



## MONTAGUE ART MOVEMENT

Exhibit Sunday, at May Day Fest  
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## WE BETTER BEWARE

Bear Attack in Montague Center  
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 30

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 30, 2009

## Gill Hopes to Avoid 'Messy Divorce' with Montague Seeks to Study Regionalizing with Pioneer



DETMOLO PHOTO  
Associate Commissioner of Education Jeff Wulfson at the Gill Town Hall

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**— On Monday, the Montague selectboard canceled their regular meeting to attend a public hearing in the Gill town hall, to hear a presentation from the Commission on Education in Gill. Under pressure from the state — and from local budget makers — Franklin County school districts are considering changing boundaries and merging with other districts, and the town of Gill has taken the lead exploring options for the GMRSD.

After hearing the pres-

entation from the eight-member commission, Montague selectboard member Pat Allen said she would take a copy of its report — and a copy of the warrant articles on Gill's annual town meeting — back to Montague for consideration. The Gill town meeting warrant includes three articles asking voters to take preliminary steps to dissolve the Gill-Montague Regional School District, and to allow Gill to join the Pioneer School District.

Though these matters will be voted on at Gill's town meeting on Monday, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m., education commission co-chair Dorothy Storrow said, "We can't do anything without Montague, nor would we want to. The downside would be, are we going to end up in a really messy divorce?"

"We're going to take a copy back," said Allen. "We're happy to let you do

see **HOPES** pg 7

## Welcome in the May - O!



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA WELLS

Marlboro Morris Men perform an ancient dance to bring fertility to the Community Garden on Fourth Street in Turners Tuesday.

**JEANNE WEINTRAUB MONTAGUE CENTER**— Come welcome in the Spring at the Montague May Day celebration, to take place on Sunday, May 3rd.

Festivities begin around 10:30 a.m. All are invited to process from the

Montague Center post office to the town common. Young children have the honor of carrying the maypole.

Singing of May songs and maypole dancing will commence on the town green as the maypole is erected. With ringing bells

and the smashing of sticks, area Morris teams will wake the Earth and ensure fertility with capers and leaps, amid general merriment and frivolity.

Four Morris teams are expected to perform, including Guiding Star Clog Morris, Wake Robin

Women's Morris, Juggler Meadow Men's Morris, Hartsbrook Garland, and Johnny Jump-ups, a kid's team.

The annual event is free of charge, and participants are encouraged to bring along a blanket and picnic lunch.

## Theater Review

### Lest We Forget

Arena Civic Theater presents  
The Diary of Anne Frank at the Shea

**BY GEORGE FUNK TURNERS FALLS** — If we ignore our history, we will be doomed to repeat it. Arena Civic Theatre has undertaken to provide an antidote to social amnesia by giving us a much-needed shot in the arm with their latest production, *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

However, as important as the historical spotlight may be, it's the emotional truth that truly shines through in this story of the Holocaust's impact on one Jewish family. Faith, hope, love and the courage of the human spirit are the real stars of this tale, woven from the actual words of a teenage girl's diary written during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam.

The fact that *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the book on which the play is based, is the most widely read piece of literature in the English language second only to the Bible, truly demonstrates how profound and significant this tale is.

Anne Frank was one of over a million Jewish children who died during the Holocaust. Anne, with her mother, father, sister and four other Dutch Jews, spent over two years in hiding in an attic space over a manufacturing plant owned by some non-Jewish family friends, from July of 1942 to August of 1944.

The stage adaptation of the book was written by the husband and wife team



*The Diary of Anne Frank*  
composite image courtesy of Cathy King, ACT

of Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. It originally opened on Broadway at the Cort Theatre on October 5th, 1955.

This year marks not only what would have been Anne Frank's 80th birthday, but also the 39th year of operations for Arena Civic Theater. Audiences can thank ACT

for a rich and diverse history of local theater offerings, and also for taking on this daunting and well-executed production.

The cast and crew prepared themselves with enthusiasm and thoroughness. They pored over historical material, shared documentary film footage, and even paid a visit to the  
see **REVIEW** pg 12

## Residents Raise Concern on Police Chief Contract

**BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL** — Four residents attended a meeting of the Gill selectboard at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23rd, and were given five minutes to speak before the board went into executive session to continue discussions about the renewal of the police chief's contract. Chief David Hastings' contract is up at the end of June; the board has held several executive sessions recently to discuss the terms of his contract. Those discussions are expected to be completed with negotiations between Chief Hastings and the selectboard this afternoon, April 30th, at 3:30 p.m.

The Gill residents who spoke at the meeting expressed the hope that the selectboard would limit what has been a three-year contract to a one-year contract instead, considering

both the present economic uncertainties, and the effort Gill has been making to open discussions with the neighboring towns of Bernardston and Northfield about the possibility of sharing a police chief.

Additionally, the residents objected to a clause contained in the contract that stipulates the chief shall be entitled to a 'lump sum severance payment equal to the balance of any term of the appointment, but in no event less than twelve months salary and benefits,' in the event he is terminated during the term of the contract for any reason other than just cause, or decides to resign "following a formal suggestion by the board of selectmen for the town of Gill that he resign before the expiration of his term of contract."

Finance committee chair  
see **POLICE** pg 7

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Purrfect Beauty



**Ted**

My name is Ted and I'm a 2-year-old male black and white short hair FIV+ cat in need of a good home. Wait! Just a minute! Don't stop reading about me because I'm a FIV cat. That's just a cat-only immunodeficiency condition ... it does mean I shouldn't live with other cats, but it won't affect people or dogs. And I have lived in a family with dogs. The shelter staff can explain it all to you.

I'm really such a friendly guy. I love to be petted, and when you do, you will hear a lovely purr. Don't you think that one of the best ways to relax is with a purring cat? For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: leverett@dphvs.org.

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## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

### Geology Walking Tour

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – There will be a GeoTour with geologist Steve Winters starting in front of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, May 2nd from 1 to 3 p.m. The guided interpretive walk will be slow paced and over mostly level terrain. Free copies of his

Geologic Walking Tour booklet will be given to participants.

This is the first event of the annual Crabapple Blossom Festival, which runs from May 1 to 17, and is sponsored by the Montague Public Libraries and RiverCulture. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

### Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival will be held on Tuesday, May 5th, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in Peskeompskut Park. Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson of Montague will perform a bilingual concert from 10 to 11 a.m. during the event, which will also include arts and crafts activities, an informal parade around the

park, a Turners Falls fire truck, and free refreshments. If it rains, the festival will be held inside the Carnegie Library.

The Community Partnerships for Children and the Montague Public Libraries are sponsoring the event, which is part of the crabapple blossom festival which runs from May 1st to 17th. For more information, call: 863-3214.

## WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

### Improve Your Vision Naturally

A free lecture on Natural Vision Improvement will be held at the Wendell Free Library on Thursday, May 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Do you have poor eyesight? Are you tired of glasses or contacts? Take a step towards seeing clearly at all distances using your own eyes. Come learn the three fundamental natural vision principles discovered by NYU oph-

thalmologist William H. Bates, with Jana Vilner. Vilner became a certified Natural Vision Improvement educator under the instruction of Thomas R. Quackenbush, author of Relearning to See: Improve Your Eyesight – Naturally! She also holds a degree in molecular biology and diplomas in massage therapy and modern dance. For more info call: 978-544-3559.

### Impressionism: Monet's Magic Garden

A free pastel painting workshop for adults, materials included, will be held at the Wendell Free Library, on 7 Wendell Depot Rd., Wendell, on Saturday, May 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, with award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack.

This workshop, called "Impressionism, Monet's Magic Garden," is designed for sheer beginners to advanced partici-

pants. Seats may fill quickly, so please, call the library at (978) 544-3559 to pre-register. If you like, bring a photo or image to work from.

Maichack, a faculty member of the Springfield Museum Studio School, will explain Monet's favorite color harmonies and contrasts, broken color, and color triads, and explore concepts such as Impressionist Shimmer.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 4th to May 8th

**GILL/MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities. Council on Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. Congregate meals are served on Tuesday through Friday. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357 or 863-4500. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

### Monday, 4th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics

### Tuesday, 5th

9:00 a.m. Walking Group

10:00 a.m. Brown Bag

1:00 p.m. Canasta

### Wednesday, 6th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday, 7th

11:00 a.m. "Enhance Your Memory While Having Fun". Wanda Landry, Director of Alzheimer's Center at Quabbin Valley Healthcare will be at the

Senior Center to speak on activities that you can do to enhance your memory and learn how your lifestyle can affect your brain.

1:00 p.m. Pitch

### Friday, 8th

10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics

1:00 p.m. Scrabble

The Montague mealsite is in need of a volunteer to prepare the Monday meal. This job takes about 3 hours to warm pre-cooked meals, serve and clean the kitchen afterwards.

Gill/Montague Senior Trips, Call 863-9357 or 863-4500 for more information: The Lighthouse Trail, Thursday May 21st, \$71. Per person. Upcoming trip: Cape Cod Canal Cruise, Tuesday June 16th, \$69 per person.

**WENDELL** Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs.

## FACES & PLACES



**Cool Running**

DETMOLD PHOTO

Robbie Heller beads down Avenue A on his return trip to Wendell last Thursday, in his custom built reclining bike.

## Great Falls Farmers Market

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For events: www.MontagueMA.net Click on Farmers Market

## Town of Montague Tax Bills Due

The second half FY '09 real estate and district tax bills are due by Monday, May 4th. Payments received after this date are subject to a 14% interest penalty.

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment.

For the convenience of town residents, you may now pay all real estate, district and personal property bills online at www.montague.net. Go to departments, treasurer/collector, online bill payments for directions.

The tax office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Wednesday until 6:30 p.m.



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## Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

### Grade 6

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Sara Bradley

### Grade 7

Shelbi Williams

### Grade 8

Katie Brunell

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## Bear Attacks Ewe in Montague Center

**BY MOLLIE FULLER** – At about 7:30 a.m. on April 20th, we were sitting in the playroom and eating breakfast, when Jazzie, my one-year-old English shepherd, scratched at the door to go out. My dad got up to let her out, and when he closed the door, he heard her barking.

He commanded, "Jazzie! No bark!" but she kept right on barking. When he went out to yell at her again, he was soon yelling at something over by the sheep pen.

He came inside the house and as quickly as possible he put on his muck boots, and went out to the barn and threw a bucket, yelled, and flailed his arms. When he came back inside the house, he said, "There was a bear inside the sheep pen and I think the bear nearly killed Burdie!"

When he said that, my mom leaped off the futon, and ran over to the door to put on her muck shoes. Then they both went out there to make sure the bear was far away in the woods.

They were out there quite a long time, and I just stayed inside.

When my mom came back inside, she told me that the bear had scratched Burdie across the throat, bit her back, and bit her udder. She also called the Environmental Police, so they could track the bear down and, hopefully, shoot it.

I know it's sad, but because Burdie was suffering and struggling, my dad had to slit her throat so she would be out of her misery. Then my dad dragged her out of the sheep pen, and put her in a wagon, and pulled the wagon down to the woods, where he skinned her.

When my mom and I went down to check on my dad, he had skinned the ewe and was starting to take the organs out. We told him we were going to the Greenfield Farmers Supply in Greenfield to get stuff to feed the triplet lambs.

When we got back home, the Environmental Police came and asked us what had happened.

For me, the best part was that the Environmental Police brought their two hounds to search for the bear. When they

brought the dogs to where the bear had been, I for sure thought the dogs had picked up the scent, but when one policeman came up from the field he said the dogs hadn't picked up on anything. I was very bummed out.

The dogs headed off our property, so one of the environmental policemen jumped into a truck and followed the dogs. The officer knew where the dogs were going because they had radio collars and bells around their necks.

The officer who had stayed with us said he was willing to come during the evening and just keep an eye on things.

