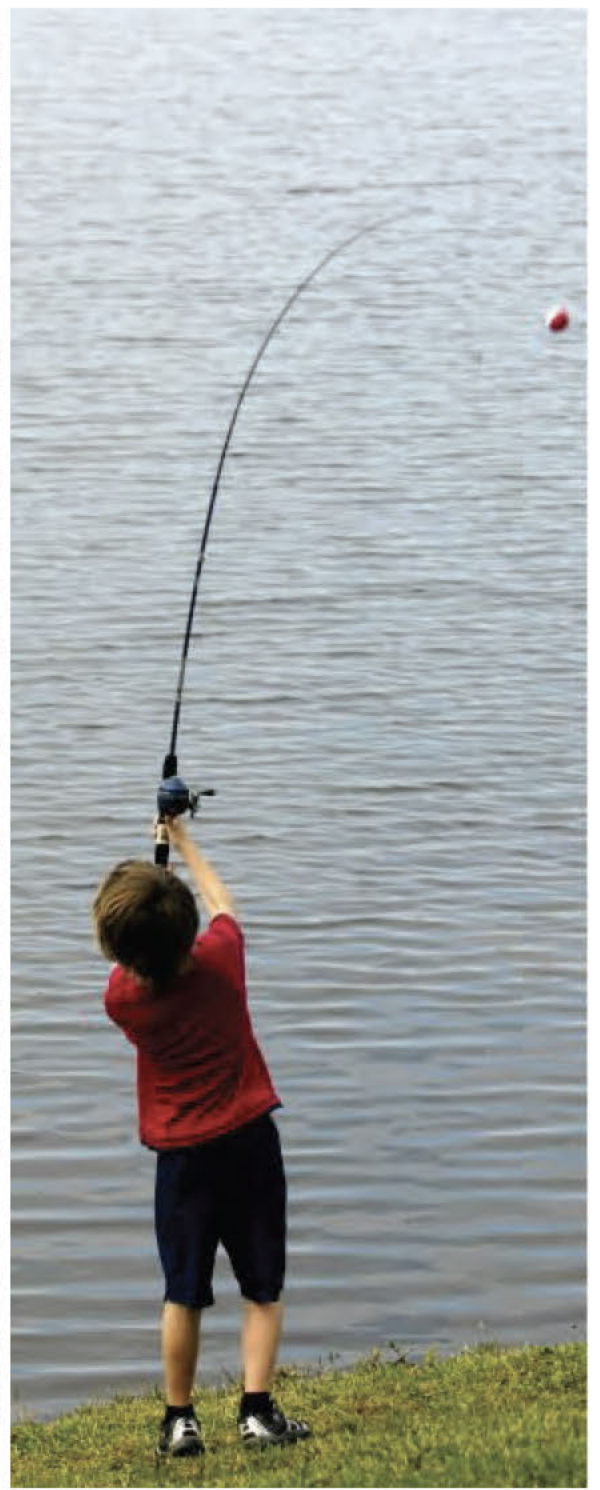
The Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls hosts the 8th Annual Family Fish Day on Saturday, June 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Adults and children of all ages can join staff from the GFDC and Massachusetts DCR, educators from Northfield Mountain, the Western MA. Fly Fisherman, Friends of the GFDC, and volunteers in a day of fishing fun. Activities will include a live sturgeon exhibit, hands on fly fishing demonstrations, fly tying lessons, fishing at Unity Park (across from the basketball courts), fishing games for young children, fish printing, aquatic insect investigations, raffles, and much more. All equipment is provided and no fishing licenses are required to participate. Check in at the Great Hall of the GFDC to get a complete schedule and directions to this entirely free event which is fully accessible, and a ton of fun.

Make sure to head over to the Turners Falls Fishway on 1st Street in Turners Falls between noon and 2:00 p.m. for a "Free

Fish Printing" event. Print your very own T-shirt, tote bag or create a masterpiece on paper. Discover the intricate beauty and important function of fish fins and scales, then create your work of art using scientifically accurate replicas of Connecticut River fish. Also, learn about resident fish as well as fish that return to the Connecticut River to lay their eggs. Remember to bring a T-shirt or other material to use for fish printing. Fish T-shirts make great gifts. Please wear clothes that can get paint stained.

The fish ladder viewing area will also be open to the public. Take the opportunity to watch American shad, sea lamprey and other migratory fish during their upriver spring journey to spawn. Remember to bring along a lunch and enjoy the picnic areas adjacent to the fishway on the banks of the Connecticut River or on the beautiful grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Hundreds of people enjoy and return to Family Fish Day each year. The event is rain or shine with some events moving inside the GFDC if the weather is inclement. The fish don't mind the wet.



from MCGOVERN page 1 aires. And that's not the way it should be."

On Guantánamo, he stated that he had just written a letter to the president, pledging his support for closing the detention center. He said that he told the president that the 86 detainees who have been cleared by the U.S. government of all charges and determined not to be a threat to U.S. security, be returned to their countries of origin and/or third party countries so that they may be reunited with their families and restored to civilian life. He also urged speedy prosecutions in U.S. federal courts against those detainees charged with crimes against the security of the United States and whose cases are most ready for prosecution and trial, so that examples of rule of law and due process may be established for these detainees in our civilian courts.

He was most impassioned about the cuts to the SNAP program included in the farm bill (H.R. 1947) proposed by Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate, and passed by the Republican-dominated House. McGovern is a long time advocate for ending hunger. He is co-chair of both the Congressional Hunger Center and the Hunger Caucus in the U.S. House and has long been involved in the fight to end hun-

ger. He noted that he had introduced an amendment that failed to remove these cuts. He expressed his dismay at the outcome: "\$20 billion in SNAP cuts at a time when we have 50 million hungry Americans, 17 million of them hungry kids, is absolutely the wrong thing to do. Taking \$20 billion out of this program will do real harm to Americans who are simply trying to make ends meet." He noted that the Senate version only reduced SNAP by four billion. "Even that is far too much," he said. And when it goes to the compromise committee, it will be probably—what—\$10 billion. He summed up his position this way: "Hunger is a political condition, and though we have the resources to end it, what we really need is the political will to make it happen."

