



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 12

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 16, 2010

Wendell Votes to Preserve the Working Landscape through Conservation Development

Internet Access Vote Advances

Households in Wendell will move closer together and more connected to the outside world thanks to measures approved by the voters at a special town meeting on Wednesday.

In a ballot vote of 63 to 3, the town approved a measure creating a municipal lighting plant, the first step in a process that could lead to fiber optic internet connections to any and all households in town that now have electric service. A second town meeting vote will be needed within two months to advance the measure, which would then allow Wendell to join with other underserved towns seeking 'last mile' internet connectivity through the newly formed Wired West municipal cooperative.

By a count of 42 to 3, Wendell also approved an innovative conservation development bylaw that would encourage property owners to move away from traditional 'piano key' development on 200 foot frontage, three acre building lots the town's bylaws have required until now. Although such lots will still be permitted, they will only be permitted at the rate of one every seven years.

Instead, landowners may choose to permanently conserve 75% or more of their land, in exchange for developing the remaining 25% percent more densely, as rapidly as they wish, with common driveways permitted.

Multiple uses could be allowed on the conserved land, including agriculture, logging, or hunting, and structures related to those activities. The bylaw goal is to maintain a working and vital landscape, and steer development so that wildlife corridors are maintained, and significant features are preserved.

In other measures voters approved spending \$22,000 for new furnaces in the highway garage and fire station, \$9,400 for gutters on the town hall and police station and drainage for the runoff, \$7,700 for fire department turnout gear and air pack refilling equipment, and \$1,000 to pay for updating the town's open space plan.

Following the recommendation of the finance committee, see **WENDELL** pg 5

Give a Peace Commission a Chance



(left - right) Jim Perkins, Andrea Cousins, Tim Bullock, Tom Wolfe, and Barbara Tiner are among the Leverett residents pushing for the establishment of a new elected body to be called the Leverett Peace Commission

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - "This country seems to be in perpetual war," said former Leverett selectboard member Jim Perkins on Tuesday.

Almost 30 years to the day after John Lennon was assassinated on the steps of the Dakota in New York City, Perkins explained why he and four other residents of town had come seeking support for a proposal that could have come straight from the heartfelt lyrics of one of Lennon's songs.

Perkins said he wanted to form a new elected town commission to "imagine and work for peace."

The nine member Leverett Peace Commission, as Perkins envisioned it, would "explore the causes of war," and the "closing of the vice on our personal lives," exemplified by the warrantless wiretapping of American citizens, detention without trial, and torture by any other name in secret prisons carried out in the ongoing 'war on terror'.

"We wonder, is there any stopping this war?" Perkins asked rhetorically. Or, "Is war necessary to the existence of global capitalism?"

Expanding his metaphor of capitalism as an endless war for land and resources, Perkins also asked, "How does the global capitalist system impact the lives of all Americans, even citizens of Leverett?"

There are initiatives already underway in Leverett and surrounding towns, Perkins said,

including movements promoting local agriculture and sustainable energy, "That are getting us a little space; getting us out from the vise of the capitalist system. How can we keep opening the space around our own lives? That's what the Leverett Peace Commission aims to do. We aim to establish a legacy."

Perkins stressed the new peace commission, if approved by annual town meeting in April, would exist without any town

see **PEACE** page 12

Charcoal Nothing to Monkey With



Members of the Howard family begin loading the kiln through the iron door at the bottom, later finishing up at the upper door accessed by an earthen ramp.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

NORTH LEVERETT - Charcoal production in town began in East Leverett, in 1825. By 1845, that kiln was the largest employer in town, with 14 men producing 60,000 bushels of charcoal annually. Additionally, men worked in the woods or sawmills producing kiln material.

First Kilns in North Leverett

Ethan Howard Sr. built the first kiln in North Leverett on Old Coke Kiln Road, just before the brook spanned by a one lane wooden bridge. Kilns are round, tapering toward a domed top. During construction, wood false work supported the brick roof until the mortar set.

on Avenue A were built of bricks made by Thomas Builders.

Demanding, Exciting Work

The charcoal kilns were loaded with about 80 cords of both soft and hard wood, like spokes of a wheel, first through a door at ground level at the rear, then through an upper door accessed by an earthen ramp.

Workmen closed and sealed the iron doors at top and bottom, then applied a coat of lime plaster to seal the kiln walls. Once filled with slabs, the kiln tender ignited the wood at the top with a kerosene flare, so the wood burned from the top down. Air for combustion and smoke both entered and exited via vents around the perimeter at the base, the size of two bricks, allowing the tender to open or close vents as wind direction or the rate of burning warranted.

The trick was to keep the fire smoldering. Too fast a fire burned up all the wood; too slow a fire could burn right out. The soft lime mortar made it simple to quickly knock out bricks when the fire died down.

During strong winds, the kiln tender closed the vents with bricks and mortar on the windward side to prevent cross ventilation. Too much air could result in a run-away fire.

Wood becomes charred when it smolders in the partial absence of oxygen.

The kiln attendant had a demanding and exhausting job, physically and mentally. His fitful sleep was not a deep and blissful rest.

see **CHARCOAL** pg 8

PET OF THE WEEK Magnificent Me



Dierdra

I'm Dierdra and I'm a one-year-old female domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. I'm a snappy, happy, opinionated, sophisticated purrrsonality! I like to see what's going on. I'll be your own personal Inspector of All Things. I don't understand why I've been here for months, why people keep taking home silly kittens when they could have ME, magnificent ME! I'm lonely and bored while stuck in this cage - I want to run and play, chase things, do a little climbing, a little hiding - I want the whole cat experience.

I need someone to love me. Someone who doesn't mind if I get a little feisty, someone who will love me forever. I will love you back, oh yes I will. Get me out of here. Please? To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

- Grade 6**
William Doyle
- Grade 7**
Nevan Shattuck
- Grade 8**
Amber Caouette
Serena Smith

LIVE IN

EST. 1754

MONTAGUE?

www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday. (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)
PHONE (413) 863-8666
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 1/2 Year

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Holiday Hours and Program Schedule

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE - The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, December 24th and 25th and closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, December 31st and January 1st. Story Hour will not be held on Wednesday, December 22nd, but will resume on Wednesday, December 29th at 10:15 a.m.

Music and Movement with Tom and Laurie will not be held on Thursdays, December 23rd or 30th. When it resumes in January, it will be held weekly at the Carnegie Library for two months. The Montague Center Evening Sing-a-long will not be held on Monday, December 27th. For more information, call the Carnegie Library at 413-863-3214.

NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

Winter Solstice Celebration

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library, in the spirit of a "More Perfect Union," invite you to join us at a Winter Solstice event at the New Salem Public Library on Tuesday, Dec. 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Traditional solstice decorations from around the world will be created to decorate the library while we listen to stories and learn history of the solstice rituals about the return of the sunlight and beginning the "head-long rush into summer."

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Wendell Library Cinema presents *A Charlie Brown Christmas* on Friday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own popcorn.

Brought to you by Craig Townsend and the Friends of the Wendell Library.

Senior Resource Counselors Needed

MONTAGUE CITY - Finding resources to repair a home, reduce energy costs or apply for public benefits can be difficult. Franklin County Home Care Corporation has created a new benefits counseling program that trains community members on available resources and how to access them. Once trained, volunteers help people over 60 or people with disabilities identify helpful programs and assist with applications.

Winter Programs at Northfield Mountain

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center is offering a variety of environmental education opportunities this winter. Programs for schools, homeschoolers and organized groups explore winter ecology through hands-on activities. Our experienced educators provide students the opportunity to explore subjects and habitats through focused, inquiry-based programs. These exciting field trip opportunities support the

The New Salem tradition of singing Christmas Carols and other Holiday songs will be part of the fun. It's been so cold the last few years that we are staying in the library and hope you will join us in making a joyful noise.

Refreshments will be served and a fine time will be had by all. Refreshment contributions will be gladly accepted.

A new series of training sessions for volunteers is scheduled for January 11th, 18th and 25th. Volunteers work in their own community and set their own schedules. Once training is complete, the time spent volunteering is flexible.

For information, contact Christine Baronas at cbaronas@fchcc.org or by telephone at (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259.

Massachusetts Science Frameworks. Early registration is recommended.

These educational opportunities are available Thursdays and Fridays during January and February at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. Fees range from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per student. For more information on programs please call Kim Noyes at Northfield Mountain at (413) 659-4462.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - December 20th - December 24th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine.

Monday, December 20th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, December 21st

1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, December 22nd
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Health Screenings
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, December 23rd
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, December 24th
Senior Center Closed

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call



Erving Elementary students helped to fill the "Busload of Blessings" with food for needy families on December 9th. Following a short assembly, where the students heard from representatives from organizers of the event (the United Way, Kuzmeskus Bus Company and the Erving parent teacher organization), the students carried food items to load up the bus. The school has been collecting food goods using the food pyramid as a guideline for weekly contributions.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from the Gill-Montague Bridge dedication booklet, published for the ribbon cutting ceremonies that took place on Saturday, September 10th, 1938.

- Total excavation work necessary for the original construction was 6820 cubic yards.
 - The total length of the bridge proper from pier-to-pier is 1250 feet
- More bridge facts next week!*

Christmas Peace Vigil

GREENFIELD - Vigilers at Greenfield's weekly Peace Vigil say every day is a good day for peace, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The Greenfield Peace Vigil will hold its weekly vigil as usual from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 25th and Saturday, January 1st on Greenfield's town common.

"There's a reason Jesus is called the prince of Peace," said Eric Wasileski, Greenfield native and associate pastor at the Bernardston Unitarian Church.

Suzanne Carlson said, "It's time for a New Year's resolution for peace. It's time to turn away from war, destruction, and inequality. It's time to join with our neighbors to work for peace and justice."

Oscar Arce of Greenfield echoed the theme of working together, saying "We see the connection between challenges we face in our community and challenges around the world. We're here to raise consciousness about peace and justice and about how we have the power as a community to change the world."

All are welcome to join the vigil at the Greenfield Town Common (corner of Main Street

and Federal Street any Saturday, even on Christmas and New Year's Day. Bring your own sign, or recycle one from the vigil's grab bag. Give Peace a Chance.

For information about the Greenfield Peace Vigil, contact Mary McClintock at mmclintm@yahoo.com or (413) 522-5932, or stop by the Greenfield town common any Saturday between 11 a.m. and noon.

**NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA**

BOOKS

32 Bridge Street,
2nd Floor
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

on Avenue A for over 10 years

**Jay K's
Liquors**

*If we don't carry your favorite brand,
we'll order it for you!*

Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm
Fri & Sat 10am-11pm • Sun Noon-7pm

**59 Avenue A • Turners Falls
863-9900**

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service

**MACKIN FUEL
TRUCKING
SAND & GRAVEL**

(413) 773-3622



Local Briefs

JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Amy Connelly, coordinator for the Turners Falls community meals, reports that recent publicity in The Montague Reporter has brought so many new guests to the **Community Meals at Our Lady of Peace Church** on 90 Seventh Street, the organizing committee has had to set up two additional tables.

Connelly wants folks to know about holiday schedule changes. The final Saturday- of -the-month- meal will not be served at noon on December 25th. Instead, there will be a special Christmas meal with gifts, at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.

The final-Saturday-of-the-month meals will resume at noon on January 29th. There will be no interruption to the regular Monday evening meals, which continue each week at 5:30 p.m. Don't be bashful. Stop by some Monday, and bring a friend.

The mid-week music **Holiday Concert Series at All Souls Unitarian Church** 399 Main Street in Greenfield, continues on Wednesday, December 22nd, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. featuring the Mohawk Trail Regional High School select chorus, directed by Dorothea Kostenoff. Proceeds are donated to The Recorder's "Warm the Children" fund.

Free Seasonal Flu Shots are still available at the Montague town hall, One Avenue A, in Turners Falls. Stop by any Thursday morning starting the first of the year between 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and get the free vaccine. Please call Billie Gammell, public health nurse, at (413)863-3200 X107 with any questions.

What exactly can you make with pinecones, sticks, acorns, and other materials found in nature? Join in with U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls to find out on December 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This program is designed for families with children between the ages of 5-12.

While you are at the center, tour the exhibits and enjoy activities that investigate how many animals have prepared for the New England winter.

In the spirit of the holidays the Calvary Baptist Church, Prospect Street, in Turners Falls has set up a decorated tree with four poinsettia plants on the corner of Fourth Street and Avenue A in downtown Turners.

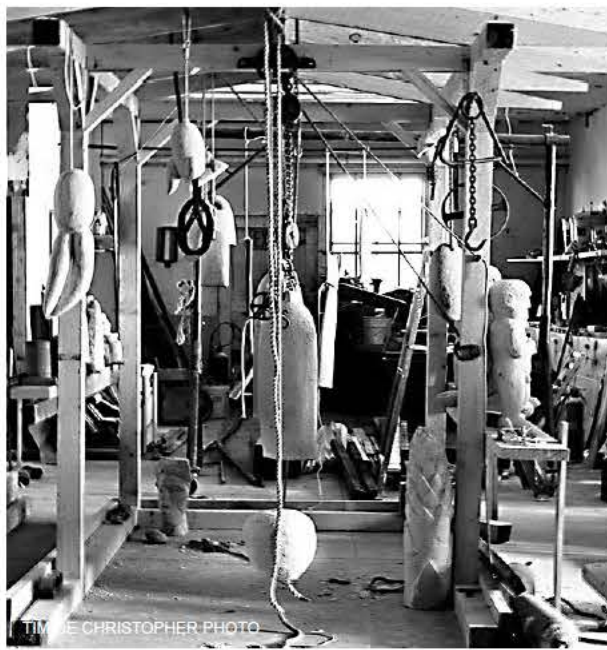
The Pioneer Valley Brass concert of Christmas and seasonal music, both secular and religious, will be performed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Long Avenue, in Greenfield. Admission is free and the concert starts at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 19th.

Zoar Outdoor's "Commuting to Work" Campaign has reached its goal of commuting 1000 miles to work this year using human-powered means. This past May, the staff at Zoar Outdoor of Charlemont commenced a challenge to leave their cars at home and bike, walk or run to work. The staff have been actively carpooling for several years in an effort to use less gas, put fewer cars on the road and help reduce their carbon footprints. The company offered \$25 gift certificates to local restaurants for every 100 miles a staff member ran, rode a bike or walked to work - six staff members earned certificates. Through the collective effort of many employees, Zoar Outdoor completed their 1000-mile challenge on November 12th. The overall company total of 1000 human powered miles prevented 880 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering our atmosphere this year.

