



OLD WOOD FOR A NEW CRECHE
at Our Lady of Peace/ page 13



HAPPY NEW YEAR
No paper December 28th

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 12

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 21, 2006

Native Americans Raise Concerns on Cermonial Sites as Airport Expands



PHOTO BY LISA DAVOL

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Describing progress on the runway expansion project, Mike Sweeny, commissioner of the Turners Falls Airport, told the Montague selectboard on Monday, December 18th, "Archaeological investigations at the airport have been completed... All the sites that have been identified as significant by Mass Historic and the Federal

Aeronautics Administration (FAA) will be preserved. There were some sites that were not deemed significant." Sweeney didn't say it, but among the sites "not deemed significant" is at least one the Narragansett Indians consider to be "of great significance," according to a spokesperson for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office. In an interview following the

meeting, Doug Harris, senior deputy historic preservation officer for the tribe said, "Stone sites have been encountered at the airport that the Narragansett Indians have determined to be ceremonially significant. The tribe is working with the FAA to find an alternative plan that will not impact the ceremonial site, nor impact the Paleolithic site at the airport. It is crucial

see AIRPORT pg 3

Montague Catholic Social Ministries Nurtures Seeds of Social Change

BY ANNE HARDING
TURNERS FALLS - In twelve short years, the Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM), a remarkable independent non-profit organization located on Third Street in Turners Falls, has accomplished miracles. Now they are expanding to accomplish more.

Walk in the door of the MCSM's new adjunct quarters, in the old livery stable at 36 3rd, directly across the street from their regular offices at 41 3rd, home of the Kidspace after school program and the women's center, and you are greeted by art. The vestiges of the fall Art Harvest still hang on the first floor gallery walls, evidence of the kind of work MCSM undertakes. A grant provided seed money for the first art exhibit by local

women who have worked with MCSM programs, but director Maria Rodman said her agency believes that enduring programs best serve their community. MCSM strives to grow



Maria Rodman, director of MCSM

initiatives to make them last, to provide building blocks of community regardless of the availability of grant funding. MCSM began with a visionary group determined to address unmet needs in town. They created a small team that dealt primarily with assisting families in crisis - to help them meet their urgent basic necessities. They have grown

to encompass a broad range of programs with the lofty goals of "Healing Women, Strengthening Families, and Connecting to Their Community." Their core frameworks focus on anti-poverty and multifaceted literacy programs, and working to alleviate the impact of trauma on all types of human development.

Rodman, born in Cuba and now a resident of Vermont, believes the MCSM programs have thrived because the agency constantly seeks direction and feedback from community members rather than issuing improvement ultimatums. The turn of the new year will launch MCSM's Salasin Project, a collaboration

see MCSM pg 12

Montague Center School to Expand Hillcrest will become Early Childhood Education Center

BY DAVID DETMOLD
In a surprising turnabout, the Gill-Montague school committee voted on Tuesday, December 12th to create two broad grade-span elementary schools at either end of the town in Montague, and to turn Hillcrest Elementary into an early childhood education center for the district. The vote, which not only keeps the Montague Center Elementary School open, but also broadens it from a K-3 to at least a K-5 elementary school, comes after five public hearings, and more than eight hours of debate by the committee, spread over three meeting dates. It caps a dialogue about the future of the town's elementary school configuration that been year's in the making.

The vote to create a pre-K center at Hillcrest and expand Montague Center School to a K-5 or K-6 grade span came after numerous failed attempts to find a 'supermajority' of eight votes to close a Montague school, and after turning back an end-run by Gill representative Valeria Smith, who moved to petition the town meetings of Gill and

Montague to amend the district agreement to allow a simple majority (5 votes) of the entire school committee to close a school. Smith's motion failed 5-2 with 2 abstentions. At this point, a motion for reconsideration by Gill representative Sue Henry, who had originally voted 'No' on the pre-K at Hillcrest, broad grade-span at Montague Center option, was seconded by Montague's Mike Langknecht and carried 5 -3, with Deb Bourbeau abstaining. School committee chair Mary Kociela joined Henry, Langknecht, Ted Castro-Santos and Rich Colton in the affirmative, with Smith, Kris Boyle and Terry Lapachinski in opposition.

The debate on Tuesday unfolded before a room packed with parents from all over town, and some from outside Montague, along with teachers, administrators, and town officials. As repeated votes to close Montague Center school and create one of a number of possible configurations at the Turners Falls campus of Sheffield and Hillcrest schools failed by varying

margins, cheers and applause broke out from the back of the room, where Montague Center parents and teachers had congregated.

