



CREATING ART
creating community
 / Page 9



YOU'VE GOT MAIL
a requiem to mailboxes
 / Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3
 No. 8

50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

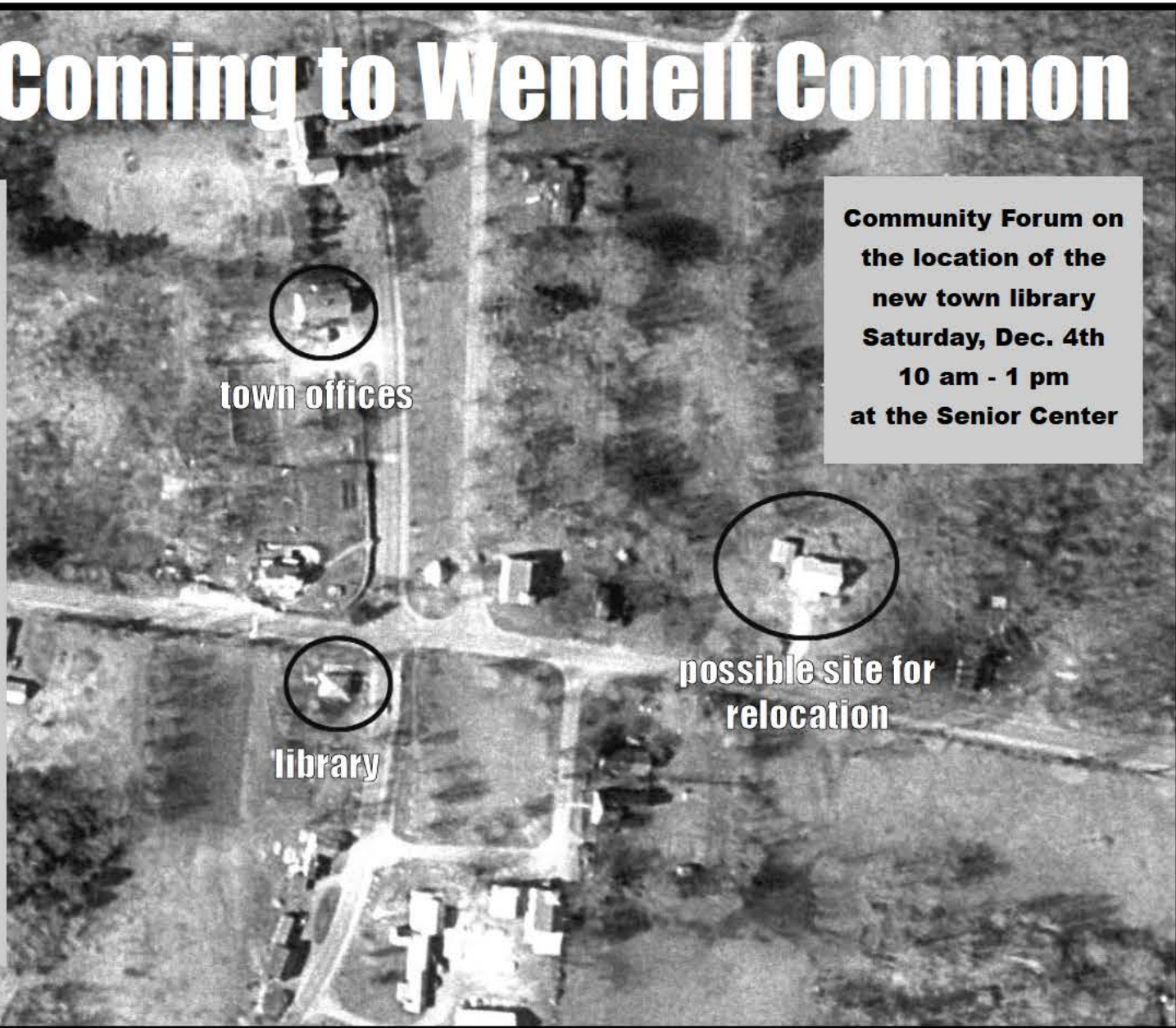
DECEMBER 2, 2004

Change Coming to Wendell Common

BY DAVID DETMOLD

The town of Wendell is centered on a historic town common, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. This bucolic spot, 1164 feet above sea level, includes private homes and public buildings arrayed around two commons divided by Morse Village Road, at the intersection with Montague Road (to the west) Lockes Village Road (to the south) and Wendell Depot Road (to the north). Here, for nearly a century, the Wendell Free Library has occupied a postage stamp-sized

see WENDELL pg. 6



Community Forum on the location of the new town library
Saturday, Dec. 4th
10 am - 1 pm
at the Senior Center

Full House at Wendell Senior Center

BY DAVID DETMOLD

On Wednesday, December 1st, as the rain poured down outside, the Wendell Senior Center was filled with seniors getting flu shots, blood pressure checkups, and foot care from professional nurses. Many gathered to visit with Mary Fairbrother at a table filled with her holiday crafts and baby quilts, and smaller sewn items. Others, including Elsie Diemand and Virginia Wheeler, reminisced and spoke of friends who had once gone to school in the building where the senior center and town offices are now housed.

It was the first Wednesday of the month, the date when



Mary Fairbrother, pictured with examples of her quilts, was December's featured crafter at the Wendell Senior Center

Wendell seniors gather to get their regular checkups, catch up on the news, and check out the featured crafter-artist of the month.

Mary Fairbrother lives in Greenfield, but she is "an honorary Wendellite," according to Margo Culley, who, see SENIORS pg.11

Arts and Eats in Turners Falls

BY CHRIS SAWYER LAUCANNO

Brattleboro does it. Amherst does it. Boston does it. And now Turners Falls is doing it, but with a twist. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., this Saturday and Sunday, December 4th and 5th, not only will village artists be opening their studios to the public, local eateries will also be participating in the event. The event, quite naturally, is being called Arts and Eats, and there will be both plenty of art and food.

The participating artists are painter, sculptor and ceramicist Jack Nelson; stone sculptor Tim de Christopher; photographer Ariel Jones; woodworkers Mike Langknecht and Spencer Peterman; and painter



Tim deChristopher has more elephants in store in his new 3rd Street studio (the former Chick's Garage)

Wednesday Nelena Sorokin. The PureLight Gallery, the Brick House and the Great Lighting Showroom will also be welcoming those on the tour. In addition to the art work, local restaurants see ARTS pg. 8

Arts & Eats

10 am - 4 pm,
 Saturday and
 Sunday, December
 4th and 5th

Arts featured in many downtown studios and open galleries, Food provided by local restaurants.

PET OF THE WEEK**Born to****Boogie**

Boogie is a 9-year-old neutered male beagle in need of a good home. Boogie is ready to boogie - or do any other kind of activity you'd like! On a leash, he will make a great companion for your daily walking. He is fine with other dogs and with cats who will let him know that the cat is the boss. Boogie is housetrained. To learn more about adopting Boogie, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

**NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA**

**BUYING AND SELLING
USED BOOKS**
32 BRIDGE ST. 2ND FLOOR
SHELburne FALLS
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

**Artist
Supplies
25 % off!**

COUTURE BROS
Since 1910
187 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 863-4346
We know Art

**The Montague
Reporter**

Published weekly on Thursday
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
24 3rd 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

Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

Montague Library News**Gingerbread House Party**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

There will be a gingerbread house-making party at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, December 4th, at 2 p.m. Children of all ages and their families are invited to make easy gingerbread houses out of graham crackers, candy, and frosting with Bev Whitbeck. The program is free and all of the materials will be supplied. Registrations are not needed. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

Used Book Sale

Used book sale at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, December 4th, from 9 a.m. til noon. Thousands of books available for \$2 a bag. Raffle tickets for the lottery tree with \$150 worth of scratch tickets also on sale for \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. Proceeds from the book sale and raffle go to Friends of the Montague Public Libraries. The Carnegie is located at 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls. For more information, call 863-3214.

Erving Library News**Holiday Wreath Workshop**

The Erving Public Library is offering a Holiday Wreath Workshop on December 3rd at 7 p.m. for a material fee of \$12. The previous crafting workshops have been very popular. This special holiday edition will feature the creation of keepsake holiday wreaths. Pre-registration is required; space is limited. Call 423-3348 to register or for more information. Or write ervinglibrary@netscape.net.

Piggyback!

Rosa and Amy Shornstein of Montague Center enjoyed playtime at the Montague Center Library after the Music and Movement program on November 12th

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Dec. 6th - Dec. 10th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can be prepared. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Lunch reservations need to be called in by 11:30 a.m. the day before. Call Bunny Caldwell at 863-9357 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Leave message on machine at other times.) Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip. All Hawthorne trips leave from the parking lot on First Street across from the Police Station.

Monday, 6th
1:00 p.m. Crafts
Tuesday, 7th
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, 8th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 9th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 10th
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant Street, Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping

FACES & PLACES

ARIEL JONES PHOTO

"Amanda," by Ariel Jones, on display this weekend as part of the "Arts and Eats" Turners Falls Open Studio Walking Tour.

**Montague Men's
Basketball League**

Registration has begun for the league. Team rosters and fees are due by Friday, December 17th. League play is on Monday and Thursday evenings from January through March of 2005. Players must live or work in the Town of Montague to be eligible to play. The team fee is \$450.00. Teams will not be placed on the league schedule until the team fee is paid in full. Team representatives may contact Doug Arsenault at 863-4955 or the Montague Parks & Recreation Office at 863-3216 to register.

The Wendell Women's Club
**Children's
Christmas Party**

for Wendell residents,
at the town hall on
Sunday, December 12th
starting at 2:00 p.m.
Children must be registered in advance (so when Santa Claus arrives at 3:00 p.m. he will be sure to have a gift for every child). The children will be able to make crafts and color while waiting for Santa to arrive. Refreshments will be served.
For more info call
978-544-2028.

Longo Auto

21 LESTER STREET, RTE 63
MILLERS FALLS 01349

Carl Longo, ASE Certified
Mechanic, repairs on all
makes and models.
Approved state emissions
repair facility.

413-423-3939

**THE
SHADY
GLEN**

George & Elizabeth
PROPRIETORS

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

Serving
HOMEMADE SOUPS
HOMEMADE DESSERTS
HOMIE STYLE COOKING

**FOR 40 YEARS ON AVENUE A IN
TURNERS FALLS**
863 9636

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Personnel Policies Liberalized, Police Cruiser Damaged, Late Sewer Fees Going Up

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Tax collector Ronnie LaChance advised the selectboard of a proposed change in the way interest is calculated on delinquent sewer bills. Currently, a flat rate of 10% is added to sewer bills outstanding after 60 days, LaChance explained. The rate increases to 15% on bills that remain unpaid after 90 days, and stays at that level from then on until the end of the tax year, when any remaining outstanding sewer bills are added onto real estate taxes as liens. LaChance proposed tacking on a 15% per diem surcharge to overdue sewer bills after 60 days, to provide added incentive for sewer users to pay up.

"I've been thinking about this for two years," LaChance said. "I don't want to be harsh to sewer users. But we have seven or eight who are habitually late."

The board supported the change. "The bill goes out. They know it's coming. It would be nice to have everybody pay their bills on time," commented Phil Maddern.

Board member Ann Banash abstained from the two to one vote in favor of the stiffer interest penalties, as she is a sewer user. Later in the meeting, her husband happened to come by town hall with an envelope for the tax collector, although this delivery appeared to have no connection to the adjustment in

the late payment fee.

The board instituted a number of changes to town personnel policy, at the recommendation of the personnel board. Mainly, the board abrogated the former 'use it or lose it' sick pay policy in favor of a 50% end-of-the-year sick pay buy-back policy. The board also approved a longevity clause to the policy granting step increases to long term employees. Presently, employees on the town wage scale reach their top step after 10 years of employment, after which they are only eligible for cost of living increases. Under the longevity clause, employees who remain working for the town longer than 10 years will be entitled to a \$250 annual stipend. Employees on the job longer than 15 years will receive a \$500 annual stipend; those serving more than 20 years will get a \$750 stipend, and those who are still working after 25 years will receive an extra \$1000 annually (and a place on the waiting list for the golden cane award).