Before they left, they set a trap and put some meat in it to entice the bear.

We looked at the trap through binoculars probably every 15 to 20 minutes to see if the trap was closed. Sadly, it never was.

Since neither of my parents felt like cooking, we went out to dinner at the Lady Killigrew. We had a nice time playing cards and eating food.

After dinner, when we drove see **BEAR** pg 9

## DENTAL HEALTH and SELF-CARE FAIR

**GREENFIELD** – A dental health fair for Franklin County families with children ages 0 to 5 will take place at the Academy of Early Learning, located at the North Parish building, corner of Conway and Silver Streets, in Greenfield, on Saturday, May 2nd, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Dental screening will be offered at no cost to families from 9 a.m. until 11

a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. From 11 to 11:45 a.m., there will be a performance of the Caravan Puppet show's "Food, Glorious Food," with free books, dental health kits, activities for children, and healthy snacks for the family.

The event promotes family awareness on the importance of oral health and oral hygiene, and made possible by a grant from the United Way of Franklin County and the Department of Early Education and Care.

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Adults: \$10.00; Children under 12: \$5.00  
For Reservations Call: 413-774-7256  
Walk-ins Welcome

## Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival

**BY LINDA HICKMAN** – The sixth annual Turners Falls Crabapple Blossom Festival is underway, from May 1st to May 17th. Many of the downtown streets and parks in Turners Falls are lined with flowering crabapple and apple trees, and the festival events are meant to encourage people to come and enjoy the flowers along with the village's nature, art, history and architecture.



*Crabapple Blossom*

On Saturday, May 9th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries are running a used book sale at the Carnegie Library. Books are \$2 a bag. Also on Saturday morning, there will be a children's Flower Planting Program at the Carnegie Library at 10:30 a.m. with Ruth O'Mara. On Sunday, May 10th, a Fun Bike Ride and History Tour will start at the beginning of the Turners Falls bike path in Unity Park at 1 p.m. The ride will last eight miles, and

will cover the bike path and Migratory Way. Librarian Linda Hickman, author of The Turners Falls Historical Walking Tour brochure, will lead the ride and provide commentary.

On Tuesday, May 12th, there will be a hands-on science program for young children at the Carnegie Library at 10 a.m. on Bees, Butterflies and Blossoms with naturalist Dawn Marvin Ward, sponsored by the

Community Partnership for Children.

The Turners Falls Fishway will open for the season on Wednesday, May 13th. The fish ladder viewing facilities are open Wednesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through June 14th.

The Crabapple Blossom Festival ends with the Arts and Blooms Artist Studio Walking Tours, on Saturday and Sunday, May 16th and 17th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The festival is organized by the Montague Public Libraries, with collaboration and support from other partners, including RiverCulture. During the festival, free self-guided Turners Falls Historical Walking Tour booklets, Geological Walking Tour booklets, and lists of area attractions will be available at the Carnegie Library and the Great Falls Discovery Center. For more information call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

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## Who Owns Our Schools?

### A Look at School and District Governance

BY KEN ROCKE –

We value what we feel a part of. So it is for families, for jobs, and for schools as well. When our schools become too large, or too distant, or if we feel disconnected from them, we find it hard to value and support them. If we want to create positive new school governance structures in Franklin County, we will have to find a way to make students and parents, teachers and administrators, residents and community members all a genuine part of our school communities.

How can we do this? Our current structures – regional school districts, superintendency unions, regulation from Malden and Boston – although well-intentioned, more often promote feelings and perceptions of distance and removal than of participation and ownership. Many people feel that key decisions about our schools are being made without sufficient input from those who care most deeply about the quality and effectiveness of our schools.

What if we organized the governance of our schools in a different way? What if we could create a governance structure that offered teaches, parents and community members the opportunity to participate in essential decision-making for their own community-based schools?

The Readiness School Project, promoted by Governor Patrick, Secretary of Education Paul Reville and Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester, may offer us just this kind of opportunity. Although still in the conceptual stage, Readiness Schools could empower teams of teachers, parents and community members to have a direct role in the structure and management of their own community schools.

The Readiness School idea, modeled in large part after the Boston Pilot Schools project, a highly successful group of schools within the Boston Public School system, is a good idea

looking for a home. Franklin County could be that home.

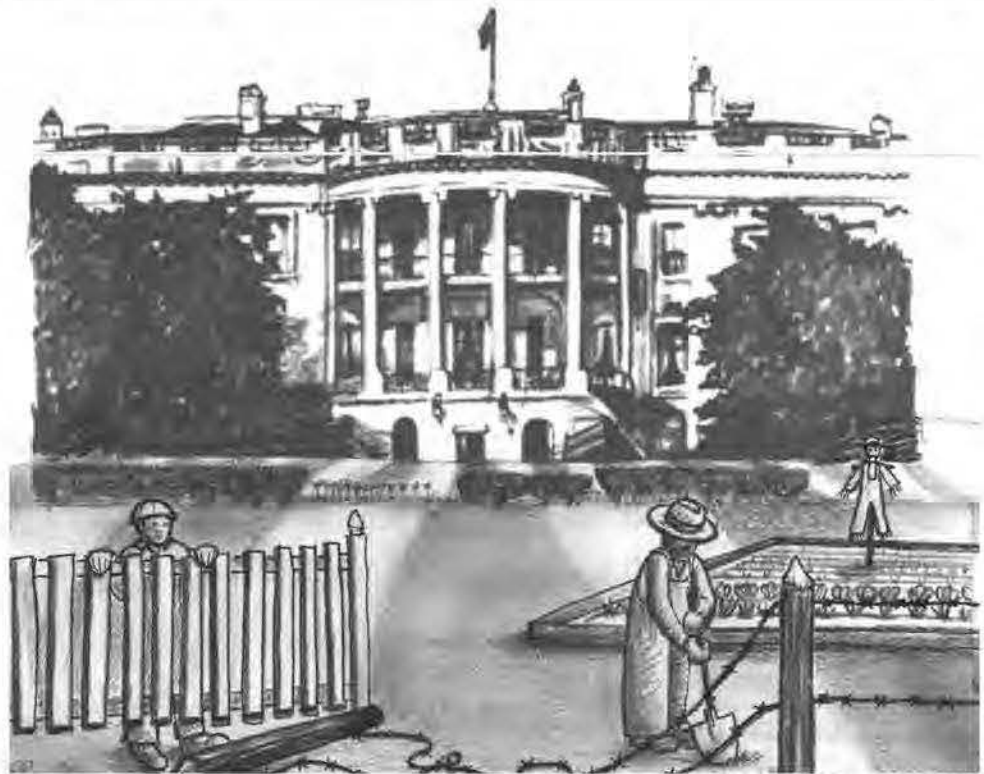
Although the model was developed to address problems of low achievement in urban school districts, essential components of that model – small, successful schools operating within larger management structures – might be successfully transplanted to our rural area.

Small schools are often successful schools in large part precisely because parents, teachers and students all feel themselves to be part of a genuine community – a school community. How could we balance that value – that sense of ownership and participation – with the economies of scale and capacity for school improvement that arise from larger organizational structures?

The key here would be to increase educational decision-making at the local level, while simultaneously increasing regional collaboration around those fiscal and educational issues that require larger groups to be effective. When the Gill-Montague Regional School District joined the Group Insurance Commission last year, our insurance rates went down, and our coverage stayed the same. Everybody gained. In a similar way, districts banding together to bid bus transportation contracts, or to merge payroll systems, or to do joint purchasing of essential products and services, can only benefit our schools and taxpayers.

When it comes to professional development for teachers, the issues become a little trickier, but could still be managed. We're currently exploring a wonderful new program for pre-school and kindergarten students called Tools of the Mind. If Gill-Montague 'goes it alone' with a new program, benefits will be confined to the schools of Gill and Montague. If other districts get involved, the impact would be that much greater, and the costs would be shared across multiple

see SCHOOL pg 6



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

## 100 Days of Change

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Lyme Disease: the Gold Standard

There has recently been discussion on these pages about the validity of different approaches to treating Lyme disease. There are many opinions and there is some controversy as to which of many theories is the most valid.

Dr. Emily Maiella has comprehensively researched, diagnosed and treated this condition, has developed an excellent reputation as a doctor, and continues to do everything possible

to educate the public about this terrible disease. She has earned the right through her own work and experience to be respected for her opinions on Lyme disease.

"The gold standard is the old standard" is an old saying that seems to be applicable here. Practitioners of allopathic medicine and government organizations that purport to have developed a 'scientific' approach to the treatment of Lyme disease

have yet to be able to consistently diagnose the disease, much less develop a successful treatment protocol. And yet we are encouraged to accept this as the gold standard of treatment for the disease.

Science is no more than the application of a theory until disproved. We have a long way to go until we see whose theories will be disproved.

– Jeffrey Bauman, Esq.  
Wendell

#### Was Horace Mann Such a Bad Idea for Montague Center School?

I hope I am not alone in seeing the irony in the current situation with the Montague Center School building. The town (which ultimately means the taxpayers) has paid nearly twenty thousand dollars to an outside consulting firm to tell us that the building would be best used as a school!

Last year, we had an alternative presented that would have solved many of the problems we

are now facing: a group of parents and community members, working with little time, presented a thoughtful and reasonable proposal for a Horace Mann Charter School, a school which would have kept money flowing through the district and kept the Montague Center School in use, with needed updates and renovations. Unfortunately this proposal was denied by the school committee,

and instead we're seeing more families choice out of the district at the same time as we've had a baby boom in town. (Have you seen all the strollers and kids at the playground?) Sadly, I don't think we'll ever see the Montague Center School building used as a school again.

– Joanna Frankel  
(former resident of Montague Center)  
Gill

#### Thanks To The Roadhouse

A couple of weeks ago my daughter asked if I could drive her and a few other Turners Falls High School track team members over to the Route 63 Roadhouse after school. "The Roadhouse?" I asked. She nodded, then told me the Roadhouse was "hiring" the team to rake their grounds.

What a great community we live in, I thought, and what a creative way to both engage and support our kids.

When I picked the girls up (a bunch of seventh graders who are all part of the one and only high school team) I thanked Jamie Snyder, co-owner of the Roadhouse with Carol Cameron, and commented on how nice it was for them to do this – in exchange for an afternoon of light raking, they provided the team with sandwiches and \$200. He'd

told me how a few years back Carol's son came home in a threadbare track uniform, so he figured this was a good way to help fund the team.

According to the coach, Roadhouse has been supporting the team in this way for the past six years. Especially in these tough economic times, it's really great to see community support for these kids. So thank you again, Carol and Jamie.

– Emily Monosson  
Montague Center

#### We Welcome Your Letters!

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**GUEST EDITORIALS**

**Next to Go: the Indian Mascot**

BY JOE DLUGOSZ

**GREENFIELD** — The Tomahawk Chop is dead, thanks to the superintendent and the school committee. Any further meetings to discuss the Chop are just a sham to make students and residents think they actually had some input into the decision, but the decision has already been reached.

However, I really don't understand the sensitivity, stereotype logic. Indians were warriors. They were fearless and brave. They used whatever weapons they had to protect their land, their tribe, and their families. One of the weapons they used to dispatch their enemies was a tomahawk, usually brought down in a chopping fashion.

Why do we want to dishonor brave fighting warriors by saying that a tomahawk chop is degrading? What is wrong with maintaining an image of bravery and fearlessness? Someone asked, what would Indian ancestors say about the Chop? My take is, they would be proud to be remembered as

warriors who used the weapon to do what they had to do; it should not be removed. It is an honor to be remembered as brave and fearless.

I wonder if the acting superintendent had any idea what a can of worms he would open up by banning the Chop. Next to go, of course, will be the Indian mascot, because apparently it is degrading, stereotypical, and insensitive.

My response, once again, is that the mascot is just the opposite: it honors a brave, fighting people.