About-Face Computer Solutions is moving to Turners Falls. The new store is at 151 Avenue A. About-Face has been operating out of Montague Center for the past 15 years, providing computer repair services as well as QuickBooks consulting. About-Face owner, Veronica Phaneuf said, "We are really excited to be opening our store in

see BRIEFS pg 14

DE CHRISTOPHER'S LABOR ON DISPLAY



TIM DE CHRISTOPHER PHOTO

Tim de Christopher's

The Fruit of Our Labors: A Work in Progress

BY ANN FEITELSON

NORTHAMPTON - If you had a dream about everything you had tried to accomplish, it might look like Tim de Christopher's installation at the Oxbow Gallery in Northampton, titled "The Fruit of our Labor: a Work in Progress."

Your dream would be set in an attic or basement, removed from the main floor of daily life, and would be filled, like de Christopher's work, with old things and organic things, memories and mysteries, potent symbols of the masculine and the

horseshoe, a bell, a ladle. Pebbles, rocks, stones, slate roofing tiles. A scythe, a saw, wrenches, a pitchfork with strands of hay clinging to it. Hammers, chains, hooks, brooms, bottles. A millstone. Old, worn books including a bible and a Hardy Boys volume and other provocative titles (*Why Men Fail; The New Idea Self Instructor*). Shot glasses, pulleys, antlers, a tobacco tin, cat skulls. Baseballs, lined up, in various states of disintegration. And that's not all. Add an awl, a plumb bob, a single shoe stretch-

feminine.

De Christopher has built a post-and-beam structure reminiscent of an attic, basement, or barn, and has arranged, on shelves that border its three sides, a ton of stuff - at least a ton of stuff.

For example, a watering can, a

er, a pencil, a snow globe, a con- certina. And still there's more.

The tools, collectibles, oddments and oddities are interspersed with de Christopher's stone sculptures. There's Shorty, his alter ego, a stocky, bulbous, blocky stone man. And an Adam and an Eve. Threaded onto horizontal poles are baker's dozens of carved bagel-shaped flatbreads. There is a carved French bread; another loaf or two; a rutabaga ballooned to ten times its ordinary size; a plump, thigh-high, gargantuan asparagus spear. And many primitive, almost primordial, weighty forms suggestive of anchors, or buoys, or bags, suspended by ropes. Lots of ropes.

It is a boggling, beguiling array, prompting connections, interconnections, poetic correspondences, and associations among the objects. So many circles: the donut-like breads, the wire brushes, the cutting wheels, the millstone.

"I gravitate towards round things. I tend to make things round," de Christopher said, at the crowded opening on Friday night. And yet - so many squares. So many tubes. So many tools, well worn, indicative of so much hard work, the "labor" of the show's title. So much weight, hoisted, hanging. So many hammers, de Christopher's own hammer see **OXBOW** pg 13

Give the Gift of Compost this Season (before the Price Increases!)

BY AMY DONOVAN

GREENFIELD - Composting is easy, and can be even easier with an effective compost bin. Attractive, durable bins for home composting are available for through the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for district residents at several locations.

The "Earth Machine" is made of a tough recycled polyethylene plastic and has a twist-on locking lid. The bin stakes to the ground and is easy to assemble, rodent resistant, and designed for good aeration. This bin features a door in the bottom that can be lifted up to easily shovel out finished compost. Effective January 1st, the

price of the Earth Machine will increase from \$40 to \$45.

Residents can save money and reduce waste by using homemade compost instead of purchasing bagged fertilizers and topsoil every spring. Residents of towns that require "Pay as you Throw" trash bags can also save money by composting food waste.

The Earth Machine is available at these locations: the Wendell Transfer Station, Tuesdays, noon - 6 p.m., and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Orange Transfer Station, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.; and at the district office, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield (hours vary; call 413-772-2438).

Please shop locally
Support
Montague Reporter
advertisers

Monday & Tuesday Specials

- two Large 16" Pizzas
1 Topping for \$20.00 plus tax
- one 10" Cheese Pizza
\$4.95 plus tax

Roberto's Family Restaurant
196 Turners Falls Road
863-0022

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

HARTWOOD TREE SERVICE
Licensed and Insured
Christopher J. Morin, owner
7 Kimberly Lane
Turners Falls
EXCELLENCE IN TREE CARE
413-522-6119

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066
48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780
Mike Fuller, Owner

Totally Free Checking
Free Gift!
Love it!
GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK
Linda Ackerman
195 Avenue A, Turners Falls
413-863-4316
www.greenfieldsavings.com
Member FDIC Member DIF

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA
MOVIES, SLIDES, VIDEOS & MORE!
CONVERTED TO DVD, VHS & OTHER FORMATS!
Bill & Kathy White
413-773-7747

Good Dirt Pottery Studio
Open Studios
Dec. 18th & 19th
38 Main Street, Montague
413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com

Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL
Serving the Area for over 30 years Certified • Bonded • Insured
We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes
28 Montague Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
863-2471
• Dead Bolts
• Household Lock Sets
• We Master Key & Re-Key
• Safe Combinations Changed

The Montague Reporter

Editor
David Detmold

Layout & Design
Claudia Wells
Boysen Hodgson
Katran Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow Cobb

Photography
Claudia Wells
Joe Parzych
Shawn Woolsey

Editorial Assistants
Hugh Corr
David Brule

Distribution Manager
Don Clegg

Circulation
Janel Nockelby

Founded by
Arthur Evans
Harry Brandt
David Detmold
August, 2002

Technical Administrator
Michael Muller

"The Voice of the Villages"

A Leaner, Meaner Nuclear Arsenal

BY DAVID DETMOLD

WASHINGTON - In April of 2009, in Prague, Czechoslovakia, the day after North Korea launched a multi-stage rocket for the first time, president Obama told a cheering crowd he would lead an international effort to eliminate nuclear weapons from the planet. Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize last year, largely on the basis of that statement.

Twenty months later, Obama is bartering core Democratic principles over tax cuts for the wealthy in a search for a few more Republican votes to ratify the New Start Treaty. The treaty would cap U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear warheads at 1550 each, on 420 deployed ICBMs, 60 nuclear capable bombers, and 240 submarine launched ballistic missiles. As a further bargaining chip, the Obama administration has anted up \$84.1 billion to modernize the American nuclear arsenal over the next ten years.

The Obama administration appears to have concluded, for America to lead the world to an era free from the threat of Armageddon, a little nuclear cap and trade might be necessary along the way.

In a conference call for journalists on Monday organized by the Consensus for American Security, ambassador Steven Pifer, a retired Foreign Service officer with more than 25 years focused on arms control and security issues with the former Soviet Union and Europe, joined brigadier general John Adams, retired, former deputy United States military representative to NATO, to argue for quick passage of the New Start Treaty before the current Senate closes its lame duck session.

Pifer said the New Start Treaty would

enhance American security in several key respects. He said it would reduce the current U.S. and Russian limits on strategic arms and warheads, down from 6,000 warheads and 1600 ICBMs, submarines and bombers.

"Americans are safer and more secure if we reduce and verifiably limit Russian warheads," Pifer said.

He explained the new treaty contains a broad range of inspection and verification measures that will give the U.S. "a lot more information on Russian forces than we would have otherwise." And he added, "We don't have any such inspections now, since Start I expired a little over a year ago."

In addition, Pifer said, since the Joint Chiefs of the U.S. military were intimately involved in negotiating New Start, Americans can rest assured, "The treaty will allow the U.S. to maintain a very agile, robust and strategic deterrence," going forward in the 21st century.

Pifer gave New Start extra-curricular bonus points for its ability to warm U.S. - Soviet relations, leading to improved access to American supply bases for the war in Afghanistan and much stricter sanctions on Iran.

The ambassador concluded, "The Senate should ratify the New Start. They've had the treaty for eight months. They've held hours and hours of hearings. Delay has costs. If it falls over into the new year, it must go back to the Senate Foreign Relations committee for review, and bring new senators up to speed. That will lengthen the verification process."

General Adams hastened to concur.

"First of all, the treaty does see **NEW START** pg 5



Decommissioning Vermont Yankee

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - "Tonight, I am absolutely confident that plant will not be issued a certificate of public good, and will have to cease operating by March 22nd, 2012. The question is, 'How do we shut it down without bankrupting the people of my state and poisoning the people of the tri-state area?'"

That was the message from Bob Stannard to a gathering of anti-nuclear activists from around the region on Wednesday, December 8th, at the Greenfield Community College's downtown campus. Stannard, a former Vermont state legislator, now represents the interests of the Citizens Action Network, the anti-nuclear organization headquartered in Rowe, MA, as their chief lobbyist in Montpelier.

Stannard said when he first began working on the campaign

to retire the 38-year old nuclear plant in Vernon by the time its 40-year operating license expires in 2012, he gave the anti-nuclear effort slim odds of success. Entergy, the nuke plant's New Orleans-based corporate owner, was playing hardball with the legislature in Montpelier and pushing a 20-year license extension with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington DC, while spending millions on a corporate advertising campaign and donations to non-profit organizations to sway public opinion throughout Vermont.

But that was before a dramatic cooling tower collapse at the plant made headlines throughout the region in 2007, and raised doubts about the adequacy of maintenance at the aging reactor. This incident was followed soon after by leaks of radioactive water inside the

plant, and the discovery in February of this year of widespread spills of radioactive tritium in the groundwater, and the Connecticut River.

That story broke just as the Vermont State Senate was taking up a vote on whether to back Entergy's request for a 20-year license extension. Due to an earlier unanimous vote requiring legislative approval before the Vermont Public Service Board could issue a certificate of public good for the license extension, Montpelier found itself in the unusual position of being the only statehouse in the land able to rule on whether a nuclear plant within its state borders could continue to operate, or should close on schedule.

By a vote of 26 - 4, on February 24th, 2010, the Vermont Senate chose to close see **VY** pg 5

A Renewed Environmental Agenda for the Commonwealth

BY JACK CLARKE

BOSTON - Reelected governor Deval Patrick and his new energy and environment secretary Rick Sullivan have a full agenda. Their priorities must include protecting our land, water, and irreplaceable diversity of plants and animals while using resources - including wind and sun - sustainably for a Green future.

Here are ten things the governor and secretary should do during this second term.

Open Space: Continue long-term investments in land by using the environmental bond to con-

serve open space. Each year in Massachusetts, we protect 43 acres a day from development and consume 22. Not bad compared with past years when those numbers were reversed. But with little population growth, we build large houses farther from metropolitan centers, consuming vast amounts of energy, losing 8,000 acres of land each year. Don't lose ground now.

Development: Rewrite the state's zoning laws. They are antiquated, confusing, and among the worst sprawl-inducing rules in the nation. Empower municipalities to chart their own futures while meeting local, regional, and statewide goals to build what needs to be built, and develop what needs to be developed in the

right places, at the right times.

Endangered Species: Fund the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Sixteen percent (435) of native Massachusetts plant and animal species are endangered, threatened, or about to be. Keep the Heritage Program alive so it can perform its emergency room services. Currently, endangered species are ignored in the state budget.

The Heat is On: Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) - a regional program involving Massachusetts and nine other states to reduce heat-trapping air pollution from the electric generation sector. RGGI has modest goals, a modest calendar, and modest results. The states set a cap of 188 million tons of carbon dioxide that power plants can collectively dump into the air, and emissions are then auctioned off at \$3 per ton. While RGGI proceeds have been used to invest in energy efficiency, the initiative has failed to have a significant impact on reducing heat-trapping gases. An see **RENEWED** pg 5



Deer Readers,
Help us Reach our Goal ...
1000 Subscribers for 2010!
With your help, we Can do it.

Subscriptions to the *Montague Reporter* make great holiday gifts for friends and relatives near and far. Take advantage of holiday rates.

Buy a Gift Subscription for \$5 off the regular price, now through January 1st, 2011

Give the gift of community!

\$15 for Half a Year. Send a gift subscription to the person listed below

Check here to include a gift card with your name:
YOUR NAME: _____

The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 12/15/10



We Welcome Your Letters!
Montague Reporter
58 4th St Turners Falls, MA 01376
reporter@montaguema.net

VY from 4

the reactor on schedule, instructing the PSB to withhold the certificate of public good.

Now, said CAN's director, Deb Katz, "We have to make clear Entergy Vermont Yankee is closing. We have to be prepared to deal with what happens next."

Based on the experience of decommissioning at other nuclear reactors, Katz said, one thing to count on is that it will cost more and take longer to clean up the reactor site than the regulators will admit, or the public is aware of.

For example, Yankee Rowe, a 185 megawatt reactor, cost \$39 million to build in 1960. After the reactor was disabled by a lightning strike in 1991, the corporate owners decided it would cost more money that it was worth to make required safety improvements, and the plant was shut down permanently. Yet while the owners first estimated it would cost \$265 million to decommission and dismantle the plant, and return the site to 'green field' status, it eventually took 15 years, and cost \$750 million, Katz said.

She added the estimate for

decommissioning Connecticut Yankee, a 582 megawatt reactor in Haddam Neck, CT that closed permanently in 1996, was \$750 million. It cost over a billion dollars to clean up that site, Katz said, and she laid much of the blame for that cost overrun on the extensive tritium contamination of the subsoil, a condition likely to be repeated now at Vermont Yankee. Connecticut ratepayers are still paying off the tab.

One problem ratepayers may face in closing Vermont Yankee, according to Marvin Resnikoff, a physicist who is an international expert on the storage and handling of nuclear waste, is that Entergy "has not contributed to the decommissioning fund (which all nuclear utilities are required to maintain by the NRC) since 2002," when Entergy bought the plant.

Resnikoff told the audience last Wednesday that Entergy's decommissioning fund is short of what the NRC estimates it will cost to decommission the 620 megawatt reactor by at least \$200 million. "But more will be needed beyond the NRC's estimate," Resnikoff claimed.

Katz put a number on that likely cost differential, saying it will eventually cost over a billion dollars to complete the decommissioning of VY, \$600 million more than the \$420 million Entergy has currently set aside in the decommissioning fund.

The cost and scope of decommissioning will be determined by a number of factors, Katz, Resnikoff and Stannard said. Among these is the standard to which the state of Vermont and the NRC eventually hold the reactor's owner in terms of millirems of radioactivity allowed to remain in the soil at the site, and the depth to which the plant's owner is required to restore the site to that required level of radioactivity.

Katz said Entergy would like to cap the cleanup at three feet deep. Stannard said once the cleanup gets underway, contractors will find tritium contamination to a likely depth of 60 to 200 feet down beneath the plant, from leaks in underground pipes Entergy's owners once swore were not even there.