The most forceful proponent of the plan to keep Montague Center School open as one of two broad grade-span schools at either end of Montague was Castro-Santos, of Gill. He said he had spent much of his free time over the previous week interviewing parents of 50 school-aged children, including 13 preschoolers, primarily from the Montague Center area. The large majority of the parents he interviewed said they would take advantage of school choice and remove their children from district schools rather than bus their children to the Turners campus. He summarized the data he gleaned from this informal survey: the district would retain 18% of the 50 children of the parents he interviewed if Montague Center were closed; 89% of the children of the parents he interviewed would stay in district schools if

see SCHOOLS pg 12

TFHS Drop-Out Rate Rises

BY BETSY CALVERT
TURNERS FALLS - At 10.4 percent, the drop-out rate for the Turners Falls High School is alarmingly high, principal Jeff Kenney said this week, and the Gill-Montague Regional School district is prepared to do something about it.

Drop-out rates for the state's high schools in 2004-05 show that Turners tops even such urban centers as Boston, Holyoke and Worcester, as well as neighboring Greenfield, according to a report from the state

Department of Education. Springfield had the second highest drop-out rate in the state last year, at 12.4 percent, just behind Lawrence, at 12.9 percent. Though most districts saw a decline in their drop-out rates from the previous year's figures, Turners' rate is up from 9.1 percent in



DETOLD PHOTO

Luke Eaton, 17, dropped out of TFHS

2003-04.

School superintendent Sue Gee said Turners' small size makes the statistics look see DROP OUT pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK

Christmas Kitty



Toby

Toby is a four-year-old black male short hair cat with a white dot on one cheek, white feet and chest, quite handsome! He has a thick, luxurious well-kept coat which he loves to have petted (his favorite thing is having his cheeks scratched). He seems to be a very gentle, quiet and low maintenance cat. For more information on adopting Toby, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dpvhs.org.

"The Depression impacted most families, so college was out of the question for me."

From Local Color #8: Stories by Area Senior Citizens About Life as They Remember It.

Available at Books n' More in Turners Falls and World Eye in Greenfield.
www.localcolormemoirs.com

The Gill Store

Holiday Wine Tasting
Saturday, Dec. 30th
Mellow Merlots 5-7 p.m.
Happy New Year from The Gill Store!
326 Main Road, Gill
863-9006

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday. (Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)

PHONE (413) 863-8666
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

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Montague Libraries Holiday Closings

BY LINDA HICKMAN
MONTAGUE- None of the Montague Public Libraries will be open on Christmas or News Years Day. Library materials can be returned when the libraries are open, or in their book returns. The Carnegie Library has a stainless steel book return box in front of the library on Ave. A at the base of the stairs. The Montague Center Library has a book return box by the side door. The Millers Falls Library has a book return slot on the back left corner of the library building. Library materials can be renewed in person, by phone, or on-line at cwmars.org. During the last week of December and the first week in January, the libraries will be open the following hours: the Carnegie Library, 863-3214, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, will be open on

Tuesday and Wednesday, 1 – 8 p.m., Thurs. 1 – 5 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, 1 – 5 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 367-2851, will be open on Wednesday, 2 – 5 and 6 – 8 p.m. The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, will be open its regular hours, Tuesday and Thursday 2 – 5 and 6 – 8 p.m.

Upcoming Montague Public Libraries' Programs

The Music and Movement program with Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll will not be held on Thursday, December 27th. The following week it will move to the Carnegie Library, where it will be held on Thursdays at 10 a.m. for January and February. Then it will move to the Millers Falls Library for March – June, depending upon funding.

The Preschool Story Hour with Bev will be held during

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS

Family Stories for a Winter's Night

GILL - The Slate Library presents "The Light Side of Darkness: Family Stories of Light and Laughter for a Winters Night!" on Thursday, December 21st at 7 p.m. at the Slate Library in the center of Gill.

Acclaimed storyteller Rona Leventhal will share stories and

songs from her large repertoire of multi-cultural folktales, infusing drama, movement, audience participation, creating a joyful sense of community . . . and taking us on journeys near and far.

Come share a cup of cider on a fun-filled family night and let winter begin!