Administrative assistant Deb Roussel said, "It saves the town money in the long run to retain employees, rather than to continually train new ones." Town meeting will have to vote to approve the monetary changes to the personnel policy.

The board held a rather lengthy discussion about another part of the policy involving the availability of vacation time

for employees who have worked more than two months, but have not yet completed their six-month probationary period. It was Maddern's contention that employees who abandoned ship or were terminated before six months should not be entitled to any vacation pay; but the personnel board recommended benefits should be available to all employees after two months on the job. No distinction was made between medical benefits and vacation time. Banash said the total vacation time accrued before the end of probation would not exceed two and a half days, a benefit she and chair Leland Stevens supported. They eventually convinced Maddern of the justice of that view, though he said, "We're hiring people to work, not to take vacations."

"You want them to stay more than six months," replied Banash, "so you treat them that way from the start."

Police chief David Hastings went over details with the board of the mutual aid agreement with the towns of Erving, Northfield, and Bernardston. The board specified that officers responding to mutual aid calls shall be under the directional control of the requesting municipality.

Hastings filled the board in on details of a collision involving one of the town's cruisers on

see **CRUISER** pg. 13

Montague Tax Bills in the Mail

The tax collector informs us that fiscal 2005 real estate and district tax bills were mailed on Monday, November 30th. Personal property bills were also mailed. Payment is due on or before December 30th, 2004. To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment.

Any new owner not in receipt of a tax bill should contact Patricia Dion at the tax collectors office, at 863-3207. The

office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30.

Real estate abatement and exemption applications are available from the assessors office. Abatement applications must be filed on or before December 30th, 2004.

A reminder to Montague residents: the first half of the Fiscal 2004 sewer will be due on Friday, December 3rd. Payments received after this date are subject to a 14 per cent interest penalty.

So why wait?

Parking Ban in Effect

MONTAGUE - The winter parking ban will be in effect from December 1st through April 1st, 2005. There will be no parking on any public streets between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. In Turners Falls, overnight parking is available in the following lots: 1st Street, 3rd Street, 4th Street, and 6th Street. Violators will be ticketed, and will be towed at the request of the DPW in the event of a storm.

Give Your Man the Gift of Health

BY ANNA VIADERO -

MONTAGUE CITY - There is no better or longer lasting gift to give this holiday season than the gift of health. The Men's Health Partnership offers free health screenings for men, without regard to income or age restrictions. All men age 18 and older qualify.

The health screenings

include diabetes, blood pressure, heart disease, prostate cancer and more. A screening can stop problems before they start and a free screening puts no pressure on family finances.

The next free screening is scheduled for December 13th, at the offices of Dr. Ronald Catanese, 5 Park Street in Greenfield, from 5 - 7 p.m.

Reservations are required, and are being taken now at the Mens Health Partnership, 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 or 800-732-4636.

If you are unable to make the Greenfield screening, you can be referred to a free health-screening program in your area. Just make the call!

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 will hold its annual Senior Holiday Dinner

on Sunday, December 12th at 12:00 noon at the Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Avenue in Turners Falls. A full turkey dinner will be prepared by Kevin Hastings and his kitchen staff. The Senior Holiday Dinner is available for free to senior citizens who reside in the towns of Montague and Gill. The Montague Elks Lodge officers, other members and members of the Auxiliary of the Montague Elks Lodge will serve the meal. Reservations can be made by calling the Gill/Montague Senior Center at 863-9357. The Auxiliary will be selling raffle tickets for their fundraiser to benefit a local school and the drawing will be held at the dinner. Past Exalted Ruler Jason Clark, Sr, is the chairperson for this event and can be reached at 863-4020 for further information.

Franklin County Technical School Students Score Big in Competition

Eight students from Franklin County Technical School's local SkillsUSA chapter attended a Fall State Leadership Conference recently in Fitchburg to build leadership skills and to compete against students from other technical schools from around the state. SkillsUSA is a national organization that facilitates trade and industry education, enhances curriculum and involves all students in a variety of competitions and seminars both locally,



Photo courtesy of Franklin County Technical School

Left to right: Franklin County Technical School students Megan Peloquin, Eric Matuszek, Pauline Boyer-Jenson, Bianca Gauley, Shauna Mallet, Karlee Bordeax, Sara Hager, Alicia Minor, who earned leadership badges and other awards at the Fall State Leadership Conference of SkillsUSA in Fitchburg.

at the state level and nationally. Students develop essential skills such as communication and teamwork.

All students attending from Franklin County Tech earned their leadership badges. Other awards they won are as follows:

Megan Peloquin, a junior in Culinary Arts from Greenfield, won a bronze medal in membership promotion and a fifth place team leadership award.

Karlee Bourdeax, a junior in Office Technology from Montague, also won a bronze medal in membership promotion and a fifth place team spirit award.

Sara Hager, a senior in Health and Early Childhood from Colrain, won a silver medal in community services and a third place team spirit award.

Bianca Gauley, a sophomore in Electrical from Greenfield won a gold medal in community construction and a fourth place team spirit award.

Shauna Mallet, a junior in Auto Body from Warwick, won a second place team spirit award.

Eric Matuszek, a senior in Electrical from Whately, won a first place team spirit award.

Pauline Boyer-Jenson, a junior in Culinary Arts from Montague, won a sixth place team spirit award.

Alicia Minor, a junior in Health and Early Childhood from Buckland, won a sixth place team spirit award.

Karlee Bordeax, the chapter's secretary reported, "This really was a great experience; we had a lot of fun."

For more information about this and other events, activities, community involvement and awards, contact Peter LaFrance at 413-863-9561, ext. 119 or email at lafrance@eaglefcts.org.

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor: David Detmold
 Circulation: Jean Hebden, Meg Bowman
 Editorial Assistant: Patricia Mailler
 Layout/Design: Karen Wilkinson, Boysen Hodgson, Katren Hoyden, Lisa Davol

Admirable Democrats



In Kiev

Exit polls and election monitors cast doubt on the validity of an incumbent administration's claim of victory in a divided nation's election, and the people take to the streets by the tens of thousands to demand a new vote. After a week of paralyzing mass protest, their demands for transparent balloting appear to be gaining ground. The legislature narrowly passes a vote of no confidence in the government of the declared winner. Columbus, Ohio? Washington, DC? Nope. Try Kiev, Ukraine. Hardly a paragon of Western democratic values, but hey, once you drop the torch, no telling who might pick it up.

America blew hundreds of millions of dollars on the bloated corporate media, dunning the hapless voters of a dozen "swing states" to vote for - or (mainly) against - the astoundingly rich white Yale graduates *du jour* in our quadrennial national slugfest. Sixty-five million viewers sat glued to the tube to watch Bush hunch and grimace while Kerry pontificated in a series of debates whose high-minded aura contrasted wanly with the daily mud-wrestling of the SwiftBoat Veterans and 527s of every ilk. Volunteers mobilized across state

lines to knock on doors, carry signs, exhort the faithful. People watched the up and downward tick of each pollster's chart as if their lives depended on it. Hmmm.

In the end, the exit pollsters got it wrong, and the conspiracy theorists who decried the lack of paper trails on the newfangled touch screen voting machines were left howling in the wilderness on election night. The vote went smoothly, we are told, except for a couple of five- or nine- or eleven-hour lines in Democratic precincts in Ohio where too few voting machines were provided, and no overvotes for the incumbent were noted on the paperless touchscreens. At least none that would tip the election. That we know of. The exit pollsters must have talked mostly to women, while the pro-Bush men brushed past them. "Kerry up by 3." Who believed that would ever play in Peoria?

For those who believe in democracy, take heart. The backwards Slavs know where it's at. In the snows of Independence Square, in Kiev. But nowhere near the streets of Columbus, Ohio.

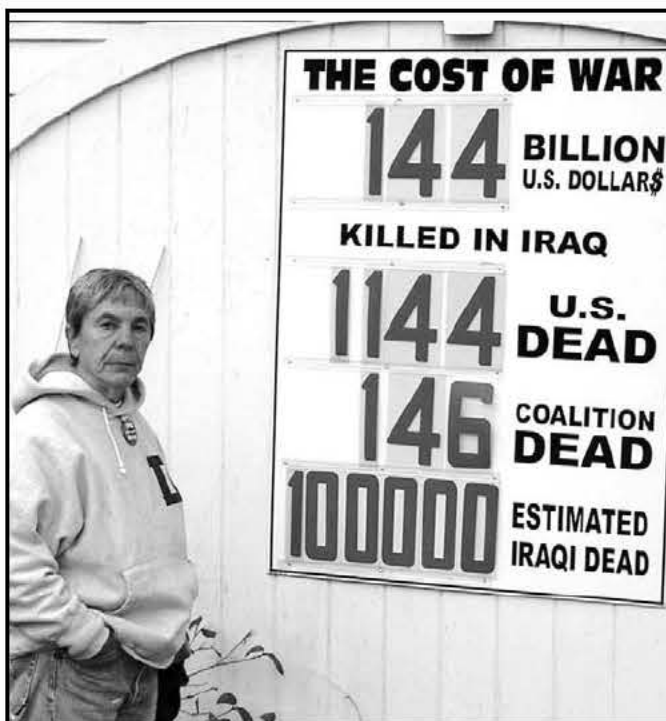
America, you've been had. Again.



Let's go over this again...

ILLUSTRATION BY DENIS BORDEAUX

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Hattie Nestel pictured by her Iraq casualty sign in Athol on November 10th

As of Wednesday, December 1st, US dead in Iraq totaled 1,256; US wounded: 9,236

Signs of War

I saw your great *Montague Reporter* from Nov. 11th. Such a good community paper; I commend you heartily! I noticed the picture from Turners Falls of the number of war dead, etc. and thought I'd send you ours. It hangs on our carriage shed which is directly on Route 2A as one enters Athol.

The sign is metal, 3 ft. x 4 ft., secured to the building with heavy screws. The letters are red plastic, 8 inches high. Our local signmaker, Jake Lyman made it He's willing to take orders. Ours cost about \$200.00. Since this picture was taken we've added another line for U.S. Wounded. If anyone wants more info, you can include my email and phone number. Email is Hattieshalom@verizon.net and phone number is 978-249-6224. Keep up the great work,

Peace, Hattie Nestel

We welcome your letters.

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA 01376 PHONE (413) 863-8666 FAX (413) 863-3050 reporter@montaguema.net

SIGN ME UP!

Now only \$20 for 26 issues!

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please join the Montague Board of Selectmen and the University of Massachusetts Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Department

for a Public Forum on

PROMOTING THE ARTS, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM

THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND FARMS BUILDING AT THE GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER

Thursday, December 2, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Great Falls Discovery Center 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Light refreshments will be served

GUEST EDITORIAL

Ohio Hearings Show Massive GOP Vote Manipulation

BY HARVEY WASSERMAN NOVEMBER 17TH

COLUMBUS, OHIO - Hour after hour the testimonies are the same: angry Ohioans telling of vicious Republican manipulation and de facto intimidation that disenfranchised tens of thousands and probably cost the Democrats the election.

At an African-American church on Saturday and then at the Franklin County Courthouse Monday night, more than 700 people came to testify and witness to tales of the atrocity that was the November 2nd election.

Organized by local ad hoc groups, the hearings had a court

reporter and a team of lawyers along with other appointed witnesses. At freepress.org we will be making the testimonies available as they're transcribed and organized, and we will present a fuller accounting of the hearings, along with a book that includes the transcripts.

But one thing was instantly and abundantly clear: the Republican Party turned Ohio 2004 into an updated version of the Jim Crow South.

The principle overt method of vote suppression was to short-change inner city precincts of sufficient voting machines to allow timely balloting. In precinct after precinct, virtually all of them predominantly black, poor, young and Democratic, the lines stretched for two, five, eight, even eleven hours. The elderly and infirm were forced to stand in the rain while city officials threatened to tow their cars. No chairs or shelter were provided. Crucial signage was mysteriously missing. Thousands

came to vote, saw the long lines and left.

How many thousands? Enough to turn the election? Almost definitely.

None of this was accidental. This was a well-planned GOP attack on the right to vote, and on Democratic candidacies. Republican Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell was also co-chair of the Ohio campaign for Bush. A right-wing Republican was in charge of the Franklin County Board of Elections.