Resnikoff said the reactor core, the 'hottest' part of the

reactor, will have to be cut apart by remote control, while entirely submerged in water, to protect the workers. He estimated there are "2.9 million curies of radiation per cubic meter," inside the reactor's core, and the adjacent metal of the containment vessel.

Resnikoff said the high level waste, including the 'spent' fuel rods sitting beneath just two feet of concrete containment in a storage pool seven stories in the air, have no likely destination in terms of long term storage off site. One solution would be to entomb the high level waste in concrete casks on site, but the reactor sits on the 100-year flood plain of New England's longest river. Another problem is the concrete storage casks have a 40-year life span, whereas some of the radionuclides in high level waste remain lethal for upwards of 240,000 years.

"Who knows where the waste is going to go?" asked Resnikoff, rhetorically.

In the hopes of getting towns within the 20-mile radius of the reactor involved in these and other questions, the Safe and Green campaign, another grass-

roots citizens advocacy group working for the safe shutdown of Vermont Yankee, has initiated a letter writing campaign from area selectboards to state and federal regulators who will oversee the plant's decommissioning.

Safe and Green spokesperson Randy Kehler, of Colrain, said, "The purpose of the letter is to bring the selectboards within 20 miles of the plant into the conversation, to see to it the plant is closed on schedule, and to weigh in on what happens in the interim, and what happens during decommissioning."

Katz said one of the big problems still to be faced in decommissioning this particular nuclear reactor is the fact that VY is what is termed "a merchant plant," an entity no longer owned by regulated in-state utilities.

In other words, Katz said, "Entergy has no customers. We don't know if Entergy will even exist in ten years, or whether it will sell the nuke. This is the first merchant reactor in the country to decommission. This is an experiment that will affect all of us for years."



RENEWED from 4

updated RGGI should be more ambitious, especially as Washington fails to take action.

Lower the emissions cap, raise the price to pollute, include transportation sources in the deal, and triple the modest goal of reducing pollution by 10 percent by 2018.

Four Islands Wind: Bring together Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Gosnold, and Rhode Island to develop an offshore regional wind energy project. Add adjacent federal waters, and a shared renewable energy resource can produce pollution-free electricity for generations.

Green Casinos: If Beacon Hill again tries to bring Las Vegas to Massachusetts, at least make casinos green. License only those gambling palaces that use renewable energy and recycled and recyclable building materials; have heat-trapping air pollution limits; provide public trans-

portation; protect local plants, animals, wetlands, and water; and avoid off-site impacts to neighboring towns.

Better Bottle Bill: Update the 1982 bottle law. Three billion drink containers are sold every year in Massachusetts. One-third are recycled – the rest could fill Fenway Park. It's time to require returnable wasted juice, tea, sports drink, and water containers. Bottle Bill II has languished on Beacon Hill for 16 years. Get it passed.

For the Forests: Cut forest loss by continuing the Commonwealth's commitment to tax incentives for family tree farms that elect to keep their lands in forest use and not subdivided. Ensure that the Commonwealth's timber cutting standards preserve forests' abilities to absorb carbon pollution and grow back when harvested. Forests provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportuni-

ties.

Water, Water Everywhere: Set reasonable standards on the amount of water that can be pumped from ground and surface supplies. We need water for drinking and bathing; want water for lawns, and swimming pools; and use water to buy and sell for commercial and industrial uses. Determine safe yield before our rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, and watersheds dry up.

One percent for Nature: In the end, it's all about the money. The \$30 billion state budget devotes 0.64 percent to environmental protection. It's been a decade since the environmental budget was one percent. As the economy gradually improves, so too should our commitment to protecting the nature of Massachusetts.

Jack Clarke is director of public policy and government relations for Mass Audubon



NEW START from 4

need to be ratified as soon as possible, in the 111th Congress," he said. Though he resisted talking in political terms about the process, the general said, "We're talking about months – if ever – in the 112th, so this is the time to do it. We need to get our inspectors back on the ground in Russia, which we haven't had for a year now."

Adams called the ground inspection of the Russian nuclear arsenal, "part of a panoply of verification and intelligence measures," the U.S. maintains on our former Cold War rival, including "ground based, air based, and space based," monitoring. "If we take one of them away, it affects the entire system; it weakens our entire ability to monitor

the Russian nuclear arsenal."

He added, "It is hard to imagine how we could cooperate with Russia on missile defense and nuclear proliferation in North Korea and Iran if we can't bring the treaty into force."

Adams emphasized that ratification of the New Start treaty should not be looked at as a naive step down the primrose path toward abolishing the nation's nuclear arsenal, whatever Obama might have told the citizens of Prague last year.

"This is about our strategic planning and allowing us to move forward with a survivable, robust nuclear deterrent. It allows us to deploy a flexible deterrence system for the 21st century."



WENDELL from 1


voters denied a request for \$40,000 to buy a new chipper for the highway department. No one from the highway commission or the road crew was at the meeting to defend the request.

The vote to establish a municipal lighting plant is part of a 47 town initiative to bypass commercial internet providers by raising funds jointly to build out from the town centers, where the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative will bring middle mile fiber

optic cable, to reach all homes in the towns that want internet connection. After the loans are paid off the town will own the fiber optic network that will radiate out from the town center.

Lisa Hoag said having a dependable internet connection will save many residents the need to drive out of town to conduct their business. Deirdre Cabral suggested the Municipal Lighting Plant could also be a form through which Wendell could develop wind generated electricity.

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 Main Street
P.O. Box 729
Greenfield, MA 01302



Avalanche • Colorado • Suburban • Tahoe • Equinox • Traverse • Vans

Ron Sicard
Sales Representative

Bus. Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746

**CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING
PERMS & COLORS**
Men, Women & Children

CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS

Gift Certificates Available
863 - 2022
74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

SECO CONSTRUCTION




Paul Seco

- residential & light commercial
- remodeling & repair
- roofing, siding, decks & more
- licensed & insured

no job too small!

413.863.9171 secoconstruction1@hotmail.com

MontagueWebWorks.com



build | manage | create | 413.522.4808

Leaf Busters



Gutter Cleaning and Repairs,
Spring Cleaning, Power Washing,
Lawn Maintenance and Odd Jobs

Call for a FREE Estimate

Justin Hanecak
413-512-1553

**NEW LOCAL OWNERSHIP
FAMILY VACUUM**

34 Chapman Street
Greenfield 413-774-2046
Mon - Fri, 9:30 - 5:30 | Saturday, 8:30 - 3:00

All Makes & Models
Most Repairs Done within 48 Hours
New & Used Vacuums for Sale



NOTES FROM MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Town Meeting Warrant Readied for First Thursday in 2011**

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

Town meeting members, it's time to prepare for the next special town meeting on January 6th. On Monday, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio presented a brief preview of warrant items that will be up for consideration. More details on the articles on the docket for town meeting will be discussed at the next selectboard meeting on December 20th, so stay tuned.

Those articles will first and foremost include appropriating an additional \$171,281 from the town's stabilization accounts to cover the current year's assessment for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, according to the budget compromise approved by the district meeting in November. In addition, town meeting will consider designating the expansion of Mayhew Steel in the industrial park as a certified project in an economic opportunity area, and approving a 14% property tax increment financing agreement over 10 years on the \$1.5 million investment Mayhew Steel has made in their facility. Town meeting will consider appropriating \$2800 to pay prior year bills; accepting a three quarter acre parcel of land off of Gumm Road near the railroad tracks south of Montague Center from its owner, who no longer has use for it; and using \$36,500 from the sewer retained earnings fund to offset sewer rates; and amending the town's water supply protection district to include a new backup source, the Hannegan Brook Well.

The article to create a new overlay zone protecting the Hannegan Brook well and recharge zone was amended by the planning board, following a public hearing, to leave the com-

mercial center of Millers Falls outside the new zone, according to town planner Walter Ramsey. Ramsey said the new zone would have "minimal impact on potential development," in the area.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen said town meeting would also be asked to, essentially, reduce the tax levy from FY'11 by \$58,337.89, the amount of excluded debt budgeted for the current fiscal year in excess of what the town has actually spent on the new police station and combined sewer overflow projects.

The town meeting warrant may also include a placeholder article for a contingency plan to allow the town the option of withdrawing from its municipal sewer agreement with the town of Erving, should the town decide it is more cost effective to pump sewage from the village of Millers Falls to flow into the Montague wastewater treatment plant.

In other news, free flu shots are available in the Montague town hall nurse's office on Thursday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Please note, however, the Montague town hall is closed on Thursday, December 23rd and 30th.

Mike Brown, superintendent of the Turners Falls Water Department, advised the selectboard in writing that the water department will not enter the Strathmore mill should problems arise with an eight inch fire suppression water main located near the paper mills, due to safety concerns with entering the old mill. The town of Montague owns the mill complex. According to Brown, the "eight inch cast iron water main with lead joints dates back to circa 1917." Should a problem

occur with the water main, Brown said, the water department's approach will be to shut off the water rather than risk injury to personnel.

The Turners Falls Water Department is a separate governmental entity from the town of Montague.

The Rendezvous bar at 78 Third Street in Turners Falls received a warning from the selectboard regarding a recent liquor license violation. Co-owner Mark Wisniewski, who prefaced his remarks by saying there was "no excuse" for serving alcohol to a minor, explained that the Rendezvous has a policy of not serving anyone who looks under 35 years old without first checking their identification. However, one of the bar's servers did so. In its three year history, this is the first violation for the Rendezvous. "We hope we never appear here again," reiterated Wisniewski.

The selectboard approved the appointment of Juanita Bunny Caldwell to the council on aging. "I feel she's highly qualified," said selectboard member Chris Boutwell.

Please welcome new board of health and planning clerk, Ann Stewart. The selectboard approved the hiring recommendation presented by Gina McNeely, director of public health, and Walter Ramsey, town planner.

Barrel stickers for 2011 trash pickup are now available in the treasurer's office for \$78 each. The stickers are good for six months.

It's not too early to start considering where to spend your New Year's holiday. On-premise liquor licenses in the town of Montague have been extended from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. for January 1st, 2011. Minors are advised to get to bed early.

NOTES FROM WENDELL SELECTBOARD**Dog Complaint on Kentfield Road Remains Unresolved, for Now**

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Dog officer Maggie Houghton met the selectboard on December 8th to discuss options for resolving an ongoing dog complaint on Kentfield Road.

Back in March, Claude Masson, who owns several dogs, at least one of them, an Akita, the subject of complaint, came to a dog hearing before the selectboard and agreed to buy bigger chains or leashes to more properly secure the his dogs, one of which had broken free and alarmed a neighbor, who owns a smaller dog.

In September, a subsequent complaint came in from that neighbor stating that the Akita had gotten loose again and threatened her property and smaller dog. In this instance, apparently, the Akita did not break loose from a leash or chain, but "barreled past" Masson when he opened his front door, according to town administrative assistant Nancy Aldrich.

Masson, who said he

never received notice of the subsequent hearing, did not appear to contest the second complaint, and the selectboard decided to order him to either build a six foot fence around his property or remove his dogs from town.

Now, in a letter to the board, Masson has said he wants to appeal the options the town has given to him for resolving the complaint.

On December 8th, Houghton said there has been no trouble reported about the Akita (or Akitas) on Kentfield Road since then.

Selectboard member Dan Keller, who visited Masson in November to deliver a letter detailing the board's decision, said, "My sense is that he doesn't have control of the dog."

Houghton said she is inclined to be a little lenient. She also said the neighbor and her young puppy have a right to a safe yard.

Houghton recalled that years ago there was a sim-

ilar situation in town in which the dog owner was required to leash the dog before opening the door. She added, "A double door might also work."

The selectboard scheduled a follow-up hearing on the dog complaint for January 5th, 2011.

In other news, selectboard chair Christine Heard said Mass Audubon, as promised, is setting up a nature education program at Swift River School.

The selectboard had asked Mass Audubon to offer some consideration to the town in recognition of the fact that Audubon owns a good part of Wendell and, as a non-profit agency, pays no taxes. Bob Wilber, director of land protection for Mass Audubon, met with the selectboard and offered a full scholarship for a Wendell youngster at its Wildwood summer camp, and nature education at the Swift River School as an alternative to cash payments.

Heard said Swift River

see WENDELL pg 11

Transition Town Meeting Held

BY SHAY COOPER WENDELL - Transition Town trainer Tina Clarke, from Montague, gave a powerful and exhilarating overview of what the Transition Town model can offer people in a local community. Many of the 20 participants at the meeting sponsored by the Wendell energy committee found the evening uplifting and inspiring.

After learning about how specific towns in America and Europe have begun to apply the 'Transition Town' model to their communities, Clark offered practical steps on how to draw on the unique strengths of

each community to weather the coming economic and environmental transitions the trainers foresee.

The Transition Town model focuses on three major challenging issues of our day: Peak oil and the inevitable decline of global oil supply in our lifetime; the timely challenge of our environmental and climate crises; and the present need to create a new paradigm to survive in a growing sea of economic instability.

The Transition Town model responds by encouraging each town to answer the question, 'How?' through a creative format of community dia-

logue with three strong guiding principles for a plan of action to work: have fun, find our individual passion and cultivate quality relationships.

Transition Town shows how action on a local level can create a more positive future, free from a system based on pollution, war and reliance on finite energy sources.

Want to learn more? Come to a follow-up meeting: Monday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

For more information, call 978-544-2190 or go to www.TransitionNetwork.org / www.transitionus.org

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Phil & Paul Waldron

Waldron Building & Remodeling
A Name You Can Trust

Kitchens, Baths, Decks, Replacement Windows
Additions, New Construction 413-422-2252 Phil
Sheetrock, Painting & More... 413-834-0534 Paul

Fully Insured, CS #088999 & HIC 145293

Free Estimates & Reasonable Rates

**CARSENSE
AUTOMOTIVE**

Your Automotive Answer

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS

TELE: (413) 772-8862 **U-HAUL**

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

CopyCat

PRINT SHOP

We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

Pipione's
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licences
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

Now Serving
BURGER & BEER
by the FIRE

BREAKFAST,
LUNCH & DINNER
7 days a week

Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

GREENFIELD@COPYCATPRINTSHOP.COM
413-774-3500

Please visit our website for
printing tips and online services:
copycatprintshop.com

UP TO THE MINUTE TECHNOLOGY
OLD-FASHIONED PERSONAL SERVICE

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving to Consider Reducing Town's Share of Employee Health Plans

BY KATIE NOLAN - Treasurer Margaret Sullivan told the selectboard there will be a 3.5% increase in Erving's premiums for employee and retiree health, dental, and life insurance for FY'12, if current levels of town commitment are maintained.