I went to Turners High and played sports. We didn't win everything, but we fought to the end, even if the score was very one-sided. That's what all the Turners teams do. That's what it means to be an Indian. Outnumbered by whites or other tribes, an Indian would fight his enemies to the end.

Now people want to dishonor that spirit by changing the mascot and the name of the sports teams. That is just wrong. Do people think the name Indians was chosen

so long ago to degrade or to belittle the Indians that lived here? I don't think so.

I believe the name was chosen to emulate the brave, fearless qualities of the Indians. What better name for a sports team from this area could there be? Now someone wants to change the name of Turners Falls because it was named after Captain Turner, who slaughtered Indians by the falls.

As I recall from reading, the attack was in retaliation for the Bloody Brook Massacre. And don't forget that Indians attacked Old Deerfield in the wee hours of the morning.

One should not try to change history because bad events happened. One cannot be so supersensitive that one tries to erase, to hide, or to whitewash historical events. Leave the Chop alone, leave the mascot alone, and above all, leave the name of Turners alone. They are all parts of the history of our area, and that can't and shouldn't be changed.

**Write In for Housing Authority**

My name is Paula Girard. I am running as a write-in candidate for the Montague Housing Authority board, for a two-year term.

My knowledge and experience for this position comes from working as the executive director of the Montague Housing Authority for 13 years, now retired. Board members oversee the Authority budget, make policy, collectively serve as advocates for low- and moderate-income populations, address the political, economic and cultural aspects of the community, cultivate a working relationship

with local government agencies, and support the executive director and the tenants of the Montague Housing Authority.

With my past experience with the board, I believe I would be an effective member. Please vote on May 18th, 2009.

To vote for me, you must write my full name and address as a write-in candidate for a two-year term for the Montague Housing Authority, and mark an X in the box at the end of the line.

**-Paula Girard  
76 Dell Street  
Turners Falls**

**Remembering Katie Liimantainen**

Friends, family and the community will be remembering Katie (Shea) Liimantainen of Erving with a fundraising spaghetti supper May 2nd at the Montague Elks Lodge. Katie, who grew up in Turners Falls, lost her battle with leukemia in March at the age of 27, leaving behind daughter, husband, father and brother.

Her mother Jane lost her own battle against cancer last year.

The family is struggling with the staggering medical costs from Katie's bone marrow transplant, hospital stays, medications and chemotherapy, and a fund has been established for the education of Katie's daughter Madison.

Katie's co-workers at Sun Life Financial employee benefits group are hosting the fundraising supper. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Supper will be served from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join in remembering Katie and helping her family, tickets can be purchased at Scotty's Store or Pipione's Sport Shop in Turners Falls, or the French King Entertainment Center in Erving. You may also contact Kerri LaPointe at Sun Life Financial of Greenfield by phone at (860) 737-4007.

**-Kerri Brown LaPointe  
Turners Falls**

**Disturbed by IDSA Boosterism**

BY SHARON WACHSLER

**WENDELL** — I was disturbed to see Dr. Allen Ross's letter in last week's *Montague Reporter*, in which he intimated that those who think they have chronic Lyme disease present "a constellation of nonspecific symptoms, such as relentless fatigue and achiness." He quotes the CDC to support his boosterism of IDSA's (Infectious Disease Society of America) stance on Lyme, which adheres to diagnosing and treating Lyme not on the basis of clinical evidence, but on blood tests. He claims the previous week's Lyme-literate editorial was "misleading" and suggests Quackwatch as a "more legitimate" source of information.

Here are some facts and the human side to the debate, from a casualty in this war of ideologies:

Two years ago, I pulled an engorged deer tick off the nape of my neck. A few weeks later, I had pain in several joints, which I'd never had before. I didn't connect the two events until my doctor

suggested a Lyme test. I rechecked the area of the tick bite and discovered a red rash had bloomed (known as an erythema migrans). I had a host of other symptoms that are classic acute Lyme symptoms, which I'd chalked up to other causes. My blood test was negative, but I was started immediately on antibiotics. Why?

Quoting from the CDC website: "Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, objective physical findings (such as erythema migrans, facial palsy, or arthritis), and a history of possible exposure to infected ticks. Validated laboratory tests can be very helpful but are *not* generally recommended when a patient has erythema migrans." (Emphasis theirs.)

I did not fully recover on treatment. I got partially better, and when I went off it, I got worse. Much worse. My symptoms were not vague and "unspecific." I developed severe neurological problems (recorded by multiple

specialists and GPs), including vagal nerve damage resulting in vocal apraxia (inability to speak), abnormal reflexes, and weakness so severe I often couldn't feed myself or lift my own legs. I also had bloodwork indicating immune system problems specific to Lyme, as well as other abnormalities I never had before that tick bite.

I was tested over and over for Lyme and other tick-borne diseases (TBDs); all tests were negative. Every page of every TBD blood test I got says, "Diagnosis should not be based on laboratory tests alone. Results should be interpreted in conjunction with clinical symptoms and patient history." I had multiple indeterminate results, all deemed negative.

Of course, I also had exhaustion and pain so severe it often left me immobilized. I've spent a year-and-a-half bedbound; presumably this is what Ross means by "fatigue and achiness."

Regardless, with a known his-

tory of an Ixodes tick bite, a rash at the site, acute Lyme symptoms, and measurable hematological, immune, musculoskeletal, and neurological abnormalities, wouldn't it seem that I had an absolutely convincing case of Lyme? Even by CDC and testing facility standards -- based on their own words and materials? And that since it had continued for over a year, it was "chronic"?

Not to those who are affected by IDSA (either through misinformation or intimidation), which demands reliance on tests and a clinical picture painted over 30 years ago that excludes the possibility of chronic infection. My doctors told me, "Lyme doesn't do THIS," stopped treatment, and sent me away. One asked if I'd consulted a psychiatrist. Nine months of agony later -- a year-and-a-half after the tick bite -- I decided to try getting tested again and came up positive for Lyme and babesia. After six months of aggressive treatment, I have finally started to improve.

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# Town Hall Crash



The scene last Thursday night, when a Ford van going about 70 m.p.h. traveling north on Avenue A missed a turn onto First Street

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** — On Thursday night, at about 7:54 p.m., customers exiting the Subway on Avenue A saw a purple van hurtling north on Avenue A. It came to a halt seconds later after striking another car at the intersection of First Street, taking down a large sign announcing the town's sidewalk renovation project

**SCHOOL** from pg 4 schools.

The question is — what kind of governance structure would encourage and facilitate that kind of multi-district educational collaboration, without losing the sense of local control and participation that makes small schools successful?

If we could find a way to genuinely empower existing school community councils, whose powers are currently advisory in nature, we could then free region-

ect mounted on six-by-six posts, two ornamental hitching posts, a replica antique lamp pole, and demolishing the glass foyer of the Montague town hall and crumpling a corner of the brick façade of the front door of that historic building.

According to witness reports and subsequent investigation at the scene, the driver of the Ford Winstar, Melody Hillock, 50, of Rastallis Street, was travelling at a speed of between 50 and 70 miles per hour when she attempted to execute a right hand turn onto First Street.

Jason Damon, a resident of Warren, PA, also driving north

al school committees to focus more effectively on districtwide concerns of policy, budget and strategic planning. The Boston Pilot Schools model, channeled through the Readiness Project, offers just that kind of potential: increased local control together with greater regional collaboration.

Ken Roche is the interim superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

on Avenue A on his way out of town to return to Pennsylvania, called the Montague police to say he had seen Hillock's lights in his rear view mirror, going approximately twice as fast as the 25 to 30 miles per hour he was traveling when he pulled over by the entrance of the Gill-Montague bridge, hoping to avoid being rear-ended by her van.

Waiting at the stop sign at First Street for a break in traffic, were Diane and Kevin Gibson of Gill, driving a Buick sedan with Diane at the wheel. The front corner of their car was struck by Hillock's van.

Officer Bill Doyle, who responded to the scene of the accident, said "yaw marks" left by the tread of Hillock's tires as they squealed into the turn from Avenue A towards First Street indicated the speed the vehicle was traveling, and the fact that — even without the collision with the Gibsons' car — "there was no way that car would have made that turn."

Doyle said the impact spun the Gibsons' car around into the curb, knocking over one ornate lamppost at the corner of the sidewalk.

Hillock's van, after glancing off the Buick, continued on its curving trajectory over the curb, knocking down several obstacles and threading the needle through surrounding trees before crashing into town hall, causing a crack in the interior wall of the treasurer/collector's office.

The main floors of town hall

were empty at the time. Downstairs, the police dispatcher said the sound of the crash was like "a filing cabinet falling over," as it reached the basement in the rear of the masonry building.

The occupants of both vehicles were taken to Baystate Franklin Medical Center; the Gibsons were released the following day, and Hillock was transferred to another hospital.

Doyle said Hillock was "incoherent" following the accident. She was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving to endanger, speeding, marked lines violation, and malicious destruction of property.

On Friday, with town hall closed on the four-day work week, a crew from the DPW dismantled the damaged foyer, while locksmith Brian SanSoucie installed a new lock for the front door. Bergeron said inquiries would be made to determine whether the 1980-vintage lamp posts could be replaced with similar stock, although a switch from cast iron to fiberglass construction is being considered.

Building inspector David Jensen said the services of a structural engineer would probably not be needed prior to repairing the building. "In my experience, their knowledge of masonry construction is limited, and an experienced mason could provide us with better information," he said. Jensen said the interior crack in the front office was probably due to the shock of

impact, rather than a lateral displacement of the masonry wall.

Bergeron said after the insurance adjustors got through with their inspection, the town would hire contractors to replace oil-soaked pavement in front of the town hall, and to repair the masonry and rebuild the front foyer.

Last Thursday evening, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio returned to town hall to inspect the damage, and sat for an interview with a Springfield television crew. He mentioned that while he was town administrator in the town of Lee, some years ago, a bus had crashed into the town hall there.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Randall Wood B & E

**Wednesday, 4/22**  
 2:55 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Randall Wood Drive address.  
 9:29 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a straight warrant.  
**Thursday, 4/23**  
 8:38 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Cemetery Road address.  
 7:58 p.m. Accident with personal injury on Avenue A near the police department. Speeding van driven by [redacted]

[redacted] struck another vehicle, streetlamps and the Town Hall. Occupants of both vehicles removed to the hospital. The driver of the van has been charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, operating a vehicle so as to endanger others, speeding, marked lanes violations, and malicious destruction of property.  
**Friday, 4/24**  
 9:11 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Turnpike Road address.

10:32 a.m. Report of vandalism at Shady Glen diner on Avenue A.  
 10:52 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. Peace restored.  
**Saturday, 4/25**  
 7:37 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Turners Falls Road address.  
 7:52 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Main Street address.  
 11:15 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Court Square address.  
 11:58 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Fifth Street address.  
 3:14 p.m. Report of larceny at a Fairway Avenue address. Caller advised of

options.  
 3:20 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Bridge Street address.  
 6:18 p.m. Report of larceny from a Fourth Street address.  
 7:10 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Grove Street address.  
**Monday, 4/27**  
 8:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] as a fugitive from justice, government of Maine warrant.  
**Tuesday, 4/28**  
 10:43 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Vladish Avenue address.

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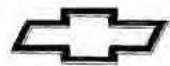
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**HOPES from pg 1**

the initial work.”

The town of Gill provides about 16% of the student population of the Gill-Montague district.

More than three dozen residents of Gill attended Monday’s presentation, which included a follow-up pre-town meeting discussion on two warrant articles related to the possible sale of town property.