In his speech last week in the House, McGovern stated the case for SNAP recipients quite clearly: "These cuts will cause 850,000 households to see their SNAP benefits reduced by \$90 a month. \$90 a month. That's a big cut for poor families struggling to get by. The cuts in this bill will cause 210,000 children to lose access to their free school meals. These 210,000 poor children currently receive free school meals because their parents can't afford to pay for their

meals. But the cuts in this bill will result in 210,000 losing access to free school meals. This bill even cuts the nutrition education program — a program that is designed to help educate SNAP beneficiaries about how to buy and prepare more nutritious food. Imagine cutting this critical nutrition education program while obesity and access to unhealthy food is on the rise... We must stand for the most vulnerable in our country. And we must End Hunger Now — not make it worse."

When asked about what has happened to President Obama, McGovern said that though he was sure the president's heart was in the right place, he felt he was extremely frustrated. "He's more comfortable with policy than with politics, said McGovern. "I'm glad he saw Lincoln, and read books about LBJ (Lyndon Johnson), but the emancipation proclamation did not pass because Lincoln gave a good speech about it. He worked the aisles in Congress."

Representative McGovern urged

his constituents to get in touch with him about issues that concern them. You can phone or visit his local office in Northampton at 94 Pleasant Street. phone: (413) 341-8700; fax: (413) 584-1216. His phone number in Washington is (202) 225-6101; fax: (202) 225-5759. And of course,

you can also write him a letter: 438 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. To email Representative McGovern, use the contact form at his website: <http://mcgovern.house.gov/contact-jim/>



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### NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD Solar Options Considered

By DAVID DETMOLD

On Monday, the selectboard weighed the advantage of placing solar panels on the Mariamante property against the benefits of joining other Western Massachusetts communities to take part in large solar projects already permitted in the Hampshire County towns of Whately and Hadley through Hampshire Power's net metering program. Eric Weiss, the fast talking sustainability director for the Hampshire Council of Governments provided the board with a breathless rundown of the pitfalls and potential for Green energy development in the Pioneer Valley.

Weiss said Gill could earn a 21% discount on its municipal energy bill by participating in municipal net metering with other Western Massachusetts communities under Massachusetts' preferential program, which is designed to encourage the development of solar power arrays in the state. Under the state program, a private developer, in this case NexAmp, described as "the largest Massachusetts-based developer of solar systems in the Commonwealth," is able to finance the development of multi-megawatt solar displays by selling net metering credits to municipal governments, who receive a fixed discount on their electric bills in exchange for the participation, for a term of 20 years.

Weiss encouraged Gill to get in line to participate in the Whately project, due for completion by the end of next year. He said eight other town governments in Western Mass had already received town meeting approval to allow their selectboards to negotiate with Hampshire Power to participate in the net metering program with NexAmp, and he predicted the net metering credits for the solar projects in the planning stages in Whately and Hadley would soon be snapped up. He urged the selectboard to put a motion before the voters at the June 11 annual town meeting to allow Gill to negotiate and participate in the net metering project too.

As to the potential for solar panels on the town-

owned 10-acre Mariamante parcel at the corner of West Gill and Main Road, Weiss said one private developer, Broadway Electrical, out of Boston, has proposed locating a solar array that would produce slightly more than 1 megawatt of power on about four of those acres. The main problem with that proposal, Weiss said, is that the town of Gill uses only about 90,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually in its municipal buildings, so off site buyers would have to be found to purchase more than 90% of the solar electric credits from that proposed project, and under the state program for municipal net metering, all those "offtakers" would have to be municipal entities in the area.

Weiss said Hampshire Power is considering issuing a new RFP in coming months that would feature targeted criteria to find developers - more likely local developers - who would work with towns like Gill to develop solar projects in their borders scaled to meet the needs of their own communities, rather than trying to find municipal partners for larger photovoltaic projects, which could wind up competing under the current municipal net metering cap for the large projects already underway in Hadley and Whately.

Weiss stressed that Gill would not be obliged to put up any town money to participate in the net metering program. He said the town could not receive net metering credits for both a Mariamante solar project and an out-of-town solar project like the one planned in Whately - it would have to be one or the other under the state program. But the town could choose to build its own smaller project, using Green Communities funding, for example, and could do that outside the net metering program.

Weiss said it is significantly more difficult to make the financing work for solar development in Western Mass Electric Company's service area, as opposed to National Grid's service area, nearby, where the reimbursement rate the utility pays is significantly higher for solar projects.

WMECO offers a 9.2 cent per kilowatt hour reimbursement rate, compared to National Grid's rate of 14 cents per kwh. Since the margins in WMECO's coverage area are very close, Weiss said, developers prefer to build larger arrays to try to make the finances work.

The selectboard will consult with the energy committee before taking next steps.

#### Ward Named Chair; Town Hall Roof Replacement; Shared Animal Control Officer

In other news, the selectboard reorganized, electing John Ward as chair. Ward asked to be seated between the other two members, to better run the meetings, and Randy Crochier swapped seats with him. Ann Banash preferred to remain where she was, saying, "This is my seat for one more year."

Banash was chosen to continue in the role of selectboard representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, where she works, but said she may opt out of that liaison role when she retires from the FRCOG, which she plans to do in October.

The town hall roof replacement - which may wind up costing the town about \$53,000, according to Ray Purington, administrative assistant - is on schedule to be completed by the end of the month. As roofers continued to nail down sheathing (no tarp paper was found beneath the old shingles, a fact Purington said could have led to much worse water damage after the old roof began to fail) grade school students from Gill Elementary could be heard rehearsing on stage in the second floor of town hall on Monday, getting ready for a community performance on Friday, June 7, of a student-authored play. Purington said the play was on the theme of "The Glass Mountain," the community performance begins at 5:30 p.m.