Sullivan asked the board on December 9th to review current and projected costs in order to determine the level of benefits to provide for the coming fiscal year.

She reported the town currently pays 86% of the insurance costs for employees and 79% for retirees. The selectboard will examine the possible impact of reducing the town's share of the health plans for employees and retirees, under various scenarios, after the turn of the year.

On December 9th, the Erving selectboard approved hiring two new employees, Erving residents James Paulin for the maintenance department and Darby Chagnon as the assistant wastewater treatment plant operator. Seventeen candidates applied for the maintenance job and fifty for the wastewater operator job. Both of the successful applicants currently work for the town of Montague.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin asked highway maintenance department chair Paul Prest why he hadn't interviewed unemployed Erving residents

who applied for the maintenance job. "We owe it to them to talk with them," Goodwin said.

Prest said he disagreed; that he had interviewed the best candidates after reviewing the resumes submitted.

The town has installed four automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in town buildings: at town hall, at Erving Elementary School, at the library, and at the senior center. The town's four police cruisers are already outfitted with AEDs.

The selectboard approved the low bid of \$6,123 for supplying tracks for the shared fire and police department "Gator" utility vehicle.

In other business, after all the former members of the town's energy committee dropped off in the last year, Ben Fellows was appointed to be the first member on the energy

committee as it reforms. Pete Kavanaugh's resignation from the finance committee was accepted, with regret.

The board went into executive session for the remainder of the meeting "for the purpose of considering the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health or the discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual" and to review previous executive session minutes.

The selectboard schedule includes meeting with the Montague selectboard regarding shared capital costs for the Erving wastewater treatment plant on December 16th at 7:00 p.m., and a presentation on the reuse of the Usher property on January 6th at 7:30 p.m.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Among the five articles on the warrant for a special solstice eve town meeting on December 20th at 6:30 p.m. is one that would allow the town to set up an education stabilization fund, using the \$38,121 left over from Gill's assessment for the current year's Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) assessment.

Gill received a windfall in this amount after the district's budget setting meeting in November reduced the amount approved at annual town meeting in June.

In a handout prior to the meeting, Gill's administrative assistant Ray Purington explained the reasoning behind socking the money away for next year.

"This article is unanimously recommended by the finance committee (7-

NOTES FROM GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Voters Asked to Establish Education Stabilization Fund

0) and selectboard (3-0). The town will almost certainly face increases in next year's school budgets, as well as a decrease in state aid. Placing this money into a stabilization fund will provide a cushion against higher assessments in FY'12."

Purington estimated, "Gill's assessment percentage for the GMRSD will rise from 14.8% to 15.0%," next year, "due to shifts in enrollment. Based on this year's school assessment calculations, the enrollment shift could produce a \$7,000 increase to Gill's assessment next year, even with a level assessment FY'12 budget from the district."

He added that the financing plan recently agreed to by the towns and the school district forecasts an increase of \$75,191 for the combined FY'12 assessment for Gill and

Montague. "Assuming 15.6% of the total assessment will fall to Gill, our town's assessment for FY'12 will increase by a further \$11,730."

Purington estimated an additional increase of \$20,000 for the town's assessment to the Franklin County Technical School, due to a rise in Gill's student enrollment there from 11 students to 13.

Finally, Purington said, "The president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation is projecting a 5-10% cut in state aid to towns next year." Although this is only one person's educated guess, for Gill a cut of this size in state aid would translate to a loss of \$12,000 to \$24,000.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Accident, Assist Other Police and WMECO

- 12/07
7:26 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle accident at Rt. 10 and Rt. 142.
- 12/09
9:15 p.m. Assisted WMECO with issues on Gill-Montague Bridge.
- 12/10
7:20 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police department with distraught subject.
- 9:20 p.m. Assisted Northfield police department with juvenile issues on West Road.
- 12/13
8:10 a.m. Assisted resident at station with family issues.
- 10:03 a.m. Report at station regarding landlord/tenant issues on Main Road.
- 8:35 p.m. Suspicious person investigated at French King Bridge.
- 12/14
7:28 p.m. Car vs. deer accident on French King Highway.
- 7:32 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, car rolled over on Mountain Road, no injuries.
- 8:07 p.m. Report of possible jumper on French King Bridge.
- Checked area, dive team summoned to respond.



The Montague Reporter

Is Seeking to Hire Committed Reporters to Cover Local School Committee and Selectboard Meetings.

If You Aren't Committed Yet, We Can Get You Committed.

For Details: Call 413-863-8666

Please shop locally
Support
Montague Reporter
advertisers!

Your clear choice for

QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

SUNRISE

(413) 498-4318

Fully Insured
Free Estimates

Honest Work
Honest Prices!

Mass. Contractor Reg. # 107141
Mass. License # 059565



JOE GRAVELINE

Domestic, Asian & European Ron Kelley, Owner



Eagle Automotive

147 2nd Street, Turners Falls
(413) 824-8111

Engine Light
ABS/Brake Light
SRS/Air Bag Light

Complete Car and Truck Repair

Simply Computing

computer set-up
training
QuickBooks



Debbe Dugan
863-5030

Your Pace at Your Place

It Figures!

Kate McGrath, MBA
Accountant



IRS-Approved Income Tax Preparer
Accountant Specializing in QuickBooks

413-768-9095

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • **413-863-2236**
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 12051

Private Room Available

THE CHURCH STREET HOME

24 Church Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

A retirement home for independent senior women of Franklin County since 1942.

Family-style meals, beautiful surroundings, and the security of a hostess on duty at all times.



Visitors always welcome!
(413) 773-7252

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist

INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
01376

email: tracey@ahrist.com
web: www.ahrist.com

Tracey Kuklewicz **863-4373**
Vice President

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

FRED CHASE

TRUCKS  BUSES

FIRE APPARATUS

Antique Truck Repair & Restoration
413-863-8634 • Route 2 • Gill

River View Muscle Therapy

Muscle Therapy
Swedish Massage
Therapeutic Touch



By Appointment Only
Julie Lowensburg, RN, LMT
Member, AMTA

2 Bridge Street • Shelburne Falls • 413-625-9932 or 624-0220

Painting at Village Coop Removed Following Complaint by Local Pastor

BY ANNE HARDING
NORTH LEVERETT - "Please remove the painting of Jesus Christ dragged by the lion. Very offensive... and I love coming to the coop. Please! Thank you."

That was the anonymous note handed to Wendell artist Adrian Montagano by a cashier at the Leverett Village Coop on Sunday night, when he stopped in for his nightly cup of coffee.

By Monday, Pastor Douglas Macleod of the North Leverett Baptist Church, a Leverett fire fighter and a regular shopper at the coop, had heard about the painting hanging among eight other works by Montagano in the coop's café, and stopped by to see it for himself.

"I heard there was a painting hanging in the coop which was just an absolute perverted display of Jesus Christ and the church, and I went up there and I looked at it, and I actually took some pictures of it. I was offended by it as a Christian, and I asked the coop if they would consider taking it

down," Macleod said.

Coop manager Paul Rosenberg recalled the conversation as a bit more heated than that. He called MacLeod's vehement statements about the painting to customers dining in the café space a "diatribe," and said the pastor, "demanded we take the painting down."

Rosenberg said MacLeod alluded to economic consequences if the coop continued to show the work in question, and by the end of Monday, several community members had stopped in and stated they would not shop there while the painting was up.

By Tuesday morning, Montagano had removed the painting. Following a special meeting of the coop's board of directors, called on an emergency basis by Rosenberg, Rosenberg said Montagano made the decision to remove the painting himself. That meeting was held in the coop's dining area in the presence of Montagano, the

coop's art show coordinator Lauren Shey and other customers. Rosenberg said the coop board did not take a formal vote to tell Montagano to remove the painting.

Board chair Pamela Stone confirms no formal vote was taken. But she maintains the board had come to a unanimous "consensus" agreement that the painting should come down, prior to Montagano's arrival at the meeting.

Montagano said it was clearly the board's decision to have the painting taken down.

Stone said, "The board does not want to police art. But we are a community owned store, not a gallery."

Stone is a relatively new member of the board, serving her first term as chair. Stone cited past precedent in reviewing complaints about art or other items in the coop deemed offensive by its members, and said such decisions have been made on a case by case basis. In this case, Stone said five

of the seven board members were present at the meeting; one weighed in via email and the seventh did not respond to the meeting request.

Montagano, who has a concurrent show mounted in Holyoke at the Recovery and Learning Center, said Shey had asked him earlier this month to mount a show at the coop, and he warned her then that some of his remaining available work was "edgy," and political in nature. Montagano's work can be viewed at his website www.portalsoft-ransmission.com.

Despite that warning, Shey, a painter who has coordinated the monthly art shows in the coop's café for more than a decade, was willing to mount Montagano's work, and the show hung for a week with no objections.

After receiving the anonymous note on Sunday, Montagano met with Shey and asked, "What should I do?" After talking with Shey, Montagano



Golgotha, by Adrian Montagano

decided to post the complaint and a public response next to the painting. He hoped this might answer any questions about the work. But then events began to snowball, and Montagano said he had no time to write and post the letter.

The painting in question, *Golgotha*, features an ominous sky with a giant lion carrying the naked body of Christ in his mouth. In the background a hill with three empty crosses is intended to be Golgotha, the hill where Jesus was crucified. There are five small spots of blood on the otherwise barren snow scene, blood that dripped from the nail holes in the prostrate figure of Christ. The lion is wearing a liturgical headdress called a miter.

Montagano said the painting is not intended as a negative depiction of Christ, but rather a sym-

see **PAINTING** pg 16

CHARCOAL from pg 1



With weeds and small trees sprouting from the roof and bricks falling, the kiln still stands after more than a century, defying heavy snow loads and the forces of gravity.

ful sleep was not a deep and blissful rest.

Charring took about seven to ten days, and an equal amount of time to cool the kiln, to prevent re-ignition. It took yet another week to ten days to unload the kiln, according to Glazier. The yield was about 4,000 bushels of charcoal.

Cough Drops and Gas Masks
Charcoal from the Howard

kilns became an ingredient of Smith Brothers Cough Drops. Companies building gas masks for the U.S. Army used North Leverett charcoal in gas mask canisters to purify air laden with poison gas. There is a long list of medicinal and other uses for charcoal and activated charcoal.

Activated charcoal is charcoal that has been oxidized by the introduction of oxygen. It is used

as a digestive aid, to absorb stomach gas, treat spider bites, as an ingredient of birth control pills, and to fire blast furnaces for smelting iron. Charcoal byproducts are wood spirits, acetic acid, wood tars and oils, and methanol alcohol, which would account for the volatility of the gases and resulting explosions.

Monkeys in Africa have been observed eating charcoal after consuming acid foods which cause acid reflux. But charcoal gases are nothing to monkey with, as the Howards discovered when the kiln roof blew off.

Exploding Gasses

Heating wood produces a variety of volatile gases, including carbon monoxide, which burns with a blue flame in a gas stove. If lighted with a match, the burner can explode if the person lighting it is slow.

In many instances, gases at the Howard kilns ignited and blew the heavy iron doors off. The doors once blew off six times in one hour. In 1946 a kiln blew its

top, and the contents began burning out of control. The explosion sounded like a muffled "whoof" according to Glazier.

"The roof came back down," Glazier said. "So, they dynamited a hole in the wall to get at the fire with water."

Glazier, only 12 years old, sprayed a mist of water on the fire to bring it under control. The Howard family did not rebuild that kiln until 1952.

Henry Ford Helped Kill Leverett Kilns

Henry Ford had an active mind. He specified that suppliers ship parts in boxes the length suitable for Model T floorboards. He converted other shipping crates and wood waste into charcoal, and developed a process for making charcoal briquettes out of useless charcoal dust. Ford charcoal became Kingsford Briquettes, still sold in local stores today for barbeque grills. You can buy Kingsford Briquettes at Food City for your next barbeque. The introduction

of charcoal briquettes and the adoption of air pollution laws sounded the death knell for the North Leverett kilns. The Howard Brothers could not afford a briquette forming machine, but they were able to sell a huge pile of formerly useless charcoal dust they'd discarded behind their kiln. The Howards loaded up the worthless dust and sold it to briquette manufacturers by the truckload, Glazier said.

Charcoal Powered Vehicles

Charcoal, like coal, can be used to generate "coal gas." The Greenfield Gas Company, located on Mill Street, manufactured gas for cooking and heating by heating coal in the absence of air. Coal gas is deadly carbon monoxide, colorless, tasteless and odorless. To avoid death by asphyxiation, coal gas operators added a distinctive odor. "Sticking your head in the oven," was a method of suicide. Charcoal produces the same

see **CHARCOAL** pg 9

 • Pizzas
• Entrees
• Salads
• Full Bar & Patio
magpiepizza.com
21 Bank Row, Gld.
413-475-3570

woodfired pizzeria

HOPE & OLIVE
SERVING HOME GROWN
FARM-INSPIRED FOOD & DRINK

44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD, MA 01301
PHONE 413 774 3150

The Gill Tavern
Come For a drink, stay For a meal
www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
326 Main Road, Gill, MA 413-863-9006

Large Selection of Kringle Candles.
Only source in Greenfield!



BAKER Office Supply 310 Main Street, Greenfield
413-774-2345

Diemand Farm Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell

Frozen Turkeys available for the Holidays
Thank You for supporting local farms.

Farmstand Hours:
6 Days a Week 6 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
Call: 978-544-3806

Your Local **STIHL** Dealer
413-367-2481

Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.
Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague
Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Welcome Yule at the Shea



BY SUDI NIMMS

TURNERS FALLS - Last weekend the Shea Theater hosted this year's annual community midwinter celebration *Welcome Yule: Music, Dance, Songs, and Stories to Drive the Dark Away.* Unlike a plot driven play, *Welcome Yule* weaves myth, dance, and song to reawaken traditions kindled in the long-ago, as far back as the 14th century. The show offers a wintery kind of dream, not unlike something Charles Dickens' *Ghost of Christmas Past* might conjure. This celebration offers thanks and feasting for the end of a year, and hope for prosperity in the year to come.

This year's setting, music and dance were inspired by the settlers of Cape Breton, who came to the island off the coast

of Nova Scotia from England, France and Scotland. Many of the pieces portrayed in the performance were traditional for the winter season, celebrating and honoring the heritage and customs of each nation.

