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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 34 also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell 75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES MAY 24, 2012

Old Home Week on Falls River Bridge



BY JOE PARZYCH
GILL - The Falls River Bridge on Route 2, now under repair by Northern Construction of Palmer, is the third Falls River Bridge to cross the stream. Just upstream are the abutments of the first bridge, built in 1802. The most northerly second bridge, an iron bridge that once led to West Gill Road, further upstream, was built in 1901, discontinued in 1959, and turned over to abutter Burton Reid. John Conley of Greenfield tore that bridge down for scrap in 1964.

But before the present Route 2 bridge over the Falls River joins the other two in the history books, Mass Department of Transportation has come to the rescue in the nick of time. Northern Construction, the contractor for the multi-year, multi-million dollar renovation, has hired Northern Tree Company, also of Palmer, to clear cut both sides of the bridge, resulting in about 24 cords of wood. Once Northern Construction finishes pulling the stumps, Northern Tree will truck them to their yard in Palmer to reduce them to chips in a tub grinder.

Northern Tree Company is a family-owned business in operation for over 60 years. Owner Philip Cambo helped establish Northern Construction, but bowed out, as agreed, once it was up and running. The two companies have no connection other than a friendly relationship and contracting each other's services.

Northern Construction used their Volvo 305 excavator to remove stumps and construct an access road to the underside of the bridge. The operator used material from the abandoned gravel roadbed which once ran to Riverside to build a temporary access road beneath the Falls River Bridge.

see **BRIDGE** page 2

Clark, Cogswell, and Lyons Sweep for School Committee



BY PATRICIA PRUITT
GILL-MONTAGUE - May 21st was a day of upsets and organization as volunteers with names and addresses on strips of stickers deployed under canvas tents to within 150 feet of each and every polling place in Montague and Gill to help propel write-in candidates Lesley Cogswell and Shelly Clark to convincing victories over school committee candidates Jeff Singleton and Charles Kelley, candidates whose names actually appeared on the ballot.

By 7:00 a.m., a tidy blue canvas tent had popped up at the edge of the sidewalk on 5th and K Street at Precinct 5, as supporters of Misty Lyons, Clark and Cogswell called cheerful greetings out to voters on their way to the polls. Precinct warden Jean Hebden said the table was placed just beyond the requisite 150 feet from the poll, though she said she would have preferred it if the volunteers, who included the father of one of the candidates, had set up across the street instead - the same distance away but a greater visual separation from the polling place at the Gill-Montague senior center.

The write-in stickers made it easy for anyone wishing to vote for either write-in candidate to do so. The strip stuck to the ballot space as if meant to be there.

Throughout the day at each precinct in Montague and also in Gill, voters found nearly identical covered tables staffed by backers of Cogswell, Clark and Lyons, with a stack of printed name and address strips for the write-ins handed out cheerfully.

Conclusion: the campaigns of Shelly Clark, Lesley Cogswell, and Misty Lyons were very well organized. No one wishing to vote for one of the write-in candidates had to worry about forgetting her address, or having the vote go uncounted for lack of the name or correct spelling.

In the three-way race for two 3-year Montague seats, Lyons was the top vote getter with 811 votes, Cogswell came in second as a write-in with 699, and Singleton, the incumbent on the ballot, came in last, with 452. Singleton beat Cogswell in his home turf of Montague Center, Precinct 1, 139 to 76, but lost to her in the other

see **SCHOOL** page 3

The New Culinary Entrepreneurs



BY PATTY SMYTHE
BRATTLEBORO - Recently back from a trip to the West Coast communing with the Redwoods, I stumbled across the latest culinary trend of our left coast cousins.

Food carts.

I also ran into an herb-infused handmade gin, but that's for another article.

Due to many influences, the largest being the outrageous cost of opening a restaurant, food carts make sense, fill many niches and are now starting to show up everywhere. They take up very little room.

These are not our grandpar-

ents' food carts that pulled up to a factory at lunch time and dispensed greasy fast food, sandwiches and candy. Nor are they the hot Italian sausage or hotdog carts found in every city in the USA today. These are hip, sometimes fusion, sometimes ethnic food carts with endless options depending on one's diet. They offer affordable, freshly made, delicious food straight from the chef to the consumer. They are springing up in every city and I just visited my first one in this area.

It's called Humble Kitchen and it lives in the Harmony parking lot up in Brattleboro.

It's owned and run by Amy Gallant and Jimmy Smith.

Smith was cooking at the Flat Street Pub and Tap Room when that restaurant was overrun with river water from Tropical Storm Irene. Needing a Plan B in a hurry, Gallant and Smith came up with the idea of opening a food cart, and the cuisine they chose was Vietnamese.

I am happy to report the food is delicious. The day I was there the offerings I experienced were a really yummy Banh Mi sandwich with chicken, mayo, marinated veggies and local greens on good bread and a scrumptious noodle bowl (also known as bun) with chilled rice noodles, the Vietnamese holy trinity of mint, Thai basil and cilantro, marinated veggies with a chili-lime sauce and two house-made pork patties. I also chose a salad of local greens with a ginger-lime vinaigrette (equally yum!). The prices are in the \$6-7 range and colorful Adirondack chairs with umbrellas are situated next to the cart.

Considering that Humble Kitchen buys Vermont-made tofu, local greens, local eggs and Murray's chicken and that much of the food is house-made: the mayo, the dipping sauces, the pate, the steamed pear and ginger pudding, and the mango wontons (can't wait

see **CULINARY** page 5

Why Did the Poor Turtle Try to Cross the Road?

BY SHIRA HILLEL
TURNERS FALLS - Turtles cross roads on the way to reproducing, but many end up dying in the attempt instead.

For over two million years, the tank-like shells of adult turtles have proved an effective protection against most predators and dangers. Evolution, however, did not prepare turtles for cars.

When turtles see a car moving fast in their direction, they do what they have always done: they retreat into their shells. The consequences can be seen on many roads each spring.

Last Thursday, May 17th, biologists David Paulson of the Mass Division of Rare and Endangered Species and Tim Dexter of Mass Department of Transportation (DOT) drove slowly and carefully all the way from the eastern part of the state to give a presentation at the Great Falls Discovery Center on road effects on turtles.

In Massachusetts, turtles are particularly susceptible to road mortality. Roadways fragment and harm natural habitats and the turtle population has been degraded to the point where several once common Massachusetts turtle species are now endangered.

Two state government agencies, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of MassWildlife and the Mass DOT Highway Division, have partnered to help promote turtle conservation. As new roads are proposed and old roads come up for reconstruction, Mass DOT is making efforts to implement cost-effective plans for animal conservation.

Mass Turtles

There are 15 turtle species in Massachusetts, five of which are sea turtles.

Turtles can live for many years. As cold-blooded creatures, they love to bask in the sun. These reptilian omnivores forage for food in fields, meadows, forests and wetlands. They're not picky eaters and will consume berries, fungi, worms or even a small duckling if they're lucky. Contrary to popular mythology, adult turtles can move quite fast and their first defense is to run away.

Now, reptile populations face many threats from human development resulting in loss of their natural habitat, including increased roadways and the mowing of hayfields, particularly near rivers.

Female turtles are attracted to the soft gravelly open terrain on the sides of roads as nice warm areas to lay and bury their eggs. Consequently, more females are run over by cars, which skews the sex population of adult turtles.

Safe Passage

Massachusetts government agencies have implemented several strategies for the conservation of the turtle population. This is a huge and ongoing undertaking. Road signs warning drivers of turtles crossing have been erected near wetlands across the state. Stream crossing culverts and passages have been built in places like Main Road in Gill. Dry turtle tunnels under roads

see **TURTLE** page 6

PET OF THE WEEK

Playful Pet



Biscuit

I'm Biscuit, and I'm a sweet and friendly three-year old shorthair male cat with a bulldog jaw.

I really like to play – but not rough. Pull a string for me and my green eyes get even brighter. Pet me anywhere and I'll purr like a machine. I like other cats but not dogs. Hope you're not a night owl because I'm not either. I'm three years old and kind of a clown sometimes!

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

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GILL MONTAGUE SENIOR CENTER

Free Estate Planning Workshop

BY ROBERTA POTTER
GILL-MONTAGUE - Attorney Seunghee Cha will present a program entitled "Putting Your House in Order" at the Gill-Montague senior center on Tuesday, May 29th at 1:00 p.m. Attorney Cha will discuss essential estate-planning matters to ensure your health care, financial and legal affairs wishes are handled smoothly by the appropriate people if you become incapacitated or disabled. Cha will explain the new Massachusetts probate law so your inheritance wishes will be properly followed. Most importantly, Cha will discuss options and strategies for aging at home and managing the astronomical cost of long term care in or out of a nursing home. This program is free and open to the public.

As a follow-up to this program, on June 26th the Gill Montague Council on Aging, in conjunction with the Franklin County Bar Association, will offer free half hour advice sessions for elders to speak with an experienced Association member elder law attorney at the Gill-Montague senior center. These are only brief information sessions and are not for legal representation. The attorneys may make referrals to other resources. Participants should bring to the appointment documents and background materials relevant to their question. Appointments for these half hour sessions are available between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

To schedule, please call the Gill-Montague senior center at 413-863-4500.

BRIDGE from page 1

porary access road to enable demolishing the old bridge abutments and the construction of new ones, piece-meal, one half at a time.

This has been Old Home Week on the job for the Palmer companies. To maintain two-way traffic, Palmer Paving, also of Palmer, used a Volvo MW 500 milling machine designed specifically to mill the foot wide rumble strip. The milling machine

conveyed the resulting asphalt rubble into a dump truck in preparation for follow-up paving of the strip, to smooth the way for the reconfigured traffic pattern and the maintenance of two-way traffic while the job continues.

The border between the town of Gill and the little city of Greenfield falls right in the middle of the Falls River bridge. I filed this story from the Gill side.



The annual Wendell Plant Swap (and Giveaway!), held on Sunday, May 20th, was a huge success. Local gardeners brought divisions of their perennials, shrubs, annual vegetable and flower seedlings, 'volunteers,' and houseplants to the Wendell Common where people milled about for several hours trading plants and gardening know-how.

ERVING SENIOR CENTER

Healthy Eating for Successful Living

A free six-session workshop will take place on Mondays June 4th through July 9th from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Erving senior center, located at 1 Care Drive in Erving.

Learn about nutrition and simple lifestyle changes to promote better health. Learn to maintain or improve wellness and independence, and prevent chronic disease development or progression. Build a sense of empowerment as you accomplish incremental changes. You'll have fun and get a lot of practical information with the support of your peers.

Register with Lesley Kayan, Healthy Aging Coordinator at Franklin County Home Care Corp. at 413-773-5555 (x 2297) or 978-544-2259 (x 2297) or lkayan@fchcc.org.

Sponsored by Franklin County Home Care, Tufts Health Plan Foundation and Hebrew Senior Life.

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a **Psychic Fair** on Saturday, May 26th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Lake Pleasant post office. For more information, contact the TNSA website www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org

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Grade 8

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Silly Science Studies



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - As a health reporter, I have to follow many studies so I can stay on top of the latest research. The best part of this self-education is reading some of the weird stuff going on in academia. From time to time, I do a column on research about "Silly Science." Here's another...