Commission members Kyle Maurer, Peter Conway, Jenn Waldron, JoAnne Rabideau, Joanne Wallace, and Sue Sibley, joined co-chairs Ted Castro-Santos and Storrow at the front of the hall for the presentation, which was preceded by a short pep-talk from Jeff Wulfson, the associate commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Wulfson said, “Clearly, this is a discussion going on all around the state: ‘How can we most efficiently deliver all government services, and especially education?’ I’m tired of coming out here to deal with districts in crisis. I feel like I’ve been doing that for the last ten years, first with Mohawk, then with Greenfield, now with Gill-Montague. I spend more of my time answering phone calls asking, ‘Is the state going to come up with more money for small rural districts that are losing kids?’ and the answer is, ‘I don’t think so.’ The fact that there are 15 school committees and 11 districts [serving Franklin County] raises eyebrows in Boston.”

He continued, “This isn’t about how to save a few thousand dollars and shave a few cents off the tax rate. I’d like to think this is about what kind of education do we want for our children in the 21st century.

“I can tell you what my vision is,” said Wulfson, and he went on to say he would like to see “a single administrative district that can deliver all services,” to county schools, such as administration, transportation, accounting, and menu planning, while “at the same time, more, not less, local control at the school building level.” This would be facilitated by the creation of stronger school community councils, with pow-

ers to shape the way education is designed and delivered at the local schools.

Wulfson said, “A whole new way of financing schools” needs to be established. “Clearly, an argument can be made that state aid is inadequate,” while the constraints of Proposition 2½ lead to “non-productive discussions and friction” at the local level between towns and schools.

But as to how the state will ultimately proceed on the issue of regionalization, “I can’t answer those questions,” Wulfson said. “Any kind of leadership, any kind of vision has to come from the communities themselves.”

Wulfson warned the audience not to waste the present opportunity by “tinkering with the status quo.” Despite beautiful scenery and affordably priced homes, he said, “you don’t have an outstanding school system that attracts families and the businesses that follow them.”

He concluded with a phrase that would have warmed the heart of Daniel Shays, saying, “If we’re going to have a revolution, Franklin County is the place to start.”

Then, though there was nothing particularly revolutionary therein, Storrow presented the Commission on Education in Gill’s findings. (The entire report can be downloaded at [www.gill-mass.org](http://www.gill-mass.org).)

Among the highlights:

- The town of Gill has experienced slow but steady growth since the 1960s.
- The number of Gill children attending GMRSD schools has dropped “precipitously” – 40% – over the same time span, while there has been only a 4% drop in school-aged population.
- Major losses to school choice occur at grades 1, 2, 7 and 9.
- 30% of school-aged children from Gill are not attending school in the district, taking a potential \$300,000 in state aid away from the GMRSD.
- The percentage of Gill students choosing out of the district increased following the steep drop in state aid in 2002 and 2003, and the cuts to teachers and staff that followed.
- The GMRSD as a whole is los-

ing \$995,000 a year in state aid due to school choice students leaving the district, and gaining only \$529,000 from students choosing in.

• 24 of Gill’s school age children currently attend school in the Pioneer Regional School District, a number that has held steady since before the consolidation of Northfield Mount Hermon on the Gill campus.

• Out of the 135 children attending the Gill Elementary School this year, 75 of them (56%) are from the town of Gill, most of the others are from Montague and Greenfield.

• Gill’s assessment for the GMRSD has increased 61% since 2000.

• State aid for the GMRSD has increased by only 1% during the same time span, largely due to the loss of students to surrounding districts through school choice

Storrow said, “Our school committee has been faced with a daunting challenge, with rising fixed costs, declining state aid, declining enrollment, and trying to keep salaries competitive. Even with increased assessments the schools have often been providing level services.”

She said the formation of the Commission on Education in Gill last December was prompted by concerns about the rising school assessments, the loss of local control underscored by the state takeover of the GMRSD budget process last year, and concerns about the quality of education symbolized by the state’s designation of the GMRSD as an “underperforming” school district, with high dropout rates and some MCAS scores in the “needs improvement” category.

Storrow said, “The state perceives we have too many school districts for the number of students in the county. [According to a study by the New England School Development Council] ‘School districts with 5,000 students are optimal to deliver services efficiently. There are 1082 students in Gill-Montague right now.’”

Storrow said Gill essentially has two available options for public K - 12 education: either see **HOPES** pg 10

**POLICE from pg 1**

Tupper Brown said, “Regarding the police chief contract, I simply want to remind the selectboard the finance committee sent a recommendation to you that the contract be limited to one year, and no golden parachute clause within it. Most of the towns around us of similar size do not have any police chief contracts at all: Ashfield, Shelburne, Conway...”

Selectboard chair Nancy Griswold, who formerly served on the Ashfield selectboard, said, “They all have strong chiefs, who don’t have to answer to anyone.”

Brown nonetheless insisted the recommendation from the finance committee was unanimous on those two points.

Town moderator Ray Steele said, “I wanted to ask that the process be opened up more. We should rely on the strength of the people in town. With the economic situation today, I’ve been reading that this may be the best year of the next three. I feel strongly the chief’s contract should be for one year. As for golden parachutes, that’s the type of thing that got us into the situation we’re in today,” with the global economic upheaval, Steele said. “I never knew what our police chief’s contract was, and that it had those provisos in there.”

Selectboard member Ann Banash said, “It’s been there since the beginning.”

David Hastings has been chief of police for Gill for 13 years, the selectboard said.

Griswold added, “The contract’s been in place for many years, and no one’s said anything until now.”

Steele rejoined, “I would dare to say no one knew anything about it before. It’s been done in executive session.”

The selectboard members responded in unison, “It had to be.”

Steele replied, “It may be 100 years old, but we’re living in today’s times. It’s done in executive session, yet once it’s done it’s a public document. Why is it done in executive session? Whether it was done this way in

the past is a moot point. These are the times we’re living in.”

Griswold said, “I’m a little taken aback. It’s public record. I’m surprised no one’s taken the time to look at it.”

Brown said, “I have looked at it, and I have complained about it before.”

Gill elementary teacher Joanne Rabideau said, “I’d like to encourage you to have an open mind with the business of Gill regarding what’s happened in the past. If things have not been scrutinized in the past, we’re starting to do this more. It’s necessitated by the economic times. You’ve asked us to be involved; we’re here.”

Pat Haigis said, “I totally agree with what’s been said today, and I just found out about this. I didn’t see anything in the paper that this would be discussed today.”

Banash said, “It’s under the selectboard’s purview to have a contract with a town employee. We’ve heard what the finance committee said, and we’re working on it.”

The brief interchange ended there.

Before the discussion about the police chief’s contract got started, the selectboard spent a few minutes reviewing a proposed contract that had been negotiated between the Gill-Montague Education Association (the teachers’ union) and the Gill-Montague school committee. That contract, which was finalized on Tuesday, reportedly contained a 3% cost of living increase for the teachers for FY ‘09, and no cost of living increase for ‘10.


As she looked the proposed teachers’ contract over for the first time, Banash said, “I have a problem signing a contract I haven’t seen before, and I have an even bigger problem if there are raises in there.”

“I wish I had been involved in the negotiations since the beginning,” said Griswold.

“I think someone from both towns should have been involved in the negotiations from the beginning,” Banash agreed.



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# Wendell Earth Day Weekend

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

**WENDELL**— Even though the nation as a whole celebrated it on April 22nd, Wendell called Saturday, April 25th Earth Day this year, and the two weekend days were crowded with events and gatherings celebrating the town, the generosity of the Earth, and the spirit of town residents helping one another.

Anne Diemand and Kathy Becker coordinated the regular annual roadside litter and trash pickup; the fire department took part in a training on search and rescue held at the New Salem fire department; the open space committee held an Earth Day celebration on the Wendell common, offering the updated town open space plan; the community garden held a work day at the garden; Don Chapelle, chair of the

a four-hour class on searches to 25 firefighters from Wendell, New Salem, Orange, Erving, and Athol. The class covered different approaches to finding a missing person, types of searches, and ways to narrow a search area. The two spiced up the class with stories from their own experience, including from some famous searches they had participated in. They talked about discipline on a search, proper attire for hours in the woods, basic equipment, planning, tactics, and probability of success.

After speaking inside, the class went out to the New Salem common to walk through a sweep. Five firefighters lined up, and when any one of them spotted something on looking forward, up, down, right, left and backwards, they

obvious, but from another side it was nearly invisible.

Back in Wendell, the annual roadside litter pickup officially started at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday at the town garage, but several residents started collecting litter earlier in the week, and had stockpiled filled bags by roadsides for pick-up. Wendell Depot Road was cleared of many doughnut and coffee containers. Farley Road, Locke Village Road, West Road, and Morse Village Road saw intensive efforts by the volunteers. Ted Lewis and Anne Diemand trucked at least two dumptruck loads of trash to the WRATS, including electrical wire, tires, and a television.

"I think we did really well this year," said Diemand. Even with this mound of trash, she said the roadsides seemed cleaner than in other years, and speculated that people are becoming more responsible with litter. Or maybe more people are taking along a litter bag when they take a walk.

Kellianna entertained an appreciative audience at the Earth Day Celebration on the Wendell common, with Earth-centered songs. Marianne Sundell, chair of the open space committee, and Jeny Christian of Sustainable Wendell organized the Earth Day event. Representatives from the open space committee, Sustainable Wendell, Northeast Organic Farming Association, the Wendell community garden, Mount Grace Land Trust, and Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse set up displays and provided information. Sales booths with healing herbs, fine art, jewelry, seedlings, and clothing or fabric art lined the common, and the day ended with a potluck featuring several chilis, homemade rolls, cakes, chips and salsa, local cider, and a curry. People strolled along the common and children ran and



Iain and Elijah Sanislo at the wood chip pile



Melody, Mairi, and Galen Sanislo joined the Community Garden workday in Wendell, on Saturday, April 25th

Fiske Pond advisory committee organized a clean-up of the trail system at Fiske Pond.

Mark Superior and Michael Foster from the Central Massachusetts Search and Rescue Team traveled to the New Salem fire station to teach

called out, "Stop the line!" (In mountain laurel the line would have progressed much slower.)

After everyone had walked a line search, Superior put a footprint in the sand, and the students walked around it noting how from one side it was

played, enjoying the beautiful day in a town located on the Earth.

Close to 20 people attended a work day at the Wendell community garden. Plot holders and others laid down cardboard covered with wood chips to make paths, and pulled stones from areas to be planted. The garden was busy with discussion and laughter as old friends and new acquaintances shoveled, raked, wheelbarrowed, rototilled and planned their gardens, looking for spring growth.

Melinda Godfrey used a Christmas present, an invasive-plant root puller, and dug out invasive locust, buckthorn and multiflora rose.

The work day ended at noon, when many of the gardeners joined the Earth Day potluck on the Wendell common.

On Sunday, Good

Neighbors sponsored a Spring Fling in the back yard of the Deja Brew pub to raise money for a single mother who needed an infusion of cash (a bailout) to avoid losing her home. There was music through the afternoon provided by Kellianna, Josh LeVangie, Perry Howarth, Mass Production, and DJ I-Ganic, along with barbeque, and drink provided by the pub.

Beautiful sunshine was provided by the day, and women in brightly colored dresses made the day even prettier. Smiles were plentiful. Deja Brew owner Patti Scutari seemed to be everywhere, selling raffle tickets for a fifty-fifty raffle that raised over \$250 for both the winner and the beneficiary. A table held crafts that were also raffled.

The total amount raised has not yet been added up, but it was over \$1,000.

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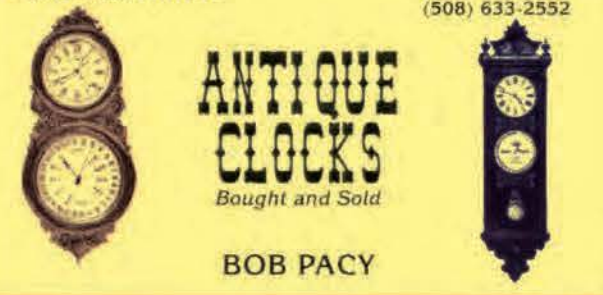
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## "In Whose Honor?" at the Brick House



BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** – A 1997 documentary by Jay Rosenstein called *In Whose Honor*, which takes a look at the use of American Indian mascots and images for sports teams, aired at the Brick House on Tuesday, as part of Undergrowth Farm's Movements for Self-Determination film series. A crowd of about a dozen, including three who identified themselves as Turners Falls alumni, were in attendance.