They all said the election went "smoothly." By their standards they were right. At least 68 voting machines sat in a warehouse while precinct managers called desperately for help. Republican precinct judges and challengers harassed would-be voters. The names of long-time activists mysteriously disappeared from registration lists. The arsenal of dirty tricks was virtually endless.

With it the Bush/Rove team deprived countless Ohioans of their right to vote just as surely as if they'd levied a poll tax or invoked the grandfather clause.

In the coming days we'll issue a more complete accounting of these devastating hearings. No one who cares about democracy and fears the consequences of its destruction could come away from them without being both infuriated and terrified.

But one thing also stood out--the complete lack of Democratic support for these

hearings or for the larger vote count movement. Nationally, it all stands in the shadow of the complete disappearance of John Kerry, on whose nominal behalf this is being done.

A successful grassroots effort involving the Green and Libertarian Parties, among others, has raised---in just four days---some \$150,000 to force a recount of the Ohio vote. But where were the countless millions raised by the Democratic Party and the Kerry campaign from trusting American citizens who expected them to fight for democracy?

Right up to election day Kerry repeated his solemn vow, in light of what happened in Florida 2000, to guarantee everyone's right to vote. But now that another highly dubious election has occurred, where the hell is he?

Rumors are circulating that he is biding his time, waiting for the right time to jump in. Or that there's a magic bullet just waiting to be fired. Similar rumors spread about Al Gore four years ago. We're still waiting for that fateful shot.

This election was not about apathy. Tens of thousands of smart, eager, fiercely dedicated volunteers came out this year, desperate to rid this nation of the curse of George W. Bush.

An escalating avalanche of evidence indicates a true vote count would have thrown Bush out of the White House.

But once again, the Democrats have dismissed the grassroots. Once again, a candidate who promised democracy has disappeared with barely a whimper in the face of those who would destroy it. His silence has allowed an orgy of media bloviation in homage to a bigoted, war-crazed administration that, if it won at all, took this election not by national consensus, but by the Rovian staples of dirty tricks and voter suppression.

The upcoming Ohio recount is fraught with danger. The Republicans battled successfully to prevent the state's voting machines from including paper trails that can be reasonably recounted. These "black boxes" will require extreme sophistication to be properly evaluated. Unless intensely supervised down to the last detail, the Republicans who control these machines will turn this recount into a "proof" that the election "went smoothly."

So a true recount will require serious additional financial resources and a very aggressive, well-organized team. So far we hear not a peep from the mainstream Democrats. So far, they seem utterly deaf to the cries of fury and despair from those who were so wrongly deprived of their right to vote.

Democracy itself was lynched in Ohio on November 2nd, by both high and low tech means. Our freedoms may be the ultimate victim. But where is the Democratic Party?



www.sorryeverybody.com



Harvey Wasserman, a former resident of Montague, now lives in Bexley, Ohio.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Northampton Party World and Greenfield Party Center advertisement with contact information and a balloon illustration.

POP creations advertisement for advertising design and layout services, featuring a stylized logo and contact email.

Advertisement for Reiki Master Muriel L. Walker, including services like stress relief and personal growth, with contact number and address.

WENDELL

continued from pg 1

(735 square foot) building, built in 1918 at a cost of \$2,800. For the two years before that, the library shared space with the old Wendell Center school in the former town hall, another historically significant building which now houses the town offices. Ninety years later, both the town offices and the library seem to have outgrown their space, and both are looking to relocate.

If the library and the town office building committees choose to again share quarters by combining both public functions in a new building on one lot, the only property available near enough to the commons appears to be a 3.28-acre parcel owned by library trustee Anne Marie Meltzer, who has offered to sell her property to the town. If this happens, two of the central focuses of public activity in town - the library and the town offices - will no longer directly border the town common, and the historic buildings which presently house them will be seeking new tenants and new uses.

All this will spell more change than the town of Wendell has seen in a lifetime. Residents are welcome to share their opinions on these important decisions affecting their historic town center, and voters at town meeting will have final say. The library building committee is holding a forum - called a charette - to try to build consensus about the best site for a new library this Saturday, December 4th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the senior center, facilitated by the project's architect, Gail

Sullivan.

"Gail has been a weekend visitor to Wendell for years, and a regular patron of the library," said librarian Rosie Heidkamp. "She is very community minded, and she wants buildings to function for communities. She has won prestigious awards from Mass Historic for her firm's historic preservation projects."

Sullivan will have to work within certain constraints to find a consensus on the best site for a new library. Early in the site selection process, the committee seemed to have a preference for moving the library to the site of the present town office building, which is located right across from the north common, next to a playground. That one-acre site is still being actively considered, but the question of whether to demolish the existing structure or try to renovate it to include a new library has been a point of some contention. Although the old building, built in 1856 as the original town hall, has recently had a new roof installed, it suffers from moisture problems, particularly in the basement, the walls are in poor repair, and structural analysis has shown the floors are not strong enough to support the weight of bookshelves, according to Heidkamp. The Massachusetts Historic Commission recently advised the town they would prefer the committee not alter existing buildings in the historic district, beyond necessary renovations, and indicated a preference for the library building committee to start from scratch at a different site.

If the committee wants to tear down or significantly alter the old town hall (which has been in



Rosie Heidkamp in the children's corner of the Wendell Free Library

continuous public use for nearly a century and a half), it would need to garner the support of the local historic commission.

Jonathan von Ranson served on the town common renovation committee some years ago, which received \$84,000 in state historic landscape preservation funds to pay for new trees, lighting, parking spaces, curbing, and redefinition of major road intersections on the north and south common, work accomplished in 1998 and 1999. He lives next to the library, across from the south common. He said if the town offices and the library move to the Meltzer lot, "for the first time, some of the central town buildings will be a little off the town common."

Heidkamp is careful to express her hope that if the Meltzer lot is chosen "it will continue to contribute to visible activity on the common. We want to locate the library in a way that doesn't detract from activity in the Center." But she acknowledged building on the Meltzer lot "will change the access to the common."

Von Ranson, who serves on the town office building committee, said he hoped if the Meltzer property is chosen a road could be built, north of the town cemetery, to connect the new town office building and library to the north common and the community playground at the site of the current town offices. But he is among those who wonder whether the anticipated municipal building boom is really a good thing for the town. "I'm thinking lean and small for a variety of reasons. There will be an influence to keep Wendell feeling cozy and not sprawling in the center," he predicted.

Touring the present library with Heidkamp, it is hard to see how any more use could be squeezed out of the tiny build-

ing. Children's toys fill the hearth of the original fireplace, replaced with a modern heating system decades ago. A composting toilet, not quite to state code, somewhat makes up for the complete lack of plumbing. A bookcase divides the central room into a functional adult reading room, with two over-worked computers (courtesy of the Gates Foundation) from the hectic children's room, where every inch of the six by ten foot floor space is taken up with picture books, chapter books, toy cars, and a miniature librarians desk, where junior librarians play with handed down hand stamps, pretending to cancel circulation materials like the grown-ups do at the slightly larger main desk. Ducking their heads, patrons can make their way downstairs to the main stacks, in a room outfitted with cabinetry that would make a ship's carpenter envious for its compact use of every available square inch of space. Heidkamp says more than half the town's 1000 citizens are card holders.

Over at the town office building, selectboard member Dan Keller says a similar lack of space is evident. "It is way too small. Town offices are currently occupying 100 square feet," and sharing the rest of the building with the senior center and Good Neighbors, a volunteer food distribution network. He said, "We figure we need 5000 square feet. There are currently a number of town officials who do not have office space, who work out of their own homes (and store files in their own homes) or who share inadequate or dangerous, inaccessible office space in the town offices. Among the departments lacking office space are the conservation commission, the planning board, the zoning board of appeals, the finance committee, the board of

health, and the town clerk, Keller said.

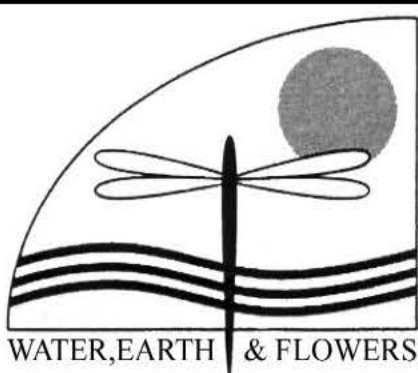
Regarding the possibility of renovating the current structure, Keller said, "We feel the constraints being placed on it by the historical commission would make the building expensive and prohibitive to renovate. Keller said the town needed a new office building, and the "one site we are looking at seriously is the Anne Marie Meltzer site."

What will become of the old buildings if the library and the town offices move to the Meltzer lot to build new? Heidkamp said possible reuses of the library building, which of the two structures is in better shape, could include making a home for the Wendell Historical Society, or selling the building as a private home. There is no plumbing, but, coincidentally, a town center septic committee is working on proposals to alleviate septic problems throughout the historic district.

The current town office building will provide a more difficult hurdle for potential reuse proposals. Keller said the senior center and Good Neighbors could perhaps continue to occupy their present quarters, and meeting space could be provided in the old town offices. But Heidkamp said the building is inefficient to heat, and the senior center's \$3,000 budget would not be sufficient to pay the annual utility bills.

Keller said if the historic preservation requirements on the building were relaxed, it might be possible to demolish the rear of the building to make room for a few units of senior housing, a complementary use for the site. Keller said estimates for renovating the entire structure to historic preservation guidelines may run as high as \$1 million.

Heidkamp said the library trustees were keeping an open mind on the possibility of renovating the town office building to make room for the library, at least until their architect has a chance to demonstrate what the costs of that project would be. Although renovating the 1856 building would certainly raise the price tag of a new library considerably, the opportunity to make use of 60% matching funds from the state may mean this would be one of the only realistic ways for Wendell to ever afford that building's renovation. "We don't want to end up with too many buildings, and a ghost center," Heidkamp said.



WATER, EARTH & FLOWERS

**A Full Service
Tree Care Company**
Free Estimates
Fully Insured
Take-Downs
Log/Stub Removal
Land Clearing
Brush Chipping
Cabling/Bracing
Tree/Shrub Pruning

Take Advantage of Winter!

Schedule Tree Work Now
for mid-December through mid-March
& enjoy the dual benefits of
reduced lawn damage
& reduced rates!

413-367-0288

Water, Earth & Flowers - Leverett, MA
Serving Hampshire & Franklin Counties

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666



Marsha Rutz
ABR, CRS, GRI, Broker



10 Munns Ferry Road - Gill, MA 01376

phone: 413-863-8025
fax: 413-863-8644
cell: 413-772-9717
mrutz@comcast.net

"EVERY ARTIST'S DREAM"

a novel by

Edie Graveline

\$12.00 at

FIRE HOUSE BOOKS

413-863-8057

edieieio@comcast.net



CUSTOM SAWING • PORTABLE BANDSAW MILL

quist road lumber

hourly rates
will come to you
flexible schedule
small jobs ok

bandsaw reduces waste
saws up to 30 in. x 24 ft. logs
board edger increases production
can broker forestry, drying, logging services

MICHAEL IDOINE • WENDELL, MA • 978-544-2623

Safety of Vermont Yankee Discussed

BY KATE ARSENAULT GILL - A rescheduled Nuclear Regulatory Commission public hearing on the proposed uprate at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon, VT was the central topic of discussion at a forum held at the Gill town hall on December 1st. The meeting began with remarks by organizer Sally Shaw of the Citizens Awareness Network. Shaw provided details about the upcoming hearing, to be held on Thursday, December 16th at 6 p.m. at the Brattleboro Union High School. The NRC will not provide additional information about the proposed uprate, but will take comments from the public. Shaw stressed the importance of the upcoming hearing, stating that out of 100 nuclear power plant uprates across the country, the Vermont Yankee uprate is the first the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has allowed to go to hearing. "We have an opportunity to make ourselves heard and we will do it loudly," said Shaw.