In Act I, the action takes place at the fictional White Horse Pub. The white horse is significant in ancient lore. In Gallo-Roman religion, the Goddess Epona was a protector of horses, donkeys, and mules. The worship of Epona was widespread in the Roman Empire between the first and third centuries CE, which may explain the story's endurance. Stories of a carving of Epona with birds and roses, and even a dancing horse, were woven throughout the *Welcome Yule* performance. The stories of the island's magical, mythical

white horse with "blazing blue eyes" who leads lost villagers back home are enchanting.

The players used a sparse and effective setting of large window sills, a large stone fireplace, a hanging candelabra and a few benches, along with the village pub, indicated by a few cafe tables. The doorways

and stage front were gaily decorated with yards of greenery swags and bows creating a mirthful, warm, inviting scene.

The first dance, Myleharane's March, celebrated the turning of the year, came not from Cape Breton but the Isle of Man, located in the Irish Sea between the Great Britain and Ireland. This dance was performed by a troupe called the And Sometimes Y Morris dancers. Additional dance performers included the Blue Willies and the Juggler Meadow Morris Men.

The opening number was followed by rapid fire enactments of a dizzying array of revelry: a medieval melody, traditional English carols, a 16th century dance, children singing a variant of "I Saw Three Ships Come

Sailing In," and a children's parable involving woodland creatures assisting their friend, a frightened horse, across a river. A chorus sang of sailors' debts, and holly and ivy. As in every year's *Welcome Yule* performance, there was a Mummers play. These are seasonal folk plays, whose roots are English, performed by troupes of actors known as mummers or guisers, who once would have wandered house to house, or performed in pubs, or public houses. The Shea made a good stand in.

The 30-plus member adult chorus sang a capella or accompanied by musicians playing instruments both modern and obscure. Fiddles, flutes and feet were joined by guitar, mandolin, banjo, upright bass, accordion, and whistle, as well as the unusual and delightful hurdy-gurdy, nyckelharpa, and bodhran. Musicians ranged in age from youngster to adult, and their accomplished playing was a pleasure.

The Morris dances likewise were a pleasure to behold, with long wooden poles clicking and clacking above the dancers' heads, behind them and against each other's poles. At other times, each dancer wore wristlets of bells and would ring them as they danced. The performers were dressed in "early peasant" garb, with the women in long skirts and white caps and the men in loose shirts, vests and trousers.

The second act took place "around a bonfire in a clearing

on a windy hillside" as depicted by a stone fire ring on the stage. "Cold Blows the Wind" evoked the chill feeling that must have greeted risers in a winter house with a cold hearth, beginning the day's chores again from scratch - no thermostat, no grocery stores.

Yet, it also describes the bonds of family, friends, and neighbors as communities come together - particularly in difficult seasons - to keep bodies, minds, and spirits warm and alive. The children extended this consideration even to the creatures of nature. "What will the mouse do in the winter? Poor thing!"

Woodland creatures were also featured in a most provocative slow motion dance. Hooded men slowly emerged from shadowy green light holding giant sets of elk or deer antlers. It seemed the males were beginning their rutting season by fighting with each other. There is something deeply mysterious and ancient about this dance, repeated year after year in *Welcome Yule*.

Then return of the light was celebrated once again as the Lord of the Dance encouraged all to "Dance, dance, wherever you may be."

Year 27 is sure to please as well as the past 26. So if you missed this year's *Welcome Yule* celebration, you have another chance in 12 months to attend a show that's been centuries in the making, honoring what humankind has been made of for millennia - faith, family, good friends, and the simple joy of living.

CHARCOAL from pg 8

deadly carbon monoxide gas as coal gas and burns with the same blue flame.

In 1931, a Chinaman, Tang Zhongming, converted a gasoline automobile to run on carbon monoxide generated when burning charcoal. Charcoal conversions were popular in China until the 1970s.

In Japan, Toyota converted a 1937 Buick to burning charcoal, or more precisely, the gas given off by charcoal in an oxygen starved atmosphere, a process similar to the manufacture in kilns.

Charcoal burning cars and trucks continued in use until the 1970s in Japan, France, Brazil

and the Philippines. In Russia, Model A Ford Gaz trucks were converted to charcoal. Australia also converted Fords to run on charcoal during hard times.

While serving in Japan with the occupation forces in 1946, I saw Japanese heavy trucks operating on charcoal. A Japanese trucking depot near our base on Hokkaido looked like a forest fire each morning when the trucks' charcoal tanks were first fired up with rice straw and kindling.

When on a hike, one day, a chauffeur-driven 1936 Ford coasted to a stop by our line of march. It was out of charcoal. The chauffeur gathered dry twigs and leaves to fill the tank, and soon the car glided off as quietly as an electric golf cart. The power

delivered by charcoal is about half that of gasoline. The engines ran quietly, but power was dismal and acceleration was 0 to 30 m.p.h. in about 60 minutes.

Headaches and Disorientation

When I ran an excavating business, I bought bags of charcoal by the truckload to use in thawing frozen ground during a severe winter, or for insulating underground pipes. Leonard LaClaire tended the North Leverett kilns in those days. Charcoal dust clung to him from head to toe and made him smell like a smoked ham. He complained of headaches and disorientation from the exhausting necessity of waking from fitful sleep every couple of hours, night or day, to plug or open kiln vents

during charring. When LaClaire sought medical help for his problems, doctors discovered he had a form of epilepsy. He took medication, at first, but eventually had a brain operation that restored him to health, never to be bothered again. It was disappointing to hear that doctors had not treated him with charcoal.

Monkeys, who use charcoal to aid digestion after eating food that does not agree with them, are not alone. Drugstores sell charcoal tablets to serve the same purpose. Charcoal absorbs toxins in the digestive tract just as charcoal absorbs poison gas in a gas-mask. It is not clear whether monkeys learned the value of charcoal from observing humans or if humans learned it from

observing monkeys.

Last Leverett Kiln

The lone remaining kiln on Hemenway Road stands empty after 80 years of charcoal production by the Howard family. Weeds and saplings have taken root in the lime mortared roof, stoically defying heavy snow loads and the laws of gravity. Elliot Sherman bought the lone surviving kiln in 1977, and produced a little charcoal off and on, but ceased production completely in 1989. Air pollution laws would make restarting the operation prohibitively expensive now. The kiln does not have historic designation, nor is preservation a consideration at this time.



PLACE YOUR COLOR BIZ CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

**Tile
Lino
Carpet**

BASICALLY BICYCLES

New England's
Recumbent
Headquarters

413-863-3556
88 Third Street,
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Electric Bikes
starting at \$499.95

Order online at www.BasicallyBicycles.com

Huge Selection of Passenger,
Light Truck/SUV, Truck, Farm,
Off Road, Industrial, Trailer,
Lawn & Garden, ATV

Pete's
TIRE BARN, Inc.

Tires for Work. Tires for Play.

www.petestire.com
Northampton • 186 North King St. 413-586-8815
Brattleboro • 220 Old Ferry Rd. 802-254-3628
Orange • 275 E. Main St. 978-544-8811

SOLAR STORE

SOLAR ELECTRIC

Solar Store of Greenfield

2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield • 413-772-3122
www.solarstoreofgreenfield.com • Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5

Gerri Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • GerriJohnson@Realtor.com

Don't settle for less
Choose a CRS (Certified Residential Specialist)

Only 4% of all REALTORS hold this prestigious designation. The CRS is my badge of expertise and your shield of assurance. Put your trust in the best to get the job done. Whether buying, selling or referring, always choose GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

Gerri Johnson & Associates
REALTORS

66 French King Hwy., Gill
(413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM

Kubota Your Local
Kubota Dealer

413-367-2481

Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.

Sales, Parts & Service
310 Federal Street (Route 63)
Montague

Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NOTES FROM GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

District Review Still Under Wraps

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE
 The Gill-Montague district review has been completed by the state review board. Superintendent Carl Ladd, who has expressed the hope the review will allow the district to shed its "needs improvement" status in light of dramatic test score improvements, has received the first draft of their report, but said he was not allowed to comment on its findings yet, until the final draft is released.

Ladd fact-checked the report, and sent it back to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review. Only after this final check is complete will the report be made public, probably after the first of the year. Ladd gave no clue whether he is pleased with the results to school committee members gathered at the Gill Elementary School on Tuesday night. He promised to post the report on the Gill-Montague district

website once the final report is published.

Bart Bales, of Bales Energy Associates in Gill, presented a proposal to conduct an energy analysis of ways to save money and utilities at the pool at Turners Falls High School. Bales proposes to evaluate pool room ventilation, dehumidification, space conditioning, pool water heating and related control systems.

GM business manager Lynn Bassett estimated it costs the

school district between \$35,000 and \$45,000 per year to heat and maintain the pool. She said this is only an estimate based on square footage, since no evaluation of actual costs has been conducted.

Bales said unlike the rest of the school, where utilities can be shut off to conserve energy when not in use, the pool requires constant temperatures, while the evaporation of the water requires an ongoing process of water circulation. Maintaining room temperature and humidity means energy is used constantly whether the pool is in use or not.

Bales said he will look at the

whole system to consider the feasibility of energy saving measures that could save district money on the pool.

Bales said Western Massachusetts Electric Company and Berkshire Gas have indicated willingness to each pay one third of the cost of the energy analysis, reimbursing the school district for upfront costs. The entire audit would cost \$6000. The school committee voted unanimously to approve \$2,000 for the district's share of the project, approved hiring Bales Energy Associates to perform the energy analysis.



Greenfield Wishes You a Merry Christmas!

The Montague Reporter will donate 10% of ad revenue from this page to the Toys for Tots Campaign

DAD'S

Liquor
 Andre & Suzette Guilmet, proprietors

NEW
 Mass State Lottery Location

Full Liquor License

- Ice • Snack Items • Cigarettes at State Minimum
- ATM & Major Credit Cards Accepted

402 Federal St., Greenfield • 774-9488

Zemi is a Jewelry Retail specialist, which also has Women's clothing, Gifts & Novelties

ZEMI 176 Main Street Greenfield, MA 01301 774-7079	CRYSTAL 1 Ashfield Street Shelburne Falls, MA 01301 625-6072
--	--

Cherry Rum Automotive
 Auto Service & Used Car Sales
Ted Kajdan
 Service Manager

451 Bernardston Rd Greenfield, MA 01301 413-774-4605
 www.cherryrumauto.com

REPLAY ◀ ◀

Buy, sell, trade, consign and play music, instruments, gear, and much more.

replayav@yahoo.com
 231 main street, Greenfield MA 01301 (413) 773-3037

ALBER HEARING SERVICES

Hearing Testing, Hearing Aid Sales and Service
Lisa C. Alber, Au.D

Doctor of Audiology 413-774-0100
 Cherry Rum Plaza • 489 Bernardston Rd., Suite 108 • Greenfield, MA 01301

OFFICE: (413) 773-3686
 FAX: (413) 773-3273

F.W. Farrell
INSURANCE AGENCY INC.
 525 BERNARDSTON ROAD
 GREENFIELD, MA 01301

CELL: (413) 433-7170
 email: tfarrell@farrell-ins.com
 Web Site: www.farrell-ins.com

TIMOTHY FARRELL

Todd Cousino
 Owner

VIDEO GAMES ETC

Buy, Sell, Trade Games, Electronics, and More!

New & Vintage Video Games and Machines.
 1,000's of DVD's

229b Main St. Greenfield, Ma. 01337
 Phone: (412) 772-0044
 E-mail: vgetc@yahoo.com

SONIC CREATIONS
Musical Instruments Sales & Service
Lessons & Workshops
Guitars starting at \$90.00

at the Mohawk Mall 91 Main Street, Greenfield
 (former location of Herm's Restaurant) 413-325-8042

Open: Tues-Thurs & Sat 10am-6:30pm, Fri 10am-8pm Closed Sun-Mon
 www.facebook.com/SonicCreations • SonicCreation@Rock.com

THE COUNTRY JEWELER

Inventory Reduction Sale In Progress Save up to 60% thru the Holiday's

Corner of Main and Chapman Streets (413) 772-0859
 220 Main Street, Greenfield

Michael Spence
 Deborah Spence

NEEDFUL THINGS
 Selling Quality Used Furniture
 Collectibles • Housewares

199 Deerfield St. Routes 5 & 10
 Greenfield, MA 01301 (413) 774-7430

MUSIC STORE
 AUDIO & VISUAL COMPONENTS & FURNITURE

150 Federal St., Greenfield
 413-774-2836
 800-498-2896

email: mstore@valinet.com • www.the-musicstore.com

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.
 - Gary and Nancy Melen

NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.
 five memorials since 1893
 We engrave memories that last forever

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
 10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

"The perfect remembrance"

EDL Dealer in used Home Furnishings
 SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
 featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
 Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make Lamps Lite! Open 7 Days a Week

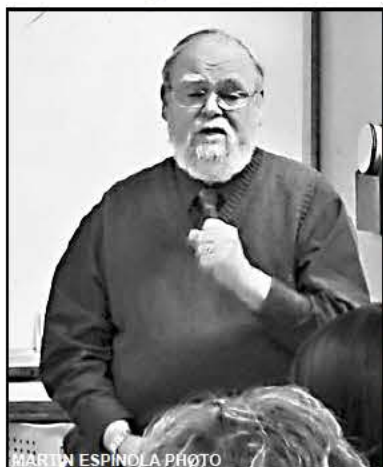
GOOD USED USABLES

CATHY FLOWER
 MANAGER
 valleytees@theassn.org

VALLEY TEES
 SCREEN PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY

28 Federal Street
 Greenfield, MA 01301
 Ph & F: (413)772-8626
 www.valleytees.org

These Little Lights of Ours at the Montague Elementary School



Chip Wood

BY PENNEY ROBERTS

TURNERS FALLS - The Montague Elementary School held evening events for children and their parents on Thursday, December 9th, in the Sheffield building. Organized by reading specialist Laurel Rollins, the evening, called "A Night of Light and Learning," had a Winter Solstice theme, and ended with punch and cookies.

But first, students worked on craft projects in the cafeteria while about 40 parents took part in a workshop led by curriculum coordinator Chip Wood called, "How to Communicate Effectively with your Children."

Wood, who has a masters in social work, and co-founded the Responsive Classroom approach to teaching and learning, encouraged parents to remember they were once children too, and that the goal of parenting is to raise an independent person. He encourages parents to let go of their children a little at a time, so as they mature to adulthood, they are prepared to face life's challenges.

Wood suggested that bedtime is a good time to speak with kids, when the rush of daily activity is

over. In the quiet of tucking children in, parents can form an effective line of communication about the day's activities, and their child's issues, triumphs, or concerns.