Cuddling Makes You Happy

The Kinsey Institute at Indiana University reports that older couples are more satisfied with their long-term relationships if they cuddle and pet. Men 40 - 70 and their female partners were studied. The couples had been together for an average of 25 years. The study included more than 1,000 couples from the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Both women and men were happier if they had higher levels of sexual functioning and frequent sex.

Women who had been with their

partner for more than 15 years were more likely to be sexually satisfied. It was theorized that women become more satisfied over time because their expectations about sex change. (No information was provided about the effect of May-December hook-ups.)

Seniors Don't Drive As Well As Juniors

An Australian study concluded that seniors tend to drive more dangerously than younger drivers.

Researchers examined the driving habits of 266 drivers between the ages of 70 and 88. During 12-mile road tests, a professional instructor was in the front seat; an occupational therapist was in the back seat.

With 17% of the drivers, the instructor grabbed the steering wheel or applied the brake to avoid a serious error. The most common error was a failure to check the blind spots for cars beside them.

Drivers between 85 to 89 were found to be four times more likely to make a driving error than those 70 to 74 years old. No difference between the way men and women drove was found.

There are more than 30 million drivers aged 65 or older. About 500 seniors are injured daily in car acci-

dents. (Anyone who has driven in a Florida parking lot could have told the researchers everything they needed to know.)

Human Skin Fights Pollution

Danish researchers report that squalene oil, an antioxidant on human skin, reduces indoor ozone, which is a pollutant that irritates the eyes and mucous membranes.

Humans shed their entire outer layer of skin every two to four weeks. Flakes of skin, which contain squalene, are a major component of dust.

The researchers examined how squalene from dust in 500 bedrooms affected indoor air pollution. They found that squalene in settled dust reduced ozone levels about two to 15%.

Previous studies also revealed that squalene from human skin helped lower levels of ozone from air in airplane cabins. Over half of the measured ozone removal in a simulated aircraft cabin was attributed to ozone reacting with skin, hair and clothing of passengers. (Hold onto those used Swiffers; they may be valuable some day.)

Send your questions to fred@healthygeez.com.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 26th - June 1st

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

Monday, May 28th
Senior Center CLOSED

Tuesday, May 29th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday, May 30th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, May 31st

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, June 1st
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:30 a.m. Pizza Party
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at 413-423-3649. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 413-423-3308, for meal information and reservations. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride and to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.
Monday, May 28th
CLOSED - Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 29th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, May 30th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, May 31st
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect
Friday, June 1st
9:00 a.m. Bowling

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

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

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Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - A "Wild Edible Plants Walk and Talk" will be offered on Saturday, June 2nd, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the Hickman Farm, at 90 Lockes Village Road in Wendell.

Town of Montague director of assessing, **Barbara Miller, was recently elected** in a state-wide election by members of the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO) to the Executive Board of that organization.

She will occupy position number 6 on the Executive Board effective July 2012.

The Great Falls Discovery Center's Seventh **Annual Family Fish Day** event takes place on Saturday, June 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration will be at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls and the fishing area will be at the bike path entrance across from the far end of Unity Park.

There will be a free raffle with many great prizes. There will also be face painting and fish printing. There is no need to bring any equipment; the Discovery Center will provide.

Also, new this year, tour the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge's mobile visitor center, the **Watershed on Wheels (WOW) Express**. Investigate the interactive kiosks about the Connecticut River watershed and explore the habitat immersion trailer.

There will also be a **reception and art show for artist C.J. Lori** in the Great Hall.

Join Erin Ruff of Communicating Hands 4 All for **"Potty Time Signs" parent and caregiver workshop** on Monday, June 4th, from 6:00. to 8:00 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School, 28 Northfield Road.

The workshop is free with a pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m. and child care with registration. Please register with Gillian, Community Network for Children Coordinator, at budine@erving.com or 978-544-

5157.

The Leverett Historical Society is having its annual fundraiser, the **Plant and Garden book sale**, on Saturday, May 26th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Donated plants and garden books are still needed.

Labeled plants can be dropped off behind the Leverett town hall anytime this week. Books can be dropped off at the Leverett Library entryway anytime also, at the box labeled 'book sale'.

Proceeds from the sale support the Leverett historical society, as well as the Leverett Elementary School greenhouse project.

For more information contact Dawn at 413-367-9562.

The Connecticut River Watershed Council, a conservation group based in Greenfield, is soliciting songs inspired by last year's flooding from Tropical Storm Irene. The songs will be featured in a concert to be held on August 28th, 2012, the first anniversary of the flood. To **enter a song**, go to the CRWC web site at www.ctriver.org. The deadline is June 21st and there is a \$10 processing fee.

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

from **SCHOOL** page 1

five precincts, getting swamped badly on the Hill, where Cogswell trounced him 169 to 26 in Precinct 3 and 153 to 39 in Precinct 4. Singleton bested Cogswell in Gill, 140 to 117, with Lyons running first at 173.

Gill town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo offered another twist on the day's balloting: Charles Kelley won in Gill with 134 votes, to Clark's 86 write-in votes. But when Montague's votes were totaled with Gill's, Clark trounced Kelley 549 to 430.

The Gill incumbent Jen Waldron received 226 Gill votes, and 607 in Montague, for a total of 833, making her the top vote getter overall. Waldron was running unopposed for another three year term on the school committee.

Montague town clerk Deb Bourbeau said in all 959 individuals voted, a 17.08% turn out of total registered voters.



Tech School Students Spruce Up Veterans Park

BY ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS - Special thanks to the sophomores and juniors from the Franklin County Technical School landscaping program who descended on the Turners Falls Veterans Memorial on Monday for a spring clean-up of the grounds in preparation for next week's ceremony. They pulled up bittersweet, cleared out fallen trees, trimmed broken limbs, picked up litter, and raked the area, just in time for Memorial Day.

The Tech School students hope to

GILL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN LAUNCHED

BY PATRICIA CROSBY - Gill has a great elementary school! How's that for an objective, journalistic opening?

But the fact is I can now attest to four different decades of experience (oh dear, that's telling) at what's affectionately known as "The Gill School," and all four decades have been wonderful in their way.

There have of course been many changes over the years, as there should be in education to adapt to the speed and complexity of changes in the world around us. But somehow the core experience, the core environment, the core "ethos" of the school have managed to stay remarkably intact.

Part of it may be due to the stability of the teaching staff. My three children, though thirteen years apart, oldest to youngest, had many of the same lively, engaging, creative teachers over that period. Lucky kids!

Another part of it may be due to a strong core value which I'll describe as "an aspiration to excel-

See **GILL** page 5

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LEVERETT BITS

Where they May...

BY TANYA CUSHMAN - During the Mass Audubon Bird-a-thon on May 12th, 80 species of birds were spotted in Leverett by the four-person Leverett team of the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary.

If you have previously opted in to access your past book history from the Leverett Library catalog (and other Central and Western Mass libraries), you only have until May 25th to download it to your computer before it disappears, when the new C/WMARS library catalog is unveiled on May 29th.

The whites and pinks and purples of Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) are brightening up our shadowed roadside areas. The four

petals of the flower offer the clue that this plant is in the mustard family. Originally from Europe, the plant has naturalized in Massachusetts (even considered invasive in parts of the state). It was a favorite of Marie Antoinette, who had the flowers smuggled into her prison cell during the French Revolution.

Some Leverett bowlers have been spotted on Fridays at town hall, after senior lunch, brandishing a Wii remote.

Meanwhile, what is usually Snow-in-June is, this year, Snow-in-May as the poplar trees let their down-like seed puffs go where they may.

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Michael Muller

Build on Budget Progress Between Towns and Schools

GILL-MONTAGUE - Monday's town elections signal a major shift on the Gill-Montague school committee, with incumbent Jeff Singleton tossed out, and newcomers Misty Lyons, Lesley Cogswell, Shelly Clark running a smoothly coordinated, full court campaign to taking seats on what has lately been a contentious, divided board.

As the dust from that election settles, it is time to say farewell and thank you to Jeff Singleton for his years of dedication to solving the conundrum of how to fund our schools in a depressed economy, in a district experiencing declining enrollment. Singleton was working to bring the towns and the district to the next step, challenging the shopworn and lopsided Chapter 70 formula by which Massachusetts parcels out inadequate state aid to districts like ours; we hope he will continue that effort as a concerned parent, town meeting member, and member of the technical panel that crafted the budget compact between the towns and schools.

And welcome to Lesley Cogswell, Misty Lyons, and Shelly Clark. Your successfully coordinated campaign bodes well for a cooperative working relationship on the committee, something we hope will usher in a welcome era of comity on the school board. You pulled off a difficult feat in getting not one but two write-in candidates elected, so we hope you will be up for the difficult challenges that now await you as decision makers for the district.

As of this week you will make the first of many choices and votes as elected members of the school committee. We wish each of you and the district years of careful decision making, financial acumen, and a sense of humor when the going gets tough.

Over the past three years, the budget deliberations for GMRSD have been conducted clearly and directly with a set percentage of increase agreed upon by the district and town, and guided by a compact developed by a panel of Gill-Montague town and school officials whose membership includes Singleton, Tupper Brown, the GMRSD superintendent, Ann Banash and Michael Naughton. As recently as the annual town meeting held in Montague on May 5th, budgets for both the town and GMRSD were passed without much difficulty.

This has been the new model

for three years in a row. No more panic stricken finance committees or despairing school committee members facing the firm rejection of town meetings in both member towns, and the eventual takeover of district finances by the state. This is not to say that it has not been a challenge for both towns and district to live within the constraints of the consensus budgets we have passed under the compact's guidelines. But by most accounts, budget season has had an air of clarity and cooperation for the last three years. Gone are the rancorous charges against the towns of being anti-education, or the suspicion by many citizens speaking on town meeting floor of funds being mishandled or stashed away in an excess and deficiency fund by the district.

It is no exaggeration to say that before the compact came into effect, at least three superintendents left the district at least in part because of the miserable process of passing and affording a school budget. But as members of the technical panel explained at a special meeting with the selectboard, finance, and school committee meeting in April, the budget gap will raise its expensive head again next year, if state aid does not increase to needed levels.

Now, the potential gap between the spending needed to maintain a viable district and the inadequate revenue created by state funding shortfalls and inequities in Chapter 70 will land in all its red ink on the desks of the newly elected school committee, and the soon to be hired interim superintendent. The more you build on the understanding gained by members of the technical panel over several years of cooperative work, the better grasp Gill-Montague will have of the situation that many, many districts are now facing across the state.

At the April meeting mentioned above, Management Solutions, the accounting service currently managing the district's business office, offered to connect members interested in developing a statewide lobbying effort with other districts around the state on the issue of revising Chapter 70 and the inadequacy of state aid for public education. This may or may not be a route for school committee members themselves to take; it may be better undertaken by the technical panel members, or designees of both groups. But let us not lose the ground we have gained in understanding our real financial condition, nor lose our cooperative approach between towns and district to meet our mutual financial responsibilities.

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 5/22/12

Wounded: 15,332 Deaths: 1,979



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As predicted, vandalism has become a problem at the Little Free Library on Avenue A

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

GUEST EDITORIAL

Obama Affirms Gay Marriage

ALEXANDER LEGER-SMALL

TURNERS FALLS - In the two weeks since President Obama made his historic statement in favor of marriage equality for LGBT Americans, voices have been raised and agendas mobilized. Both the right and the left in American politics have fixated on the president's words, some to make political gain and others to decry the focus being taken away from our most pressing national problem, the economy.