According to Shaw, the three important items on Vermont Yankee's agenda are gaining approval for an uprate in power production to 120% of the plant's original design capacity, gaining permission to extend

Possible dangers posed by these proposed alterations to Vermont Yankee's operating license were discussed, along with the possible impact of its daily operations. Shaw reported on recent studies purporting to

presented a slide show highlighting what he called the many health and safety risks posed by nuclear power. Nord said during the early years of its operation Vermont Yankee was required to install a lead shield on the wall of the nearby Vernon elementary school on the side facing the plant, in an attempt to protect the students from the effects of ionizing radiation.

The group is currently collecting baby teeth for analysis, and would like to get 50 to 100 teeth. "This will help us make a case to the NRC and demand accountability," said Shaw. Parents and guardians can also get individual results for their children. A form for those interested in donating baby teeth to the project will be made available on the Traprock Peace Center website (www.traprock-peace.org). Those interested can also call (413) 863-4992.



Pat Cavanaugh advertises the upcoming NRC hearing on Thursday, December 16th at 6 p.m. at the Brattleboro Union High School.

He also highlighted the dangers of boiling water nuclear reactors like VY, which he said are more dangerous than modern plants. Nord said that a terrorist attack or a human or mechanical error at VY that caused a loss of core coolant could render a land area the size of Vermont and New Hampshire combined to become permanently uninhabitable.

Sunny Miller, of Traprock Peace Center in Deerfield, spoke of closing the nuclear reactor at Vermont Yankee. She said those in small New England communities have advantages when it comes to effecting change. "I can imagine no better place to try to close a reactor than in New England," she said. "We're practical people." Miller noted that we are taught to keep quiet in school, but we're not told how to speak up with power and dignity in the face of what she termed "a dire emergency."

Shaw encouraged people to bring everyone they know to the hearing, saying numbers mean something to the NRC. Pat Cavanaugh, a board member on the New England Coalition, added to Shaw's comments, asking people attending the hearing to bring local elected officials with them.

the plant's life expectancy beyond 2012 through relicensing, and gaining approval to implement dry cask storage, which would allow onsite storage of highly radioactive spent fuel in an above-ground storage facility after the capacity of the spent fuel pool is exhausted, by 2008 at the latest.

show a correlation between increased exposure to low-level radionuclides routinely emitted from operating nuclear power plants and incidences of childhood diseases - particularly cancer - within a 40 mile radius of operating nukes. Chris Nord, a founding member of the Citizens Awareness Network,

Shaw reported on the "Tooth Fairy Project," an effort put together by the Radiation and Public Health Project. According to Shaw, levels of exposure from nuclear power plants can be determined by analyzing baby teeth. The Tooth Fairy Project is committed to determining exposure levels of residents near nuclear power plants by looking at baby teeth donated by local residents.

The meeting ended with the showing of an excerpt from the film *Fatal Fallout*. "This film interviews many scientists who contradict the claims of government and reactor owners that radiation does not pose a health problem," Miller said.

Vigil and Speak Out

Friday, December 10th, at 3:30 p.m.

on the Greenfield town common in honor of International Human Rights Day. According to Jill Vagedes of Sunderland, "This is a day for people in Franklin County to stand firm on the rights of all human beings - regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, abilities, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation - to dignity, safety, opportunity, equal access and treatment, food to eat, jobs to work, and a structure to call home. Along with others at similar events in Amherst and Springfield, we will be uniting with people from around the world to raise our voices against abuse and inequality and for the creation of a just world." This is the third event in a yearlong series of vigils and speak-outs sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Coalition for Women's Lives, a network of people working to highlight the connections between such issues as reproductive rights, militarism, civil liberties, sweatshop labor, the detention of immigrants, homophobia, racism, and violence against women. "I am proud and excited to be part of a community that celebrates the work of their women and men to create positive change individually, on the community level, and globally," says Coalition member and Heath resident Bonnie Wodin. The next event will focus on racism and social and economic justice, and is being planned for Saturday, January 15th, to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. More information about the International Human Rights Day event or the Coalition for Women's Lives calendar is available from Susan Dorazio at susandor@crocker.com.

The YMCA in Greenfield Presents
Our East Side Addition
at a Grand Opening Celebration
Sunday, December 5, 1 to 5 p.m.
Ribbon-cutting at 12:30 p.m.

- Sports & Games for Kids 6-12
- Free Child Care
- Tours of our new Nautilus & Exercise Centers, PreSchool and all Y facilities
- Face painting, tie-dye painting
- Free Workouts
- Food, Fun & Fellowship

Lots of family activities, food, fun & prizes, including free classes, massages & \$100 cash.

Bring the Whole Family!

Join us for an hour or the whole afternoon!

We've Got Great New Facilities!

Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.
YMCA in Greenfield • 451 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301 • 773-3646

Shop locally for the Holidays
and tell them you saw it
in your local paper!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666



Mary Lou Emond
CRS, GRI, CBR



COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • P.O. Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638
413-773-1149 x142
HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: mlemond@crocker.com



58 Mormon Hollow Rd.
Wendell, MA
(978) 544-0991

Paul & Melissa Newcombe

- Most Makes & Models, Volvo a Specialty
- Affordable Rates
- 20 Years Experience
- Serving Franklin & Hampshire County

bluefox
PROGRAMMING
DESIGN
WEB SOLUTIONS

CALL: 413.626.2199
EMAIL: HELP@BLUE-FOX.COM
WEB: WWW.BLUE-FOX.COM
WHERE: 31 BRIDGE STREET
SHELburnE FALLS, MA



NOW OFFERING

- PC + MACINTOSH
- > SUPPORT
- > REPAIR
- > TROUBLESHOOTING

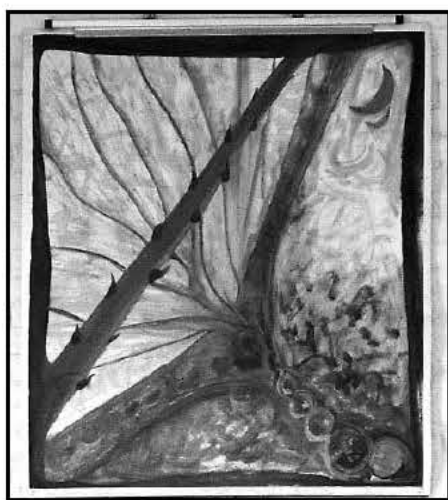
ARTS

continued from pg 1

and provisioners - the Shady Glen, Cup O' Joe, Chinatown, Turners Falls Pizza, and Equi's will provide an assortment of foods to nourish hungry art-goers. Turners' newest restaurant, the *bellybowl*, will also be open for Arts and Eats, but since they haven't quite completed their kitchen renovations, will only be serving baked goods, coffee, teas and hot cider.

The idea behind Arts and Eats began a couple of months ago when Michael Bosworth, director of the Brick House, and artist Jack Nelson began talking about a way to call attention to the arts in downtown Turners. Bosworth initially had the idea of holding a show of local talent at the Brick House but Nelson decided to take it one step further. Remembering the success of open studios in Northfield, where he used to ply his craft, Nelson contacted other local artists who enthusiastically approved the idea of opening their studios to the public. Nelson's wife, Eileen Dowd, began to work up some publicity for the event, and within a few weeks the artists had signed on, and so had the restaurants. By last week, not only had Dowd gotten brochures for the event designed and printed, but had managed, to her delight, to attract the attention of press - including radio and TV. According to Dowd, for the artists in residence here it was a commonplace that fine art was being made right in downtown Turners, but it seemed to be news to those outside the immediate vicinity. After this weekend it will be Montague's secret no more.

The "Eats" part of the event, according to Bosworth, was a natural compliment to the Arts tour. "If people are going to be wandering around downtown for a few hours, they're probably going to want to eat. And it's a good way for the restaurants to attract new clients and remind



(above) *Figure Study*, (below) *Sail Series #6*, both by Nelson

others that there are a variety of places to eat in our town." The participating restaurants, like the artists, quickly got behind the idea.



In America by John Reuter, featured at the Pure Light Gallery

Many in town, of course, have known for some time that art is alive and well in Turners Falls, but as Bosworth notes, an event of this sort can "provide a true indication of what is possible here." Nelson says open studio tours create a more intimate relationship between the artist and the public. He says there is a major difference between seeing art displayed in a gallery and viewing that same art in the artist's working space.

"When you enter an artist's space, you enter the artist's world. You can see first-hand what it takes to make art, see the process, actually get to know the artist, not just the work."

Those who choose to take the tour will not be disappointed. Nelson, de Christopher and Jones are all nationally - even internationally recognized - artists. Langknecht and Peterman are highly regarded as master woodworkers, with clients worldwide. And Sorokin's work has been fea-

tured in a variety of shows.

Among the delights awaiting the public are Nelson's exquisite ceramics that range from whimsical sculptures to functional dinnerware. A number of his finely executed color-field paintings, as well as other art pieces will be on display in his magnificent Carriage House Designs Studio, which is in itself a work of art. Designed and largely constructed by Nelson, the studio ranges over several floors, with each space dedicated to a different art form. Given Nelson's eclecticism, and his mastery over just about every conceivable art form, it's clear he needs several spaces in

which to do his work.

Tim de Christopher, who began his career as an apprentice stone carver at New York's famous Cathedral of Saint John the Devine, and is now well established as one of the nation's foremost workers in stone, will also have a sampling of his work on display. De Christopher's masterful limestone carvings, that range from table-sized to the monumental, will be on view in his new gallery space in the former Chick's Garage on Third Street. These impressive sculptures, often resonant of history and mythology, are not to be missed. De Christopher, however, will not be on hand personally to conduct a tour for visitors as he's honoring a prior commitment to be in England. But he has arranged for an assistant to be present to guide viewers.

Ariel Jones, a renowned photographer, will display a variety of her color prints, including her well-known portraits and an ongoing photo series that captures Turners Falls through her special eye (and lens). Among the photographs on display are a number of color prints of familiar Turners Falls sites (and sights), but through Jones's eye the familiar can become exotic. A doorway on Third Street, for instance, is transformed into an almost abstract painting; the CreeMee on Avenue A, isolated from its street context, becomes iconic.

Spencer Peterman, an internationally-recognized worker in wood, whose wholesale clients include Calvin Klein, will have on hand a number of his hand-made burl bowls (in maple, cherry and black walnut) as well as a selection of his one-of-a-kind spalted cutting boards. Peterman uses mostly local wood, some of it even from recycled or salvaged sources, to create his extraordinary objects that are both beautiful and highly functional. Although Langknecht is best known for his handcrafted mirrors and picture frames, since he began

working with Peterson a few years ago he has begun to specialize in functional objects. At Arts and Eats he will be showcasing his uniquely carved salad utensils, also made from local woods, mostly maple. And Sorokin, who uses color with verve and imagination, will show not just her paintings, which evoke elemental forces, but also a selection of wearable art: vividly hand-painted silk and silk-blend scarves and shawls.

In addition to these artists, the newly-consecrated Third Street Village Arts, on the first floor of the Brick House, will have a variety of local arts and crafts for sale. Under the heading "First and Seconds on Third Street" this show will feature work by a variety of local artists and artisans including paintings by Flore, gift boxes by Suzanne Obert, jewelry by Nina Wellen, hand-painted silks by Sally Dillon, pottery by Lisa Krauss, fabric pillows by Teresa Berra, ceramic "Nightworld Designs" by James Booker, and work by Irene Fariss.

Across the street from The Brick House, The PureLight Gallery will be exhibiting work by New York photographer John Reuter, famous for his Polaroid collages (he's also the long-time director of the 20x24 Polaroid Studio in New York). This show will feature his newest mixed-media prints, employing digital technology, along with iris printing, to (re)capture a series of mythological images. Also on Third Street, David Wiener, who has run GreatLighting Showroom for several years, will have an open house to showcase his immensely creative lighting fixtures.

The last words on this event belong to Jack Nelson. On learning about Arts and Eats, a friend told Jack that it seemed Turners Falls was finally arriving as a place where the arts could flourish. Jack corrected him. "No," he said. "Turners isn't arriving. It has arrived."

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

"Quality Service Year-Round!"