Sometimes children crave their parents' attention. Kids will give clues such as saying, "I love you," or even acting out inappropriately if they don't know how to get what they need. Parents need to listen to these clues, Wood said, and be mindful of how they respond. Are parents tuned in to their children's needs, desires, and dreams? Or are they spending too much time on the phone, or involved in the rush of the daily chores?

Wood offered techniques on patient parenting. Take a pause, and think before you speak. To keep from losing your temper and lashing out, try picturing your child asleep. How calm and peaceful (and quiet!) they are in this mental image. Do children mean it when they say things like, "I'm bored," or "It's not fair," or "I hate you?" Think about what kids are really trying to say, and how best to respond. Wood suggests trying not to overreact to a child's negative behavior by bursting out with formulations like, "You're grounded for a month!" Instead, Wood said, perhaps the parent could use a time out. It is OK for fuming parents to go to their own room and close the door until they are calm enough to face the situation.

If a child does need to accept consequences for misbehavior, Wood suggests letting the child choose their own punishment. Parents can offer a choice, "Should we take away your DSi for a week, or cancel the sleep-over this weekend?" This gives

the child a feeling of some control over their circumstances.

If a child makes a request parents cannot answer right away, take some time. A parent can say to the child, "I don't know; I'll get back to you on that." Kids know how to push the right buttons to make parents react. Wood advised, "Don't take the bait." Try to disengage so the situation does not escalate into an argument. Parenting can be difficult. Take it easy on your children, and yourselves, he advised. Children make mistakes; it's how they learn and grow. Parents make mistakes; it's how they learn and grow as well. Parents must allow appropriate discipline decisions for each situation. "Everything is not a capital offense."

For further study on the important topic of communicating with children, Wood recommended a book titled, *How to Talk so Kids can Learn at Home and in School*, by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish.

After the workshop and a brief questions and answer period, parents were ushered to the cafeteria to see what their children had been up to, crafting seasonal candles out of construction paper, glitter and pine cones.

Music teacher Melinda Swanson taught the children, "This Little Light of Mine," with accompanying clapping and dance steps, and they offered a very cute and well-executed performance, indeed!

The 4th and 5th grade chorus then gave their own lovely rendition of "Oh How Lovely is the Evening," in a round.

It was a lively evening of learning and light indeed, with the care and concern of parents being enlightened about parenting, and the children learning and singing about the Winter Solstice and the inner light that shines in all of us.

Solstice Activities for Parents and Children Alike

SOLSTICE PARTY FOR THE BIRDS:

1. Put mini doughnut shaped cereal on a string, as though you are making a necklace. Roll the string of cereal in peanut butter. Shake the cereal string in a bag filled with birdseed.
2. Tie a string around a pinecone, leaving a loop at the top. Dip the pine cone in some peanut butter and roll it in birdseed.
3. Go outside to hang up the bird feeders you've made. Sprinkle extra seeds on the ground, on stumps, and on rock ledges.
4. Discuss the ways seeds represent life.

SHADOWS ON THE SHORTEST DAY:

What you need: A tape measure, paper and pencil
Around December 21 (you'll need a sunny day):

1. At noon, stand outside in a sunny spot.
 2. Ask a friend to measure your shadow on the ground, using the tape measure.
 3. Record the place, date, time; the length of your shadow; and whether the sun was high or low in the sky.
 4. Measure other shadows, such as a tree or a mailbox.
 5. Record as in step 3.
- Around March 21st, June 21st, and September 21st, repeat steps 1 to 5. Note the differences.

SOLSTICE FACTS:

The Earth is always spinning, like a top. It takes 24 hours for the earth to turn around one time. When the Earth turns toward the sun, it's day. When it turns away from the sun, it's night.

It takes 12 months for the Earth to go around the sun. The tilt of the Earth on its axis as it rotates determines how the sun's rays hit the Earth and what season it is.

Over 750 years ago, the word solstice was first used for the time when the sun seemed to stop moving. Solstice comes from Latin, the language of the ancient Romans. In Latin, sol means "sun," and sistere means "to stop."

In the northern part of the world, the winter solstice usually occurs on December 21st, but the Earth doesn't move at a steady speed around the sun, so sometimes the winter solstice occurs on December 20th, 22nd, or 23rd.

Equinox comes from two Latin words, Aequi means "equal," and nox means "night." On the spring equinox and autumn equinox, day and night are equal in length.

WENDELL from pg 6

School principal Sheila Hunter was initially cautious about coordinating a new program into an already crowded curriculum at each grade level. But Heard said Mass Audubon took the initiative and contacted each teacher, along with a curriculum coordinator, and made sure the program would fit in with what the teachers are already doing in the classrooms.

Heard reported the first of a series of bimonthly money management meetings has taken place at town hall. The town's first goal, Heard said, is to return to the practice of issuing semi-annual tax payments six months apart. The present system of preliminary tax bills requires the tax collector to figure property tax bills twice.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that the fourth landowner (a difficult to contact estate trust in probate) near the Cooleyville Road bridge has given permission for construction crews to use their land to gain access to the bridge for needed repairs. All abutters have now given their permission, saving the town perhaps \$25,000 that would have been required to avoid the fourth abutter's land. The job can now go out to bid.

With endorsement of other library trustees, the selectboard appointed Laurel Brenneman to fill a vacancy on the library board of trustees.



Turners Falls High School Band Boosters Has a New Name!

By Stacey Langknecht - For years the parent organization that supports the music program at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School has been called Band Boosters. However, our fundraising efforts and other activities also benefit the chorus students in both schools. So, along with a certificate of solicitation from the state of Massachusetts and official status as a federal tax exempt organization, we now have a

new name: the Turners Falls High School Music Boosters.

We appreciate all of the support our community has given us over the years and welcome and encourage all parents of students in the High School and Middle School music program to join us in fun and rewarding endeavors to raise money for instrument purchases and repairs, subsidize trips, buy new uniforms, and chaperone events.

Thanks to all of the students and parents for making our fall sports concession season and citrus fundraiser a success! In addition to looking ahead to spring fundraisers, we're planning a family event for our deserving students and their families in the coming months.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the faculty room of the high school, and welcome new members! For more info: 367-9418.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

T.L.C.
TURNS LAWN CARE
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.
Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
Now accepting calls for new clients for snow removal within 12 miles of Montague Center
Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured
45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell:522-2563

Carol's Beauty Nook
29 G Street, Turners Falls
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers
Gift Certificates Available
413-863-2888

One Century. One Family
COUTURE BROS.
Celebrating 100th Anniversary
Professional Painting & Decorating
Contractor - Retailer
www.couturebros.com
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

GREENFIELD
Veterinary Clinic
Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M.
18 French King Highway
Greenfield
Office Hours by Appointment
(413) 774-9919

AJ'S CYCLE
MOTO GUZZI
BMW
274 Rt. 2, Gill
• clothing • used bikes • tank bags
• boots • gloves
• accessories
• gift certificates
(413) 863-9543
Allan • David
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

Emergency Response Credited in Rescue of Three in Small Plane Crash

BY DAVID DETMOLD LEVERETT - Leverett police chief Gary Billings praised the quick response and cool decision making of emergency responders to the crash of a single engine Cessna U206G in the East Leverett Meadow Conservation Area field on Sunday afternoon, December 5th. The crash claimed the life of one man - Robert Lothrop, of Lakeville, MA, aged 62 - after the pleasure flight from Keene, NH to Long Island took a fatal turn due to apparent engine failure.

The accident is under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board; a preliminary finding has not yet been posted on the NTSB's website.

An eyewitness to the crash, William Vanna, of Amherst, said he was riding down Shutesbury Road after mountain biking on Brushy Mountain when the plane came in low over his head. "It was low enough it startled me," he said. Fifteen seconds later, Vanna heard a two part boom from the direction of the field, and shortly arrived on the scene.

The pilot was trying to climb out of the plane, disengaging himself from his safety harness, and dialing 911 on his cell phone at the same time. Vanna said the Leverett police were on the scene within five minutes; three Leverett fire trucks responded in rapid succession immediately thereafter. "They got there really fast," he marveled.

"The call came in from dispatch in Shelburne Falls at 3:34 p.m.," said Billings, who was working at his farm on Ripley Road at the time. "Part time officer Mike Thomas responded. He's an airman, a retired air force police officer. He had

trained extensively in aircraft disaster response, and all that training kind of clicked back in. He knew who to call and what to do."

Billings said two passengers and the pilot were rescued from the crash - William Schley, of Miller Place, NY; Dayna DiCamillo of Stoddard, NH; and the pilot Matthew Wilding, of Stony Brook, NY. Also emerging from the wreckage was a dog belonging to Lothrop, an Australian shepherd named Serena.

Billings said, "The plane landed upside down in a large field over to one side of the high tension lines that run down one side. Apparently, for reasons yet unknown, the pilot lost power. Several people saw it coming over very low; heard the motor sputtering."

Billings said once the pilot spotted the conservation area, "He tried to put it down in the field. As he came over the tree-tops from the northeast, he encountered the top line of the high tension wires," at a height of 72 feet.

"It appears that the rear landing gear caught the wire. It caught him and flipped him right over and pancaked the plane right over onto the ground," Billings said.

Billings said when he worked on the police force in Montague for 25 years, he always worried about an airplane crashing near the airport there. But that never happened during his tenure on the Montague force. "Then I move down here to Leverett and one crashes in a field."

Billings said he could not recall a similar incident ever occurring before in Leverett.

Amherst ambulance evacuated the injured; Shutesbury police and the Massachusetts state police also responded to

the scene.

Billings said DiCamillo had just been released from the hospital on Friday. Wilding remains hospitalized in good condition; and Schley remains hospitalized in critical condition at Baystate Medical in Springfield.

The National Transportation

Safety Board had the plane's wings dismantled and towed the wreckage away on a flatbed truck on Tuesday. The fire department is taking care of the spill of aviation fuel on the site. Last Monday, National Grid remounted the information wire that had been knocked down in the crash.

And Serena? Serena limped over to a neighboring house on #112 Teawaddle Hill Road. Reportedly in rough shape after the crash, the dog was penned in the residents' yard for the night. They brought Serena to the Dakin Animal Shelter on Monday, where she was reunited the following day with the family of her deceased owner.

PEACE from page 1

funds, but instead rely on private fundraising through an associated friends group. He said more than a dozen people, including those joining him at the table on Tuesday, had already come forward offering to serve on the elected board, if it is established.

One supporter of the proposed commission, Tom Wolfe, told the selectboard he found something missing from anti-war resolutions in neighboring towns that were based on the impact to town services due to the costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "If war were cheaper, would we support it? There is something wrong with war spiritually."

The proponents said the new commission could assist efforts to teach mediation in the schools, support the police department to root out domestic violence, and work with the selectboard in providing conflict resolution for neighborhood disputes.

Selectboard member Rich Brazeau jokingly offered to turn over all future dog hearings to the peace commissioners. But the selectboard seemed supportive of the overall proposal.

Board member Peter d'Errico cited the case in the neighboring town of Wendell where the board of health turned down a proposal from a couple that wants to build a non-electric apartment in an attempt to reduce their environmental impact and carbon fuel

intake, despite an overwhelming vote of support from the Wendell town meeting, and hundreds of petition signatures from Wendell residents favoring the proposal.

"That bothers me," said d'Errico. "If we had a board of health making a decision like that, I would welcome some entity that had the ability to put two cents in."

Perkins replied, "We'd have no authority, but we would try to be persuasive."

D'Errico continued, "Wendell is spending money on funding a local food coordinator. We're going to get a proposal soon for the town to spend \$15,000 to set up a greenhouse in between the school and library."

"We'd be eager to organize a public event hearing from people who are knowledgeable," about forming a sustainable local food network, Perkins responded.

The ad hoc organizing committee backing the establishment of a Leverett Peace Commission is already planning a series of events this winter, to raise community awareness of the effort. Among the upcoming events is a talk by Hampshire College professor of peace and world security studies Michael Klare, titled "Resource Conflict and Resource Innovation in the Search for Peace," on February 3rd, at a place to be determined. A revival of the play Ambush on T Street - which looks at the collateral damage of war and conflict on the human psyche - starring

Leverett's own John Sheldon and directed by Wendell's veteran conflict resolution theater worker Court Dorsey, is planned at the elementary school for later in February, to coincide with the Walk for a New Spring, leaving the Peace Pagoda on or about February 13th. Other presentations are planned in advance of the spring town meeting.

On Tuesday, Perkins delivered a visionary written statement as a founding document for the hoped for peace commission, calling for "a change in our predatory relationship with other groups of human beings and our Earthly home."

In seeking to end war at the local level, Perkins imagined a contagion that could catch on in communities around the globe.

"To set this goal may seem both grandiose and naive, but ending war is the invigorating step that could free up the resources, overcome our cynicism and despair, and release our creative genius to remake the world's energy systems, tackle global climate change, and create useful and meaningful employment for our burgeoning population. To turn away from this endeavor on the grounds that war is the way it is, always has been, and always will be, is to surrender to our own destruction by our own hand. To take up our vast challenges with resolve and optimism is a worthy response of our powerful and beautiful species."



MARINI BUILDERS
Since 1976

- Garages
- Decks
- Home Improvements
- Excavating
- Additions
- Structural Repairs
- Sump Pumps
- Concrete

Gill, MA
Licensed - Insured - References
Marini19@comcast.net 413.863.5099

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

Local Farmer-Owned

Shop with your neighbors
Support local agriculture

Products for your animals, home, farm, garden & yard

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY

30 Montague St.
TURNERS FALLS

413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143
www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

LOGOS & BRANDING
GRAPHIC DESIGN
ILLUSTRATION
WEB SITES
COPY WRITING
BUSINESS STRATEGY
INTERNET MARKETING
MISSION & VISION

H₂O
BOYSEN HODGSON

413 303 9193
www.h2-om.com

413-256-6217

fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

HK | **Power Town Apartments**

152 Avenue A
PO Box 48
Turners Falls, MA
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:
HallKeen Management, Inc.
rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

Community Yoga & Wellness Center

affordable classes morning, noon and night
free class every Sunday 4-5 pm

change your body... change your mind... change your life

beginners welcome
www.Community-Yoga.com
413 774-4700

Renaissance Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.rebuild.net
863-8316

Pam Veith Real Estate

75 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

Office: 413-498-0207
Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
Home Phone: 413-863-9166
Home Fax: 413-863-0218
Email bedson1@comcast.net

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
REALTOR

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Keeping a Steady Heartbeat



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *What can you do to prevent heart failure?*

There are a number of things you can do to reduce risk of coronary artery disease and heart failure. For starters, you should keep the following levels down: body weight, cholesterol, blood pressure, sugar, alcohol and salt. Exercise regularly. And, if you smoke, quit.