In response to new state laws governing animal control, Purington told the board he was participating in preliminary discussions sponsored by FRCOG about joining with other county towns to fund a shared or regional see GILL page 9

### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Sewer Project Update; Janel Knockleby Appointed to Historical Commission

By PATRICIA PRUITT

Newly reelected selectman Chris Boutwell, Sr. willingly surrendered the chair's seat to newly appointed chair Patricia Allen, who is certainly not a novice to that position. Second order of action was to set selectmen's summer meeting schedule as follows: June 3, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug 5, Aug 19, Sept.3. How quickly the summer passes!

Allen wasted no time getting down to the expensive business of the needed repairs and construction on the 750 feet of broken pipe on Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road. Superintendents Tom Bergeron and Bob Trombley were joined by CDMSmith's Bob Buttons for the next steps in solving the pipe problem. Buttons told the board they had accepted four quotes from four interested contractors and found three of them qualified as "responsible" and able to bid on the project. Buttons delivered CDM's letter of recommendation for the "lowest responsible bidder" and urged the BOS to award the contract to Baltazar Construction of Ludlow in the amount not to exceed \$498,500 for replacement of 750 feet of pipe. Because the date on the contracts actually fell during Boutwell's chairmanship, he was pressed into service to sign the three copies of the contract and draft award letter.

Trombley and Bergeron next had to satisfy the FRCOG's request for fuel amounts which needed to be back to the FRCOG by Friday May 24. Each was prepared with estimates of his department's fuel needs. Mr Abbondanzio is charged with talking to the FRCOG about the return date.

Next Bruce Hunter came before the board to request monies for the first change order to the Unity Park plan due to the basketball court in the park being too seriously cracked to last more than five years with a repair being simply filling the cracks. For \$7000 an entirely new surface can be laid with a projected life span of 20 years. Both the architect and the construction engineer felt the new surface was a better investment for the town's monies.

Chief Dodge has officially requested the Form 13 Civil Service Promotional Exam for Sergeant. The board approved the plan unanimously, noting there was need to fill a vacancy at the sergeant level.

The board granted three permits; one to Greg Garrison for his 4th Northampton Annual Cycling Criterium Race held every year in Industrial park off Millers Falls Road; the second permit went to the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial for a parade on Memorial Day down Avenue A and a ceremony at Veterans' park next to the Library. The parade goes from 10 a.m. to before 11:00 and the ceremo-

ny begins just after the parade and finishes at 12:00. Also for Memorial Day observance on May 26, the board granted a third permit to the Montague Firemen's Association for their event on the common in Montague Center from 9:00 a.m. thru 12:00 p.m.

The board was quite eager to appoint Janel Knockleby to the Montague Historical Commission. Janel came highly recommended by Historical Commission member Mary Melonis. However there was no length of term indicated, and no one knew how long a term might be. Mark Fairbrother suggested appointing Janel until June 3rd, but amended that date on second thought, to a temporary term extending until June 30. This later date gives plenty of time for the exact duration of Janel's appointment to be learned and her appointment completed.

June 25 is a very important day for our state: It is the day of the special election to elect either Democrat Ed Markey or his opponent, Republican Gabriel Gomez as Senator, and replacement for now Secretary of State, John Kerry. Locally we must vote for a replacement as well for five-term selectman Allen who is retiring from the BOS. Michael Nelson (Precinct 6) seeks to replace her for the time remaining in her current term, as does Jean Golrick (Precinct 2). The selectboard signed the elections warrants for these two elections.

#### from MONTAGUE POLICE pg 5

Falls.  
2:20 p.m. Restraining order violation at Central Street, Turners Falls. Report taken.  
4:50 p.m. Restraining order violation at Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls. Advised of options.  
7:34 p.m. [redacted] arrested on a default warrant at Bridge Street, Millers Falls.  
**Saturday, 5/18**  
1:09 a.m. [redacted] arrested on

charges of motor vehicle theft at the Montague Inn, 485 Federal Street.  
2:26 p.m. Threatening harassment at 7th Street, Turners Falls. Advised of options.  
6:39 p.m. Hit and run accident at Food City, Turners Falls. Advised of options.  
**Sunday, 5/19**  
10:33 a.m. Threatening harassment at Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls. Investigated.  
3:36 p.m. Burglary and breaking and entering at Griswold Street, Turners Falls.

Report taken.  
4:13 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Winthrop Street, Millers Falls. Investigated.  
9:47 p.m. Burglary and breaking and entering at 3rd Street, Turners Falls. Report taken.  
**Monday, 5/20**  
1:27 a.m. Medical emergency at Franklin County Emergency Shelter, 15 Farren Avenue, Turners Falls. Removed to hospital.  
8:56 a.m. Missing student from Great Falls Middle School, Turners Falls. Services rendered.  
3:50 p.m. Fight at

Montague Inn, 485 Federal Street. Investigated.  
4:00 p.m. Vandalism at Park Street, Turners Falls. Investigated.  
5:05 p.m. Threatening harassment at Turners Falls Road, Turners Falls. Advised of options.  
5:31 p.m. Medical emergency at Central Street, Turners Falls. Removed to hospital.  
8:50 p.m. [redacted] arrested for fighting, charged with domestic assault and battery at G Street, Turners Falls.

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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Is She Is Or Is She Ain't Elected?

By KATIE NOLAN

"Who is and who isn't?" wondered selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin when Nathan May and Mackensy Bailey appeared at Monday's selectboard meeting, each wanting to be recognized as Erving's newly-elected school committee member.

"I screwed up," town clerk Richard Newton admitted. Bailey resigned from the school committee last fall when she began teaching at Leverett Elementary School (LES). Massachusetts General Law prohibits a teacher in a district or superintendency union from serving on the school committee for that district or union. Both Leverett and Erving are in the Union 28 superintendency union.

When the town election votes were counted on May 6, Bailey had 4 write-in votes for a 3-year school committee seat that had no declared candidates on the ballot. May had 2 votes. Newton, believing that Bailey was ineligible for the school committee seat and uninterested in serving, called May and told him he had won the seat. May was sworn in at the May 8 town meeting with other recently elected officials.

However, Bailey contends she won the election and says she wants the seat after June 20, when she will no longer be employed by LES. May says that he was the only vote-getter who was eligible to take the seat at the time of the election and is the rightfully elected school committee member.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said that she believes that elected officials must be appointed and take their oath of office within 10 days of being elected.