KUSTOM

Auto Body

48 Randall Road Montague, MA 01351
(413)863-3780

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Newest

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

774-7775

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES
PLENTY AVAILABLE

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors
and Artists encouraged to inquire

Joel Tognarelli • Gill, MA
413-863-2295 • Master License 3850

TOGNARELLI HEATING AND COOLING

Specializing in
Repair and Installation
of Gas and Oil Boilers, Water Heaters,
Ranges, Fire Places, and Piping

Quality and Comfort at a Reasonable Price

Room With A Loom

Contemporary Crafts Fine Gifts

ROOM with a LOOM

440 Greenfield Road/Montague Mill
367-2062

Acupressure Massage & Hypnotherapy

Janet Masucci
413-863-8694

Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage Since 1993
64 French King Highway, Gill, MA 01376

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

Plastic - Aluminum - Copper - Brass
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Cooling System Specialist

Rte. 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

Creating Art/Creating Community at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries

BY LAENA SANTOS

MONTAGUE - Encouraging women to express themselves through art, gently support each other in their creative endeavors and build a stronger community through shared art experiences are the broad goals of a new, three-month-old program of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

Funded through a Town of Montague community development block grant, the new program is called "Creating Art/Creating Community" and its diversity of offerings include a creative writer's group, songwriting workshop, fiber arts class, acrylic painting class and a clay workshop for women. Each of these programs is free of charge, and especially open to the women of Montague, whom the non-profit organization aims to serve through its Turners Falls Women's Resource Center. Free childcare is provided during each program.



These paintings were created by a women who participated in Sandy Facto's "Healing Through Color" workshop held last spring. Now, the paintings grace the hallway of Montague Catholic Social Ministries in Turners Falls.

The grant is also helping to fund programs for children at MCSM through upcoming music, drama, visual arts and sculpture (using recyclable materials) classes and a cooperative and creative games program, which will begin this

winter.

"We're looking for Montague residents to take part in these programs. Our clientele has really begun to broaden, with people coming from all over," said Artist Christine Diani, program coordinator for "Creating Art/Creating Community."

"We wanted to get back in touch with our Turners Falls and Montague people, so we're making more of an effort to bring it back home," said Diani, who hopes the program will "ripple out into the community, like ripples in a pond."

"There are so many artists in Montague. It's quite amazing and I know that there is an interest in supporting that and helping that grow in the larger community, and this is our contribution to that," she said.

Starting on January 24th, a 12- to 14-week songwriter's workshop called "A Woman's Voice" will be held inside the Turners Falls Women's

Resource Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., run by Singer/Songwriter Robin Lane. Women can experience healing from trauma, increased self-confidence through writing music and renewed

creativity, said Diani. "We feel strongly that the arts help women find their own voice and develop a sense of self confidence. . . . Through the arts women really take a look at who they are. We hope to offer a safe place where they



Women are invited to borrow books from the MCSM lending library

can come and take the time for themselves to look within," she said. "We want to help the whole community come together through art."

In addition, a 14-week women's creative writing group will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 1st, led by an instructor certified in the Amherst Writers and Artists method. This class will also be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will include exercises designed to encourage creative expression and increase confidence, said Diani. Women of all skill levels are encouraged and free childcare will be provided upon pre-registration, she said.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries also offers numerous programs through its Gill-Montague Family Center, including the Kids' Place After School Program and a Parent-Led Parent Support Group on Thursday evenings. For more information about any of these programs or to register for workshops of the "Creating Art/Creating Community," call MCSM at 863-4805.

Gifts which last forever.



IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR HOLIDAY RESTORATIONS & PORTRAITS!

ARIEL JONES STUDIO

106 Ave. A in Turners Falls • 413.863.0167

0% FINANCING FOR 2 YEARS*

on any new 4000 TWENTY Series



JOHN DEERE
NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE™



0% FOR 2 YEARS.

ZERO REASONS NOT TO BUY A JOHN DEERE RIGHT NOW.



NO PAYMENTS FOR 6 MOS.* on X485 AWS with no interest and no payments for 6 months.



NO PAYMENTS FOR 6 MOS.* on HPX 4x4 with no interest and no payments for 6 months.

OFFERS END SOON. GET TO YOUR JOHN DEERE DEALER TODAY!

SIRUM EQUIPMENT CO.

Rte. 63, Montague, MA
(413) 367-2481

*Offer ends February 28, 2005. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details and other financing options. Available at participating dealers. For 4000 Twenty Series offer: Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit installment plan. Up to 10% down payment may be required. 0% is for qualified buyers. No Interest/No Payment offers: Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Revolving Plan, a service of FPC Financial, L.S.B. After promotional period finance charges will begin to accrue at 13.9% APR. A \$0.30 per month minimum finance charge may be required. Upon default the interest rate may increase to 19.8% APR. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol, and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company. Equal Opportunity Lender

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 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

bicycles unlimited
322 High Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 772-2700
E-mail: bikebob@crocker.com
Web Page: http://www.bikes-unlimited.com

BAKER
1/2 Price Card & Gift Shop
Buy 5 cards and get 1 free!
www.bakerofficesupply.com
310 Main Street • Greenfield
774-2345 Call Bonnie today!

Forbes Photo & Frame
• Custom Digital Restorations
• Expert Custom Framing
• Quality Photo Processing
• Cameras, Film & More
300 Main Street • Greenfield
413 773 9898

REAL ESTATE
BENCHMARK & PRATT
BERNARD J. MONKIEWICZ, JR.
REALTOR®
Hayburne Building • 55 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
Office: 413-774-1200 Desk: 413-774-1221
e-mail: bernie@benchmark-pratt.com

CALL MARK & DULCIE LARANGE AND BE ...
"LIVIN' EASY"
SPA SALES & SERVICE SINCE 1976 SERVICE ALL BRANDS
CUSTOM BUILDING AND REMODELING SINCE 1970 LIC#083647
OFFICE: 413-774-2633
CELL: 413-522-0366
waters edge
SPAS

SENIORS

continued from pg 1

along with Council on Aging chair Charles T. Smith was doing the honors of coordinating the monthly get-together in Kathy Swaim's absence. Fairbrother is a member of the Wing family, Wendell through and through, and her brother Ken Wing was in the room to visit and view her craftwork. Fairbrother said, "I've made 150 full-sized quilts in the last 25 years. All my grandnieces and

Bend, Alabama, whose quilts were "discovered" by devotees of rural folk art, and are now on a national museum tour, with individual quilts selling for as much as \$8000, Fairbrother laughed and said she doesn't do museum pieces. "At the end of the day, I have to have done something to show that I've made myself useful, to show that I've lived that day." Her beautiful handiwork is keeping almost every member of her extended family, and many friends and strangers warm

family who do not surrender to the guiles of retirement easily, as her brother Ken Wing can attest. Wing, after a storied career as a truck driver (for North American van lines), freight hauler (for Athol motors), dockworker in Green Cove Spring, FL (for Larris Shipyard), and stints at Erving Papermill and Pro Brush in Northampton, took up a lifelong love of woodworking in recent years, to fashion intricate toy trucks for his grandchildren. "It started with toys for the kids," said Wing. "But the trucks got so detailed, with so many moving parts, I can't give them away as toys anymore, or sell them to families with kids under eight," for fear of young ones choking on moving parts. He recently completed a two-foot log truck, with movable cherry picker, and a hood that opens to reveal a wooden engine, complete right down to the fan blade."

Wing's lifelong love affair with trucks found him many winters on the tailgate of the Wendell sanders, shoveling sand into the paddle sander. "That's how we used to sand the roads in the old days," he explained. "We'd just do the hills." On the flat, drivers were on their own.

Wing took three dimensional drawing and drafting in Greenfield vocational school as a youngster, and learned the rudiments of woodworking at his father's carpentry shop in Northfield. He puts both skills to work in preparing his model trucks. "I prepare plans for each of my toys. I hope to patent them someday," Wing said.

Wing was the featured crafter

of the month earlier this fall at the senior center, where his toys and trucks won rave reviews from all and sundry. Cullen took pictures of several of his detailed models, featured here.

On Wednesday, as he said his good-byes at the clinic, Wing told Elsie Diemand, "I've lived a full life. I don't think there's anything I've done that I didn't want to do."

"Have you ever ridden a motorcycle?" she asked.

"When I was 30 years old," he replied, "A friend of mine had a '46 Indian Chief, a 900 lb motorcycle. He went to the store to get something for dinner, and when he came back he asked me if I wanted to take it for a spin. I didn't have a helmet or a leather jacket or nothing. On the way back I came across a drunk driver at a crossroads, and ran into him, skidded and broke my right hand and cracked my skull. After that I bought my own motorcycle. I've owned three of 'em." But he learned from his first experience. "You have to watch out for the other guy."

In a different sense, watching out for the other guy is what the senior center monthly health clinics are all about. Nancy Edwards, a nurse from Greenfield, comes on the first Wednesday each month to assess the health of the seniors' feet, and to trim their nails and recommend other treatment if necessary. She hasn't gotten paid for her work lately, because, as Smith pointed out, "The grant from the Executive Office of Senior Affairs is late," in arriving. But Edwards said, "I love working with seniors," and

she is willing to credit a balance forward, in hopes the state check will finally come through. Ginny Schimmel, another nurse who is a member of the Wendell Council on Aging, performs blood pressure checks for seniors each month. On this date, a number of seniors came to get flu shots from Pat Pierson, a visiting nurse from the Community Health Center of Franklin County's town nurse program. She cares for seniors, and housebound patients in a nine town North Quabbin area. "We gave out 10 flu shots here today. We had plenty of vaccine on hand. We had a flu shot clinic in Northfield yesterday, and I'm on my way to Bernardston this afternoon." Pierson said preventive medicine appears to be helping, and no major outbreak of flu has been reported locally so far this season.

Looking around the bustling center, a former classroom in the old Wendell Center school, Virginia Wheeler said, "They're talking about demolishing this building now. It gives me a creepy feeling. There are few historic places left."

Cullen, who said she attended selectboard meetings in the building for nine years when she served on the board, acknowledged its historic significance but remarked, "I know it is a very creaky building." Still for all the old building's problems, it is a lively place on first Wednesdays at the Senior Center, where memories - and memorable occasions - are shared, and bonds renewed, each month.



Ken Wing's carefully crafted wooden trucks stopped by the Wendell Senior Center earlier this fall

grandnephews have one." Swaim said Fairbrother contributed a full-sized quilt to the Wendell Golden Agers Old Home Day raffle for many years, "but the Golden Agers have disbanded now," due to dwindling numbers.

Asked if she had heard the recent news reports of the sudden fame of the African American quilters from Gee's

besides, as winter weather heads our way again.

Swaim said Fairbrother has also donated a number of quilts to raffles for AIDS babies and cancer sufferers over the years. Though she used to work with two different quilting groups, Fairbrother said she mostly works alone now. "We're all getting old, and it's hard to get out."

Fairbrother comes from a

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Renaissance Excavating
 COMPLETE SITE WORK
 • SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM
 MAIN ROAD, GILL
 DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO.
SCSC
 Complete Masonry Supply
 298 Avenue A., Turners Falls, MA
413-863-4322

Fall is in the air, and Ol' Man Winter is just around the corner. How are you heating your home this year?
 Shanahan's is now carrying wood and gas fireplaces, inserts and stoves. Stop over and see our display of Regency, Hampton and Waterford products.

Sokolosky Realty
 56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376
 OFFICE (413) 863-4393
 HOME (413) 367-9970
 FAX (413) 863-4949

Jean Donovan, CRS, ABR
 BROKER

BOOK MILL

MONTAGUE • MA
 WWW.MONTAGUEBOOKMILL.COM - 367-9206

CUSTOM DESIGN IN CLAY, STONE, MARBLE...
CARRIAGE HOUSE DESIGNS
 EILEEN DOWD - JACK NELSON
 TELE: 413-863-9499
 65 CANAL ST. TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

MARK OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER
RONALD C. SICARD
 Sales Professional
 20 YEARS CHEVROLET SALES EXPERIENCE
 DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
 54 MAIN ST GREENFIELD, MA 01301
 Phone (413) 773-3678
 Fax (413) 774-5746

MINIMALLY INVASIVE TOTALLY ESTHETIC
 Mark A. Wisniewski, D.D.S.
 173 Ave. A Turners Falls, MA 413-863-4250
 4 Springfield St. Chicopee, MA 413-592-3530

LIVE IN MONTAGUE?
 EST. 1754
www.MontagueMA.net
 local gossip, news & business listings

Patrick Smith
 HIC #134741 Insured
 Turners Falls, MA
 Patrick@Mtdata.com
EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
 Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows.
 Toll Free 866-262-5361
 413-863-9409
 FAX 413-863-3530

The Sunday Walkers

BY FLORE

Who are they? A handful of close friends, ten of them. A bunch of eager walkers whose professions have taken top priority, leaving little time for enjoying nature. They agreed the best way to size up the skies would be to go out walking on Sundays. Whoever is available that day comes; the rendez-vous is set invariably at 9 a.m.