I think the president's words deserve more than the typical partisan reactions of a weeklong news cycle. The import of his words and their mark upon the history of our United States should be recognized.

I have more skin in the game than other citizens. When our president spoke he spoke to me as well as the countless numbers of kids who will grow up queer in America (I'll use the word 'queer' throughout this essay in order to encompass the multitude of identities in the LGBT community, rather than paint with a broad brush of "gayness.") Obama used the loudest megaphone in the land to reintegrate a group that society has spent the better part of Western history ostracizing.

Whatever your belief in the intentions behind the commencement of our American Experiment, it's hard to pass over the explicit charge that "All Men Are Created Equal." Being

a grand experiment, it's not surprising our nation has had to revisit this idea throughout the course of our evolving governance to redefine what it means for all men to be equal, and who this equality applies to. With each redefinition, we've come closer to the root of the statement. And because of the president's interview with Robin Roberts on May 9th, we have taken another giant leap some thought could never occur.

After the president spoke out in favor of gay marriage, the blogosphere erupted with radical feminists and the arch-homosexuals of pop culture relevance decrying the grandstanding and political intent of our president's words. They immediately pointed fingers towards those left out in the cold, still not equal. They raised the spectres of youth homelessness in the queer community, the lack of legal protection, the curse of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and the seeming emphasis on those in the queer community to "straighten out" and act like their heterosexual neighbors. These complaints are counterproductive and miss the larger picture.

Advocacy for same sex couples to be able to participate and enjoy the benefits of marriage is not a mandate for all same sex couples to enter into marriage contracts. A cry of "not inclusive for all" shouldn't negate an effort to include some.

President Obama did not institute "gay marriage" as the law of the land. When Fox News immediately ran a headline after the president's announcement, "Obama Declares

War on Marriage," the predictable reaction from the right began to choke the positive message into nothingness.

Unsurprisingly, the fearful beat the same drum they have used each time a disenfranchised group takes a step toward equality. The counter-argument is simple and concise, don't participate if you don't want to. Including all does not restrict anyone else's rights. There is no human right, no religious right, to discriminate against our fellow citizens.

These reactionary voices are the flip side of the 'not good enough for me' messages sent by those voices in the queer community. It enforces an all or nothing stance that exacerbates the political deadlock gripping our country.

Like it or not, any outlying minority must take incremental steps in their journey to inclusiveness with the whole. We cannot be so blinded by our agendas that we lose sight of the monumental accomplishment that has just occurred. A sitting American president acknowledged a large group of citizens that have been systematically targeted through the course of history and told them that they were welcome in our current understanding of what it means to be an American.

Isn't that exactly what we want a president to do? To tell us that we're all on the same side and the he's proud to be our president as well as our fellow countryman?

Isn't that what makes a good president? The kind of president we make monuments to?

The Gill Gourmet – Home Made Grill Cheese

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - Down at the Gill fire station where I try to vote early and often, Patty Zywna asked when the Gill Gourmet was going to submit another recipe.

Since Patricia Zywna is the one and only person in the entire United States, (maybe in the world,) with that name, I simply had to comply.

Grilled Cheese, Tomato and Lettuce Sandwich

This is a good companion sandwich to a steaming bowl of tomato soup. You'll need:

- Two slices of whole grain bread
- Cheddar cheese
- 1 fresh tomato
- 1 or 2 leaf of lettuce.
- Oil
- Mayonnaise
- Plop two slices of whole grain

bread on a greased griddle or frying pan.

Once the bread has heated up, flop one slice over and place a slice of non-fat cheddar cheese on top.

Turn the other bread slice over and place it on top, hot side down.

Apply a little olive oil where the first slice had been.

Put a slice of tomato in the oil and sizzle both sides.

Turn the second bread slice, sticky side up, and put it on the griddle.

Place the sizzling tomato slice on top of the cheese to encourage it to nicely melt.

Lay lettuce on the slice of tomato and cheese.

Slather lettuce with mayonnaise and cap with the second bread slice if you haven't burned it.

There, you're done.

—James McCaffrey
Massachusetts Sierra Club
Boston

ANOTHER LETTER

Congrats to Lyons and Cogswell
Congratulations to Misty Lyons and Lesley Cogswell on their election to three-year seats on the Gill-Montague school committee.
They ran a very good grassroots campaign. Write-in campaigns are very hard to win and they not only won, but won big. An excellent job!
Also thanks to my supporters, especially for the letters in the *Reporter* and *Recorder*.
The issues raised in those letters are not going go away, especially the need to maintain the viable budgets we have had for the past three years and the need to address declining enrollment.

– Jeff Singleton
Montague

GILL from page 3

describe as “an aspiration to excellence.” In my day, that was exemplified by the coveted “E for Excellence” award, a hand-painted piece of plywood with a big E emblazoned on it. Every week, a class identified by the staff as having shown the best motivation, the best performance, or the best attitude won the right to have the big “E” propped up on the tray of its classroom chalkboard. I can vividly remember, these many years later, vying with my siblings’ classes to win that “E.”
Now, as a Gill School Council member, I can tell you that’s also what our School Improvement Plan is about – a continuing aspiration to excellence. Oh sure, this is a state-mandated document, but that didn’t mean that our own small, lively group – (the Council includes a local parent, a school choice-in parent, a community member, a teacher, a community-based organization representative, and a new principal, among others) – couldn’t still make the document reflect who we are, what we’re good at, what we’d like to be even better at, and how we’re going to achieve those goals.

So here, without further ado, abbreviated somewhat, and semi-translated from edu-speak into the common tongue, is The Gill School Improvement Plan. Please read it. Think about it. Join us in making it happen!
The staff would particularly like help with the community garden project and with utilizing the nature preserve behind the school. Respond to the improvement plan if you like, by writing the Gill School Council, Boyle Road, Gill, 01354 or emailing care of kathleen.adams@gmrtd.org.

The Gill School Improvement Plan
Strategic Objective #1:
Effective Instruction

“Practices will be research-based.
“Staff will hold high expectations for all students, share common understandings of high quality instruction, participate in systems for monitoring instructional practices.
How? By implementing common

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD
Dogs Ordered Euthanized on Fifth Street

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY - Two dogs, a mastiff mix named Demon and a pit bull mix named Lola, owned by Crystal Bailey, of 75 Fifth Street #2, are no longer allowed in the town of Montague. The selectboard voted unanimously that both dogs are of a vicious disposition and, should they be found in town by police, they will be euthanized.
In coming to this decision, the selectboard considered testimony from witnesses and information on at least two dog bite incidents that have happened since the selectboard first ordered Bailey, in September of last year, to keep the dogs muzzled and harnessed at all times while outside.
One incident occurred in the town of Greenfield inside an apartment where one dog bit a three-year old child on the face, requiring medical treatment. Brittney Antones said she had agreed to take the dog for a few hours when it bit her son very close to his eye.
Bailey said Antones left the dog unattended with the child.
The selectboard will also write a letter to the town of Greenfield notifying them of their decision because Lola is still living in Greenfield at the residence of Ellen Pike.
The other incident happened on Fifth Street in Turners Falls on May 6th, when Irma Martin said she was bit by a dog walked by Brian Bouchard, resident of 75 Fifth Street #2, while she was gardening outside her apartment, in the same building as Bailey and Bouchard’s apartment.
Martin reported the incident to

police, and said she needed medical treatment for the bite. At the time of the incident, Bouchard was reportedly walking a dog on a leash, but based on the evidence presented, interim police chief Chris Williams reported that officer Jack Dempsey does not believe the dog was muzzled.
Pike, of Greenfield, currently has one of the dogs, and reported to the board that several young children live in the home with her. She said the dog has been very friendly to her children.
Karri Bailey reported the dogs have never lunged at any children when under her care, even when the children are being “rough with the dogs.”
At the hearing, the landlord of 75 Fifth Street, Rollas Batten, requested the selectboard take action to ban both dogs from Montague. He recalled an incident last year in which the young daughter of Martin had been bitten by one of the dogs, which helped to prompt the selectboard to require muzzles on the dogs last fall.
Crystal Bailey told the selectboard that when her landlord required that she get rid of the dogs or face losing the apartment, she listed her dog Demon on the internet classifieds website, Craig’s List. Bailey said she does not know who picked up the dog, but Martin’s husband, Selvin Galver, said he has seen the dog on Fifth Street as recently as Sunday, May 20th.
Tracking the dogs may be difficult as they are being moved from house

to house, but Williams said that if needed, a warrant could be issued to search for the dogs in Montague.
In other news, selectboard member Pat Allen reported that more than 50 people came to the Solar 101 workshop last week at Turners Falls High School. “Many people were really interested in the Solarize Montague initiative, including a couple of small businesses,” she said.
RiverCulture director Lisa Davol received approval from the selectboard on the concept of crosswalk art being installed at the intersection of Third Street and Avenue A. “There are three colors of leftover paint that the highway department can’t use in their new sprayers,” Davol explained, and so a request for artistic proposals is in the works. The winning proposal will be chosen at a RiverCulture sponsored Feast for the Arts on June 30th, at which attendees can vote on the designs presented.
Also, Davol reported the Turners Falls Block Party will be held on August 11th this year, and will feature the return of the popular lantern parade. Attendees can expect several food vendors to line the streets, and music to be played in front of Spinner Park. Among the new ideas being considered by the organizers (the Gill Montague Community School Partnership) of the Block Party are a dunking booth and a display of classic cars.
Department of Public Works superintendent Tom Bergeron provided an update on Unity Park improvements currently in progress. The new parking lot is being paved, granite curbing has been installed, a natural gas line has been installed to the field house, and a new electrical box is in place, Bergeron said.
After a lengthy discussion of precedent setting and town tree warden budgets, the request of housing developer Kip Komosa to have the town pay for white pine tree removal near a driveway construction site on Gunn Road was denied. However, the selectboard said Komosa was entitled to request an official tree hearing on the subject.
Komosa objected to the denial of his driveway permit application because as Bergeron described it, the town-owned trees block site lines to traffic as cars exit the proposed driveway site.
Tree warden Mark Stevens objected to the idea of the town paying for an aspect of a private development project when currently there is no safety hazard associated with the trees. He also noted that tree hearings also cost the town money, mostly in required advertising.
Passers-by can look forward to a newly landscaped traffic island at the intersection of Route 47 and North Leverett Road. Landscaper Jampa Dhondupabele received approval from the selectboard to spruce up the area and place a small advertising sign with his phone number on it. Dhondupabele is a Montague resident on Chestnut Hill Loop. All maintenance for the site will be completed by Dhondupabele.
The summer selectboard meeting schedule will be every other week starting now, and the next scheduled meeting is June 4th at 7 p.m. at town hall.