Goodwin said that the selectboard needed a legal opinion from town counsel Donna MacNicol regarding an ineligible person being elected to an office and whether an elected official must be sworn in within 10 days. School committee member Jarod Bois-

sonault asked if MacNicol could be called immediately, because the school committee reorganization meeting was scheduled for May 21. "We're going to be somewhat on hold," until the dispute is decided, he told the selectboard. Assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard called MacNicol during the evening meeting, but was unable to reach her. The selectboard agreed that Sicard would call MacNicol again during working hours on May 21.

## Usher Plant Re-Use Committee Budget

The Usher Plant Re-Use Committee presented a draft budget for equipment and contractors to move the property's development process onward. After discussion with the selectboard, the re-use committee revised the budget to a total of \$52,420. This amount includes:

- \$25,000 for "mothballing" (repairing leaking sections) of the Usher Mill roof;
- \$25,000 for a planning consultant;
- \$1,200 for an LCD projector and portable screen for presentations about the site;
- \$720 for battery powered portable lights to allow tours of the unelectrified building; and
- \$500 for surveillance cameras to reduce vandalism and dumping.

Committee member Jeff Dubay said of the planning consultant that the committee needed a "self-propelled individual to pull together the leads we have." Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo suggested, "You need a project manager."

Committee member Jeanie Schermesser told the selectboard that Peggy Sloan would be preparing a request for proposal and estimating costs for another consultant to evaluate the environmental permitting issues for the site.

The re-use committee will return to the selectboard June 3 with a final budget.

The re-use committee and

the selectboard voted jointly to sign a letter to Morris Housen regarding donation of land adjacent to the former Usher Mill.

## Compressed Gas at Erving Paper Mill

Erving Paper Mill vice president Tom Newton informed the board about the progress on the paper mill's permit for use of compressed natural gas to power the plant's paper machine. The paper mill has been working with fire chief Almon Meatty, the state fire marshal, and the Department of Environmental Protection to set up the system for using natural gas. Newton said that no specific approval was required from the selectboard. He described compressed natural gas as "cost effective and an environmentally friendly solution to using #6 fuel oil." The fuel will be trucked to the mill in trailers. Two high-pressure trailers will be parked at the plant at any given time.

## Town Survey

The selectboard has compiled the results of the town-wide survey, asking citizens "Do you think the remaining Boiler Building at the Usher Plant should be saved?" and "Do you think the town should sell or keep the Pleasant Street Graded School Building (Union #28/Former Senior Center)?" Calling them "raw results", Goodwin suggested that the selectboard should discuss the results before publishing them in the Around Town newsletter. Sullivan commented, "A lot of opinions..." The board will discuss the results at their June 3 meeting. Meanwhile, copies of the "raw results" are available at town hall.

## Selectboard Summer Schedule

The selectboard will meet June 3, June 17, June 24, July 1 (if needed), July 15, July 29, August 12, and August 26. A special town meeting is planned for June 24.

## NOTES FROM THE GILL MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## FY 14 Budget Approval Unanimously, TFHS Best in the County

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Gill Montague school committee approved unanimously the reduced FY14 budget of \$16,935,893 at their meeting on May 14, at Turners Falls High School, voting to have the budget match assessments approved at Montague town meeting. Joyce Phillips, chair, said school committee members will be free to attend the Gill town meeting as the school committee meeting date, which created a conflict, has been changed.

## TFHS Achievement Praised

Acting Superintendent Marty Espinola praised the students and teachers for their achievement at Turners Falls High School in his superintendent's report to the school committee. He said the staff of the high school deserves much credit for the high school's being designated the 40th best in the state by US News and World Report. Espinola said, "This placed the school in the top 12% of the state's 358 public high schools and alone on that list in the county. The only other high school in western Massachusetts that did better was Amherst High School which ranked 38th. Some of the factors that contributed to this honor were our outstanding Advanced Placement program, our small class size and our high MCAS scores."

## District Activities

Reporting on activities in the district, Espinola said that Family Math Night at Montague Elementary was very successful with over 100 people attending. The students were involved in planning the event. Parents had a chance to learn something about the content of the school's math curriculum and the use of technology to help teach math concepts. He offered congratulations

to Michael Bradley and the Turners Falls High School Concert Choir for their accomplishment. The Choir traveled to Williamsburg, Virginia to compete in the Worldstrides Heritage Performance Festival. He said the competition involved schools from Maine, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida and New Jersey as well as Massachusetts. Twelve choirs participated and TFHS's choir received a silver rating and second place in their division.

Espinola told the school committee that he has been working with the middle school principal and the eighth grade math teacher and math department chair to develop an eighth grade algebra class for advanced math students. This will allow students to obtain high school credit for algebra in eighth grade so they can go on to take four more math classes in high school. In this way, he said, students can obtain five credits in math and be well positioned to get into the best colleges.

Leslie Cogswell of Montague thanked Espinola for placing an advertisement in *The Recorder's* Valley Kids Magazine. The ad promotes positive attributes of the school district, including customized student success plans, small classes pre-Kinderergarten through grade 12, researched based programs such as: Tools of the Mind, Responsive Classroom, the most advanced placement courses in the county, plus championship sports programs.

Phillips pointed out that Michael Sullivan, the recently hired superintendent, was seated in the back, observing the meeting. She said he would be returning later in the week for several days of meetings with staff and administrators. Sullivan begins his position as permanent superintendent for the Gill-Montague regional school

district on July 1, 2013.

Beth Lux, Erving representative, told the school committee that the Union 28 school district superintendent will be leaving. The district will be beginning a search for a new superintendent.

The graduating class of 2013 will be holding their graduation party at the French King Bowling Alley in Erving this year. The party will be held on May 31 from 8:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. This all-night party will have adult supervision provided by parents, where non-alcoholic drinks and food will be provided all evening long. The parents are in charge of running this party with no help from the school district and they are asking for donations. Anyone willing to donate cash towards prizes, gift cards for gas, food or snacks for the evening should call Kelly Loynd at 413-824-6123. Loynd is the Erving representative for the school district along with Lux. This party has been organized with the purpose of providing the graduates with a safe place to hold their party, avoiding the risks of drinking and driving after graduation parties, which has cost many lives across the nation.