The film was shown about two weeks before the Gill-Montague school committee intends to make a final decision on the use of the "Tomahawk Chop" as the high school's fight song at games for the Turners Falls Indians. The high school has used an Indian mascot for decades.

The film follows the story of Charlene Teters, a Spokane Indian graduate student at the University of Illinois in the 1980s, and her unlikely transformation from a single mother of two small children into a national spokesperson for a growing movement to ban the use of Native American imagery and stereotypes in sports teams.

The University of Illinois began using the "mythical" Chief Illiniwek mascot at sports teams in 1926, (more or less at the same time Turners Falls High School named their sports teams the Turners Falls Indians, in a town named after Captain William Turner, who led a 1676 massacre of the local Indians). Fans' devotion to Chief Illiniwek grew with the passing years, and the mascot's role evolved from a halftime stunt to a proud tradition to which the university and much of its community became sincerely attached.

The University purchased buckskin and beadwork regalia from Frank Fools Crow, a traditional medicine man and spiritual leader of the Lakota Sioux, a nephew of Black Elk, in 1983, to outfit their mascot. Fools Crow later said he thought the University had purchased the regalia for educational and historical purposes, and demanded their return.

The film shows a white student dressed as Chief Illiniwek performing gymnastic stunts, splits, and imagined representations of Native American dances during halftime performances, to enthusiastic arena crowds.

Teters, who had a traditional upbringing near Spokane,

Washington, where she was taught to honor and respect eagle feathers, to respect the chiefs of her tribe, and to consider the traditional dances as sacred, brought her children to one of the University's football games, warning them that they would see the mascot perform. But she was not prepared for how her children reacted to the performance.

"My kids just sank in their seat," she said, facing the camera, tears flowing down her cheeks. "They tried to become invisible. My children know who they are. They know that they are Indian. What my children saw was a blow to their self esteem."

Teters began a lonely vigil, standing in front of the University stadium with a sign reading, "American Indians are Human Beings, Not Mascots." She was spat at, cursed, pelted with burning cigarettes, and subjected to threats and harassing phone calls at her home, which her children interpreted as death threats. She was reviled in articles in the local media. But she inspired a movement that led to major protests at the Superbowl in 1992 against the Washington Redskins, a statement by the United States Commission on Civil Rights in 2001 calling for a ban on the use of Native American images and team names by non-Native schools, and, in 2007, twelve years after Illinois governor Jim Edgar vetoed legislation promoted by a University of Illinois trustee to establish Chief Illiniwek as the official symbol of the University, the University of Illinois' board of trustees finally voted to abolish Chief Illiniwek as the school mascot.

Since the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights statement calling for the abolition of Native American names and mascots by non-Native schools, 40 high schools nationwide have eliminated their use.

## BEAR from pg 3

down our driveway and were almost to the garage, my mom all of a sudden cried, "Oh my God! There it is!"



Brown bear in the Campbell Fuller's back yard

The bear was by the ram pen, and about to climb up a tree. My dad leaped out of the car and ran toward the bear and scared it away from the animals.

While he was doing that, my mom ran inside and called the Environmental Police again.

While my parents were dealing with the bear, I was shivering and crying with fear in the car. I locked myself in.

When the bear went into the nearby field, my dad came over to the car and told me the bear was lying down and chewing on Jazzie's yellow ball. He took me

cer shot and hit it. Then he shot it again so the bear wouldn't run away wounded. After the bear took a few steps, it stumbled and fell down dead.

I was inside when this happened. I didn't want to see the bullet, or the bear. I was quite happy when my mom said it was dead.

My mom went outside to see it with the officer. Once again, I stayed inside. When she came back, she told me the bear was a three or four-year-old

female who hadn't had cubs yet. And I'm

happy she hadn't had them yet, because then her cubs wouldn't come back and do the same as their mom.

The bear would still be coming back if it weren't for my parents, the hounds, and the environmental police.

Mollie Fuller is a sixth grader at the Greenfield Center School.

Mollie Fuller is a sixth grader at the Greenfield Center School.



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# Race for Wendell Selectboard

On Monday, the town of Wendell will see a race for selectboard between longtime chair and Wendell native Ted Lewis, who is running for his 14th term, and political newcomer Jeffrey Pooser. The polls are open at the town offices from noon to 8 p.m. There are no other races on the ballot. Below are summaries of statements and interviews with the two candidates for selectboard, compiled by Josh Heinemann and David Detmold.

## Lewis in the Running Again

Ted Lewis, 80, is running for his 13th consecutive term on the Wendell selectboard. He was first elected to the selectboard in March of 1970, after being a

Wendell firefighter from 1954 to 1970, an assessor from 1956 to 1970, the road boss from 1963 to 1967, and constable until "some time around 1972." He began serving as constable again to oversee voting.

If he wins re-election on Monday, May 4th, by the time he serves out this term he will have spent more than half his life on the Wendell selectboard.

He sees the job of serving on the selectboard as one of being a



Ted Lewis

mediator. The selectboard has no authority over other boards, especially elected boards, and will only step in when necessary, when there is a conflict, or when they are asked.

As in other towns, the major issue facing Wendell now, Lewis

said, is the cut in state aid, which will force the town, and therefore each department, to cut expenses, or make up the difference somehow. The selectboard will get recommendations from the finance committee, and meet with each department and try to work together to make ends meet.

Infrastructure still needs to be maintained, and Lewis will try to work with the state as he has done in the past.

"We can't even begin to pay for all the work done by volunteers. Without volunteers we would have nothing. I do nothing by myself. It takes the boards, and it takes the people," Lewis said.

"I would like everyone to go up and vote, show our servicemen you appreciate what they are giving."

## Pooser Advocates Sustainability

Jeffrey Pooser, 38, is in the running for the Wendell selectboard for the first time on Monday, May 4th. Pooser is a part-time computer consultant who has worked for Amherst College, Harvard University, and other organizations as a system and database administrator. He has served on the boards of direc-



PHOTO ROBBIE LEPPZER

Jeffrey Pooser

tors of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association and the Leverett Village Coop.

He said he is running for selectboard to "find ways to minimize the tax burden of residents while at the same time taking a long-term, intelligent, and sustainable approach to spending and investing town assets."

An advocate of 'permaculture,' Pooser said he would like to see the town of Wendell "remove legislative encumbrances to simple living, enabling folks to, if they choose, safely and legally live with a smaller ecological footprint than is typically mandated. This could include promoting more innovative building technologies, local agriculture, rideshare programs, coopera-

tives, and so forth.

"One of the more remarkable things about Wendell are the people and the true sense of community here," said Pooser. "This was evident during the ice storm last December, when neighbors checked in on neighbors and people came together to help one another. I hope to promote a more formalized network of support, not only in the event of acute emergencies, but also within the context of the slowly unfolding economic and environmental emergencies," facing our country and our world.

Pooser added, "I have respect for my opponent, Ted Lewis, and the decades of service he's given to the community, and I don't position myself as 'running against' Ted. I simply and humbly, with no political aspirations or agenda whatsoever, offer my services to the town. I have been fortunate enough to live all over the world, but in the few years that I've lived in Wendell, have found here what I've found no place else: great people, a strong sense of community, and a beautiful natural world. I plan on staying here permanently, and feel compelled to contribute to the community by serving on the selectboard."




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## HOPES from pg 7

remain in a district with Montague that will have to change and probably grow by adding towns or merging with another district - or break away from Montague to join another district.

Yet as the discussion continued, Storrow said the state would probably not favor Gill joining with another district if that meant stranding Montague. She also said, and Wulfson backed her up on these points, that the Commissioner of Education would probably not sign off on a plan involving Gill simply withdrawing its elementary school from the GMRSD, or tuitioning its upper school students into area high schools.

"Staying the same with Gill-Montague is not an option either: the towns can't afford it; the state thinks it's too small."

She said, "This is a time to work for innovative change to improve education and address fiscal concerns." As she studied regionalization, Storrow said she had changed her preconceptions. "I have opened my mind. We can retain local control," she said.

She noted that school committees can vote to form superintendency unions, collaborate with other districts, or expand the power of local school community

councils without an authorizing vote from town meeting.

The town of Gill owes \$350,315 in debt on the Turners Falls High School/Middle School renovation, scheduled to be paid off over the next 17 years. If Gill plans to withdraw from the Gill-Montague Regional School District and join Pioneer, Storrow said, negotiations would have to establish how debt and equity in the high school are apportioned, how past and present Gill elementary teachers are compensated, and how physical assets like books and desks are divided.

She said Pioneer has enough capacity to add Gill students to their regional high school, and has maintained a "positive school choice cash flow."

If Gill and Montague were to jointly merge with Pioneer, both Pioneer and Turners Falls high schools would be needed to house all the upper school students, and both could be maintained as part of one larger district, Wulfson pointed out.

Storrow said if Gill were to remain in the GMRSD, among the changes the town of Gill might seek are an acceptance of the original formula for dividing assessments evenly between the member towns, based on the percentage of students each sends to the district schools. The present

"statutory method" of school assessment requires Gill to pay \$58,960 more than the town would pay if its assessment were based on its 15.7% share of the student population, the percentage of the total local assessment it would pay under the original district agreement (the so-called "alternate method" of assessment).

Gill is now responsible for 100% of capital costs at the Gill Elementary School, even though 44% of the students there come from other towns.

Storrow also pointed out that Gill has only three seats on the GMRSD school committee, while Montague has six. But at Pioneer, school committee seats are apportioned evenly among the four member towns: Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick, a method which could ease concerns about local control in a regional school district in Gill were to merge with Pioneer.

Storrow added, "We've got several towns out there - Wendell, Erving, New Salem - that might consider joining Gill-Montague or Pioneer. That's another piece we all have to be thinking about."

Although Question #8 on the town meeting warrant for Monday asks voters to agree to withdraw from the GMRSD,

Storrow said the vote would be preliminary, "a vote to find out the costs associated with withdrawal."

In subsequent discussion on other warrant articles, a number of speakers staunchly defended the town's ownership of the Riverside Municipal Building, or called for more study about the possibility of declaring the property surplus and selling it. Others questioned whether the sale of the so-called Boyle property on Center Road and Lyons Hill Road would discourage residents from making gifts of land to the town in the future.

Selectboard members defended the warrant articles, saying the board needed to know whether residents were committed to maintaining the Riverside building over time, before investing money into it, including \$87,000 of energy improvements - new windows, a new boiler, and insulation - to be paid for by energy savings through the town's proposed contract with Siemens Corporation. Money from the sale of these properties could be used to pay for other needed capital improvements in town, board

The Gill Selectboard office will be closed Tuesday, May 5th.

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## GMRSD Approves Contract with Teachers

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE GILL-MONTAGUE** – A contract giving teachers in the Gill-Montague Regional School District a 3% cost of living increase for FY '09 and no cost-of-living raise in FY '10 was ratified by the school committee Tuesday night. The vote of the school committee members was unanimous to approve the contract, which has been in negotiations since last June.

Town representatives participated in the executive session to discuss the contract, then voted against it in open session, saying they'd been left out of the process until the end and didn't feel they could support it.

On Thursday, Gill select-board member Ann Banash said she could not support the contract if it contained raises, given present economic circumstances.

School committee chair Mary Kociela, commenting on the contract, said she felt good about the process and grateful that teachers were willing to accept the agreement.