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER
Montague Explores
Reduced Price Solar
Electric Systems



BY SALLY PICK - On May 15th, over 50 Montague residents and business owners attended the Solar 101 gathering at the Turners Falls High School to learn more about Solarize Montague, a special summer opportunity to install discounted solar electric systems in Montague. Nearly everyone attending signed up to request an assessment of his or her home or business for a reduced cost solar electric system (also called a photovoltaic or PV system). The event was recorded and can be watched on MCTV and on their website (www.montaguetv.org).
The Solarize Montague program will make lower cost PV available to anyone with a home or commercial building in any of the five villages of Montague through the end of September. Montague was selected as one of 17 communities in Massachusetts to participate in the program and work with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

(Mass CEC), specialists in renewable energy.
Pat Allen, member of Montague’s selectboard and a Solarize Montague core volunteer, spoke briefly about her experience with PV on her home. Her PV system is so quiet, just sitting on the roof making energy, that the only time she really thinks about it is when she goes to the basement to check the electric meter once a month to report the system’s production for renewable energy credits.
Mass CEC speakers addressed the nitty gritty. Andy Brydges, senior director of renewable energy generation noted that, despite Massachusetts’ variable weather, the state receives more sun than Germany, the country with the most PV in the world.
Brydges said Massachusetts has the seventh highest electricity prices in the U.S. This fact, together with the reduced costs offered through
see REDUCED page 12

research-based instructional practices school-wide, “Learning Walkthroughs,” and a district professional development plan.
Results: A 10-point percentage increase in students scoring Advanced/Proficient on MCAS.

Strategic Objective #2: Student Assessment

“Use a balanced system of formative and benchmark assessments.
“Offer differentiated professional development in data use, and use individual student data to differentiate instruction.

Next? Have the Student Support Team analyze data for instructional and behavioral support.

Results: An increase of 10 percentage points in students testing Proficient in NWEA (A benchmark assessment used district wide K-12).

An increase of 10 percentage points in students testing Advanced/Proficient on MCAS.

Strategic Objective #3: Students’ Social, Emotional, and Health Needs

“Adopt practices within a school-wide system that allow for each child to feel healthy, safe, engaged, challenged, and supported by their school community.

“Respond proactively and school-wide to discipline issues.

How? Implement anti-bullying curricula: Keeping Kids Safe (K-2), Steps to Respect (3-5), Owning Up (6)

Identify and use problem solving process and strategies following staff and community input.

Teach school-wide expectations through strengthened implementation of Responsive Classroom.

Results: 20% decrease in bullying, behavioral referrals, and classroom incidents.

Strategic Objective #4: Family-School Engagement

“Develop strong working relationships with families, community partners and providers.

“Promote summer reading through grade-level reading lists, Slate Memorial Library partnership for reading programs, and book availability.

How? Adopt thematic focus of art and nature.

Results: Students read over the summer, create a project and improve fluency.

Community garden; service-learning projects that meet an environmental need; murals, signs, bulletin boards; and classroom laboratories.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG
Background Check; Erratic Driver Lost Control

Tuesday, 5/8
7:45 a.m. Resident on Grout Road reported a trespasser hunting on private property and would not leave. Under investigation.
Wednesday, 5/9
1 p.m. Motor vehicle check on Center Road at request of MA Registry for verification.
1:20 p.m. Dog complaint on Main Road. Located animal and transported back to

Mountain Road residence.
10:25 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Wagon Wheel. Towed for unregistered and uninsured violations.
Thursday, 5/10
11:05 a.m. Keene police requested an investigation into a Gill resident for a threat to commit murder charge on Munns Ferry Road.

2 p.m. Completed background check on town employee for City of Greenfield.
4:15 p.m. Assisted resident with unlocking a motor vehicle on Main Road.
6:20 p.m. Removed unwanted party from Riverview Drive residence.
7:30 p.m. Court process service completed for resident on Dole Road.
Saturday, 5/12
8:45 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with traffic control for town event.
12 p.m. Animal complaint on Walnut

Street. Gone on arrival.
1:30 p.m. Assisted resident with boat safety issue.
9:50 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in Barton Cove area after closing. Moved along subjects.
11:40 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle in area of Oak Street and Riverview Drive. Located subjects fishing.
Monday, 5/13
2 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with lifting finger prints from items involved with a

past breaking and entering.
5:15 p.m. Assisted subject with locating a motor vehicle that was towed in Gill for trespassing.
Tuesday, 5/15
7:20 p.m. Erratic operation of a blue van on Pisgah Mountain Road. Lost control and drove over a residence lawn creating damage.
8:25 p.m. Trespassing parties at Riverview Drive residence attempting to remove property.

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Montague Elementary Students Make Colorful Rain Barrels Available to Local Businesses

OLDENBURG PHOTO



Jon Fritz (left) and Bright Lin with a brilliantly decorated rain barrel at Montague Elementary.

BY CYNTHIA LEE
OLDENBURG

MONTAGUE - Kim Noyes, school environmental program coordinator for the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, came to Montague Elementary School this winter with an idea for a rainy day. She asked students to help with a community service project, decorating 50 gallon rain barrels for local businesses. Since part of our 4th grade science curriculum is to study the effects of water on the

environment, this seemed like a perfect project for our students to take on.

This hands-on project helped our student's deepen our course of study as we discussed how and why rain barrels are important to sustainability and keeping the Earth healthy. Students in all of the fourth grades at MES were asked to sketch thematic designs on each rain barrel. In cooperative groups, they painted each of the 20 barrels with large images depicting nature. The students were then asked to write letters convincing businesses to take one of the rain barrels. The letter writing was part of an exercise in writing a persuasive argument. The project allowed us to integrate English, science and art!

The rain barrels come with a kit to attach them to the downspouts of gutters, with a spigot included. We hope the letters from our Montague Elementary students will help get the word to the local community that we have rain barrels available now.

Rain Barrels are Good for Business!

For the past week, 4th graders at the Montague Elementary School have been designing rain barrels for the community. We are studying the water cycle and the effects of water on the Earth. Rain barrels seemed like a good way to help the Earth.

Rain barrels can help the community in many ways. They save water by collecting rain water for your garden or outdoor projects. They help when it's time to water gardens and they save money on the water and electric bill. They also save time going to fill your watering can at a hose or in the house.

These 50 gallon rain barrels are equipped with spigots and are free to area businesses. Some have an animal theme, some have a rainbow theme, and some have an Earth theme. Get them while they're still here! Call Kim Noyes at #413-659-4462 or email kim.noyes@gdfsuezna.com.

By Connor Waitkus

Barrels are a Blast!

If you are an area business, this is your big chance to get a rain barrel for free! Why should you get a rain barrel? Well, we will tell you. We are fourth grade students from MES doing a community service project to help the Earth.

Using a rain barrel saves money and water because it recycles rain water run-off from roofs and lowers your water bill. It also saves time because it is a water source outside of the building so you won't need to run inside to get water every time you need it for gardens and outdoor projects. It also prevents soil erosion where the water falls from the roof, which can help stop water from going into the basement of a building.

If you want one, now is your chance. Be quick about it and call Kim Noyes at #413-659-4462 or email kim.noyes@gdfsuezna.com. And remember, you cannot drink the water the rain barrel collects. It is for outdoor use only!

By Max Leh

Rain Barrel Project

You should get a rain barrel. We are 4th grade students from Montague Elementary School. The community service project we did, while studying the water cycle and its effects on the Earth, was to sketch out designs for our 50 gallon rain barrels. Then we painted them with bright colors.

They are now ready to give to local businesses.

Rain barrels help recycle water and lower your water bills. You may locate them outside under the downspout of connecting roof gutters. The water can be used for gardens and outside projects. This water is not safe for drinking.

Rain barrels save water by collecting rain for outdoor use! Each rain barrel comes with a spigot and materials to connect to buildings with gutters. It's easy and fun to save water and help the Earth!

If you are interested in getting one for your business, please call Kim Noyes at #413-659-4462 or email kim.noyes@gdfsuezna.com. They are free.

By Jon Fritz and Bright Lin

TURTLES from page 1

are being built as well.

State wildlife biologists have made efforts to learn about tortoise taste in interior and landscape design. As it turns out, turtles do not like dark enclosed places. They like brightly lit open spaces when trekking from wetland to wetland. Thus, tunnels must have steel grates or some other kind of skylights rather than closed ceilings. Turtles prefer wider tunnels as well. Leaves must cover the concrete ground of the tunnel to mimic natural flooring.

Fences have been erected around dangerous roads to lead turtles to the safe crossings built especially for their use and to stop them from nearing roads. These must be closed wooden fences, not wire fences; if the turtle can see through it, they'll stay in that spot and try to figure out a way through. However, if they can't see through the fence turtles will walk along beside it until they find an opening.

Turtles on the Move

The two main yearly migratory periods are particularly dangerous times of year for turtle populations. Turtles migrate when wetlands start to dry up. Mid-March through early June is their nesting season. Females travel to lay their eggs and afterwards turn around and go back again. During this time there are many nesting mortalities.

In September, there is a smaller migration of hatchlings. Turtles lay lots of eggs; for the species it's a numbers game because the babies are very vulnerable. Newborns are about the size of an M&M, are still soft, having not yet developed their outer shell, and cannot walk fast.

Chipmunks are a major predator of hatchling turtles.

You can Help

The state of Massachusetts wants to expand their surveying efforts. Keeping current animal mortality rate documentation enables MassDOT to continue improving causeways and roads to reduce turtle deaths. The partnership website www.linkinglandscapes.info contains three accessible online databases with interactive features that invite the public to help track information (the Wildlife Roadway Mortality Database, the Turtle Roadway Mortality Database, and the Vernal Pool Salamander Migration Study). People can input where and when they saw an animal near a road and whether it was alive or dead.

Beyond the databases, the partnering state agencies are actively trying to recruit survey volunteers. The work is not difficult and does not require a big time commitment. Based on your zip code, they assign a particular site to monitor three times a year to count the turtles, dead or alive, along the side of the road.

If you decide to help a turtle cross the road, do it properly. Pick it up by its shell reaching your hand from behind (in case it's a snapping turtle); never handle a turtle by its tail since that's an extension of their spine; hold them parallel to the ground rather than vertically so they can breathe easily.

And remember, turtles know where they're going, so always move them in the direction they were headed, otherwise, that glum turtle will have to backtrack! For more information, email Timothy.Dexter@state.ma.us or David.Paulson@state.ma.us.



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New England Scenes

Watercolors by Jean Kozlowski

BY RICHARD BALDWIN

WENDELL - The Wendell Free Library is showing watercolors by Northfield artist Jean Kozlowski. Painting landscapes directly from nature presents unique challenges. Besides requiring basic skills in a particular medium, the artist needs to be both patient yet quick, adjusting to changes in light and weather conditions. There is nothing like enthusiastically getting into a painting, working on a specific part, having mixed the perfect color, only to have your entire easel blown over by a strong gust of wind.

In these paintings, Kozlowski intentionally creates a jaunty, informal feeling. Her loose handling of wet on wet watercolor often enhances lively compositions. She achieves this partly through brushwork but more boldly through the use of opposing diagonal elements.

In "Marshall Point Lighthouse" the slight diagonal angle of the pier

predominates over the horizon line. This contrasts with the diagonal of the lighthouse roof that slants in the opposite direction. These elements are contrasted with the flowing brushwork describing the rocks that drops to the foreground. These three areas develop an energetic system of visual forces, making a very lively composition.