The music department will hold an Elementary Spring Concert on June 12, 2013 at Montague Elementary, in Sheffield auditorium at 7:00 p.m. This is a district wide elementary school band and chorus concert. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Phillips Retains Chair

In the reorganization meeting held on Tuesday, May 21, the school committee decided in favor of maintaining continuity. With both incumbents from Montague, Marjorie Levenson and Joyce Phillips, re-elected, the school committee voted to keep Phillips as chair, Jane Oakes as vice chair and Sandra Brown as secretary. Misty Lyons, who was the assistant treasurer last year was initially reluctant to continue in the position because she said she hadn't done anything all year. When no one else offered to take her place, she accepted the position. She will need to complete the process to be bonded in order to be added to the bank's list of those able to sign for the district should the treasurer be unavailable. Peter Roy-Clark was approved with no discussion and unanimously by the school committee to continue to serve as their treasurer.



## GILL from page 8

animal control officer. Gill used to spend about \$800 a year to pay for the services of a local dog officer. State law now requires a town animal control officer to be trained and certified.

Purinton also said Gill's participation in the new regional dog kennel in Montague, which costs the town about \$700 a year, "is well worth it." He said there had already been several occasions when Gill police

have rounded up stray dogs in town and taken them to the kennel for shelter.

## Other News

Megan Bathory-Peeler was appointed to a vacant one year seat on the Slate Library trustees until the next town election, once the trustees were able to muster up a quorum for the joint vote with the selectboard.

Lewis Herzig and Oleg Cobileanski were appointed as firefighters, bringing the roster of active duty

firefighters in Gill up to about 20, with two junior trainees, according to Crochier.

The board agreed to pay a Winchester, NH firm \$125 an hour to clean catch basins clogged by spring rains. Despite all the state sponsored ballyhoo about regionalization of town services, Purinton said earlier inquiries about renting the use of the town of Montague's sewer vector truck for a day or two in spring had been inconclu-

sive.

A.R. Sandri won the bid to deliver 6500 gallons of diesel to the town for \$3.63 a gallon. Brian Tela, of Zak Farm, won the bid to hay the Mariamante property this year, for \$200. As a side note, town treasurer Ronnie LaChance said the town still owes about \$162,000 on the principal for the purchase of that property. The town pays about \$13,700 toward interest and the principal of that loan, LaChance said.

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 22, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Montague Faces School Crisis

Seventy-three people, mainly teachers, parents, and school administrators, packed the finance committee room Wednesday night to talk about the impact of a new round of cuts looming in the state budget. Gill-Montague school business manager Lynn Bassett noted that under the latest state budget scenarios, the gap between what the towns could afford and what the schools asked for had grown to over \$464,000 in Montague and \$180,000 in Gill.

### Erving: Storm Drain Causes Overrun

At Monday's meeting, selectboard chair Andrew Tessier told the other members to expect additional costs from the Route 2 utility work

to tie the new police station to public sewer and water lines. Workers bumped into an unknown storm drain line under the highway. The new utilities needed to be re-routed to account for the drain line. The downtime will result in roughly \$3000 in extra costs.

### Community Gardens Take Root in Turners

The idea was to turn the debris-strewn lot at 4<sup>th</sup> and L into a garden. David Detmold talked to Joyce Annear and Jean Hebden, and in 1997 the garden got underway, thanks to the energy and hard work of many other individuals in the community. The town donated dirt, and leaf mold from the dump... A measure of the Garden's success is its expansion into a new garden space on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and L, in a lot that formerly housed an unused garage.

### Lions Share Patriotism

The light poles on Bridge Street are decked out in spanking new red white and blue, thanks to the donation of 32 flags from the Montague-Erving Lions Club to the Millers Falls Village Connection. The old flags were in a disgraceful state, but the village association had no funds to replace them. After purchasing 32 flags, the Lions arranged for the use of a bucket truck for the afternoon of May 18, courtesy of Sandri Oil.

### Editorial: Lovejoy Revisited

The same character trait that would lead a man to take a courageous stand against a perceived threat to his community, regardless of public opinion, may easily lead the same man, as a public official, to ignore the opinion of the public who elected him, in the belief that he already knows what is best for the town.

### WICKMAN from page 1

Shutesbury have deferred a vote on joining the proposed Amherst-Pelham-Leverett elementary district at this time, citing a lack of public support for the proposal in their town.

Even if Union 28 were to lose the revenue derived from its governance of Leverett Elementary School, which amounts to about \$132,000, or 24.19% of the central office's current \$543,428 budget, (Erving pays 28.24%, Shutesbury pays 24.28%, and Swift River, which serves both Wendell and New Salem elementary students, provides 23.29% of that total) critics have questioned whether the Union 28 can survive with sufficient capacity to provide administrative services for the remaining three elementary schools if Leverett pulls out.

Union 28 business manager Michael Kociela hastened to point out that if Leverett leaves, Union 28 governing agreement mandates a 25% cut in central office salaries. He predicted the remaining towns in Union 28 could see a \$4,000 increase to maintain essential administrative services for their elementary schools if Leverett pulls out in 2015.

Wickman's departure comes at a time of administrative turnover for the Union, with three of four principals retiring, and special education director Deb Gerry, who has served the district for a dozen years, also leaving at the end of the current school year. The Union 28 budget and personnel met on Wednesday,

May 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss Gerry's replacement, and to establish a game plan for hiring a new superintendent. The agreed to post the job internally for an interim superintendent. Retiring principal Bob Mahler and Deb Gerry both expressed interest in the interim position.

Union 28 has already hired new principals for the retiring elementary heads: James Trill, former principal of Butterfield Elementary in Orange, taking over for Charlene Galenski at Erving; Maureen T. Ryan, former assistant principal of the Newton School in Greenfield taking over for Bob Mahler in Shutesbury; and most recently, Kelley Sullivan, former 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and prior administrator of the Deerfield public schools' after school program taking over at Swift River for Sheila Hunter.