The most common symptoms of heart failure include shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling, which usually occurs in the ankles, feet and legs. Swelling is caused by fluid buildup in the

body and can lead to weight gain, frequent urination and a cough.

Because the symptoms are common for other conditions, your doctor will determine if you have heart failure by doing a detailed medical history, an examination, and several tests.

There is no cure for heart failure, but it can be controlled.

People with CHF are usually put on a low-salt diet to prevent fluid build-up. Their doctors may also tell them to lose weight, quit smoking, and reduce alcohol intake.

Medications used include: diuretics, "water pills" to reduce fluid; ACE inhibitors to lower blood pressure and reduce heart stress; beta-blockers to slow your heart rate and lower blood pressure; Digoxin to help the heart beat stronger.

Q. What exactly are "germs?"

Germs are microbes that cause disease.

Microbes are microscopic organisms that are everywhere. While some microbes cause disease, others are essential for health. Most microbes belong to one of four major groups: bacteria, viruses, fungi, or protozoa.

Bacteria are made up of only one cell. Less than one percent of them cause diseases in humans. Harmless bacteria live in human intestines, where they help to digest food. Some bacteria produce dangerous poisons. Botulism, a severe form of food poisoning, is caused by toxins from bacteria.

Viruses are among the smallest microbes. They consist of one or more molecules that contain the virus's genes surrounded by a protein coat. Most viruses cause disease.

There are millions of types of fungi. The most familiar ones are mushrooms, yeast, mold, and mildew. Some live in the human body, usually without causing illness. In fact, only about half of all types of fungi cause disease in humans. Penicillin and other antibiotics, which kill harmful bacteria in our bodies, are made from fungi.

Protozoa are a group of microscopic one-celled animal-like organisms. In humans, protozoa usually cause disease. Some protozoa, like plankton, are food for marine animals. Malaria is caused by a protozoan parasite.

Q. How is atrial fibrillation treated?

Atrial fibrillation — also called AF or AFib — is the most common form of irregular heartbeat. It is an abnormal heart rhythm originating in the atria, the upper chambers of the heart. The rate of impulses through the

atria can range from 300 to 600 beats per minute.

Initially, medications are used to treat atrial fibrillation. When initial remedies don't correct or control AF, a procedure such as electrical cardioversion may be necessary. In this procedure, an electrical shock is delivered to your chest wall to restore a normal rhythm.

Then there are devices such as an implantable atrial defibrillator that delivers low-dose therapy to convert AF to a normal heart rhythm.

Patients with chronic AF not relieved by medication or procedures are candidates for surgical treatment. Many of these approaches can be performed with minimally invasive (endoscopic or "keyhole") surgical techniques.

If you have a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

OXBOW from pg 3

mers, which he wields creating Adam, Eve and other characters out of stone. So many things, lined up and piled up. Adam, Eve and other characters out of stone. Things, lined up and piled up.

As you wonder what it is all doing there, together, you notice that near the entrance to the gallery is a wall of photographs of outlier carrots, misshapen ones. A few paragraphs on the wall recount how de Christopher worked last summer at Wilder Brook Farm in Charlemont, harvesting carrots, and became fascinated with the way carrots grow around obstacles, forming branches that look like legs or arms or tentacles. Then you notice that there are sculptures of this kind of carrot (well beyond the size any carrot ever grew) hanging from the rafters of the installation's superstructure.

In large text on the wall at the back of the gallery is a William Blake poem: "Unless the eye catch fire, the God will not be seen; Unless the ear catch fire, the God will not be heard; Unless the tongue catch fire, the God will not be named; Unless the heart catch fire, the God will not be loved; Unless the mind catch fire, the God will not be known."

De Christopher's assembly of

things is situated between these two Walls - between the carrots, earthy, mute, like vegetal rocks; and Blake's searing spiritual wake-up call. The materials of the sculptor are in the nature of the carrot: cold, raw, blind. But de Christopher aims, by agglomerating and assembling all these forms and relics, with all their diverse histories, for something in the realm of Blake. He hallows the objects, through repetition, by placing them just so. The magpie collection transcends its humble, even junky, nature, and is transformed into something more than the sum of its parts: a marvelous pageant of life.

Despite the initial impression of a hodgepodge hoard, an organizational principle does underlie the piece. The three sides of the structure have three different identities. There is a male side, where Adam and the asparagus preside. The clock on the masculine side, "has to do with labor, authority, industry, punching the clock," de Christopher explained.

On the feminine side, beyond the figure of Eve, is a woman's sculpted head, distorted, beaten, the imprint of a hand on her cheek; his response, de Christopher said, to news of domestic violence and abuse. Above her hangs a broken doll.

The work is about, he said, "a power struggle between the sexes. In a way, it's violent."

The back wall of the structure, a middle ground between the two camps, is devoted to Freemasonry and its symbols.

De Christopher is a member of Harmony Lodge in Turners Falls, like all Masonic organizations, fraternal, moral and charitable.

Under a relief sculpture depicting a mason's meeting, books are shelved: Practical Bricklaying, Chevrolet Six Car and Truck Carburetors, a Manual of the Practice of Medicine, Robinson's Complete Arithmetic - and there are still more books. Masonic symbols are both imprinted and real: a square and compass, a bricklayer's trowel. A

bow tie is affixed to the wall, and one also adorns de Christopher's throat. ("Masons wear bow ties.")

Masons, he continues, work on personal growth, self-knowledge, and living a moral life. They use the metaphor of building a temple as aspiration.

So. Maybe the structure is more like a temple than a humble barn, or dreamed attic. A collection of time, essence, devotion.

Think of all the toasts that were proposed with these shot glasses: "to life!" Think of all the dust that was swept up with these nubbins of brooms. How many brooms have we worn out? How many trees were cut by the saw? Think of all the hay harvested with the scythe and pitchfork. Can you add up a life? How big is

it, a life? How long? All the things we've baked, polished, read, written, said, shaped: what does it amount to? Do we really accomplish anything? Are we like Sisyphus, pushing stones up the same hill, over and over? But some of our labor does bear fruit; de Christopher's stone vegetables will not rot; his work speaks of the eternal. As long as we are alive, we are a work in progress.

"When it gets down to it, life is a mystery. There aren't easy answers," de Christopher concludes. His vision is an extravagant, resonant mystery to behold.

"The Fruit of Our Labor: A Work in Progress" is on view at the Oxbow Gallery, 275 Pleasant Street, in Northampton until December 31st.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Distruption of Property, Vehicle Crash

12/7/2010 10:40 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without insurance, with a revoked registration and no inspection sticker, and illegally attaching a license plate.	12/8/2010 7:15 a.m. Report of a two car motor vehicle crash on Route 2. Subjects left scene before arrival. Subject called later. Incident report taken.	8:05 p.m. Northfield police with domestic situation on West Bernardston police with out of control female subject smashing things at Eden Trail address. Peace restored.
12/11/2010 2:13 a.m. Out of control male subject at Pratt Street residence. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for three counts of destruction of property and disturbing the peace.	7:10 p.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle on Route 63 at construction site. Was worker staying late.	12/12/2010 4:15 p.m. Report of barking dog complaint on Pratt Street. Checked same. Dogs brought in.
12/13/2010 12 p.m. Report of past breaking and entering and destruction of property at International Paper Mill. Under investigation.	8:20 p.m. Report of several motor vehicles parked near the small park at Park Street. Checked same, were just talking. Moved along	11:19 p.m. Assisted High Street resident with a flooded basement.
	12/10/2010	

Bryan G. Hobbs
Remodeling Contractor

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Airsealing • Energy Audits
Replacement Doors & Windows • Roofing • Siding
Home Repairs • Spray Foam Insulation

Home/Office: 413-659-0250
Bryan G. Hobbs: 94 South Prospect St. Millers Falls

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU

CONSULT US
PZ

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

INSURANCE

Visit Our Tip of the Week at www.pzinc.com

UPINNGIL

411 Main Road
Gill

413-863-2297

Farm store open daily, 8-7
Fresh milk, Farmstead cheese, Upinngil Wheat,
Potatoes and Winter Squash

Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.

TNT PRODUCTIONS
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS
We Know Entertainment

Steven Therien
413-522-6035
www.tntprodj.net

- * Free Consultation
- * State of the Art Sound
- * Best Music for all Ages/Occasions
- * Rental Karaoke System

Jonathan Abbott
SSI / Disability Attorney

If you can't work, let me work for you.

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA
In Home Appointments
jabbottesq@verizon.net

Where your needs are #1.

OPEN TO 8 PM
Th-Sat 10-8
Sun 11-5

Unique Gifts from Tibet, Nepal & India starting as low as \$10!

FREE Raffle
FREE Hot Cider
FREE Cookies

GREAT Sales
LOCAL Artisans
EASY Parking

HIMALAYAN VIEWS
south of Magic Wings on rts 5/10 tibetanplaza.com 665-5550



GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 37: An Appealing Invitation

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – As the concluding slide, “Affordable, Reliable Energy for Today,” faded out, the members of the Northeast Nuclear Energy Alliance rose from their seats and got ready to head home.

“Rita — have you ever considered running for governor?” Ron Wilson, public relations director of Synturgy Corporation, asked. “I think your message aligns well with the goals of the NNEA. We might be willing to fund your campaign.”

“Why no,” Rita answered carefully, eyeing the way Ron’s silver hair framed an oval face and narrowly spaced eyes that looked distinguished, yet approachable, and the way his dark Brooks Brothers coat and fringed white scarf fell neatly across his shoulders. He was a

dapper dresser right down to his highly polished loafers.

“How are you getting home, Rita?” Ron asked, offering an arm to support her when he noticed she looked a little unsteady in her pumps. *The shoes may be a little unstable*, he thought, *but the woman sure knows how to show off a pair of beautiful legs.*

“I’m about to call SpeedyRover Transit,” Rita replied. “I caught a ride in with Bill Riley, but he left early.”

“Then can I give you a lift, instead? I’m headed home to Brattleboro, and Gill is right on the way,” Ron said. “I’d like to fill you in on our license extension plan for the Vermont Yardley Nuclear Power Plant.”

The two arrived at the Tinker house, which was lit up cheerfully with multicolored Christmas lights around the eaves and walk-

ways. Small electric candles were framed by wreaths in each window. Rita noticed that Billy’s pickup was missing, and then remembered that he and the kids had gone to their neighbor’s holiday party.

“Would you like to come in for a cup of coffee? Or a hot toddy?” Rita offered. Once inside, she slowly removed Ron’s scarf, and gently laid his coat on a chair. “Excuse the sawdust — we’ve just wrapped up a deep energy retrofit and haven’t had a chance yet to completely clean up.” Rita noticed that Ron’s eyes were a shade halfway between green and brown — how extraordinary!

“It looks like quality work, Rita. Could I have a tour?”

“Why don’t you follow me up to the master bedroom?” Rita suggested. “I have a lot I can show you.”



The team of volunteer garbage auditors showed up at the Tinker homestead on the Saturday after

Christmas. Standing outside in mushy snow, the family watched as a glove-wearing volunteer unfastened their garbage bags and upturned their contents onto a tarp. Another volunteer sorted out recyclables, reusables and compostables, and a third made notes on a laptop stationed atop a makeshift card table on the lawn.

The camera crew was filming Sam Lively as he explained the wonders of compost when Rita spied something that made her heart jump. A half-hidden condom peeped out from the trash that had been in her bedroom wastebasket. Rita reddened, took a deep breath, and when the volunteer’s back was turned, discretely wrapped the condom in a tissue and gingerly slipped it into her purse.

Next week is the conclusion of the Stuff Challenge. Who do you think deserves to win? Cast your vote at www.montaguema.net and read next week’s issue to find out who the judges selected.

Continued next issue...

THE SHADY GLEN

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
DAILY SPECIALS
SEAFOOD
HOMEMADE COOKING
SOUPS & PIES
SUNDAY BREAKFAST 7 - 2
7 AVENUE A | 863-9636

2ND STREET

BAKING Co.

We are now taking orders for the Holiday Season
☆☆☆
Ordering deadline is Tuesday, December 21st
☆☆☆
Bakery closes at 3p.m. Christmas Eve
☆☆☆
69 2nd Street
863-4455

BRIEFS from page 3
Turners Falls. We’ve been really impressed with the growth of the town, and look forward to becoming a part of that.” The new store is opening for service and accessory sales in mid-December, and planning a grand opening in January 2011.

As a **technical high school**, FCTS provides both academic and hands-on experience to its

student population. Building a home provides hands-on experience for a number of the vocational programs at the school. Students in the carpentry, plumbing/heating, electrical and landscaping programs will work on a **Habitat for Humanity Home** during the school year. On weekends, Habitat will have teams of volunteers working on the home.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

FOR RENT
Millers Falls - 9 Room, 3 Bath House. Ideal for Home Business or In-law space. Dog considered.
Learn more @ ChangingCourse.com/greathouse.htm

Please shop locally and support Montague Reporter advertisers

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Structure Fire, Burglary, Rape Arrest

Tuesday, 12/7 10:04 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Jake’s Tavern on Avenue A. Report taken.	5:51 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for rape, assault and battery, and selling/delivering alcoholic beverage to a minor.	11 p.m. Hit and run accident on Route 63. Referred to an officer.
Wednesday, 12/8 6:07 a.m. Structure fire on East Chestnut Hill Road. Services rendered.	7:57 p.m. Hit and run accident on Avenue A. Investigated.	Saturday, 12/11 8:00 p.m. Suspicious auto at Plains Road and Turners Falls Road. Verbal warning.
7:58 a.m. Restraining order violation on Hillside Road. Summons issued.	Friday, 12/10 4:00 p.m. Trespassing on East Mineral Road. Services rendered.	9:26 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Seventh Street. Investigated.
10:28 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on T Street. Investigated.	5:09 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for disorderly conduct, assault and battery on a police officer, carrying a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest, and a straight warrant.	Sunday, 12/12 12:47 a.m. Hit and run accident on Wendell Road in Millers Falls. Report taken.
Thursday, 12/9 6:09 a.m. Structure fire at Southworth Paper Mill on Canal Street. Referred to other agency.		2:16 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery, and intimidating a witness.
3:10 a.m. Structure fire on Central Street.		