In the painting "Monhegan Lighthouse" the angle of the roof is tilting in the opposite direction from the wall in the foreground. Again, in "Henry's Place, Monhegan," Kozlowski opposes diagonals in the rooftops and in the path. The solidity of the buildings contrasts with the energetic brushwork of the foreground foliage and the angle of the rowboat that leads the eye back towards the houses. These esthetic elements help develop landscapes that are solid, dynamic and friendly at the same time.


Kozlowski who graduated from

Tufts has been a teacher for 35 years and a painter for about as long. Early on she began focusing on watercolor as her favorite medium. In her statement, "An Artist's Journey," K o z l o w s k i writes, "Retiring from teaching made me able to give much more time to my painting. By then I had moved to Northfield, where I joined the Painters of Old Deerfield, one of the best decisions I ever made. We painted outside in good weather and in winter inside the White Church in Old Deerfield. Yearly trips in summer took us to Port Clyde and to Monhegan Island, ME. These were

such inspirational places to paint all day."

"I am still painting, learning, and finding more challenges in my journey with art. My contacts with other artists have enriched my life, making me stretch my imagination and keeping my paintbrushes wet."

Mrs. Kozlowski can be reached




Stand of Pines

KOZLOWSKI PHOTO

by phone at 413-498-5344 and via email at jkoz570@comcast.net.

Please stop by and view this exhibition that runs through the end of June in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library.

Library hours: Tuesday 3-6; Wednesday 10-8; Saturday 9:30-3:30.



Our Lady of Exceptional Abilities, by Edite Cunha

BY MATTHEW SMALL

T U R N E R S FALLS - Five artists have come together in the tight confines of Nina's Nook, that sliver of art heaven on Avenue A, to give us a glimpse of how modern day women interact - and sometimes struggle - with traditional religious themes.

The show Fervor from the Truth is a combination of paintings, mosaic and sculpture that offer an intimate conversation with each

woman's unique spiritual experience. Pam Allan, Lauren Paradise, and Elise Vegliante, Edite Cunha and Gina Vernava contribute to this multimedia exhibit in the tiny Turners Falls art space.

While everything hanging in the Nook is worth seeing, special attention should be paid to AlterVirgins, the muses and mistresses brought to life by Cunha and Vernava.

These AlterVirgins - the wonderful wordplay is a theme throughout the show - are much needed representations of the divine feminine in a most genuine and accessible sense. These are true women of the world. Cunha says in her artist statement: "One might say they're emancipated virgins. They are funny, cheeky, sassy, and they have fun on the way to eternity."

Using various notions and more broken china than I've seen in one place, the artists deftly give life to a

goddess who is sometimes playful, sometimes sweet, and often more powerful than she appears. The feeling is that someone has taken the odds and ends of a woman's life - the buttons, broken tea cups, the dolls forgotten by daughters who have grown up and moved on, the figurines from an era that's long gone - and given them over to allow a unique power to manifest itself.

And there is something definitely otherworldly about these mosaic-meets-statuary creations. Cunha tells the story of how the AlterVirgins bring themselves into being.


"A Lady arrives in my psyche," she reports, "and I go out into the world to find the material she demands."

While many of the pieces incorporate some traditional Madonna imagery, most focus on more modern versions of the Lady which consciously stray from the motionless

but emotional Mary. For instance, "Our Lady of Flair on the Stairway to Heaven" features a bright white woman dancing on a black stair surrounded by black mosaic. The end result is a powerfully rendered and unique spirit who seems somehow novel in the freedom of her movement, her comfort in the spotlight, and her insistence on having a good time.

The show highlights the struggles the artists face while reconciling the beloved and comforting but also problematic imagery of the traditional Church with the realities of their modern lives. It is religious in theme, but pushes away from traditional notions of womanly propriety, bringing to the forefront the deeper powers that lurk behind the alabaster faces of the saints. The hodgepodge symbolism exhibited in the pieces illustrates the rich backdrop of

see SCULPTED page 12



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

First Look at Budget Finds a Shortfall

BY DAVID DETMOLD - At first glance, the FY'13 operating budget for the town and schools will leave Gill officials scrambling to make up a deficit of \$118,000.

The total proposed spending for town and schools for FY'13 would equal \$2,795,912, or a .8% increase over last year's budget, not including special articles or cost of living raises for employees.

"This is the first time we have seen these numbers," emphasized Ann Banash, at a joint meeting of the selectboard and finance committee on Monday.

The boards intend to meet with each of the major departments in coming weeks to go over their line item budget requests, in an attempt to bring next year's expenditures in line with expected revenue.

Still, town administrator Ray Purington said, "I promise I didn't plan it this way," but if you add up [the special articles] for \$30,000 for a new town hall roof, to replace

the one leaking above the selectboard's meeting desk, \$30,000 for a new police cruiser (town meeting turned down a new police cruiser last year), along with \$15,000 for new doors and locks at the Gill Elementary School, and another \$43,000 for a new chipper for the highway department, "it equals \$118,000."

"The fact is, this is a level funded budget," said Banash...

But, "It's the extras. It's always the extras," said finance chair Elden Booth.

Among the larger departmental budget increases requested in the preliminary budget, the highway department is seeking a \$20,000 increase (9.5%) over last year's \$203,069 number, and the library is seeking to add an extra day of service, 2 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, in response to a survey of patrons' needs. The additional hours would raise the library budget from \$18,928 to \$23,447.

Purington said the com-

bined assessments for the Franklin County Tech School (\$143,902, up 7.4% from last year, with one additional Gill student attending FCTS) and the Gill-Montague Regional School District (\$1,387,336 up 1.3% from last year) would constitute a 1.8% increase over last year's numbers for education. Since that is short of a 2½ increase congruent with Proposition 2½, Purington recommended putting the difference (\$10,612), into the town's education stabilization fund for future school needs.

Gill has about \$132,000 in its stabilization account.

Expect the preliminary budget numbers to be revised as the date for a pre-town meeting approaches on June 14th, at 6:00 p.m. at the elementary school, and the annual town meeting, at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19th.

If heavy rain is in the forecast on June 19th, voters be advised: bring an umbrella, at least until the special article for the town hall roof repair gets voted on.

MORE NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Re-Elects Ward

BY EMILY KREMS - Incumbent selectboard candidate John Ward cruised to an easy victory for another three year term on Monday over former town highway superintendent Ernie Hastings. On Tuesday, outgoing chair Randy Crochier thanked all 324 residents who voted (32% of the 1025 registered voters in town), saying, "It's good to see that kind of a turnout."

As the board reorganized on Tuesday following the town election, Ann Banash was appointed chair and Ward as clerk. Banash will again be the representative to the personnel committee, and Ward

the rep to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

In the middle of the meeting, Hastings called Ward to congratulate him on his 218 - 104 victory in the selectboard race, as the rest of the board took a five minute break.

Later, Banash suggested holding a pre-town meeting, scheduled for June 14th at 6:00 p.m. at the elementary school, to provide basic information to voters about the topics to be discussed at the annual town meeting on Tuesday, June 19th, at 6:30 p.m. at town hall. The elementary school was picked as a venue so resi-

dents could view the recently completed energy upgrades there, including a new boiler, and energy management system.

In a joint meeting with the library trustees, Meghan Bathory-Peeler was appointed as library trustee, following the resignation of Bill Draper. Draper resigned after the deadline had already passed for the position to appear on the election ballot, so an appointment had to be made until the next annual election. Ellen Johnson and Lissa Greenough, library trustees, recommended Bathory-Peeler

see GILL page 9

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Recount in Erving Selectboard Race – June 5th

BY KATIE NOLAN - The Erving board of registrars will recount votes for the May 5th selectboard race on June 5th starting at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall.

In the official tally on election night, write-in candidate Arthur Johnson received 79 votes, while Margaret Sullivan, who was declared the winner in the race for the three-year selectboard seat, received 93. Joseph Newton came in third with 55 votes. Johnson filed a formal petition asking for a recount on May 14th.

Town clerk Richard Newton said town counsel Donna MacNichol will be present for the recount. MacNichol stressed to the registrars at a planning meeting that the recount process must be very open, so there are no questions about the fairness of the recount. Each candidate is allowed to have two representatives present, one for each of the two recount tally tables.

Another Hitch at Usher Mill

Environmental consultant Tighe & Bond asked the selectboard to delay publication of bid specifications for cleaning up the former Usher Mill, because new data shows high concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in samples from silver paint and mastic at the former kiln room at the plant. Some of the paint samples had concentrations higher than the 50 parts per million (ppm) limit set by the U.S. EPA.

As of their May 14th meeting, the selectboard had scheduled publication of the cleanup bid specifications in the state's central register and in area newspapers on May 15th and 16th. Tighe & Bond recommended halting the bid process and doing approximately \$2,000 worth of additional testing for PCBs and, if necessary, revising the specifications.

Selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo was concerned that a delay for additional testing and specification revisions would "push clean up back to September." He said the

town's insurance for the former Usher Mill, through Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), is contingent on cleanup work starting by July 1st. He read aloud a letter from MIIA saying demolition work must progress by July 1st "or MIIA will be unable to provide liability coverage."

Newly-elected selectboard member Margaret Sullivan suggested the town go ahead and publish the bid specifications as written, but also publish an addendum that would exclude the former kiln area from the project. This would allow work to start on the other parts of the property by July 1st.

Municipal clerk Betsy Sicard was asked to check to see if an addendum would be allowed. She was also asked to request Tighe & Bond consultants to attend the next selectboard meeting to explain the PCB results and why the results were not considered before preparation of the initial bid specifications.

see ERVING page 9

MORE NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

PCBS Found in Usher Plant

BY KATIE NOLAN - Marc Richards and Jason Barroso, consultants from Tighe & Bond, reported to the selectboard on May 21st on the detection of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in paint samples from the former Usher Plant. Richards explained that because of "changes in the regulatory environment," painted surfaces on buildings slated for demolition should be tested for PCBs. "Knowing now, rather than finding out during construction, is better," Richards said.

Tighe and Bond took three samples of the silver paint and black mastic at the former Usher Mill kiln and found concentrations of 56 parts per million (ppm), 87 ppm, and 110 ppm, all higher than the U.S. EPA limit of 50 ppm for hard surfaces.

Richards recommended collecting eight additional samples to determine whether the PCBs were in the paint or in the mastic.

Barroso said silver paint was also present in the partially demolished Building #4, and mastic was present in the boiler. Richards added, if the PCBs had leached into the

brick under the paint and mastic, then the brick would be considered "remediation waste" and subject to strict (and costly) regulations. But if leaching had not occurred, the brick would be categorized as regular demolition waste.

With the additional information from analysis of the samples, Richards said Tighe & Bond could prepare addenda to the bid specifications and ask contractors to bid for alternate scenarios (including or not including PCB remediation).

Collecting the samples and laboratory analysis will push the bid opening past the originally scheduled June 4th date. At the May 14th selectboard meeting, chair Eugene Klepadlo had noted the town's insurance for the former Usher Mill property, through the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), is contingent on cleanup work starting by July 1st. Richards said Tighe & Bond had contacted the town's insurer and received assurance that a delay of three to four weeks in starting demolition and cleanup would be acceptable.

The selectboard approved \$2,000 for additional PCB sampling by Tighe & Bond, and set the bid opening for June 25th at 6:30 p.m.

In other business, the selectboard signed a contract to purchase a 2013 International dump truck with a stainless steel body treated with corrosion-resistant primer for \$193,901.