What's so great about this set-up? It leaves each one, according to their own passion, to be responsible for at least one particular hike, when his or her turn comes up. To give you a little taste, so you could start your own group ... Why not?

For instance, want to find out who is the fluffy feathered character making those fabulous bird melodies? Behold, among us we have a keen ornithologist. Searching for reference material to sink your teeth in? Beware, we have a top-notch librarian versed in

the lore of paper conservation, who will tell you all you want to know about the quiet "literary" insects chewing away at your prized books. Those litter critters know their stuff!

The writer in our midst is planning soon an all-day's walk around poets' paths of the region. Even if it involves gliding on snowshoes.

Where did we get this idea from, you ask? Easy. From our French pals, back in Provence. They are doing exactly the same thing, on their side of the globe. Do you want to know what they are planning to top it all? An exchange!

The French "Marcheurs du Dimanche" will come to New England, as guests of the Yankee "Sunday Walkers." Later, the Frenchies will receive the Yanks in turn, with a pastis on hand, comfortably sipping it, in the lee of the mistral.

Tell the truth, is this not the coolest idea you've ever heard?

BY LINDSEY TANNER

Associated Press

CHICAGO - Walking regularly at age 70 and beyond can help keep the mind sharp and ward off Alzheimer's disease, according to research suggesting that what is good for the heart is also good for the brain.

Some previous studies found that physical activity might stave off mental decline. But the new findings, contained in two studies, show that the activity does not have to be super strenuous.

In more good news for older people, another study suggests that the benefits of a Mediterranean diet rich in fish, olive oil and fruits and vegetables extend into old age, increasing longevity even in men and women in their 70s, 80s and 90s.

"This study is important because it is often thought that diet, alcohol, physical activity and smoking doesn't matter anymore in old age," said nutri-

tion researcher Kim Knoops of The Netherlands' Wageningen University, the lead author.

The studies appear in ... the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

One study, involving 2,257 retired men ages 71 to 93, found that those who walked less than a quarter-mile a day were almost twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia as men who walked more than two miles daily.

A study of 16,466 female nurses ages 70 to 81 found that even women who walked a leisurely 1 1/2 hours a week did better on tests of mental function than less active women.

"We were a bit surprised that something so modest as walking would be associated with apparent cognitive benefits. That was really the surprise," said Jennifer Weuve, a Harvard School of Public Health researcher who led the nurses study.

Previous studies have linked mental exercise, such as crossword puzzles and reading, with a reduced risk of Alzheimer's. The new research shows physical exercise helps too. On the net: www.jama.com.

Indoor Walking Program

From now through the month of March, walk indoors, out of the weather and in a safe environment on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. Program sponsored by Indoor Action and the Sports for Life Foundation.

It is free and open to all, donations are accepted.

1385 Bernardston Rd., Greenfield
For more information call (413) 772-8665 or visit www.indooractionsports.com



GALA CHRISTMAS PARTY

to benefit
Warm the Children program
featuring live music by singer songwriter and recording artist
Lyle Pierce

December 18th, 8 p.m. til midnight
St Kazmierz Hall, 197 Avenue A, Turners Falls
50/50 Raffle and Santa's Auction and door prizes sponsored by
Coke A Cola and local merchants. Tickets \$5 at the door.
Please bring mittens or a hat for the Warm the Children Tree.

Going into business or growing your business? We can help!

- Entrepreneurial Training • Business Lending
- Technical Assistance • Food Processing Center
- Small Business Incubators

CDC

F.C. Community Development Corp.
324 Wells St., Greenfield, MA 01301
Tel. (413) 774-7204 or www.fccdc.org

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Sew a Gift for Christmas

the finest fabrics for holiday giving from

THE TEXTILE CO., INC.

Fleece - Woolens - Quilting Supplies & Fabrics
Cotton Flannelettes - Pure Silk

Gift Certificates Always Available

Power Square, Greenfield 773-7516
Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Friday 9-8:20

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

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
MASS INSPECTION STATION
NO. 13051
194 MILLERS FALLS RD.
413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

LaBelle & Leitner Auto Sales

AUDI • VW • VOLVO • BMW
Large selection of diesel and all-wheel drive vehicles

Locally Owned for 27 Years

413-774-5517
335 High St., Greenfield
LALautosales.com

Geri Johnson

CRB, CRS, GRI



66 French King Highway
Gill, MA 01376
(413) 863-9736
Fax (413) 863-9739



PLOW FRAU & BOW WOW

CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING
"Putting Your Used Goods to Good Use"



413-834-PLOW (7569)
Sita Lang

Snow plowing, too!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

More Slashed Tires and Strange Noises

Thursday 11-25

9:38 a.m. Vandalism reported on L Street. Tires slashed. Report taken

10:55 a.m. Report of a bike stolen from a Turners Falls Road address. Report taken.

2:22 p.m. Report of a loud radio in a motor vehicle causing a disturbance on 4th Street. Owner spoken to. Peace restored.

4:51 p.m. Report of loud music at an Avenue A address. Officer spoke to subject.

Friday 11-26

1:31 a.m. Report of an assault at a T Street address. Found to be verbal only

Saturday 11-27

7:23 a.m. Report of repairmen working too loudly at a Park Street address. Officer spoke to them.

12:12 p.m. Report of a wallet and cell phone found in the Shady Glen parking lot.

6:44 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle lockout at a Grant Avenue address. Officer assisted.

10:32 p.m. Report of a child out of control in the VFW parking lot. Officer spoke to all involved.

Sunday 11-28

12:28 a.m. Report of property stolen and later returned at a Montague City Road address.

5:13 a.m. Report of a two-car accident, no injuries on Route 47. Report taken.

9:50 a.m. Report of gunshots on Taylor Hill Road. Unfounded.

2:00 p.m. Walk-in to station

reported a lost ATM card. Report taken.

6:46 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Monday 11-29

2:19 a.m. Report of a strange noise in front of a Prospect Street residence. It was the newspaper being delivered.

5:55 p.m. Flags from the Veteran's Memorial on Avenue A were found. Officer replaced them.

12:01 p.m. Walk-in to station to report a domestic dispute. Found to have happened in Gill. Referred to Gill PD.

12:47 p.m. Illegal dumping reported at Family Dollar on Ave A. Trash owners were located

and removed the trash. 6:45 p.m. Report of a hit and run accident on 4th Street. No damage. Report taken.

Tuesday 11-30

5:06 p.m. Report of motor vehicle weaving in and out of lanes near Rau's Sunoco. Officer unable to locate.

7:26 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Park Street address. Found to be verbal only.

11:41 p.m. Walk-in to station reported tire slashed in Judd Wire parking lot. Report taken.

Wednesday 12-1

6:57 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club. Under investigation.

Economic Development Plans Featured at Wendell Holiday Fair

Crafts, music, food and offerings from an eclectic variety of local businesses will fill the Wendell Town Hall Saturday, December 4th from 9 to 5 and Sunday, December 5th from 9 to 3 at the Wendell Holiday Fair.

The event is sponsored by the Wendell Community Development Planning Committee as a festive way to begin the process of implementing the economic development goals in the town's recently completed community development plan. These goals include promoting and encouraging home-based businesses, cottage industries, agricultural, and forest based businesses in town.

Special guest acoustic guitarist Fran Doughty will perform Sunday from 12 to 2 p.m.. Offerings will include jewelry by Gail Krutka, hand painted silks by Phyllis Brooks, chimes and jewelry by Deva Skydancer, pottery and hand painted shirts by Jenny Ettelson Coy, art prints by

Donna Horn, silk and dried flowers by Marcie Diemand, ceramic, wood and metal work by Tomas Black, gemstones, crystals, and evergreen wreaths by Tony Tomas, herbal heating pads by Wanita Sears, traditional native stone carving by Joel Sears, sculptural and functional clay art by Ruth O'Mara, blown glass gifts by Arieh Kurinsky, stained glass by Ina Peebles, origami by Jayne Rubenstein and software by Robbie Heller.

Gifts from local farms will include maple products from Bill and Laurel Facey's sugarhouse and honey, candles, and lip balm made by Miriam Robinson of Raven Hollow Farm. Herbalist Chris Marano will be offering locally grown and crafted products from his business Clearpath Herbals.

Andy Hamilton, a recent graduate of the North Quabbin Guide Training Program, will lead a hike to a nearby beaver pond Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants should dress appropriately and where sturdy

footwear. Hamilton is starting a new business leading nature hikes in the woods of Wendell and New Salem. Lunch will be provided by the Wendell Women's Club to raise money for local children's activities.



WENDELL MEETINGHOUSE-A Chinese auction and food sales will benefit the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse at the Wendell Holiday Fair. The Friends has received a \$12,500 matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to put a new roof on the building. They have raised \$7500 so far and must raise another \$5000 over the next three years. Photo by Patrick Zephyr.




COMPUTER SERVICES

PC REPAIRS AND UPGRADES
 QUICKBOOKS SUPPORT & TRAINING
 MAC CONSULTANT AVAILABLE
 VIRUS REMOVAL
 PC SETUP AND TRAINING

413-367-0025
abtface@bellatlantic.net
 Office Hours by Appointment

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666



Stephen Greenwald

PO Box 272
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 413/863-8316
 Fax 413/863-9712
www.renbuild.net



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



40 industrial boulevard
 turners falls, ma
 tel: 863-8675 fax: 863-3741

Quality Work with Sensible Prices Since 1988

OFFSET & LETTERPRESS PRINTING
 GRAPHIC DESIGN
 FULL COLOR PRINTING
 PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
 EMBROIDERED & SCREENED APPAREL
 INVITATIONS • TICKETS • FLYERS
 BUSINESS STATIONERY
 BROCHURES • FLYERS • FORMS
 NEWSLETTERS • BOOKLETS
 GIFT CERTIFICATES • MENUS
 RUBBER STAMPS • LABELS • TASS
 BANNERS • BUMPER STICKERS
 MAGNETIC & JOB SITE SIGNS
 BUSINESS CHECKS & SUPPLIES
 SOFTWARE COMPATIBLE FORMS
 SALESBOOKS & MORE!

INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES
 USABLE METALS

LAMP REPAIRS
 LAMP PARTS

Just Things

*We Buy Anything From a Pin
 To An Elephant*

ARTHUR COHEN
 413-498-5043

9 MT. HERMON RD.
 NORTHFIELD, MA 01360

Mark's Sunoco

repair & refuel

665-7438



54 Amherst Road Sunderland MA
Mark Bander, Proprietor

Crider
Gary W. Crider
 Licensed Electrician
 MA # 27657E

Quality Work at a Reasonable Rate.

Industrial
 Commercial
 Residential

9 Railroad Station Rd.
 Northfield
 413-498-4419



Original designs
 in clay
 by Artist
 Jaye Pope

call for hours

PO Box D-5
 Montague MA 01351
Gooddirt@Montaguema.net
 413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com

Clay is Good Dirt

Cup O' Joe

Espresso • Cappuccino • Lattes

- Great Casual Atmosphere
- Great coffee, pastries, and breakfast served all day.
- Deli sandwiches and wraps are available for lunch.

Hours: Mon - Fri 7 - 2:30
 Sat & Sun 7 - 1

111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 / (413) 863-2800 / Zach Fellows - Owner

Cheap! Close!

TV! **Suzee's** Books!

THIRD ST. LAUNDRY
 FM 01376

Big Dryers! Big Washers!