Chief negotiator for the teachers Vickie Healy said, "This contract represents a milestone in the continuing cooperation between the teacher's association and the school committee that has allowed the school district budget to remain viable in the future."

GMRSD business manager Lyn Bassett said the 3% COLA for the teachers in '09 would cost the district approximately \$180,000 in total.

In a later executive session, the committee discussed the contract for the GMRSD superintendent, and then voted unanimously to ratify the three-year, \$128,000 contract for Carl Ladd as the new superintendent for the Gill-Montague district.

Both the teacher's contract and the superintendent's contract will have to be approved by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Mitchell Chester before the agreements become final. The department has been kept informed throughout the process by interim superintendent Kenneth Roche, who said he expects the contracts to be approved. According to Roche, the DESE has told him the teachers' contract is "as lean a settlement as they've seen."

The Tomahawk Chop dialogue continued in the school committee meeting Tuesday. Kociela said she and Joyce Phillips met with the student council and felt they had a good discussion. She said they were trying to look ahead. Student representative Josh Gammon said students felt more included in the process.

Kociela said they asked students to think about the future with or without the Chop. If they were to keep the Chop, what would that mean, and if they didn't, what would be other options they could consider?

Student council members decided to bring the discussion to their fellow students and ask them to consider these questions and give them their response. Kociela said she felt the discussion was very respectful, and Gammon added the students said they now felt more respected in the process. Kociela and Phillips said they would meet with the student council again next Monday at the high school.

The school committee approved the warrant for the coming election of new members to be held on Monday, May 18th. A debate between the nine candidates will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, at the MCTV studios at 6:30 p.m. and rebroadcast prior to the election.

The school committee will hold two public budget meetings next week at the high school on Tuesday, May 5th and Wednesday, May 6th, both at 6:30 p.m. The next regular school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th.

## Boxmasters Break the Mold

**BY FARRAH ALEXANDER AMHERST** - While Billy Bob Thornton and the Boxmasters and I may not share the same taste when it comes to beer – they stock their tour bus with Bud Light (thanks for the beer, guys, but let me introduce you to fine crafted beers sometime) – one thing is certain: I haven't heard country music this daring and clever since hearing Johnny Cash's, "A Boy Named Sue."

If Cash were still with us – God bless him – he'd be proud of the Boxmasters. On their latest release, a two disc box set, *Modbilly*, the

Boxmasters resurrect rhythmically intense country music, energetic beats, and expert musicianship – all of which come together to support satiric, witty lyrics.

I shared the aforementioned beer with the Boxmasters when they opened up for Willie Nelson and Ray Price at the Mullins Center in Amherst on April 17th. What was supposed to be a five minute meet-and-greet prior to their performance turned out to last much longer when Thornton, in his own charming and animated way, graciously invited me to spend some time with them after the show.

The core band members, with Thornton smoking non-stop and singing lead, Mike Butler on guitar, and J.D. Andrew on bass, guitar and harmony vocals, took to the Mullins Center stage and performed six songs from their latest release, *Modbilly*. When the band plays live, Thornton, who plays drums in the studio, takes on the role of lead vocalist and they add more musicians, converting the trio into a group of seven. Additional members include Danny Baker on lead gui-

tar, Jody Maphis on acoustic guitar, Mike Bruce on drums, and Chuck Garric on bass.

The group engaged the audience at the Mullins Center from the get-go when they led right



Billy Bob Thornton (right), on vocals, performing with the Boxmasters at the Mullins Center, UMass, on Friday, April 18th.

with "Two Weeks Notice," an energetic break-up song with a driving beat. "I'm staying here while you're going south. I'm real damn sick of you running your mouth. But here's what I'll do. I'm gonna cut you a little slack. I'll give you two weeks' notice, to get your s - t out of here."

The Boxmasters is not just a studio band; on stage they're musically and visually seductive and charged. Sophisticated and dashing in their black mod suits and ties, they present their own unique and innovative version of country music as a fusion of British rock and hillbilly. Thornton tackles somber issues and delivers lyrics with an unapologetic devil-may-care ease that showcases his biting sense of humor.

In the studio, backed by the solid engineering, production and musicianship of J.D. Andrew, the band easily defies traditional genres, blending them at will without being overly dependent on techno-wizardry.

The box set, which became available last week, includes two

discs. The first contains twelve original songs penned by the Boxmasters. Disc two consists of covers like "As Tears Go By," from the Rolling Stones, and "Joanne," by Michael Nesmith. The Boxmasters say disc two is a tribute to the music that inspired them.

In a business where bands are content to produce one insipid imitation after another, it's heartening to discover a group

that dares to disregard modern convention, to create music that's fearless and distinctive. Whether you're a country music fan, or still recovering from the British Invasion, the Boxmasters' latest release, *Modbilly* is a worthy addition to your collection.

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# Stimulus Funds Allow Expanded Services at Community Health Center



Bridget Madden

**BY JOE KWIECINSKI**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** — Executive director Bridget Madden is keeping her fingers crossed that the Community Health Center of Franklin County will be in line to receive more economic stimulus funding in the upcoming months.

Back in February, the health center received “about

\$75,000” from the state of Massachusetts’ Essential Community Provider Trust Fund, which Madden said the health center was able to combine in March with “about \$170,000 for increased demand for services” from the Obama administration’s American Reinvestment and Recovery Act “to hire a new dentist and support staff to expand into evening hours at the dental clinic at our Turners Falls location.”

Recently returned from a countrywide assembly of community health care centers in Washington, D.C., where she attended the annual policy and issues forum of the National Association of Community Health Centers, Madden said, “We received a lot of updates on capital funding which will soon be released, as part of the Obama administration’s stimu-

lus package.”

Madden expects additional funds will be allocated for capital improvements at the health center from ARRA funding in the months to come.

That may go toward more equipment for the dental clinic, where most of the center’s growth is focused these days.

Now, in the Turners dental clinic, “We can get patients seen within one to two weeks,” Madden said, “whereas private practices can take over 100 days to establish new patients. We do urgent dental care and encourage people to come to the health center, even if they don’t have health insurance, because going to the ER is a temporary fix. Our health center can offer complete dental care.”

Madden replaced Sarah Kemble last summer as executive director at the Community Health Center, which is based in a ground-floor wing of the Farren Hospital. The Health Center maintains satellite offices in Orange, Mohawk Regional, and Pioneer Regional High Schools.

Prior to that, Madden served in the same capacity at Seabiscow Family Doctors, a community health center in Maine. Madden’s educational background includes a bachelor’s degree in accounting and an MBA. Community Health Center of Franklin County is a federally qualified Health center — a 330 grantee from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HERSA) — and serves over 7,000 patients at present. “Overall,” Madden said, “we get 25% of this center’s operating budget from HERSA. That funding is used to subsidize patients who need access to health care — regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Basically, we offer primary care, dental, and mental health services.

“We also do a lot of outreach services for communities,” said Madden, “such as translation services, transportation, case management, nutrition, smoking cessation, and educational programs.” Madden stressed that the Turners Falls clinic serves a

variety of clientele. “Twenty percent of our patients,” she explained, “have commercial insurance, of which we accept all types.”

As Madden assumed her duties in August, CHCFC was short of doctors and mired in controversy, with founder Kemble departing amid a long-simmering dispute with staff over management style. Within two months of coming on board, Madden had hired four new primary care providers. An upbeat person, Madden would not comment in detail on those days.

“I’m the type of person who wants to move our community center into the future,” she said. “Since I’ve started, I’ve heard a lot about the past turmoil. But I’m only concerned about moving our community, patients, and employees forward to carry out our mission.”

After a short stint at Connecticut River Internists, Dr. Kemble has recently been rehired by the Community Health Center, and is now working out of the Pioneer office.

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**REVIEW** from pg 1  
 Anne Frank Center in NYC. Here they were privileged to view a photography exhibit by Otto Frank, Anne’s father, the only member of her immediate family to survive the concentration camp.

Otto Frank was an accomplished photographer of his day, but after capturing many of his experiences during the Holocaust on film, he opted to never pick up another camera again after the close of WWII.

ACT’s Sondra Radosh, who directs the play with a sure hand, found the prep-work not only educational but deeply moving and inspirational, as did her entire cast. Their preparation was certainly reflected in the quality and professionalism of the performance, which was notable as well for the period detail infused throughout the production. A nice touch was the

introduction of Jewish culture, such as songs and prayers in Hebrew, a nice touch.

The cast was talented, educated and experienced. Even the youngest boasted a strong theatrical background. Robert Freedman as Otto and Kip Fonsh as Mr. Van Daan exhibited total command of their characters with strong and believable support from Nora Burnett, Emma Ayres, Brett Burnett, Paul Rothenberg, Melinda McCreven and Harry Sharbaugh.

Notable among the cast was Jean Devereux-Koesters’ performance as Mrs. Van Daan. She was able to effectively portray a deeply disturbed character whose absolute defense of and loyalty to her husband was directly contradicted by her wanton and reckless advances toward Otto Frank in front of both of their own spouses.

Of course, I cannot help but mention the wonderful work done by Kaileela Hobby as Anne. She portrayed the young Frank girl’s precociousness, sense of humor and strength of spirit in the face of crisis magnificently.

Let me end by quoting Anne’s own words: “That’s the difficulty in these times; ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered. It’s really a wonder that I haven’t lost all of my ideals because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

*The Diary of Anne Frank* continues at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, May 1st and 2nd at 8 p.m. and May 3rd at 2 p.m.



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KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

**MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER**

# Let There Be (Efficient) Light

BY SALLY PICK

**MONTAGUE** – We've all been inundated with advice to replace inefficient incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which last much longer and use much less electricity, so I won't go down that well-worn path. However, I'll try to shed some light on additional information on CFLs and lighting tips that I hope you'll find helpful and new.

CFLs now come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and color shades to fit your lighting needs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star website provides details of the many options available (<http://www.energystar.gov>). Here is an overview on CFLs and a newer, up-and-coming lighting technology, LEDs:

• If you have an energy audit, you're eligible for free dimmable compact fluorescent bulbs along with regular CFLs. These are generally more expensive than non-dimmable CFLs. I replaced most of my lighting in dimmable, recessed cans with dimmable compact fluorescents. I recommend you test them in your fixtures to see how well the dimmer works with the bulbs. In a few places, I stuck with non-CFLs because I didn't like the light in that space. As a compromise, I keep the bulbs dimmed as low as

possible and turn them off when I leave the room.

• CFLs come in three-way bulbs.

• For CFLs, quality matters. Inexpensive CFLs may fade quickly. It's worth checking the Energy Star website (<http://www.energystar.gov>) for a list of *qualified* CFLs. The lighting section of that website gives info on how much light CFLs produce in comparison to incandescent bulbs.

• Many compact fluorescent bulbs now function fine at low temperatures, so you can replace your outdoor incandescent bulbs as long as they're not directly exposed to moisture. Make sure the bulbs you use are designed for cold temperatures. If you use a motion detector to turn on outdoor lights (a really great idea because it allows you to have lights come on only when you need them), look for CFLs that are compatible with motion sensors. Not all are.

• If you have torchiere fixtures with halogen bulbs, you may want to consider replacing them with compact fluorescent torchieres. The compact fluorescent fixtures use 60% to 80% less energy, can produce more light, and reduce the fire risk that halogen torchieres pose due to the high temperatures reached by halogen bulbs.

• CFLs give off light, but very little heat. In the summer, lighting with CFLs helps keep your rooms cool. If you stay with incandescent bulbs, which give off a fair amount of heat, your air conditioner will be cooling down air heated by your light bulbs, along with summer's outdoor heat. CFLs reduce additional cooling.

• Unlike old CFLs, newer CFLs don't take a lot of energy to turn on. In fact, energy experts now recommend that if a CFL is not going to be used for five minutes or more, it's best to turn it off. I've always wondered why people turn water off when they are not at the sink but leave lights on when they leave a room. In both cases, if you are not there to use them, you are wasting these resources.