Presented with a bid of \$97,166 for repair of the lift at the former Pleasant Street Grade School building, currently used for Union 28 office space, the selectboard put off signing until their May 31st meeting. The board asked municipal clerk Betsy Sicard to follow up with the building inspector to determine if the repairs are necessary.

The selectboard signed a five-year, \$39,442 contract with Vadar for purchasing accounting software, installation of the software, and providing technical support, for use by the town accountant.

The town's Memorial Day parade is set for Saturday, May 26th at 10 a.m. All three selectboard members will ride together in the parade.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Verbal Altercation; Vehicle Crash

Tuesday, 5/15/7
10 a.m. 911 hang up at Prospect Street. Phone line issues. No emergency.

Wednesday, 5/16
10:46 a.m. Alarm reported at Christina's Restaurant on French King Highway. All secure.

12:55 p.m. Report of confrontational subject on Old State Road. Checked well-being and advised of possible criminal charges.

Thursday, 5/17
3:05 p.m. Report of disturbance at Pratt Street residence. Verbal altercation only. Report taken.

9:05 p.m. Mutual aid to Gill. Arrested [redacted], for operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor.

11 p.m. Call of smoke in area of West High Street. Handled by Erving Fire.

Friday, 5/18
11:30 a.m. Suspicious vehicle at parking lot at Papermill Road. Checked area. Gone upon arrival.

1:50 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with car vs. bike accident at inter-

section of Route 63 and Route 10.

Saturday, 5/19
3:35 p.m. Resident reported larceny from home. Report taken.

6:34 p.m. Gas leak reported on Lester Street. Stood by. Assisted on scene.

7:25 p.m. Loose dog found. Returned to Mountain Road owner.

8 p.m. Stray dog reported on Northfield Road. Same located and returned to owner.

Sunday, 5/20
2:50 p.m. Arrested [redacted], for operating a vehicle with a suspended license on Moore Street.

7:50 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding on Lillian's Way.

Monday, 5/21
5:39 p.m. Report of two car motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at East Prospect Street. Assisted on scene.

Tuesday, 5/22
8:50 p.m. Complaint of harassing text messages at Pratt Street residence. Report taken.

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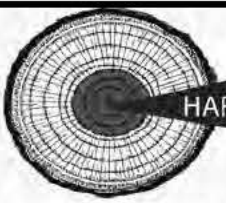
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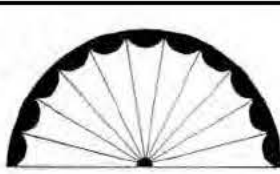
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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Phillips Appointed School Committee Chair



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Joyce Phillips was elected chair of the Gill-Montague school committee.

BY ELLEN

BLANCHETTE - The Gill - Montague school committee met Tuesday evening with three new faces, as three newly-elected school committee members - Lesley Cogswell, Misty Lyons, and Shelly Clark were sworn in; Cogswell and Lyons for three-year terms, and Shelly Clark to fill out the remainder of the two-year seat vacated two months ago by

Emily Monosson of Montague.

The first order of business for the school committee was the election of new officers. Nominated for chair were Joyce Phillips of Montague and Jane Oakes of Gill. There was a brief discussion, with Sandra Brown of Gill expressing support for Oakes, saying her calm demeanor and fair-minded approach would

make her a good choice. Oakes demurred, saying she would prefer to be vice chair, as there was a lot to learn, and said she would support Phillips instead. Phillips won on a vote of 6-3.

Oakes was then unanimously voted vice chair. Sandra Brown was elected the new secretary and Misty Lyons the assistant treasurer, both in a unanimous vote. Peter Roy-Clark is the current school district treasurer.

Following the election of officers, Eva Mitchell and Joan Connolly from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) presented their second quarterly report for the 2012-2013 school year. Mitchell began by explaining the report was based on the accelerated improvement plan (AIP) submitted in April to DESE by interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, including January through March data. Mitchell said some of the

See G-M page 10

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Affordable Housing Covenant Outlined

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett selectboard met in joint session with the Leverett affordable housing trust on Tuesday, to try to come to an agreement about an offer the town could make to the seller of a home on North Leverett Road to purchase an affordable housing covenant on the property, reducing the asking price and enabling a qualified buyer who meets low or moderate income guidelines to afford to buy it.

The affordable housing covenant would take the form of a permanent deed restriction, so the house would remain affordable over time.

The opportunity has come about because Leverett, which passed the Community Preservation Act (CPA) some years ago, has been steadily accumulating funds in an affordable housing trust. By state law at least 10% of CPA funds must be set aside for affordable housing. The chance to work with a willing seller to make at least one home in Leverett permanently affordable to a low or moder-

ate income buyer prompted Tuesday's joint trust and selectboard meeting.

The trust and board members present seemed to be in agreement that the home under discussion, the seller and address of which have not been made public, would make a good choice for the town's first foray into affordable housing under the program developed by the selectboard last year. Yet, there was a wide ranging discussion about the criteria by which similar decisions would be made in the future.

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority would be contracted to assist the town in pre-screening buyers for eligibility, and making sure the property meets the definition of affordability in the current housing market, once an affordability covenant is purchased.

Ken Kahn, speaking in hypothetical terms, suggested that if a home appraised at \$200,000 were to be considered for an affordable housing covenant of perhaps \$50,000

purchased with town CPA funds, that might put the property into an affordable range for qualified buyers.

Barb Carulli wondered whether the town would be wise to consider whether properties considered for the affordable housing program in the future should be inspected for aspects that could lead to financial problems for qualified buyers, like the soundness of the roof or the adequacy of insulation.

Julie Shively said this particular house has been well insulated and has tight windows.

The boards moved toward an executive session to discuss the exact terms of the town's offer.

In other news, the selectboard approved a resolution brought forward by Richardson Road resident Judy Rafael to call on the U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission (NRC) to expand the evacuation planning zone around operating nuclear reactors in America, from 10 to 25 miles. The NRC issued a rec-

See LEVERETT pg 10

ERVING from page 8

Reaction to DPW Reorganization

Interim department of public works (DPW) director Paul Prest reported on feedback from town residents about the selectboard's recent DPW reorganization. Prest said he has been told that the reorganization unfairly eliminated part-time workers who mowed lawns or maintained town buildings.

Prest said he felt the reorganization wasn't handled properly, with at least one part-time employee finding out about it from reading a news article.

Klepadlo observed the reorganization is not effective until the new fiscal year, starting July 1st, and that part-time positions should have remained the same until then.

But fire chief Almon "Bud" Meattey reported that landscaping contractor Beulah Land Nursery was told to stop work immediately when the reorganization was announced in April.

Jacqueline Boyden said the part-time custodian at the senior center, faced with losing his position under the reorganization, found another job and quit work at the senior center. She also said David Labelle, a part-time mower and landscaper "did a lot more work than he was paid for" but quit because he was angry he had not been informed directly about losing his position.

The selectboard asked Prest to find ways to get custodial work and grounds maintenance done until July 1st, using DPW employees or temporary workers.

Northfield Ambulance

Meattey and emergency management director Luke Hartnett presented a plan for the town to contract with the Northfield fire department's ambulance service if the Baystate Health Ambulance (BHA) does not continue operating in Erving.

Meattey said BHA currently serves the western side of town, but the town does not have a contract with BHA. The Orange Fire Department Ambulance serves the eastern side of town, at a cost of approximately \$9,000 per year, according to Meattey. He said Northfield has a new ambulance, and highly trained emergency responders and response time from Northfield might be quicker than BHA's response time from Greenfield. Meattey added that Erving emergency medical technicians (EMTs) would be able to team up with the Northfield EMTs in transporting patients, calling the proposal "a win/win for both towns."

Hartnett suggested the Erving selectboard reach out to the Northfield selectboard about the proposal. The selectboard agreed to set up a meeting with the Northfield selectboard.

The selectboard accepted a bid

of \$22,794 from Ford of Springfield for a new F150 DPW truck.

Prest said he wanted to get the order in as soon as possible, but that delivery of the truck and payment would be in FY'13. Prest also presented a bid for \$93,079 for a stainless steel dump truck and \$100,000 for attachments such as an in-line sander and an angle plow. Klepadlo asked that Prest check on the specifications for the truck's frame before the bid is accepted.

At Klepadlo's request, the date for a special town meeting was set for June 21st.

CULINARY from page 1

to try them), I think the prices are very reasonable.

I sat sipping the house-made basil-ginger limeade on a gloriously sunny day while I waited for my food. Right now, Humble Kitchen is the only food cart in the parking lot, but I could easily envision a couple more stationed in the same area soon.

It doesn't take long for good ideas to catch on. I think food carts are a sustainable alternative in a downsized economy. They fulfill our desire to support local everything and our desire for more food choices.

Food carts are labor intensive, but it looks to me like they are a labor of love.

Visit the Humble Kitchen facebook page for the latest food updates, and check them out the next time you head north.



GILL from page 8

to the selectboard, calling her a long-time patron of the library.

Case of the Missing Cane

The case of the missing cane came before the selectboard following a resident's request to revive the *Boston Post Cane* tradition. A gold-plated cane was given to every town in Massachusetts in 1909 by the *Boston Post* for the selectboard to award to the oldest living man in a ceremony (in 1930 the tradition expanded to include the oldest woman). Gill's original cane cannot be located, though the town hall still has the bicentennial cane, purchased in 1992 and awarded soon thereafter to the oldest man. The selectboard will decide whether to award the bicentennial cane from now on, or purchase a *Boston Post Cane* replica for approximately \$140.

The recreation committee reported the recent Red Sox fundraising trip was a success. The committee sold 104 tickets and attendees saw a 17-inning game. Everyone enjoyed themselves, until the Orioles scored the tie-breaking run.

Committee members proposed spending a portion of the money, \$774.99, on a two-row, 20 foot bleacher for the girls' softball field, which the selectboard approved. Committee members expressed concern that sign-ups for sports teams in Gill are declining and volunteers for coaching positions are sorely needed.

The recreation committee proposed initiating a conversation with Erving to explore creating a partner-

ship that would benefit both towns and hopefully increase enrollment in sports activities.

In other business, the selectboard decided to form a committee as soon as possible to review the ten-year contract with Comcast, which expires in 2015. The coming of high speed internet broadband fiber may have impacts on the contract.

The selectboard decided to follow FRCOG's recommendation to purchase diesel fuel at the lowest bid of \$3.55 per gallon from Dennis K. Burke, Inc. Currently the town pays \$3.84 per gallon for fuel from A.R. Sandri, Inc.

Anne Harding, representing the board of Montague Community Television (MCTV) came to ask Gill to pay a share of production expenses for video rebroadcast of selectboard and other meetings. She distinguished meetings, produced by volunteers, from community events, which are produced by paid staff.

Banash said she had assumed Comcast was still passing along to MCTV 50 cents per Gill customer to help defray such costs. Since that is no longer the case, the selectboard decided to meet again to come up with a proposed amount to pay MCTV for its production services.

The selectboard announced the upcoming play of 4th and 5th graders, "Too Many Doctors," a comedy based on Molière's plays. The play will take place on the town hall stage on Saturday, June 2nd at 1 p.m. and costs \$3.00 for ages 14 and under, \$5.00 all others.