Suzee says: **Hey! Wash it.** 6am-10pm 7 days

CRUISER

continued from pg 3

Sunday night, November 28th. The cruiser, driven by officer Adam Sokolosky, was involved in a collision with a vehicle driven by Amy Hayes of Orange, during a rainstorm at night, as officer Sokolosky pulled into traffic in pursuit of a passing speeder. Neither Sokolosky nor Hayes sustained injuries in the crash, which resulted in \$2300 worth of damage to the cruiser. It is currently under repair at Doug's Auto Body. The speeder got away.

In other business, the board:

- approved a lease with Gill-Montague schools for use of the high school gym by the recreation commission for its winter youth basketball league.

- approved a \$100 stipend for a real estate agent to appraise the Riverside Municipal Building. Highway superintendent Mickey LaClair will oversee repairs to the building's heating system during the winter break of the Four Winds School.

- received word of the assessors tax classification hearing, which certified an excess levy capacity for Fiscal '05 of \$26,123.07. The board noted tax bills will be going out late this year, and wondered if the assessors had reconsidered their decision to institute a new Riverfront district for tax valuation. Reached after the meeting, assessor Fred Rutz said the

Department of Revenue had recommended no change to the new district, and none would be made. The board discussed the recent sale of the "Pinkham property" on Riverside Drive, which reportedly sold for \$350,000, and concluded the assessors were doing the right thing to institute the new district to account for rapidly rising property values along the river.

- advised Roussel to work with the Information Technology committee to come up with safe methods of backing up town computers. The committee is comprised of Sergeant Chris Redmond, Don Kruger, and Steve Loomer.

- authorized Maddern to take prompt action to install a water purification device in the town hall well. Employees at town hall and the library have been advised not to drink tap water and to wash their hands with bacterial soap after tests revealed nuisance bacteria present in the well water serving these two buildings, as well as the Congregational Church. For some months, the board has been waiting for the Waterwright Company of Montague to install an ultraviolet filter in the well, but Maddern said he was "tired of playing tootsies" with Waterwright, and would see to the repair himself. Under the supervision of a licensed plumber, naturally.

- agreed to an expenditure of \$1066 to Damon Fencing to replace 13 sections of a picket fence between the

highway garage and the Rinaldi property. They hoped LaClair could see to the installation before winter made the work more difficult.

- agreed to spend a \$300 recycling grant to purchase computer paper for town offices. Discussion of splitting the funds to purchase both recycling containers and computer paper led Maddern to say, "We've bought recycling containers with recycling money several times. I'm not sure we need to do that anymore. We'd be spreading the money out to all the townspeople if we use it all for paper." Roussel noted the highway department still had two recycling containers available, at \$7 per, at the town garage.

Shop locally for the Holidays
and tell them you saw it in your local paper!

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

MAIL MASTER
complete mailing services

We Can Custom Design your Holiday Cards - We take your Photo! Gift Wrapping!

All your Shipping & Handling Needs, 24 Hour ATM, Western Union, USPS, UPS, FedEx, Faxing, Graphic Design, Color Printing & Copying, Scanning, Laminating, and more!

Holiday Special: Gift Wrapping, Candles, Custom Design Christmas Cards - We take your photo!
Also Serving Fresh Brewed Coffee and Baked Goods!

21 West Main Street, Millers Falls MA, 01349
TEL: 413-659-3818 / FAX: 413-659-0292

For the young and young at heart!

You'll love our free accounts for people 18 and younger or 65 and older.



GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK
Since 1869

www.greenfieldsavings.com

GREENFIELD 413-774-3191
AMHERST 413-549-3660
SHELburne FALLS 413-625-9827
SOUTH DEERFIELD 413-665-4011
TURNERS FALLS 413-863-4316

Member FDIC • Member DIF

Clay Classes for Wendell Residents

Ruth O'Mara, a local clay artist and arts educator, will be offering three free clay classes to adults living in Wendell. This class is a wonderful opportunity to make clay gifts for the holidays. Students will have the chance to learn how to make clay stamps, decorative tiles and ornaments.

This class is great for beginners and adults who want to explore the possibilities of working in clay. Students will have finished and glaze fired work at the end of the class session. Classes held Thursday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning December 2nd at the Wendell Senior Center. To register, please call (413)549-5744.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Avicenna Skin Care Studio

Customized Aromatherapy Facials
Gentle Face & Body Waxing
Natural Mineral Color Cosmetics

96 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst Center
253-9131
Barbara Deguise, Licensed Esthetician

Anthony C. Tucker
70 Oakman Street
Turners Falls




A Custom Touch
Painting & Home Repairs

Home: (413) 863-4833
actuck@comcast.net

Lynn Reynolds
"Aiming for Astonishing Service"

- Specializing in Buyer Agency
- Professional Consulting
- Let us discuss the advantages!



REYNOLDS PROPERTIES
256 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002

413-367-2425
lynnreynolds@verizon.net

Specializing in unique hair designs

Bella THE SALON


312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003

413-256-6217

fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

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

COUNTRY OIL
SINCE 1986
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING



540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

24-HOUR BURNER SERVICE
24-HOUR PLUMBING SERVICE
LICENSED TECHNICIANS
#N10588 (MA)

A Monster's Holiday at The Colonial Theatre

BY STEPHEN PARKER

KEENE, NH - What do *The Blob*, the Andrews Sisters, Dracula, Chanukah, cool blues, '60s Girl Group schmaltz, Christmas, Betsy Palmer, Kwanzaa, and the *Monster Mash* have in common? They are all part of Sounds of the Season, a multi-cultural musical stage show performed in the style of a live 1940s radio broadcast at the Colonial Theatre in Keene, NH, on Sunday, December 5th at 6 p.m.

NEAT (New England Audio Theatre), a regional radio/stage performance troupe, with members aged 8 to 91, will join celebrity guests in musical playlets celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Chanukah. Veteran stage, screen, TV, and radio actress Betsy Palmer, star of the feature films *Mister Roberts* and *Friday the 13th*, will pay tribute to the 1950s television program *I've Got A Secret* (on which she spent ten years as a panelist) and present a special Lifetime Achievement Award to Keene State College professor Kate Phillips, 91, who as Kay Linaker, was a top-tier feature film actress during Hollywood's Golden Age of the '30s and '40s. Phillips appeared



The Pixies Three will offer a retro tribute to the most successful female singing group of all time, the Andrews Sisters

Mash will perform that classic and, for the first time live, his follow-up hit *Monster's Holiday*. Backing Pickett as his vocal accompanists, the Crypt-Kickers, will be the Pixies Three (Midge, Kaye, and Bonnie) the Mercury Records trio who scored in 1963 with the hit songs *Birthday Party*, *442 Glenwood Avenue*, and *Cold, Cold Winter*. The Pixies Three will travel back to the 1940s in a musical salute to the most successful female singing group of all time, the Andrews Sisters, as well as performing an end-of-the-show concert of their own classic Pixies Three tunes.

Gospel singer Gail Houston, whose R&B quartet the Percells scored with the 1963 ABC-Paramount Records hits *What Are Boys Made Of*, will perform her group's 60s hit *Cheek To Cheek* (backed by the Pixies Three), a musical piece for Kwanzaa, sing a bluesy Christmas duet with L.A. bluesman Bob Malone, a Grammy Award nominated musician performing in the "Dr. John meets Jerry Lee Lewis" style. Houston (joined by Midge Neel of the Pixies Three) will also back Malone on his original song *Caught Up In Christmas*.

Featured local area residents participating in the event include New Hampshire state representative Henry Parkhurst (as a sassy Santa), and Ryanne

Goldsmith-Asher (singing a provocative version of the 1953 Eartha Kitt classic *Santa Baby*).

Using vintage microphones and live sound effects, "Sounds of the Season" will simulcast over WKNH, 91.3 FM, Keene State College's station, and the worldwide web.

"One of our chief objectives is to provide a visual opportunity for a live theater audience and a listening opportunity for those not physically able to attend the show, such as residents of elder-care facilities," explained Janine Preston, director of Sounds of the Season.

For further information or tickets for Sounds of the Season, call 603-352-2033. Tickets will be available at the box office of the Colonial Theatre (located on Main Street in Keene) on Sunday, December 5th, the night of the performance.



Bobby "Boris" Pickett, writer and originator of the hit *Monster Mash*

in the films *Young Mr. Lincoln* and *Drums Along the Mohawk*, with Henry Fonda, as well as nine Charlie Chan features. She also wrote the screenplay for the 1958 horror film classic *The Blob*, for which she was paid a meager \$125.

Vocalist/author Bobby "Boris" Pickett, writer and originator of the multi-million-selling novelty record the *Monster*

Subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*
 Help us reach our goal
 500 subscriptions by 2005
 Subscriptions to the *Montague Reporter* make great holiday gifts to friends and relatives near and far.
 Take advantage of holiday rates.
 Buy a gift subscription
 for \$5 off the regular price from now
 through January 5th, 2005
GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS
 to the *Montague Reporter* now \$5 off

Give the gift of community!

Through the end of the month buy **GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS** at a \$5 savings! \$15 for 26 issues!

\$15 for 26 issues. Send a gift subscription to the person listed below

Check here to include a gift card with your name:

YOUR NAME: _____

the Montague Reporter
 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050

Carpentry

No job too small - General Carpentry and Home Repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, 625-9584

Computers

Trackology Custom software, data base development and web design. Call 413-367-0149.

Real Estate

Reynolds Properties - A friend for the buyer; someone to represent you! Consulting, buyer representation, 20+ years exp. Call Lynn Reynolds, ABR, CRS, GRI. Call 367-2425, (413) 256-8553.

Help Wanted

Busy podiatry office seeking experienced part-time medical receptionist. Monday in Amherst office. Thursday in Greenfield office. Call Kelli at (413) 256-0161.

Can You Sell? The Montague Reporter is expanding and is now looking for an Advertising Director. Can you help us grow? We're hiring now! Create a relationship with the business community, Bring on new clients and maintain current clients, Display, Business Cards, and Classified Ads, Work by commission. Submit resume and work history: reporterAds@ Montague MA.net or call 413-863-8666

The Town of Gill is Seeking: Truck Driver/Laborer 2 yrs experience heavy equipment operator and snowplowing. MA CDL Class 2 and Housing License. For further info. or for application contact the Administrative Assistant, Town of Gill, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01376 or 413-863-9347 EOE

Services

COHERENT CONSULTING - Develop your vision for healthy communities, ecosystems and businesses. Grantwriting, strategic planning, Ecological Footprinting, technical and project support. 978.724.0108.

For Sale

SEE EVERYTHING YOU MISSED in the Montague 250th Anniversary Parade: every float, every band, and all the crowd. Are you in this video? Call MCTV 863-9200 to order. Also for sale: Turners Falls Girls Softball Championship Game videotape. Both tapes on sale now at the Libraries and Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners or by calling MCTV at 863-9200.

'86 Chevy Van, needs work/parts, \$300/offer- '98 Lumina LS, 135k, good shape, \$750, needs trans. Call 367-9132 evenings or e-mail stew@library.umass.edu

Really nice, heavy black jacket from Howard's Leathers. Perfect condition. Snap in liner. Good fit on 6'3" 220 Lbs. \$275 new, will sell for \$150. Call 367-0350.

Ride Needed

BOSTON SYMPHONY FRIDAY SERIES - Is there anyone in the area who attends the regular Friday afternoon concerts? Need ride. Will share gas and parking costs. Steven 413-863-9922

For Lease

PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE - 3600 SF Office or Light Industrial Space. 3 Phase 400 Amp Service - Off Street Parking. Very Convenient Location - Close to Rt.2 & I-91. Call 413-863-4346

Writers Wanted

*Like writing?
 Join our staff!*

Call the Montague Reporter at 863-8666

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

WAGON WHEEL COUNTRY DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST & LUNCH
 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Closed Tuesday
 Rte. 2 + Gill, Mass.
 Order ahead: 863-8210

We Do Catering!
 Platters, Buffet items, Baked Goods
 For all your Holiday Needs!

Real Good Food!

BREAKFAST & LUNCH
 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Closed Tuesday
 Rte. 2 + Gill, Mass.
 Order ahead: 863-8210

We Do Catering!
 Platters, Buffet items, Baked Goods
 For all your Holiday Needs!