• It's reasonable to be concerned about mercury in CFLs. Here's what the Energy Star website says on the topic: "Because CFLs use less electricity than traditional light bulbs, they reduce demand for electricity; that reduction means less mercury is

emitted from power plants. CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury – an average of 4 milligrams in each bulb. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use." If a bulb breaks, open windows in that room and leave the room for at least 15 minutes. Additional cleanup instructions are available at the Energy Star website on the lighting pages. Contact the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District about disposal of the broken bulb.

Because of the mercury in CFLs, it is important they not be thrown into the trash but instead taken to a facility that will handle them properly. Aubuchon Hardware and Home Depot now

offer free CFL recycling. The Montague transfer station accepts them for a small fee. You can also bring them to the household hazardous waste collection day.

• LED or light-emitting diode lights are even more efficient than CFLs and don't contain mercury. Their current lighting technology is good for flashlights, lanterns, colored accent lighting, indoor and outdoor spotlights, and decorative light strings. You can Google LED lighting to find out what's coming onto the market. The Greenfield Solar Store sells LED flashlights and lanterns. According to Energy Star, LED light strings use 75% less energy than conventional light strings.

## Sustainable Energy Summit at UMass

On May 1st and 2nd (Fri. and Sat.), Co-op Power will hold its 5th Annual Sustainable Energy Summit at the UMass Amherst Campus Center. The Summit will include full-day green jobs workshops on Friday. On Saturday there will be over 50 exhibitors and 40

presenters throughout the day. And new this year, there will be a series of full-day professional training workshops geared toward engineers, trades people, designers and other professionals. For more information, go to <http://coop-power.coop>

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Barton Cove Property Damage

**Thursday, 4/23**  
8:55 p.m. Assisted Erving police in Gill with motor vehicle stop.


**Friday, 4/24**  
4:25 p.m. Erratic operation of motor vehicle on French King Highway, checked operator, all OK.  
6:01 p.m. Assisted area department with restraining order service in town.  
7:05 p.m. Assisted resi-

dent with VIN verification of automobile.  
8:58 p.m. Loose cows on Main Road, owner notified, assisted.

**Monday, 4/27**  
8:15 a.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Grove Street.  
10:40 a.m. Breaking and entering into a building on Barton Cove Road, under investigation.  
11:31 a.m. Report of van-

dalism to trees on Barton Cove Road.  
7:05 p.m. Assisted with disabled school bus on Main Road, tow company retrieved same.  
8:42 p.m. Animal complaint on West Gill Road, possible rabid skunks.

**Tuesday, 4/28**  
4:33 p.m. Report of intoxicated subject on French King Highway yelling at motorists. Checked area,




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# JEP'S PLACE: Part CXXI

## Electricity Installed



**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** – With our family on solid financial footing, Pa contacted the power company to extend power lines to the farm, right after WWII in 1945. They charged him for the poles but spread the charges out in monthly installments. The pole charge equaled or exceeded the charge for electricity.

Pa bought a Frigidaire refrigerator and a radio. Later, he bought a chest freezer. But it didn't occur to him to install an electric water pump or telephone.

Ma and Pa saw the need for a

telephone when they were overcome by coal gas one night and couldn't get out of bed until the end of the next day. Toward evening, Pa was able to get to a neighbor's telephone to summon Louis. That's when Louis moved back home to keep an eye on things.

He had a phone installed and later hired a man to install plumbing while Ma was in the hospital. Soon after that, Pa had an oil furnace installed. He'd lost all confidence in the safety of burning coal after the narrow escape.

Mail service to Poland was interrupted during World War II. When Pa next heard from his family, his brother wrote that the old folks had died and he was so impoverished he hardly had clothes enough to cover himself to go to the post office to pick up his mail. Pa sent his brother his only suit and his good overcoat in

the first of a series of many packages. Shortly afterward, I saw Pa walking down the street in an old threadbare overcoat looking like a seedy bum.

I avoided him, ashamed to be seen with him. He later got another overcoat and when I got a little older and a little smarter, I bought him a new suit.

"Now I have a suit to be buried in," he said, fingering the material.

In the end, the parcels Pa sent didn't bring his brother much luck. The Germans who had occupied Poland during the war confiscated his tools and all the horses in the land. Pa sent all manner of carpenter tools, enabling his brother to begin earning money again. Pa sewed tightly folded money into the seams of the clothing sent in the parcels, which Ma later mentioned in a letter.

The family began tearing the clothes into a million pieces, looking for hidden money. Pa

then instructed Ma to give more specific locations of the hiding places when she wrote.

Pa even sent a mare through the relief organization, CARE. A horse was a symbol of prosperity in Poland. After WWII, the Germans were required to return confiscated horses, but many had died or were slaughtered for meat during the war.

My uncle had been sorely in need of a horse. The mare that Pa sent gave birth on the way. Now, our uncle had two horses. The communist authorities suspected him of criminal activity to be prosperous enough to own two horses. He sold one to distant relatives. The horse fell ill soon after and died, causing hard feelings with his relatives.

Pa's brother wrote to tell us to stop sending packages. His son had reported his father to the authorities, saying his father was a U.S. spy. The son ran away to join the Russian Army and was accidentally shot during training. He came home a cripple. Fate was not on their side.

Not long after that, Pa's brother and his wife were struck by lightning. They never fully recovered and died shortly after. We never heard from the son.

Pa felt especially sad for his

brother, a good man, who had stayed in Poland to give care and comfort to their parents in their declining years as best he could during those trying times. I think Pa felt sad, as well as guilty that his brother had been repaid for his sacrifice with hardship, pain, suffering and death.

Though we didn't have it as hard as our uncle and his family, the tough times motivated me, and I could see more and more that Magrini was right. Education was the only way to get ahead. Magrini further reinforced that idea when he established a monument business in addition to the insurance agency that he and Helen ran.

Just before Memorial Day, Pa drove us to the cemetery to tend Julia's grave. Much to our surprise, there on Julia's grave sat a pink marble gravestone with her name engraved, appearing as though by magic. Mama's prayers had been answered. She smiled through the tears, relieved that Julia's grave would not be lost in the brush. Later, we learned that Helen and Magrini had set the stone, as a surprise. I looked up to them all the more after they set the gravestone.

– Continued Next Week

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Off Road Vehicles On Road

**Tuesday, 4/14**

6:35 p.m. Domestic dispute in progress at a Park Street address. Found to be verbal only. Male subject left the residence.

8:03 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and without insurance.

**Thursday, 4/16**

8:56 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operation of a motor vehicle after license revocation.

**Saturday, 4/18**

9:30 a.m. Officer at a River Street resi-

dence for a complaint of littering.

**Sunday, 4/19**

2:30 p.m. Report of

a dirt bike and a four-wheeler going up and down Mountain Road. Officer in area spoke with subjects and advised to keep vehicles on own property.

6:10 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after license suspension and failure to inspect vehicle.

**Monday, 4/20**

1:27 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for a warrant.

**Wednesday, 4/22**

10:45 a.m. Report of illegal dumping at Renovator's Supply. Under investigation.

**Thursday, 4/23**

8:35 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for illegally attaching plates, operating an uninsured and unregistered motor vehicle and speeding.

10:16 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] illegally attached plates to conceal identification and operating an uninsured and unregistered motor vehicle.

**Friday, 4/24**

7:22 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Dorsey Road. Checked same, all OK.

**Saturday, 4/25**

5:49 p.m. Report of kids throwing rocks at a car on East Prospect Street. Kids spoken to.

11:01 p.m. Montague police report small

fire in the woods Erving side, Dorsey Road. Checked area, campers found. Fire put out.

**Sunday, 4/26**

1:15 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

11:52 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with no insurance nor inspection sticker and for speeding.

**Monday, 4/27**

5:30 p.m. Stray dog reported on Central Street. Picked up same and put in pound.

9:00 p.m. Officer to a River Road residence for a domestic disturbance.

11:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for two counts of assault and battery, domestic.

### Cartoonists and Illustrators Wanted

If you would like to apply your graphic skills to some editorial cartooning for your local community newspaper, please send a sample of your work to the *Montague Reporter* at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or to: reporter@montaguema.net. We are happy to receive original cartoons, or to suggest a topic for illustrators to draw. For more information, call 413-863-8666.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## FRIDAY, MAY 1st

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **The Highbeams**, rock & roll, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Mass Production**, Obadiah Sun, Simon White, Joe Cunningham, Jay Stanley & Christian Marano, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, MAY 1st to 3rd

**The Diary of Anne Frank** performed by The Arena Civic Theatre, directed by Sondra Radosh at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. \$12/\$10 students & seniors. 5/1 & 5/2 at 8 p.m. 5/3 at 2 p.m.

Ja'Duke's production of **The Wiz** makes it possible for you to journey down the yellow brick road without having to travel all the way to Kansas. 7 p.m. Greenfield High School, Greenfield. 5/3 at 2 p.m. \$12/\$10 for under 12 or over 65.

## FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 1st & 2nd

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: **Groundhog Day**, a comedy starring Bill Murray. Special guest, the Assistant Director of Groundhog Day, Conway resident Mike Haley on Saturday night.

## SATURDAY, MAY 2nd

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell: Richard Chase with Seth Hoffsommer, John Miller, & Bryan Barstow, 7:30 p.m. Warm and engaging stage presence, heartfelt lyrics, seasoned guitar-work, smooth singing: all add up to Richard Chase. A veteran singer-songwriter well worth experiencing. To benefit Wendell Old Home Day. Sliding scale \$6 to \$12 (978) 544-8022, [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org).

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Exhibit Opening. Meet the Photographer, Regis Paris, 1 to 3 p.m. His Landscape Photography Exhibit on



Katie Clark and friends at the Great Falls Coffee House, 7 p.m. on Friday, May 8th. Heavenly vocal harmonies with guitar, banjo & dobro, offering original material mixed with old-time country & bluegrass!

display in the Great Hall through 5/31.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Bus Drivers**, classic/southern rock, 9:30.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Ghost Quartet**. Jazzy Blues with a taste of fist fight swing! 9 to 11 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MAY 3rd

May Day fine art exhibit, 10 to 3 p.m. An exhibition of affordable fine art by twelve Montague artists. In gymnasium above the library, Montague Center.

Contra dance at the Montague Grange Hall, Montague Center, 7 p.m. Host callers: David Kaynor and Steve Howland; music: **All-Comers Band**. All are welcome, with or without a partner. No previous dance experience is necessary to enjoy this quintessential New England activity. Admission by donation; proceeds for upkeep of the hall.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Joe Law** on guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

## TUESDAY, MAY 5th

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Knit & Craft Night, free juke box, 7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6th

Deja Brew, Wendell: Knitting & Crafts Night, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft/skill level.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Karaoke with DJ Dalla**, 7 p.m.

## THURSDAY, MAY 7th

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Kellianna**, 8 to 10 p.m.

Pat & Tex LaMountain at the BridgeSide Grille, 9 Amherst Rd, (Rte 116) Sunderland, 6 to 8:30 pm. 30 years of Upbeat Harmony at a great venue. No cover. Info: (413) 397-8101.

## FRIDAY, MAY 8th

Friends of GFDC Coffeehouse present **Katie Clark** and friends! Heavenly vocal harmonies with guitar, banjo & dobro, offering original material mixed with old-time country & bluegrass! 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Baked goods available, donations welcome.

2009 Valley Idol Karaoke Contest: Auditions begin 6 p.m. at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Who will be this year's Valley Idol? Come and root on your favorites. Competition on May 9th, 16th at 7 p.m. and May 23rd at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 (\$12 at the door), Children 10 and under \$5.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Instigators**, classic, modern, funk, dance rock & roll covers, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **The Equalites**. These Valley legends are back again by popular demand. 9 to 11 p.m.