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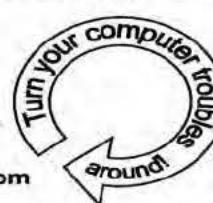
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Ferry Meadow Farm - part XLI

Montague 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL -

I wake up at the farm a moment later. I have a lot to tell Jason — about losing my job, about Diana and Neil — but I also want to work hard and earn my keep.

Marissa has agreed to leave me some jobs to do. At first Dave stays with me and shows me around. We talk, and I tell him all that happened before even telling Jason. When he goes to sleep, Jay finds me in the big barn.

I'm not sure whether I am angry at him. Diana is mad at him and thinks I should be, too. And, of course, she is also mad at me. Still Jason is my only real friend through all of this, so I break down and hug him. He smiles at me, then

says, "Are you in Philadelphia?"

"Yeah," I say, thinking how crazy it is that this is true.

"How's Diana?" he asks.

"She's mad at you," I say.

"Why? What does she know?"

"Everything," I tell him. Then I hurry to explain. He asks a lot of questions, and it's not until much later that I tell him about losing my job. "Jay, I have to get rid of the doppelganger," I say.

"You could move one body to another country."

"That won't work. I can't go to bed here and wake up in Bolivia. It would be too crazy. I can't be two different people for the rest of my life."

"You could kill one."

"I've thought of that. I think it might hurt."

"But you wouldn't be dead. You would just be one person again."

"I know, and that's what I want. But — one person — with no job, who won't be able to make the next mortgage payment."

"You can come with me," he says softly. "I have a lot of friends, places to stay. Mostly in Europe. I've only been coming back here to see you, really." He takes both my hands. "What do you say?"

"Jason, are you asking me to run away with you?"

He grins and looks at me earnestly. "Something like that."

I am silent a moment too long, and his dark eyes turn sad.

"You could stay here," he says with a sigh.

"I don't know if they would want me."

"Rese, they let anyone stay.

Don't worry about that. You'll have to help build your house,

though, and work, of course."

"I don't mind that," I say.

"Then they'll make a place for you here," he says confidently.

I look into his eyes, hoping for evidence that he will miss me, but the sadness they betrayed earlier is gone. I can't read Jason now.

That night I learn that he will be going back to Europe. "You'll be fine," he says.

I resent the fact that he feels like he needs to take care of me. "I know," I tell him.

"Marissa will take good care of you."

"Jay, I don't need anyone to take care of me."

He raises an eyebrow but says nothing.

We talk less than usual, but Jason spends the rest of the night helping me work. Toward dawn I am ready to go to sleep and to

switch bodies.

"Good luck," Jason says to me.

"I think I might need it," I say.

"Are you scared?"

"A little."

"Sure you don't want to go with me to Europe."

I nod. "Maybe you could stay here," I say.

"It's my work," Jason tells me.

"I can't walk away from it."

"I know," I say.

He hugs me and kisses my forehead. "I always wanted to be with you," he says, "but you keep running off to Massachusetts."

"You're the one running off this time."

"Guess I am." He kisses me again, and I melt into the safety of his arms. "You're not mad at me?" he says with a little boy face.

"Nope," I tell him.

- Continued Next Issue

G-M from page 9

through March data. Mitchell said some of the criticisms mentioned in their report had already been addressed.

The report's opening statement notes the G-M school district,

"under the leadership of interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, has continued to make steady progress towards meeting the goals set forth in the AIP."

The report says changes that have been made in teaching meth-

ods are beginning to show up in improvements in the classroom, as evidenced by higher test scores and daily data teachers collect on student performance. As next steps, Mitchell and Connolly recommend schools develop a clear plan for using the data, including identifying whether instructional changes are resulting in better student performance.

Both Connolly and Mitchell emphasized the need to complete the process of creating a teacher evaluation tool. Connolly praised the administration and education staff for their willingness to work together for the betterment of students. However, she said, the district did not get as positive a rating

because of the number of people in leadership roles leaving the district.

Connolly said because the district is a Race to the Top (RTTT) district, the report's recommendations need to be acted on quickly. The teacher evaluation needs to be in place by September, and with only six weeks left to the school year, all administrative positions need to be filled. The development of the teacher evaluation, she said, needs to include individual and team evaluations, and self-evaluation. Teachers need to feel a part of the process.

On the subject of a new superintendent, Connolly said it was important the person hired have knowledge of school turnaround

work, and that a transition plan needed to be in place when the new person takes over in July.

There will be several meetings in executive session in May to select final applicants for interim superintendent, then a public meeting on May 29th where the final candidates will be interviewed.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on June 5th at Turners Falls High School in the TV studio at 7:00 p.m. With the meeting ending early and new associations forming, members stayed on in active discussions, minus the rancor that has characterized the last several meetings.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hit & Run; Illegal Dumping; Threatening Harassment

Wednesday, 5/16

8:20 p.m. Trespassing at the Railroad Salvage building by the river. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 5/17

7:58 p.m. General disturbance at the Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. Services rendered. 8:25 p.m. Hit and run accident on K Street by St. Stanislaus Society. Investigated.

8:33 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Carnegie Library on Avenue A. Investigated. 9:19 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Bridge Street in Millers Falls. Investigated. 9:28 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Montague City Road. Investigated.

Friday, 5/18

3:51 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Ferry Road. Advised of options. 8:57 p.m. Open door, window at Montague Town Hall on Avenue A. Services rendered.

Saturday, 5/19

10:53 a.m. Neighbor distur-

bance on Turnpike Road.

Peace restored.

1:24 p.m. Fire on Turnpike Road. Services rendered.

7:04 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Avenue A. Investigated.

7:08 p.m. Animal complaint on George Avenue.

Returned to home or family.

10:01 p.m. Fire, camp at Turners Falls Road and Swamp Road. Investigated.

Sunday, 5/20

1:18 a.m. Public intoxication at Stone's gravel pit on Federal Street. Returned to home or family.

9:10 a.m. Hit and run accident at Thomas Memorial Country Club on Country Club Lane. Referred to an officer.

4:21 p.m. Suspicious situation at Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. Investigated.

4:36 p.m. Arrest of

for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Monday, 5/21

8:50 p.m. Harassment on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.

8:55 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Jay's Liquor on Avenue A. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 5/22

12:02 p.m. Threatening, harassment in alley between Third and Fourth Streets. Referred to an officer.

12:55 p.m. Animal complaint at Bank of America on Avenue A. Services rendered.

2:20 p.m. Illegal dumping at Aaron Clark Cemetery on Turners Falls Road. Referred to an officer.

6:20 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Sheffield Ball Fields on Crocker Avenue. Services rendered.

8:01 p.m. and 8:03 p.m. Officer wanted at Montague Town Hall on Avenue A at dog hearing. Services rendered.

8:24 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Central Street. Services rendered.

LEVERETT from page 9

ommendation five days into the unfolding triple meltdown in Fukushima Japan last March to evacuate American citizens within 50 miles of the stricken reactor complex at Fukushima Dai-ichi.

After appointing Steve Wentzel to the cell tower impacts committee and removing, at her request, Faye Zipkowitz, selectboard member Peter d'Errico advised sending the committee a charge, "to make it clear they are advisory to us. They should be clear the health thing is out of our hands. Mostly, it's wheel spinning," d'Errico said about the work of the fledgling committee.

D'Errico suggested that if the committee advised a change in proposed setbacks for cell tower construction in Leverett, they could not cite health impacts as a reason for increasing setback requirements without opening up the town to a potential lawsuit on the topic. Aesthetic concerns could be raised as a reason for increasing setbacks instead, he said.

The board awarded a contract to StanTech of Northampton to advise the town on the possible siting of private wells on land to the west of Roaring Brook on Teawaddle Hill Road. Drilling new wells is one possible solution

being explored to address the ongoing problem of private wells to the east of the brook on Teawaddle Hill Road which are in the plume of contaminants down-gradient of the town's former landfill.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said the town had entered into conversation with a landowner named Joe Sincuk about the possibility of siting private wells on his land, to the west of Roaring Brook, to feed the five or six homes to the east that are affected by the contaminant plume.

"He's open-minded to the whole idea," said Brazeau.



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WEDNESDAYS through SUNDAYS

UNTIL JUNE 17th

Fish Ladder at Unity Park, Turners Falls: Come see *migrating fish* navigate the fish ladder in Turners Falls, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Also open on Memorial Day.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

NOW through end of JUNE

Wendell Free Library: watercolors by the artist Jean Kozlowski of Northfield.

Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro: *Cowscapes, A Juried Photographic Exhibition*.

NOW through JUNE 10th

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



A Sea Lamprey swims past the viewing window at the Turners Falls Fish Ladder at Unity Park. Now open Wednesdays - Sundays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. until June 17th

NOW through June 1st

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

NOW through JUNE 16th

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

LOCAL EVENTS:

SATURDAY, MAY 26th

And SUNDAY, MAY 27th

Tim de Christopher's Sculpture Studio, Turners Falls: *Open Studio*, new work & stone carving demonstrations, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 24th

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

Wendell Community Garden: *Hands-on garden visits* focusing on monitoring for and identifying pests as well as natural enemies, experimenting with tools, pesticide application as necessary, preparing soil tests. 7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 25th

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, MAY 26th

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, MAY 27th

The Night Kitchen, Montague: *The Alex Snyderman Trio* Featuring *Chris Pattishall* (piano) & *Marty Jaffe* (bass). Dinner Set: 6:30 Later Set: 8-9:30 p.m.

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

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

MONDAY, MAY 28th

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30th

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Creative Networking Buzz*. Slip away from the daily grind & steal a few hours to meet with the creative community, 6-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 31st

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ray Mason*, the

legend, solo, 8 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1st

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Stray Birds*, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Family Fish Day!* 7th Annual Family Fish Day is free & open to everyone. Free raffle for everything from fishing gear to fishing trips! No need to bring any equipment. Learn to tie flies, cast fly fishing rods, & go fishing at Unity Park. Face painting & fish printing! 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artist Reception*. Brookline based artist C.J. Lori. Her work explores relationships between humanity & the environment. 1 - 3 p.m.

Montague Center Commons: *Montague Munch*, 1st annual traveling potluck featuring this year's topic, *Solarize Montague*. Residents from all five villages of the town are invited, from 4 - 7 p.m. Schedule: 4-5:30 p.m. - Appetizers, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Potluck pasta dinner at 1st Congregational Church, 6:30 p.m. Dessert at the Grange with a community square dance.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Heather Maloney*, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eilen Jewel with Los Straitjackets*, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 4th

Shutesbury Town Hall: *Slate Roof poets Janet MacFadyen & Ed Rayher with Mark Hart* read, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8th

Great Falls Discovery Center: *The Sky Blue Boys* perform at the *Great Falls Coffeehouse*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 22, 29
SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 23, 30
SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 24, and JULY 1st
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New Renaissance Players* presents *The Norman Conquests*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd and SUNDAY, JUNE 24th
Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *Mutton & Mead Festival*, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days.

7th Annual Valley Idol Singing Competition

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Valley Vegetables: Recipes for Forty of the Pioneer Valley's Vegetables

BY LESLIE BROWN -

LEVERETT - We are so lucky. The garden season has begun and here we are in a fertile valley in which a cornucopia of tasty vegetables can be harvested, fresh from the gardener's hand.