CopyCat PRINT SHOP

Custom Calendars, Mousepads, Mugs, Clocks, and more...

Custom calendar with your photos
Only \$22.95

180 Main Street, Greenfield 774-3500

DOLAN & DOLAN
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHUN ILLUSTRATION

CALENDAR

FRI, SAT & SUN, DEC. 3RD, 4TH & 5TH

Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts and Nick Waynelovich are proud to announce the

Ja'Duke Christmas Spectacular

at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th at 8 p.m. and Sunday December 5th at 2 p.m. General Admission is \$12.00 - 65/over and 12/under \$10.00. This Christmas Spectacular features It is an old fashioned Christmas show with music and dance that will entertain the whole family. Holiday music will be performed featuring songs like Sleigh Ride, White Christmas, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, The Christmas Song, Oh Holy Night, Blue Christmas, Jingle Bells, The Gloucestershire Wassail, Winter Wonderland, Ave Maria, and many more! Ja'Duke Productions staff includes the internationally award winning tap dancer Kimberly Waynelovich as choreographer, and producer/director Nick Waynelovich. This unique father and daughter team brought you the dynamic and very popular Footloose, Crazy for You, Chicago and 42nd Street. Ja'Duke Productions brings you this classic Christmas Spectacular underwritten by Greenfield Savings Bank. Tickets are available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield or for reservations please call the Shea Theater at 413-863-2281.

FRI & SAT, DEC. 4TH & 5TH

Arts and Eats

Turners Falls Open Studio Walking Tour
Featuring studio and gallery tours and presentations by local artists from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The event is sponsored by local eateries where you can pick up maps that include contact information for the participating businesses and artists for future reference. Get your map at the Shady Glen, Cup O' Joe, bellybowl, Equi's, Turners Falls Pizza or Chinatown all located in beautiful downtown Turners Falls.

WENDELL HOLIDAY FAIR

at the Wendell Town Hall (Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) Holiday shopping featuring local artists, crafters, and businesses. Special guest Fran Doughty on acoustic guitar, Sunday 12 to 2 p.m.. Food sales to benefit Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse and the Wendell Women's Club. Sponsored by the Wendell Community Development Planning Committee to support local economic development goals.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5TH

Wild Asparagus

will host a Family Contra Dance to benefit the Greenfield Center School from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Guiding Star Grange at 410 Chapman Street, Greenfield. Advance tickets and T-shirts are for sale now. This is both a GCS fund-raiser and "fun" raiser, so let's show some love for our school! Visit: www.guidingstargrange.org for info. & directions.

13TH ANNUAL MONTAGUE COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Holiday Concert with special guests The MacDonald Family Singers at St. Anne's Church, 6th Street in Turners Falls. 7:00 p.m.

ONGOING THRU DEC. 5TH

Art exhibits and sales at

Mudpie Potters Community Clay Center

Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment during the week. Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts, 13 Montague Road, Leverett. Call (413) 548-9070 or (413) 548-3939 for more information.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6TH

World Eye Bookshop's Seasonal Signings featuring Julia Spencer-Fleming, author signing *In the Bleak Midwinter; A Fountain Filled with Blood: A Mystery* and also with Evan Haefeli & Kevin Sweeney, authors signing *Captors and Captives: The 1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield* at World Eye Bookshop located at 156 Main Street in Greenfield. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 413-772-2186



THURSDAY, DEC. 9TH

14th Annual Poet's Seat Poetry Awards

Ceremony at 7 p.m. at All Soul's Universalist Church, 399 Main St, Greenfield. (across the street from the Greenfield Public Library.) Award winners in both the Adult and Younger Poets categories will read their poems and light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call: 413-625-0105.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11TH

Leverett Crafts & Arts will host an

Open Studio Day for its resident artists, 10am - 5pm. Participating artists include Joy Friedman - Pottery, celebrating her 20th year as an LCA resident artist, Susan Muholland - Screenprinting, Jozan Treston - Painting, Kathleen Fischer - Photography/ Computer prints, Mudpie Potters Community Clay Center - Pottery & Sculpture, and more. Let your holiday gift buying support local artists! Leverett Crafts & Arts is located in Leverett Center, 13 Montague Road right next to Town Hall. 549-9070 for more information.



Jim Henry

Jim Henry performing live at Wendell Full Moon Coffee House in the Wendell Town Hall. Open Mic 7:30pm. Main Act 8:15pm. \$6-\$12 (978) 544-0240. (Partial proceeds to benefit the Wendell Free Library)

Guitarist/singer/songwriter and Greenfield native Bob Lord returns to the area for a solo acoustic show at Cafe Koko at 7:30 p.m. Writing primarily from personal experience, Bob's songs range from

the tender to the irreverent, touching on subjects such as love (lost and found), his dog, relationships and his deep-rooted ambition to be a rock star. Cafe Koko is located in downtown Greenfield on the corner of Main and Chapman Streets and can be reached at 413-774-2772.

1ST Amendment Concert: Political Satire with Tom Neilson, 86 Sanderson, Greenfield, 5:30 potluck, 6:30 concert, \$10 donation, RSVP to 774-2112.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12TH

1ST Amendment Concert: Political Satire with Tom Neilson, 15 Masonic St, Shelburne Falls, 5:00 pm pot luck, 6:00 pm Yankee Swap (Bring a gift), 7:00 pm Concert, \$10 Donation, snowcc@comcast.net 625-0105

Concert featuring Rani Arbo, Patti Carpenter and more at the Shea Theater, 171 Avenue A in Turners Falls. 413-863-2281.

MONDAY, DEC. 13TH

Hilltown Folk presents Patty Larkin, plus Flora Reed at Memorial Hall, Bridge St., Shelburne Falls. 7:30 p.m., 413-625-2580.

ONGOING THRU DEC. 15TH

New Hampshire artist Julia Ferrari exhibition, *The Further Mound Series*, at the Northfield Mount Hermon School's Nada/Mason Gallery. *The Further Mound Series* will continue at NMH through December 15th. The Nada/Mason Gallery is located in the Bolger Arts Center on the school's Northfield campus. For more information, call (413) 498-3297.

Montague Grange MOVIE NIGHT

THE UNFORGIVEN

Sunday, Dec. 5th
7:00 p.m.

\$2 donation is suggested
Contact Michael Muller
admin@montaguema.net

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

SHOWTIMES FOR
FRI. DEC. 3RD - TUES. DEC. 7TH

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	PG
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MAT SAT & SUN 12:00 3:00	
2 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS	PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MAT SAT & SUN 12:00 3:00	
3 ALEXANDER	R
DAILY 8:00	
MAT SAT & SUN 12:00 4:00	
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS	G
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MAT SAT & SUN 12:15 3:15	
5 INCREDIBLES	PG
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MAT SAT & SUN 12:15 3:15	
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS	
7 NATIONAL TREASURE	PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30	
MAT SAT & SUN 12:30 3:30	

Showtime 7:00 pm

Media Cafe

Fri, Dec. 3rd
Super Size Me

Sat, Dec. 4th
Arthur

at 105 Main St, Northfield
in the Green Trees Gallery.
Reservations call (413) 498-2100

See the arts, shop & eat locally this Holiday Season!

MABEL ZOBLE BY SANDRA FACTO

HEY THERE MARRY MACK... COME OVER FOR COFFEE AFTER I'M OFF WORK... AND WE CAN HAVE SOME FUN LISTENING TO MY ANSWERING MACHINE.

A Requiem for Mailboxes



BY FLORE

Do tell, passersby, are the mailboxes on their last legs?

Could these familiar monopods vanish? And if they do, have we realized how those metallic or wooden boxes once harbored our most secret, precious letters? You know, the kind of mail we kept bundled up in a satin rib-

bon cozily napping in a drawer?

Do we know, as mailbox owners, how they silently did a splendid job, bringing us joy, along with bills to pay, not to mention a direct link with the outside world? They still perform that great task. Like the messengers who replenish their contents daily,

they face valiantly all seasons. Have you noticed how some entirely disappear after the passage of a snowplow, as if fallen to some great avalanche?

The question still remains: will faxes and emails soon eliminate our valiant mail bodyguards? Ma foie! How can we envision streets, farmlands, even desert, alpine meadows without them? Ask the opinion of a person waiting for the daily mail delivery, who stays hidden behind lacy curtains, waiting for the carrier to appear.

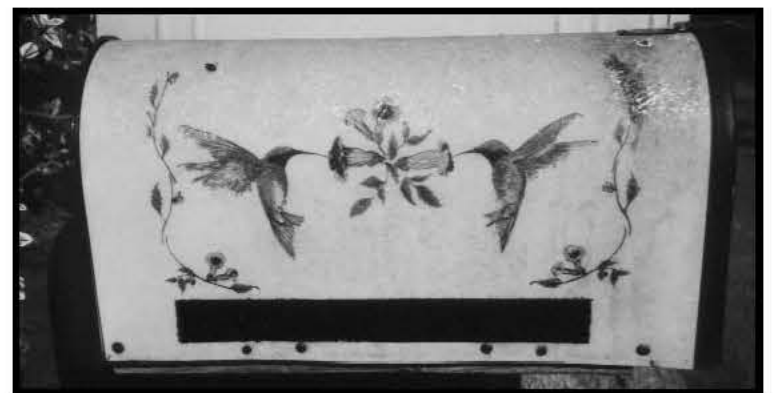
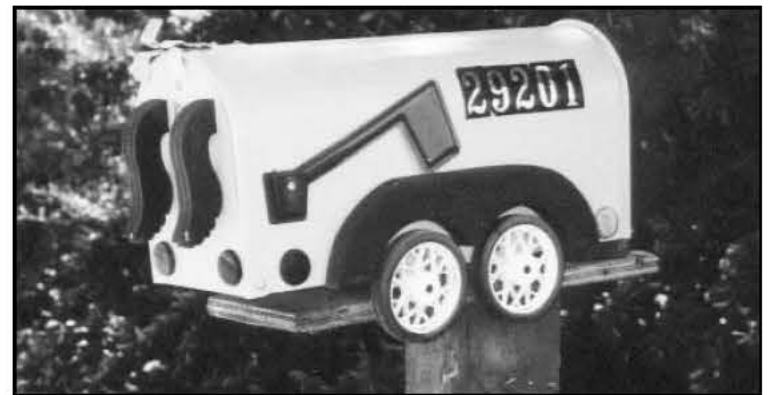
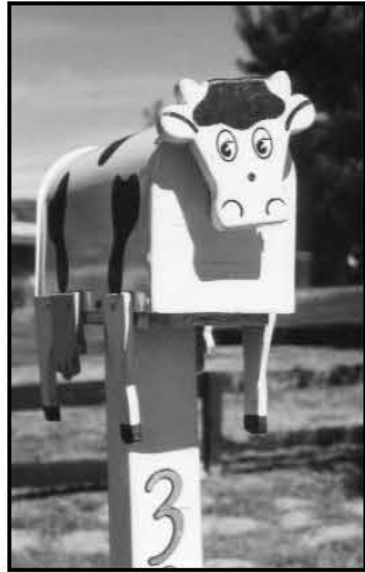
What about the little red flag announcing a message waiting? Hey! Something here to be picked up! Sure enough, that changes the course of your day.

Add to that the sound of a concerned dog, loudly yapping, ready to zoom towards their hospitable silhouettes. Look at their individual photos. Convinced?

We've got to keep them! Their distinctive features, standing sentinel by rural route and village byway, ever at your service. Just remember, they never went on strike.

Add a touch of cheer. Decorate your mailbox for the holidays; it's like putting a stamp on their hearts.

Mailboxes from near and far, all photos by Flore



Brian R. San Soucie
Locksmith - CRL
 Serving the Area for over 25 years Certified • Bonded • Insured

We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes

- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- We Master Key & Re-Key
- Safe Combinations Changed

28 Montague Street
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
Beeper 290-1162
863-2471
Fax 863-8022

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

Where your purchase of a memorial is truly a testament of love

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

"The perfect remembrance"

REGAL

Real Estate & Modular Homes

Kyle Scott • Donald Bowman

Office (413) 863-9555 Fax (413) 863-9556

131 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376