In looking back over her seven years in the post, Wickman cited a number of accomplishments, including collaboration between schools for best practices and professional development for teachers, joining the Hampshire Educational Collaborative to bolster educational services on offer in the union, the hiring of a curriculum coordinator to assist school principals and staff, the hiring of an inclusion specialist to keep more special needs students in their home schools and improve the educational programs offered there.

Wickman ascribed the rocky relationship that developed, particularly toward the end of her tenure, with Leverett and Shutesbury, to the fallout from a controversial policy of awarding retirement benefits to a recent departing employee

in excess of the retirement benefits paid to town employees in several of the member towns, an anomaly eventually addressed by a special act of the legislature, which allowed Union 28 central office employees to be paid benefits in proportion to the benefit packages allowed in each member town.

But the bad will engendered in that drawn out controversy "just mushroomed" into the current plans to sever Leverett from the century old elementary union with Erving, Wendell, New Salem and Shutesbury, Wickman opined.

As the news of Wickman's departure broke, the three (or four) current members of the Leverett school committee met to reorganize after the recent annual town meeting election at the end of April left the committee at least one, if not two members short. Since one of the remaining members, Sarah Dolven, is married to a teacher, and the one person willing to stand for the two open seats at town meeting, Sheila Hunter, remains employed by Union 28 as the principal of Swift River School until mid-July, the committee is presently unable to muster a quorum to vote in such matters as the pending contract with Leverett Elementary teachers. Contract negotiations have reached "a critical stage" according to selectboard member Peter d'Errico. The open seat, or seats (depending on how Hunter's election to the committee is ultimately resolved) will be subject to interim appointment by members of the school committee and selectboard, tentatively set to meet in joint session on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Former selectboard

member Fenna Lee Bonsignore and newly elected historical commission chair Susan Mareneck have also been mentioned as potential candidates for interim appointment to the school committee.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford said in an email message on May 16th that Hunter would not be eligible to vote in that joint meeting since she has not taken the oath of office for her school committee seat as yet. The state board of elections has declined to rule on whether Hunter's election to the school committee is valid or not, Stratford told the selectboard on May 14th; at the May 16th meeting of the school committee, Hunter agreed to call the state Ethics Commission to receive their guidance on the dilemma of whether she can serve on the LES school committee for the next two months, while she is still employed as an administrator by Union 28.

Meanwhile, another candidate has surfaced willing to stand as a candidate for one of the open seats on the school committee. LES parent Cheryl Bonica, who described herself as a school psychologist, attended the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and offered her name for consideration for an open seat.

Also on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Catherine Brookes was elected as the new chair of the school committee.

In other business, the committee voted 2-1 to allow principal Anne Ross to fill 9 or 10 slots for school choice students at Leverett Elementary. The open seats are in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Although Brookes pointed out the current kindergarten class is made up of six Leverett students and seven school choice students from other towns, and spoke of the educational value of larger classrooms and a broader cross section of students derived from Leverett's school choice program, still, Ross made it clear that incoming pre-K classes are large enough to fill the kindergarten classes for the coming two years without relying on school choice students to fill any seats.

Kip Fonsh, who has led the opposition to the school choice program, called for a continuing dialogue with the selectboard on the topic in the fall.

"The funding mechanism [for school choice] is fundamentally flawed," said Fonsh. "To think the sending schools can adjust is not feasible. We need to encourage our elected representatives to devise a more equitable, less punitive funding formula that would remove the penalty for sending districts."

For example, the Gill-Montague Regional School District is losing more than \$1,094,460 in state aid through the loss of school choice

students to neighboring towns in the current fiscal year, according to Gill-Montague Regional School District business management spokesperson Mark Chapulis. (The GMRSD also gains from school choice students entering the district, mainly from Greenfield, but that number is considerably smaller: \$646,810 in FY'13, for a net loss of \$447,650 from school choice this year.)

Brooks and Dolven both voted for continuing school choice, although their support was ambivalent, with Brooks saying, "I hate it too. I think Kip's points are valid, but I think we need to fill the slots." and Dolven saying, "It's a very troubling issue for me as well."

On another topic, Fonsh defended the expenditure of over half a million dollars in capital funds for improvements to the high school boys locker room and new tennis courts at the middle school at the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, which is set to lay off about a dozen staff and teachers to close a budget gap in the coming year.

Fonsh said the upgrades at the locker room would allow for handicapped accessibility, and the protection of student rights for students dealing with "a profound movement of gender issues and sexual preferences." He cast the replacement of the middle school tennis courts, at \$306,000, as an example of long deferred infrastructure needs. Although he said he did not know how many students used the tennis courts, he said they were utilized by intramural sports teams and physical education classes as well as the general public, and the courts had become so degraded as to present a threat to public safety.

The school committee confirmed Wayne Cromack as the new "interim" head custodian, until July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cromack the night custodian, works opposite Chris Cole, on the day shift, and principal Anne Ross reported, "That arrangement has worked very well," so far.



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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

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

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

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

**EVERY THURSDAY**

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

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

**ART SHOWS:**

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

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

**LOCAL EVENTS:**

**THURSDAY, MAY 23**

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

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: The Shea Theater presents *Movies in the Park*, with a screening of *Field of Dreams* (1989, PG), the one with Kevin Costner and baseball and positive affirmation / optimism / ghosts. Free, 7 to 9 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Pioneer Valley Regional School E Theory Band*. Free, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 24**

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Galina & Alexey Khomchik*, Russian folk music. 7 p.m., \$

Montague Bookmill: *Dire Honey's*, wholesome sounding lady trio, with *Wes Buckley* and *Catfox*. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *SisterMonk*, folk alternative pop. 8 p.m.