Now comes the perfect book, *Valley Vegetables: Recipes for Forty of the Pioneer Valley's Vegetables* by Leverett writer Claire Hopley.

A blend of the exquisitely simple and the exotically innovative ways to prepare 40 of our own locally produced vegetables, this book pleases from the outset with friendly, chatty text, clear directions and beautiful photos by Robert Hopley, the author's husband.

This paperbound book published by worker-owned Levellers Press in Amherst is available both in perfect-bound and spiral-bound form. The vegetables are arranged alphabetical-

ly with several recipes for each.

There is something here to please everyone.

Hopley blends what she calls the "affinity" of herbs and spices to complement each vegetable, bringing out its unique taste. Her asides are memorable; I won't forget the affinity for mint and fresh peas. She reminds us that even a few fresh mint leaves dropped in the cooking water will embellish the simplest dish of this fresh garden candy.

The recipes range from basic offerings like Brussels Sprouts with Chestnuts and Nutmeg or Mustard Mint Carrots to the wondrous Flower by the Wayside Curry of Cucumber and Shrimp, and Portuguese Kale Soup. There are recipes for salads, soups, main dishes and some baked goods all within these pages.

Hopley's warm voice pervades the text. She introduces each veg-

etable section with local lore and tips her hat to favorite recipe traditions we all fall back on. Still, as she notes in her introduction, there come times when every cook's back is to the garden wall, "...when a vegetable has been around for a bit and is still producing like mad you may find yourself ferreting out ways to use it."

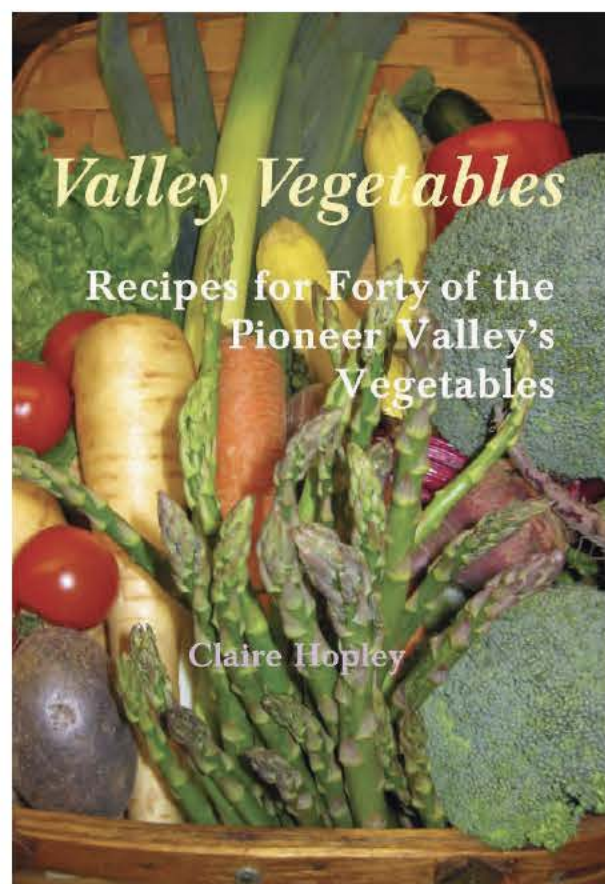
What to do with all that zucchini? How about Mexican Zucchini with Cream? Tired of the old standby salads? How about the Indian spices, cumin, coriander and cardamom in Spiced Tomato Salad?

This chef and writer homes in on the complementary flavors of other foods: ham and cheese with asparagus, spinach and fish, corn and salmon.

One recipe combines the licorice flavor of fennel, one of my favorites, with tomatoes, mussels and wine. I can taste it already!

Claire Hopley has written the Amherst Bulletin's food column for two decades. She is also the author of four other books about food and culinary history, and has been published in the *Boston Globe*, *Yankee Magazine*, *British Heritage* and the *Guardian*.

Hopley will be doing a book signing of *Valley Vegetables* at the North Amherst Farmers Market on Meadow Street on June 2nd.



REDUCED from page 5

Solarize Montague and other incentives, means that in most cases a PV system will be cost-effective for people that can take advantage of Solarize Montague. He discussed how to size a PV system, recommending energy efficiency as the best way to reduce the size and cost of the system needed. In fact, to participate in Solarize Montague, a building is required to have had a Mass Save energy assessment within the last six years, though the Montague Energy Committee recommends having one every two years or so, as Mass Save regularly adds new incentives.

Solarize Montague offers two ownership models for solar: outright purchase or a third party ownership, either through a lease or a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The PPA will offer an electricity rate for the building owner that is lower than the going rate. In return the installer benefits from incentives. People who purchase a PV system will receive state and federal tax credits, a state rebate, and can choose to sell their Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) through a broker, which helps reduce the payback period. The expected payback period is five to six years for discounted PV systems through the Solarize program,

depending on the pricing, size, usage, and SCREC market.

Participants have until September 30th to sign a contract with the solar installer for the program, after the installer has provided a free site assessment to determine if a site is feasible. The contractor will have a year from the contract signing to install the PV. Typically, installation takes three to six months. The starting price for the program is anticipated to be better than the standard PV price. From that low starting point, the price will drop further for all as the town reaches certain tiers or total quantities of contracted PV. Five pricing tiers will be set when the town selects a solar installer, around the end of May. Everyone who signs a contract under the Solarize program will receive the same price determined by the final tier reached by the town at the end of September.

Montague residents and business owners are encouraged to join the 25 or so building owners who already have PV systems (well above the state average on a per capita basis) and make Montague a visibly green community, with PV panels in all of its villages.

For Solarize Montague program updates or to be contacted by the solar installer, email: MontagueEnergyCommittee@gmail.com.

SCULPTED from page 7

Cunha's early religious experiences.

The AlterVirgins also draw on Cunha's cultural inheritance from her ancestral ties to Brazil and Portugal and all the many layers of religious syncretism that comes with that legacy. The viewer gets the feeling something powerful, natural and basic is at work. The sculptures emanate a certain carefreeness, a fearless exuberance that will make you pause.

If I seem to be talking about something way too ethereal, out of this world, or so drenched in mystic feminism as to be alienating, then let me say this: kitschy sardine can dioramas.

While the AlterVirgins steal the show for me, they're not the only reason to swing by the shop! The little vignettes in a can deal with both religious and political themes and are simply a delight to view. It's definitely serendipitous to find two artists who are in the habit of saving sardine cans and turning them into convenient niches for miniature art. Vernava's larger, more political contributions - as intricately done and rewarding - effectively lighten the

mood and help to give the show a more grounded feel.

In all, the pieces on display range from the sweet and whimsical to the edgy. Offerings like "Our Lady of Peace and Tranquil Tea" are typical of the softer side of the collection depicting a traditional Madonna arranged with a playful little dog and quaint tea set. It gives the viewer the promised sense of tranquility, the nourishing and comforting side of the Mother. On the other end of the spectrum, we find the "Mother Superior of the Order of Oddities" featuring a creepy looking baby doll dressed as a nun with three feet surrounded by buttons advertising various freak shows.

Fervor from the Truth runs through end of May so don't miss your chance to see it in such a great space. Cunha said it best when she told me that Nina's is really "the perfect place for it. You don't want to be far away from these - you want to get right inside!"

Stay tuned for the next

Montague Munch!

SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE -

On Saturday, June 2nd, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., residents and business owners from all five villages of Montague interested in going solar are invited to eat, talk and dance the evening away while learning about reduced cost solar power being offered



Howard Blodgett, with Solar Panels this summer through the Solarize Montague program.

This first annual Montague Munch, a traveling potluck, will be held at locations around the Montague Center Commons: the Montague Center library, a home on Main Street with working solar panels, the First Congregational Church of Montague, and the Montague Center Grange.

The idea came out of a conversation between Pastor Barbara Turner Delisle of the First Congregational Church and Montague energy committee chair Chris Mason. The planning expanded to include David Hansen of the Montague Center fire department, Luanne Herrick, coordinator of the pasta dinner at the church, Larry O'Connor, sustainability supporter and Montague Munch volunteer, and Pam Hanold, from the energy committee.

The event will start with potluck appetizers between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. at the Montague Center Library and at the home of Jill Bromberg and Howard Blodgett, owners of a solar electric (also called photovoltaic or PV) system. Here potluck travelers can talk with the owners and see

showing at Nina's shop as well. Breenapolooza, by the singular Eddie Breen will be on display starting June 1st. Breen is the pioneer of the artform known as "piggyback" art in which pieces of art that should probably be burned for being so awful (or at least hidden in the cellar, never to be hung again) are given a new life as the artist overlays often absurd comments and images.



what a PV system looks like on their 44 Main Street home. Mason will be there to answer technical questions about how PV and the incentives work.

According to Bromberg and Blodgett, getting PV for their home was an easy process. "It was something we talked about, but didn't know if it could work on an old house like ours, or if we got the amount of needed sunlight, being right in town. We bit the bullet and had our site assessed for free by our installer, and found out how doable it all was. We were walked through the paperwork process, and with the rebates and tax incentives, it really wasn't such a big deal."

Information and resources on energy efficiency and PV systems will be available at the library, and energy committee member Tim Van Egmond will be on hand to explain the weatherization techniques volunteers recently used to plug up drafts and make the library cozier and more energy efficient.

The pasta and potluck dinner at the church will take place between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Church volunteers will provide the pasta to be supplemented with potluck contributions. The dinner includes a brief presentation by Sheryl Sadler-Twyon, a neighbor and church member who has invested in weatherizing her home and in an energy efficient air source heat pump that heats and air conditions the house for much less than the oil furnace it replaced. To reduce her electrical use from the grid (the heat pump is electric), she plans to explore getting low-cost solar PV through the Solarize Montague program.

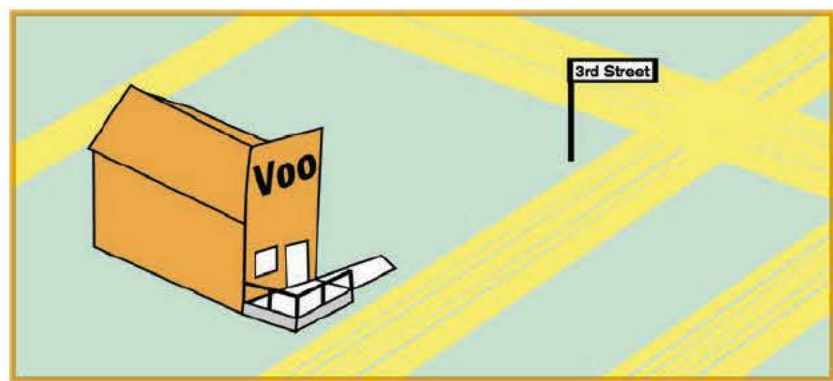
At 6:30, the traveling potluck continues at the Montague Center Grange, where people can eat dessert and then, starting at 7:00 p.m. put the caloric energy to good use with a community square dance.

The planning committee asks that people contribute food to the potluck according to the first letter of their last name or bring what fits if you can only make part of the event.

A-G - Appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages to the library or 44 Main Street from 4-5:30pm

H-O - Desserts to the Grange at 6:30pm

P-Z - Dinner items to the 1st Congregational Church at 5:30 p.m.



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