Montague Residents: Trash Pickup Holiday Schedule

Due to the Christmas and New Years holidays, the trash and recycling schedule will change as follows:
Tuesday will change to Wednesday

Wednesday will change to Thursday
Thursday will change to Friday.
These changes apply to both weeks.

A reminder to all residents: wrapping paper, bows and similar items are not recyclable. Bins with these items in them will not be picked up.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES December 25th - Jan. 5

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 25th
Closed for Christmas
Tuesday, 26th
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday, 27th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 28th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 29th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

Monday 1st
Closed for New Year's Day
Tuesday 2nd
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi
Wednesday 3rd
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 4th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 5th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 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, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

FACES & PLACES
THE DAY THE FENCE CAME DOWN

Ken Prevett from Gill takes advantage of December sunshine on a bench at Peskeomskut Park, as Ludlow Construction's crew put the finishing touches on grading the new sidewalks.

Christmas week. It meets every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library, year-round.

On Saturday, January 6th, at 2 p.m., children of all ages can make kaleidoscopes with Bev at the Carnegie Library. The program is free and the materials will be provided.

For more information, please call the Carnegie library at 863-3214.

Northfield Mount Hermon School Fall Term Honor Roll

Congratulations to:
Grade 10
Harriet Booth - Gill

Grade 12
Grace Booth - Gill

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week:

Grade 7
Lily Kane
Mark Hudyma
Grade 8
Taylor Varilly

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

In Memory of Loki
"faithful friend and companion"
You are in our thoughts.

We've Got You Covered!
ARTIST SUPPLIES 25% OFF!
COUTURE BROS.
Since 1910
187 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 863-4346

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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

MACKIN FUEL TRUCKING SAND & GRAVEL
(413) 773-3622

Mystery Stream Floods Avenue A Basement

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - Margarita Fletcher, building manager of 108 Avenue A, woke up early on the morning of December 20th, very early. It was 4 a.m. and cold in her apartment, because the heat had gone off for the entire building, which houses a number of apartments and storefronts, including Amie's Wholesale and the Four Directions Healing Arts Studio. Fletcher went down to the basement to check the furnace, and found a foot of water, which

had knocked out the boiler. But where was the water coming from?

That was a question that continued to puzzle town and water department officials for the next 24 hours, as a steady stream of water exited the rear of the building via sump pump and flowed down Avenue A as far as the post office in what could best be called an intermittent stream. Building inspector David Jensen said no pipes in the building appeared to be leaking. Highway

super Tom Bergeron could not locate a source of inflow. Water



Mike Brown dowses for a break in the main on Avenue A, Wednesday morning

department superintendent Mike Brown suspected ground water bubbling up from the dirt floor, but the volume of flow argued against that suggestion as the day wore on. And the stream kept flowing.

At press time, DPW workers joined the

Water Department at the corner of Avenue A and 3rd where a break in the water main was suspected. Brown had leak tested the pipes again at 4:30 in the morning, when traffic was quiet, trying to locate a possible leak. Excavation was in progress; the source of the leak had yet to be determined.

The stream kept flowing.

AIRPORT from page 1

that the ceremonial site not be disturbed or destroyed."

Sweeney told the board, "We have to preserve and avoid those sites that need to be protected, and will be preserved and avoided." He also said, "We have a very significant site on the field. They ask that we not identify them with specific locuses. They range from 12,000 years (old) to 200 years old."

Harris acknowledged that a Paleolithic campsite on the airport grounds had been determined by the state of Massachusetts' archaeological representatives to be a "culturally significant site". He said that site, which he termed "utilitarian", would be preserved as the airport expands its 3000-foot runway to 4200 feet. But he said an agreement had not been reached with the airport commission to preserve the stone ceremonial site, or sites.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, federally recognized tribes have certain rights in projects that receive federal funds or federal permitting, in regards to sites deemed to have cultural significance. Harris said tribes also have rights under the American Indian Religious Freedoms Act, under the terms of which agencies of the federal government "have a responsibility to honor and protect the religious and cultural freedoms of federally recognized Indian tribes."

In this instance, Harris said, "The tribe pointed out to the state's archaeological representative and the FAA the location of a significant ceremonial stone landscape. We are asking the FAA, 'What kind of protection there will be for this ceremonial stone landscape that is of importance to regional tribes. How will the FAA implement its trust relationship with the federally recognized tribes who have identified this site as one needing to be protected under the National Historic Preservation Act?'"