PLACE YOUR BIZ CARD HERE FOR \$8.00 / WK PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

LAURALYN J. BROWN, DVM
DR. AMY RUBIN, DVM

Compassionate and Professional Care for Your Small Animal

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS
194 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls 413-863-0025

Patrick Smith
CSSL # 100236
Insured

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:

Toll Free 866-262-5361
413-367-2228
FAX 413-367-2212

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner

The Best Hiding Place in Town

48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County’s Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

Great Rates, Fully Insured!

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
A Great Financial Partner

BestLocalBank.com
Reach All Locations 772-0293
Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

Locally owned since 1941

Full service market
Fresh Fish from the Boston market

70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA
Beer & Wine 413-773-1100
FAX 413-773-1105

PETER WATERS

HOUSE PAINTING

Interior Exterior 978-544-6534
Wendell MA

Affordable Home Financing for VA & FHA Loans

MetLife MetLife Home Loans

TIM PREVOST - Mortgage Consultant
413-773-8984
tprevost@metlife.com

All loans subject to approval. Certain conditions and fees apply. Mortgage financing provided by MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 METLIFE, INC. PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc. L09086294[exp0909][All States][DC]

LENDER BC1

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station
Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Robin Lane and the Interlopers*, 8 p.m. Free.

9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, blues based roots music, 8 to 10 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nobody's Fat*, folk rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th - 18th
Montague Bookmill: *Tim Eriksen Christmas Show*, an evening of seasonal music including sing-along classics and lesser known songs from the American tradition, 7 p.m.

Wendell Historic Town Hall: *The Wendell Full Moon Follies*, another evening of wonder, folly and amusement in support of the local library! Featuring: bellydance with Hadama, virtuoso instrumental guitar with

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Superkart / Ed Vadas Blues Quartet*. 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9 to 11 p.m.

Sloan Theater, GCC Main Campus: New Repertory Theatre to perform, *A Christmas Carol*, 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer!* (THE dance party)



The holiday classic movie, *It's a Wonderful Life* plays at Mocha Maya's Coffee House & Espresso Bar in Shelburne Falls. 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 23rd. Free.



THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD



440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

Francis Doughty, the multifaceted musician Richard Chase, and poet Paul Richmond. Includes Dessert-O-Rama. Open Mic begins at 7:30. 978-544-5557.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nature Crafts*, What exactly can you make with pinecones, sticks, acorns, and other materials found in nature? 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Designed for families with children between the ages of 5 to 12. 413-863-3221.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Santa*, 4 p.m. and then Voo Caroling Night. Meet at 4:45 p.m.
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Jones Family*, folk. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio - Warped Americana, 8 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rendezvous Empire Speakeasy New Year's*. Fancy price fixe menu for dinner, *Rusty Belle* at 10:30 p.m. Free after midnight. Open until 2 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *New Year's Eve Party*, *John Sheldon Band*, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New Year's Eve Comedy at The Shea*, Jennifer Myzskowski hosts three of Boston's best comedians: *Lamont Price, Mike Whitman, and Erik Tynan*. Beer & wine will be served in the lobby before the show & during

intermission. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Showtime 8 p.m. www.shea-comedy.com.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *New Year's Eve Celebration* with the band, *Turn It Loose*, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, *Renegade Blues*, 9 to 11 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, Oldies Rock from the 50's & 60's, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7th
The Recover Project, Greenfield: a community open to all concerned with drug and alcohol addiction, is hosting an *Open Mic* night. 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at 68 Federal St. All ages are welcome and this is a drug and alcohol free event. Cold drinks and merchandise will be for sale. 413 774-5489.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White & Co.*, reggae, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, Chicago Blues, 9 to 11 p.m.

THE BRICK HOUSE

TUES - SAT Teen drop-in center - art, computers, music, and more 3 to 6 pm
WED Experimental writing 6 to 8 pm
TUES & SAT Green jobs 10 to 4 pm
Other weekly programs: Yoga, Self-Defense, Women's writing group
(413) 863-9576
24 Third St., Turners Falls, 01376
www.brickhousecommunity.org

Comedy at the Shea

New Year's Eve Comedy Show at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Friday, December 31st
Jennifer Myzskowski hosts three top young comedians from Boston: 2-time Boston Comedy Festival finalist Lamont Price, Boston Comedy Festival finalist Mike Whitman and the very funny Erik Tynan



Doors open at 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m. show. Beer and wine will be served in the lobby before the show and at intermission. Tickets are \$20, advance (recommended) tickets available at World Eye Bookshop, 156 Main Street, Greenfield, or www.SheaComedy.com or at the door until sold out. Contact the Shea Theater box office at (413) 863-2281.

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA
413-774-4881

www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for
Friday, Dec. 17th to Sunday, Dec. 19th

1. HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PG13
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
2. YOGI BEAR IN 3D PG
DAILY 12:00 2:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
3. TANGLED PG
DAILY 12:00 2:00 4:00 7:00 9:00
4. THE TOURIST PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TRADER PG
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. TRON LEGACY PG DTS
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:50 9:20
7. THE FIGHTER R DTS
DAILY 12:30 3:30 6:50 9:20

Deja Brew
Cafe & Pub

Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food

Friday, 12/17 9 to 11 p.m.
Equalites, reggae
Saturday, 12/18 9 to 11 p.m.
Nobody's Fat, folk
Sunday, 12/19 8 to 10 p.m.
Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick, acoustic
Thursday, 12/23 8 to 10 p.m.
Nexus, harmonic eclectic rock

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store
www.DejaBrewPub.com

the Rendezvous
NEW MENU!

THURS 12/16 | 8PM | FREE
Robin Lane and the Interlopers

FRI 12/17 | 9:30PM | \$5
Superkart / Ed Vadas Blues Quartet

SAT 12/18 | 9:30PM | \$3
RockitQueer! (THE dance party!)

SUN 12/19
First! Santa visits at 4PM
Then: Voo Caroling - meet at 4:45PM
THEN: The Jones Family
(folk et al) 8PM | FREE

78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS
THEV00.NET 413-863-2866

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Jack Nelson

- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

About Face
Computer Solutions

413.367.0025

- Computer Repair
- Custom PCs
- IT Support & Consulting
- Network Installation/ Maintenance

info@about_facecomputers.com

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
WHERE ECONOMY IS KING

AFFORDABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE PRE-OWNED CARS
Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Hyundai

413-774-5517
335 High Street, Greenfield
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture
Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA

Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties
413-325-7823 Or 978-544-7452

Art for Life Pops Up in Downtown Orange



Quilt by Sandra Lee Tobin on display at the Pop-up Shop

BY LIZ CARTER

ORANGE - This holiday season, get with the spirit and love thy neighbor. Buy gifts produced by local artists and artisans. Local artists will get paid for exercising hard-earned skills and doing what they love. And your dollars will affirm the value of your community. Especially if you're purchas-

ing from the Art for Life's Pop-up Shop in downtown Orange.

In just two weeks, the seven organizers of Art for Life, a brand new non-profit in the North Quabbin region that hopes to "revitalize the arts and economy," organized a "Pop-up Shop" to sell local crafts during Orange and Athol's "Midnight Madness" event. In lieu of booth fees, the 20 vending artists and artisans donated a percentage of their profits to the North Quabbin Community Foods Coop and CS Pals (a non-profit supporting individuals with chronic lung disease).

The event was located in two abandoned storefronts converted overnight into a very coherent and appealing shopping space, complete with live music.

The Pop-up Shop was a big hit. Over a thousand dollars worth of local art was sold, and by popular demand Art for Life organizers have been persuaded to keep the shop open for additional hours this coming week (Friday the 17th from 1 - 6 p.m. and Saturday the 18th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.). The Pop-up Shop will also be open during Orange's "Starry, Starry Night" event on New Year's Eve.

Art for Life sprang to life on November 20th of this very year, when a group of people sitting around a table at the Millers River Café came up with the idea of "bring art into downtown Orange," according to organizer Polly Bixby. They wasted no time.

"We want to do what we can with what we have at hand. In the beginning, it might just be our individual talents and energy,"

said local potter and organizer Lydia Grey.

Lucky for Orange, these organizers seem to have a surplus of both.

In the past several weeks, in addition to building the Pop-up Shop, Art for Life has organized displays of art by ten regional artists in downtown windows. They've gained long term access to the three downtown storefronts on East Main Street where the Pop-up Shop is located. They plan to use the storefronts to house the offices of CS Pals and Art for Life, and make room to grow the arts community in the North Quabbin region. By creating retail and studio space for artists and artisans, who will in turn provide workshops and training in the fine arts to the public, Art for Life is positioning itself to build and strengthen the local economy through arts initiatives in the downtown.

"We're looking towards the future by maintaining skills with one's hands," said Grey.

Of course, Art for Life wouldn't be averse to finding cash

funding. Donations for Art for Life, and its sister non-profit CS Pals, are currently being accepted via PayPal at www.CSPals.org. "If you want to donate to Art for Life specifically, there's a memo box to designate donation," said Jeannie Miller, Art for Life organizer and co-owner of the Millers River Café.

During the Pop-up Shop, performing artists, poets, and musicians voiced interest in Art for Life's overnight creation. "We'd like to make the space available to them," said Grey.

Art for Life is still focusing its vision. "The first step is gathering information about who is in the area, what they're doing, and what their skills are," said Grey. There will be a series of Art Forums coming up in the East Main Street complex to find out what is already being created by the North Quabbin community. People interested in "revitalizing the arts and the economy of the area," (and who isn't?) should look out for these meetings in the coming months, and check out the Pop-up Shop.

PAINTING from page 8

bolic narrative of the outcome of the Council of Nicea - called by the emperor Constantine in A.D. 325, where, in Montagano's reading, the diverse, early Christian nature-based spiritual practices were superseded by the orthodoxy of the Church of Rome.

He never got the chance to explain the intent of his painting to the complainants. When asked, Pastor MacLeod said, "I did not speak to the artist, but his intent was clear from the painting." He added, "Jesus always takes it on the chin, doesn't he?"

Pastor MacLeod was pleased to return to the coop to find the painting taken down on Tuesday. He said, "I just really appreciate they took it down. We have a deeply Christian community here in Leverett, that's been here for hundreds of years. Christians come into the coop daily to buy their products."

Dan Bennett, one of the founders of the Leverett Village Coop, did not dispute that Christians have deep roots in North Leverett and Moores Corner. But the Baptists are relative newcomers to that corner of town, he said.

Bennett recalled that Universalists opened a meeting-house in Moores Corners in

1810, in the building that now houses the historical museum, diagonally across the street from the modern day coop. Universalism was a rural movement based around itinerant preachers, Bennett said, and he added the tenets of Universalism "repudiated the whole Paulist sin, death, redemption [ideology]. God loves us, no problem, that was their message."

"Congregationalist missionaries came into Moores Corner in 1890 under the patronage of John Wesley Watson," preceding the Baptists, added Bennett, who called the missionaries, "Moodyists from Northfield," determined to redeem the Universalists in North Leverett from their freethinking ways.

"The Universalist message is the spirit of Moores Corner," contended Bennett. "Live and Let Live."

Commenting on the painting, MacLeod said, "I believe in freedom of expression, but you have to draw the line. They would never portray the Dalai Lama they way they did. They would never portray Buddha the way they did... to me it's religious intolerance."

Rosenberg recalled a previous controversy at the coop, "where we had a Buddha that was on the

front porch, and we were asked to please put a cross next to the Buddha. We ended up removing it, and putting the Buddha in the garden."

Montagano said he is not angry with the board about the decision to remove his painting. He is grateful to have been allowed to display his work and believes, "The coop has the power to say what is acceptable for their establishment and what is not." He said he is bothered by the process and would have preferred that coop personnel initially deemed the piece unsuitable for the space rather than respond to a complaint from a customer. Montagano notes he is a coop member as well and believes, "If something in the store disturbs me it is my responsibility to turn my gaze and purchase what I need, not to take other people's choices away from them because I think I can." He is a firm believer in the right of self expression.

Censorship has been in the news nationally recently following the controversial decision by the Smithsonian to remove David Wojnarowicz's video *A Fire in my Belly*, which was featured in the privately funded "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" exhibit. Objections to the video were

raised by the Catholic League and conservative politicians due to an image of Christ crucified and swarming with ants.

"There is a long and venerable history of artists presenting versions of religious figures and key events written about in the Bible," said Wendell art historian Richard Baldwin. He called Montagano's dramatic painting, *Golgotha*, "an expressive and narrative work which retells the story of Christ's crucifixion after his body has been taken down from the cross."

Baldwin noted, "The landscape and figures are boldly and simply done, and the composition is well organized and built around the central figures of a lion holding what appears to be a figure of Christ.

"The lion wears a miter, worn by church officials, with the symbol Chi-Rho, or Christogram, on the front. The lion is also a symbol within Christianity and generally indicates a Divine

presence, Christ or God, powerful, watchful, and King of his own kingdom."

Locally, Montagano's friend and fellow artist Robert Markey was subject to censorship last August when his contribution to Springfield's giant sneakers installation, "Art and Sole" was altered without his consent. Markey chose dancing as his theme and painted all kinds of dancers on the surface of the shoe, including one scantily clad burlesque dancer on the sole. Event organizers painted over the image without notifying Markey.

The coop has never established formal parameters governing artwork and displays and does not prescreen the collections. As Rosenberg says, "the coop is intimately involved in fostering a strong sense of community."

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

No POWER? No PROBLEM!
Thelin Pellet Stoves
Battery Friendly
30% Federal Tax Credit
Thru Dec. 30th

Solar Store of Greenfield
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield - 772-3122
www.solarstoreofgreenfield.com

Mike and Tony's Pizzeria
@ the Green Emporium
Thursday - Sunday 5 - 9 p.m.

fabulous dining,
great music, neon art,
full liquor bar,
and the best pizza!

www.greenemporium.com Colrain Center
413-624-5122

RISTORANTE DiPAOLO
Wednesday Wine Specials • 1st & 3rd Thurs Jazz
Glass \$5, Bottle \$20, Appetizers \$10
GREAT ITALIAN FOOD
Open Daily at 5:00 | Closed Monday & Tuesday
413-863-4441

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

RAVEN USED BOOKS

USED & DISCOUNT BOOKS
1/2 RETAIL OR LESS!

KIDS' BOOKS • COOKBOOKS • GARDENING
POPULAR/LOCAL HISTORY • KNITTING/CRAFT

The Raven's excellent selection of discount books makes quality gifts for any occasion, and at a great savings! Happy Holidays, and we'll see you soon!

SUN-THURS 10-5:30 • FRI-SAT 10-8
5 BANK ROW • DOWNTOWN GREENFIELD
413-772-1968 • RAVENUSEDBOOKS.COM