## FRIDAY to SUNDAY, MAY 8th to 10th

Greenfield Community College presents **An Evening of One-Acts** in the GCC Sloan Theater. An evening of irreverent and irregular theatrical fare. First is the irreverent **Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You**, a classic, scathing satire written by

Christopher Durang and directed by Kimberley Morin. Next **A Day For Surprises, The Loveliest Afternoon Of The Year, and Something I'll Tell You Tuesday**, three strangely sweet, comic morsels written by John Guare and directed by Jodi Baker.

Curtain time for 5/8 and 5/9 is 8 p.m., and 5/10 at 5 p.m. Continues 5/15 to 5/17. \$7 at the door. This show contains mature content.

## SATURDAY, MAY 9th

2009 Valley Idol Jr. for Kids and Teens A Capella Singing Contest, 9:30 a.m. At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Come to see contestants compete to become this year's Valley Idol Jr. A \$300 savings bond will be awarded to the winner of each of three age categories: 8 to 10 years, 11 to 14 years, and 15 to 17 years. Tickets: \$5. **Continues 5/16 & 5/23.**

Car Show at Franklin County Technical School, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 5/16) Classics, trucks, muscle cars, motorcycles, sport compacts and imports. Trophies, music, food & raffles. Free admission, \$5 registration fee. Info: (413) 863-9561 x 142.

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Migratory Bird Day! 11 to 12:30 p.m. Join Great Falls Discovery Center interpreter Sarah Martell for a bird walk and family craft activity celebrating

## Migratory Bird Day!

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Heroes**, rock & roll covers, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Nexus**, Harmonic Eclectic Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MAY 10th

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Second Sunday Comedy**. Three comics, lots of laughs, 7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th

Disco Ball! Super Fun Bowling Club - Noncompetitive bowling club open to all abilities and ages. Get down and boogie oogie oogie over to the bowling alley! 7:30 p.m. French King Entertainment Center, Erving. [www.superfunbowling.com](http://www.superfunbowling.com)

## ONGOING

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls; In Gallery 52: **Blake Fitch - Expectations of Adolescence**, a ten-year photographic project documenting the emotional and physical growth and emotional maturation of two young girls. In Gallery 56: **Founder & Museum Collections - Selections II**. Museum Curator, Paul R. Turnbull has selected a limited overview of some of the Museum's collection. And in Gallery 85: **Stan Sherer - Life Studies**. Three documentary projects. 'Albania' and 'Shopkeepers' are straightforward studies of people & places. 'Lantern Slides' is a personal visual interpretation and construction by Mr. Sherer. Exhibits on display through June 14th.



"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" Center - Morgan Hoyle-Combs, I to r- Kyle Dargis, Lara Ames, Tanner Ames, & Sarah Coflan in Greenfield Community College's Night of One Acts performed Friday to Sunday, 5/8 to 5/10 and 5/15 to 5/17 in the Sloan Theater.

Historic Deerfield Exhibition: **Stimulating Beverages, Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate Wares**. Explore the fascinating role played by tea, coffee, and chocolate in New England through an examination of Historic Deerfield's vast collection

of hot beverage wares. Examples of the novel "equipment" designed to serve these drinks. Open daily, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. **Through Saturday, May 23rd**

## AUDITIONS

Full open auditions for **Curtains** on **Thursday, May 7**, 6 to 9 p.m. Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts, 110 Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls. Info: Nick Waynelovich, (413) 863-0001/nick@jaduke.com. Be prepared to sing a song from the show and read from the script. Group dance audition required.

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.

TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.

THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.

& Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.

Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.

Info: Jared at 863-9559.

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Friday & Saturday  
May 1st & 2nd at 7:30 p.m.  
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Profound, moving and profound comedy-fantasy about lovelorn news anchor man Bill Murray who falls in love while reporting on "Punxsutawney Phil" 1993, PG, color, 101 min. Conway resident Mike Haley, asst director on hand Saturday for discussion.

Music before movie at 7 p.m.  
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1. THE GHOSTS OF GIRL-FRIENDS PAST PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9 FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3
2. X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG13 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
3. MONSTERS VS ALIENS PG MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3:00
3. CRANK 2: HIGH VOLTAGE DAILY 6:30 9:00 R
4. 17 AGAIN PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. FAST AND FURIOUS PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE G in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. STATE OF PLAY PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 7 9:30 DAILY 12:30 3:30
7. STAR TREK PG13 Thur 5/1 Midnight

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Saturday, 5/2, 9 to 11 p.m. Jazzy Blues A **Ghost Quartet**  
Sunday, 5/3 8 to 10 p.m. **Joe Law** on guitar  
Thursday, 5/7 8 to 10 p.m. **Kellianna**

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FRI: 5/01 | 9:30PM | FREE  
Evolution Trio (jazz)

SAT: 5/02 | 9:30PM | \$3  
Unfulfilled Desires

SUN: 5/03 | 8PM | FREE  
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White Throated Sparrow

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – The shadbush shines bright in the morning sun. The daffodils still carpet the lawn by the pond, a grateful sight in yellow and white to the winter weary, but anathema to the lawn-mowing son who puts up with a scraggly front entrance in the early days of summer while the plant leaves, browning down, feed the bulbs so the daffodils have energy to bloom the following year.

When I came to Cold Brook 15 years ago, an aunt gave me 99 daffodil and narcissus bulbs. Despite the hard winters and snowplow scrapings, they have popped up each year as the snowdrops and crocus have faded on.

## Montague Art Movement Exhibition Sunday

**BY FARRAH ALEXANDER**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** – “This is a beginning. A few people getting together can create something,” said Claudine Mussuto, one of the organizers of the Montague Art Movement.

With Kristin Zottoli and Miryam Vesset, Mussuto has put together the First Annual May Day Fine Art Exhibit, to debut with the Montague May Day celebration this Sunday.

The three women began meeting informally last November to discuss the possibility of organizing an exhibition that would give artists from the town of Montague the opportunity to show their artwork.

“[We wanted] to set it up so the exhibition is like one you would go to at a gallery, but we think people are not necessarily comfortable going into a gallery – there’s some hesitation or trepidation or nervousness about that – so we also wanted to create an environment where people would feel comfortable,” Mussuto explained.

To boost attendance, the exhibition of local art will coincide with Montague May Day, this Sunday, May 3rd, and will be located across from the town

## Spring Brings Welcome Sights, and Some Less So

The white-throated sparrow has arrived at the feeder to share sparrow time with the couple of American tree sparrows who should be hurrying north to the really cold country to nest, and the resident song sparrows who nest in the rhododendron. All three have distinctive marks which make it easy to call them by name, especially when they share the space.

The white throat is obvious; his striped head gives him class. The tree sparrow has a rusty head and a clear breast marked with one good spot. The plumper song sparrow has a well-streaked breast, which merges into a central spot.

Some of the visitors have not been so welcome. The cowbirds have usually appeared here on the grass foraging, but this year a him and a her took over the feeder. She has not returned since their constant presence was discouraged that first day, but he has a brazen soul.

It seemed almost as if this was

courting time in the cowbird world, for that same evening a friend called and described a lovely bird song she had not heard before. It had been sung by a medium-sized blackbird with a brownish head she did not recognize. A cowbird.

The bigger grackles stop by, sometimes in numbers, but fly at a tap on the window. It is a trip onto the porch and big shoo to convince the cowbird that it’s time to leave.

Cowbirds have been poorly programmed, if we may wonder the ways of creation. She lays her eggs in the nests of other, smaller, birds. Some birds toss them out. But others bring up the interlopers, to the detriment of their own smaller offspring.

The titmice and chickadees seem feisty enough to hold their own. Maybe its wrens and warblers who are the victims.

So each year, the seasons offer a variation on standard themes. The shadbush blooms, and the happenings of summer are on the way.

common on the second floor of the Montague Center library, in the old town hall, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

“The goal was to do it at a



PL Mercury by Claudine Mussuto, one of the pieces on display this Sunday in Montague Center

time when there were people here in the village, but also to price the work so that viewers get a sense they can buy really good local art for less than \$150. We thought it was important for the artists to challenge themselves to reach viewers in that way. We can do art that is affordable and accessible to the people around us,” Mussuto said.

Postcards were sent out to prospective artists encouraging them to participate, resulting in twelve artists from the villages of Turners Falls, Montague Center, and Millers Falls agreeing to exhibit. The same postcard was later mailed out as a

general invitation to the public.

Artists needed to meet the basic criteria: the art has to be priced at \$150 or less, must be original, fine art, and artists have to be local residents.

But other than that, the exhibition was open to artists of all skill levels and all styles of art.

“There’s a range of people exhibiting; some are completely self-taught or make art as a hobby; some have a little bit of training; and others have a great deal of training and, in fact, art and art history have been the central focus of their career. So there’s really a broad range,” Mussuto explained.

There will also be a broad range of styles on display: drawings, paintings in oils and acrylics, black and white and color photographs, mixed media works, and sculptures, with profiles of the artists accompanying their work.

For more information please contact Claudine Mussuto at (413) 367-2687, or via email at Claudine\_trudi@yahoo.com.

## Orange Eel Pass Installation Completed



IVAN USSACH PHOTO

The Orange Eel Pass on the Millers River  
Black plastic (bottom left) aids the eels’ ascent

**BY IVAN USSACH** – On Monday, April 27th, a construction crew from Central Construction Industries of Putnam, CT returned to complete installation of the new Eel Pass on the Millers River at the New Home Dam site in the center of Orange.

To celebrate the completion of the project’s installation phase and the beginning of its five-year research phase to monitor upstream passage of the American eel, the Millers River Watershed Council and the Athol Bird and Nature Club will hold a public presentation on the project on Wednesday, May 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Ruth B. Smith Auditorium at Orange town hall.

“It’s a great day for the American eel, a native fish,” said ABNC executive director Sue Cloutier, who has championed the project since its inception in 2002. “We couldn’t have done this without the support of many groups and public agencies,” she added.

“Restoring native biodiversity is something we can all be proud of,” said David Brule, president of the Millers River Watershed Council, which has become a lead partner in the project. “The Eel Pass will make more of the Millers River and its watershed accessible to the eels, mainly in the Tully River and Lake Rohunta systems.” Brule noted that small numbers of eels have been found as far upstream as the Otter River, a main tributary of the Millers.

The American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is a migratory fish species that is catadromous: it lives in freshwater and returns to its ocean spawning area to reproduce – the reverse of salmon and other anadromous fish. According to Cloutier, the

prolific construction of high dams on rivers in the eastern United States since the late 1800s has severely limited the ability of the American eel and many other aquatic species to flourish in their preferred river reaches.

This past Monday morning, staff at the Mini-Watt Hydro-Electric Facility had to turn off the turbines temporarily to lower the water level in the river’s side channel so the construction crew could attach the bottom tailrace section of the Eel Pass ramp and bolt it in place. The crew then attached a layer of black plastic climbing material, manufactured in France, to the metal ramp. Finally, Alex Haro of the United States Geological Survey’s Anadromous Fish Research Station in Turners Falls worked with the crew to send a continuous, pump-fed stream of water down the ramp.

“The eels are really attracted to this type of water flow,” Haro said. “They will sense it in the river channel and follow it up the irrigated ramp. The specially designed climbing substrate will make it much easier for them to reach the top.”

From there the eels will fall into a collection tank, from which they will be periodically removed, counted and transported a short distance to the new Environmental Park on the upstream side of the dam to be released.

Dr. Haro, who designed the eel pass and is the project’s main technical advisor, will be the featured presenter at the May 6th public event. Haro said the original idea to place the eel pass directly on the dam proved “way too costly,” mainly because of the need to protect against potentially destructive high flows.

Students from the nearby Butterfield Elementary School will help count and transport the eels.

The project was originally funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and has recently gotten much-needed support from the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Trout Unlimited’s Millers River branch.

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