Flywheel, Easthampton: *Broken Water, Bunny's a Swine, Fun-suck*, and *Grammerhorn Wren*, variations on fuzzy nth-wave shoegrunge revival. 8 p.m., all ages / substance-free, \$.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Bow Thayer & Perfect Trainwreck*, rock America style. 9 p.m., \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hobson's Razor*, reggae/rock/funk. 9:30 p.m., \$

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

**SATURDAY, MAY 25**

The Brick House, Turners Falls: H'Art & Soul presents eclectic folk-rocker *Marc Black*. Children under 17 free; suggested donation for adults. 1 to 2 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHIRA HILLEL

*Daniel bales, and the frost heaves, and the Original Cowards will perform their amazing death defying music at the Rendezvous this Saturday night, May 25 at 9:30 p.m. Yee Haw!*

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Christa Joy*, singer/songwriter, with special guest *Fireseed*, celtic appalachian folk. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, chicago-style blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, blues rock 'n' roll. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Frost Heaves, Original Cowards*, indie rock. 9:30 p.m., free.

**SUNDAY, MAY 26**

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *The Touches of Sweet Harmony*: Benjamin Britten's Musical Roots. Compositions by Elgar, Williams, Grainger and Bridge, for strings and piano. Presented by Valley Classica. 3 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Back Yard BBQ Bash*. Music by Mafanti 6 to 8:30 p.m. Music by Rhythm, Inc. 9 to 11 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *The Viewing Station, and Jonathan Stevens*. The Viewing Station is a local father/daughter duo featuring Hendrix Rose Berry. They bring the Bookmill a healthy folk country sound to fulfill your dreams

of sturdy loud acoustic. Hendrix is raising funds for the Co-Cycle project, a student-run group biking across the country to learn about cooperatives this summer. 8 p.m., sliding scale donation.

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

**MONDAY, MAY 27**

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Come hear former Teen Center participant *D-Magic*, back visiting in town, play new beats and rock the mic. All ages / substance free. 6:30 to 9 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: play reading of *Lysistrata*. 6:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *All Small Caps*, a night of spoken word. Open mic at 7:30, with readers to follow. All welcome. 7 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*. Sign up at 7:30, show at 8 p.m. Free.

**TUESDAY, MAY 28**

Leverett Library: *Open Poetry Night*. All poets welcome to share their work and poetry fans can share their favorite poems or just listen. Free.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Valley Time Trade Orientation*. Local people post offers for services they are able to provide, and requests for services they would like to receive. Valley Time Trade members are currently offering computer assistance, acupuncture, bike maintenance, art lessons, tutoring, child care, and more! 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Food for Thought Books, Amherst: *Reading with novelist Michelle Tea*, author of "Mermaid in Chelsea Creek," and Ali Liebegott, author of "Cha-Ching." Magical mermaid fun, drinks and light snacks provided. 7 to 9 p.m., sliding scale donation.

**THURSDAY, MAY 30**

Leverett Library: *Leverett Historic Commission meeting* with state representatives of the Mass Historical Commission regarding the three new historic districts in town with a powerpoint presentation. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter*, jazz vocalist. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues/jazz. 8 to 10 p.m.

The Montague Inn: *Dance Party Karaoke with DJ Kelis*. 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 31**

Ashfield Town Hall, Ashfield: *Dead Man's Cell Phone* written by Sarah Ruhl, directed by Melissa Redwin. A play (for grown-ups) that follows one woman's loopy journey into a dead man's life via the only tie she has to him... his cellular telephone. As our obsession with technology surges, Ashfield Community Theater presents this comedy. 7:30 pm. \$



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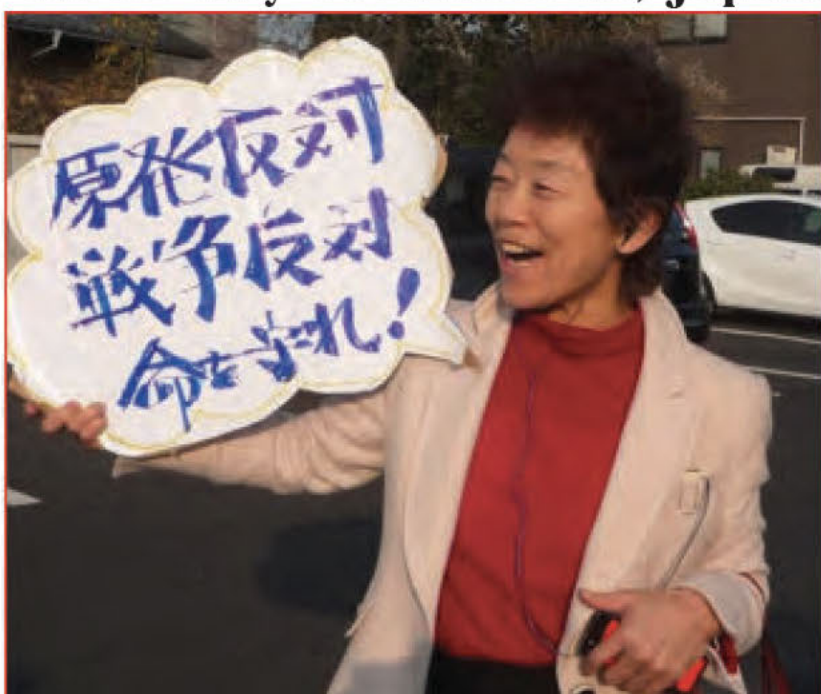
**GREENFIELD**—Chikako Nishiyama, from Kawauchi, Japan, will be speaking Wednesday, May 29 at the Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square, Greenfield. She will give a slide show and presentation on life during and after a nuclear evacuation.

Shortly after the disaster at Fukushima, Greenfield adopted Kawauchi—just 15 miles southwest of the reactors—during Safe and Green Campaign's March 2013 Voices of Fukushima.

Evacuees from ten miles around the reactors were sent to Kawauchi for shelter. "I don't know where my family is". Mr. Hayashi said he and others might have been lured into a false sense of security. "We prepared and prepared and talked about safety measures for a long time. But I honestly never thought something like this would happen," he said.... They were evacuated to a shelter in Kawauchi. As the plume moved, "thousands crowded into the school gym in Kawauchi" after the hydrogen explosion sent radiation to Kawauchi.

Then Kawauchi was evacuated.

Chikako Nishiyama was on the council of Kawauchi, a town of 2,300 located 15 miles from the



Chikako Nishiyama

Fukushima reactors. In 2011, when she was getting ready for her run for the second term, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. Kawauchi was first a shelter town for evacuees from the evacuation zone. Then a plume of radiation engulfed Kawauchi, and it was evacuated for one year.