Asked why the Narragansett Indians consider the site to be "active", Harris said, "The ceremonies that were put in place were put in place to be part of the living landscape. The medicine that is put in place is not a short-lived medicine. It is there to put things in balance."

Patricia Pruitt, chair of the Montague selectboard, said after the meeting, "My understanding is the FAA would evaluate the site to see if the Native concerns can be met. We hope it can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction."

Pruitt, who toured the airport land at Harris' invitation several months ago, said it was her understanding the ceremonial stone site in question, "can't be relocated, by virtue of what the site is." Harris said the ceremonial site is not in the path of the runway extension, but nearby. Selectboard member Allen Ross also toured the airport land with Harris, and viewed the site in question.

Sweeney told the board 35 to 40 acres of trees adjacent to the current runway would be cut down this winter to create additional grassland habitat for state listed species like the Frosted Elfin Butterfly and the Grasshopper Sparrow, and to improve aviation clearances.

In May of 2004, the Montague selectboard signed a document of cooperation and peace with the Narragansett Indians, which reads in part, "As we exchange gifts, ideas and good will today, we commit to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation, and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here."

Harris said, "The Narragansett Indian tribe is counting on the people of Turners Falls to assist in the proper stewardship and protection of this ancient ceremonial site. Under most circumstances, we try to maintain silence about the existence of sites for fear of vandalism. However, in this instance, since Mr. Sweeney has not alluded to this ceremonial site's protection, we can only assume that it is not to be perceived as significant, and therefore will be destroyed. Therefore, we will honor the opportunity to protect this ceremonial site in full public awareness."

Peace on Earth

With gratitude and wishes for a merry Christmas,

- Cori and Ali Urban and Alice Fugere

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

Buying and selling used books

32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SHELburnE FALLS, MA

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

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

bicyoles unlimited

322 High Street
Greenfield
(413) 772-2700

Christmas Sale!

Iron Horse Excelsior and Comp road bikes are on sale at 30% off retail.

Bring in this ad and take an additional 5% off the sale price. Sale is for in-stock bikes only.

Also on sale are all the Iron Horse and K2 full suspension bikes in stock.. Sale prices vary from 10% to 25% off

We have a large supply of baggy shorts and short sleeve summer jerseys on sale.

Andmar Industries, LLC
Quality Pre-owned Auto, Truck, & Motorcycle Parts

Mormon Hollow Auto

178 Mormon Hollow Road
Wendell, MA 01379
mormonhollow@earthlink.net

(978) 544-7206

Original designs in clay by Artist Jaye Pope

CLAY IS GOOD DIRT

38 Main Street
Montague Center
Next to the Montague Grange

www.gooddirtpottery.com 413-367-0155

Montague Webworks

Easy to use Community & Business Websites

- Multiple designs, or custom made
- Built-in page editor, do it yourself!
- Messages, calendars, downloads
- Private customer areas w/ login
- Multiple "group" areas for users
- Fast setup, in-town support
- Call today and get a quote

863-0030, 24 3rd St. Turners
michael@mullertech.com
www.MySiteServer.com

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

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
EMAIL: JACK@SEEJACKWORK.COM

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

COUTURE BROS.

Since 1910

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor - Retailer

CALIFORNIA BRAND PAINTS - INDUSTRIAL COATINGS
PAINTS - STAINS - SUNDRIES - WALLPAPER - BRUSHES & ROLLERS
COMPUTER COLOR MATCHING - SANDBLASTING MEDIA - GLASS
ARTIST SUPPLIES - CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING/MATTING & MORE

187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

Celebrating our 96th Anniversary!

Geri Johnson

CRB, CRS, GRI

Seniors Real Estate Support

Geri Johnson & Associates REALTORS

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

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor

David Detmold

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants

Nina Bander
Hugh Corr

Circulation

Jean Hebdon
Julia Bowden Smith
Philippe Deguise

Layout & Design

Lisa Davol
Boysen Hodgson
Anja Schutz
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow-Cobb

"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Photography

Lisa Davol
Joe Parzych

Technical Administrators

Michael Muller
Michael Farnick

Christmas in the Old House

BY DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE - Going home for Christmas is the phrase on everyone's lips at this time of year, even though it's often-times only in thought, and even though describing 'home' is not so easy anymore. If you really can go there, you are lucky indeed. With the havoc, imperatives and opportunities of modern life sending family farther and farther away from its roots, it does seem that this season, which celebrates the origins of the religion of peace and love, inspires memories of childhood when times seemed gentler and simpler. The memories of Christmas past gather the scattered members of the family, both living and dead, however briefly. The yearning to go back to simpler times is strong in all of us at Christmas, when the year pauses.