She is concerned for the health of her son, a firefighter who entered Kawauchi before the evacuation order was lifted.

Throughout this year, she stayed active as an anti-nuclear voice from the affected area. In April 2012, she ran for the Kawauchi mayor seat, and lost, in spite of the several high-profile endorsements. Currently she is working on a project to relocate people to western Japan and to Shikoku (south-western island of

Japan). She is also involved in the "do not pay your electric bill" movement, and in the class-action lawsuit on radiation pollution in Japan.

Chiho Kaneko is translating and accompanying Ms. Nishiyama. She was born in Japan and graduated from Hokkaido University with a degree in agronomy. In 1993, she moved to the U.S. and became a visual artist, musician, interpreter/translator, and columnist for a Japanese daily newspaper. She has returned to Japan four times since the March 11, 2011, nuclear meltdowns. Ms. Kaneko is married and lives in Hartland, VT.

For more information, please contact [safeandgreencampaign@gmail.com](mailto:safeandgreencampaign@gmail.com) or [www.safeandgreencampaign.org](http://www.safeandgreencampaign.org)

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**DAVOL** from page 1 funky and eclectic cultural scene. Cultural activities in Turners Falls include street festivals, public art, performances, exhibits and lectures by internationally-known photographers, lectures on the cultural and natural history of the Connecticut River, outdoor concerts in the Park, art exhibits, the soapbox derby, pumpkin festival, crafts fairs, Laundromat fashion show, a downtown Block Party and literary events, among others.

Turners Falls has had to fight against negative perceptions of poverty and crime to show people that it is a nice place to live and own a business. Davol stated that "Turners has suffered from negative perceptions. It takes a long time to live those down."

Davol highlighted several projects RiverCulture has promoted over the years: Suzee's Laundromat fashion show, the block party, the river of lights lantern parade, the Sunboxes: a solar sound installation, cleaned up pathways, and the reflective Strathmore mill art installation.

"RiverCulture wanted to do more projects, not only one-time events, but projects that would remain in the town as a permanent fixture and would be an indication of the town's

playful attitude and atmosphere," explained Davol, when describing the fish painted crosswalk on Avenue A that she organized last summer.

At the moment, she is working hard to secure her eighth consecutive Adams Art Program grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for yet another two years. If that funding is received, the town of Montague will look for a new person to take over RiverCulture, and "I am sure there will be many applicants to choose from. It will be good to have a new person with new vision and energy," said Davol.

"Cultural development requires local people working from the ground up. A top down approach doesn't work very well," she noted.

"I have a background in cultural development, a background in Montague, and a background in fundraising and arts development," she continued, explaining how it will be beneficial for the town of Montague to have Davol at the Chamber where she can create linkages for RiverCulture. She knows the events, the needs and the people involved. This increases the likelihood of more cross-programming between towns. "There is a lot of potential for overall county planning," she said excitedly.

Recently, Davol has worked hard

to start *Third Thursday in Turners Falls (T<sup>3</sup>F = Exponential Fun)*

(*T<sup>3</sup>F = Exponential Fun*), a recurring event from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Businesses will be open later, and will have featured items and promotions, restaurants will offer specials, there will be sidewalk tables and events, and open artist studios. The first one will be held on Thursday, June 30, and several businesses will display the work of Hallmark photography graduates. "Large numbers of business people from town have attended the planning meetings."

"I'm feeling very positive about the future of Turners Falls. This is a good time for Montague in general. So much is in place already, with creative community shops like LOOT found + made and Madison's on the Avenue and the new restaurant opening in the old Burrito Rojo space, and the Gill Montague bridge, which is due to open back up to two way traffic in November, it couldn't be a better time for me to hand this project off to someone."

According to Montague Town Planner Walter Ramsey, the town will seek a replacement for Davol once Cultural Council funding is secured.

## Chinese Restaurant in Turners Has New Owner

By JOHN FURBISH

Ce Ce's Chinese Restaurant is now anchoring the corner of Second St and Avenue A in downtown Turners in the same location where the Beijing Station Chinese restaurant used to be. The Station's owners, Chef Li and his wife, Yuki Li, sold the restaurant last October after she became pregnant with twin boys. The proud new owner is Zhang Lin Hua, who learned to cook in Mainland China, and perfected his chef's skill while working in Boston's Chinatown. It was from Boston that he moved to take over the new business. New owner Zhang renamed the restaurant Ce Ce's after his fifth-grade daughter.

What you notice about Ce Ce's

are the low prices, its cleanliness, and the freshness and taste of the food. Crab Rangoon, Boneless Spareribs and the crisp Lo Mein are my personal favorites. In General Tso's Chicken, the sour/sweet tastes as well as the smells fit together perfectly for your gastronomic enjoyment. Even the White Rice has a good flavor. Today's restaurant is neat and clean. There are no smudges on the tabletops; no fingerprints on a window or door. The handicapped-accessible bathroom is sanitary and sparkling bright.

Ce Ce's Hours are Mon 4-10 p.m., Tu-Th 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri-Sat 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sun 11:30-10 p.m. Delivery is daily from 4:30 - 9:30 p.m. Phone: 413-863-8988 and 413-863-2666.



Deliveryman Joe DeArce (l) and owner Zhang Lin Hua stand in front of Ce Ce's Chinese Restaurant. Ce Ce's delivers to Gill, Greenfield and all of Montague.

### "Prepare"

Our culture often times has both parents working so as to make ends meet, to get ahead and provide for our family's well-being. While doing this, we fill our attics and garages with all sorts of stuff.

When retirement comes we discover how well prepared we are.

"After retirement, then what?"

The Bible says: "And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry. And God said to him, Fool! This night your soul will be required of you." (Luke 12:19, 20a)

All through life we prepare for many things. How many prepare for eternity?

What we need to understand is that one day our souls will be required of us. Have we prepared for that time? Eternity is a long time.

Ask Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior and be prepared.

This is as written. We are Calvary Baptist Church in Turners Falls. God's blessings are yours.

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