"The nights are wholesome, no planets strike,

No fairy takes, no witch hath the power to charm,

So hallowed and gracious is the time."

Our heartstrings are tugged by old airs and Christmas carols, scenes of snowscapes, holly and evergreen trees. Whether in war or peace, getting home for Christmas is on everyone's mind, if only in dreams.

Here in the old family house on the Flat, the knock and clamor at the door on the last Sunday afternoon before Christmas renews the generations-old tradition of pulling the extended family back to the homestead, at least for a few hours. First to arrive is cousin Tom Gessing and two grandchildren, Ryan and Sarah, visting from California. Tom has special status in Millers Falls: not only was he the long-serving postmaster for the town and one of the unofficial mayors of the village, he's also the last to have actually been born in this house, and so is always given particular deference when he visits.

Maybe someday we'll put up a plaque!

Right after him and in short order, the house fills up with uncles, aunts, cousins, sisters, brothers, in-laws, daughters and sons, stepchildren and grandparents, all under one roof again for a short while. The dog lifts his wizened old head briefly, figuring that's the end of his plans for a quiet Sunday snooze. With the Glenwood C woodstove fired up and heaped with potluck dishes, the kitchen table piled up with desserts, wines and whiskeys, the excited talk and Christmas greetings fill the house to the rafters, rising up to the spirit world high in the attic.

Tom's wife Joan sails in with arms laden with poinsettias and a smile warm enough to heat the farthest corners of any room. I'm sure you know how the rest goes, for the scene is repeated in households all over in our villages. Stories of generations past, exploits of ancestors who spent their lives in this house are relived. Adventures, jokes and mishaps are repeated and shared round the rooms of the house as the noise level rises. The generations mix, the children romp with new toys and cousins they rarely see, the adults get noisily caught up in the past few months' news. Grand octogenarian Uncle Rusty, a guest of honor among honored guests has come back on his annual Christmas visit to his parents' home here on the Flat, his wife Dot and his sister Shirley (my mother!) visit for hours, sitting just out of the maelstrom swirling around the room. A particular favorite moment happened when young Ryan and Sarah remarked after having met Rusty that they hadn't even known they had a great-uncle! At that point, I brought the children face-to-face with the family portrait of Judah and Elizabeth Smith looking sternly and confidently out at them from the 1880s.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

So here was a new generation face-to-face with their ancestors, their great-great grandparents who had actually lived in these rooms! They were introduced to their forebears, they now had a connection to this place, and that was the main point of the family gathering, to renew a sense of place. Their eyes seemed to shine with the new knowledge.

Before long though, the children all headed out to the woods along the river - like all the children down the one hundred and thirty years of our family before them - happy to escape the confines of the house and the adults, off to skim stones on the quiet river. Their joyful shouts and laughter echoed and rang through the river valley.

By then, like at all family parties, the tide of hilarity slowly subsided with the coming of dusk. We gathered in smaller groups near the woodstove and fireplace to bask in the feel that only the warmth of family can provide in this season. Gradually some groups drifted out the door, into the gathering cold, among cheery shouts of

"Merry Christmas!" The house grew quiet again, the old dog who had slept through the clamor and riot opened his eyes and stretched. ("Are they gone?" he's wondering.) Host and hostess collapse into the nearest chairs with a warm whiskey before tackling the dishes.

Christmas tunes come back on the stereo to encourage with the cleanup. The Spirits that dwell in the house give satisfied sighs, and I swear the dignified Old Gent in the holly-framed portrait has a brief Christmas twinkle in his eye.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enjoying the Paper

Enclosed find a check for \$20 in payment for an additional six months subscription to your paper. Less expensive entertainment would be difficult to find!

- Don Valley
Turners Falls

Appreciates News from Turners

Thank you for sending us the *Montague Reporter*. We appreciate the well-written articles and all the news of the Montague villages. Turners Falls was our home for several years and we will always remember the special place it is.

- Norma Booke
Corvallis, OR

Tracy's Turn

Thanks to Dave Kaynor for the wonderful article on Tracy Turn; it certainly captured her true spirit. As the race director for the Mug Race, I too wasn't crazy about Tracy's determination to compete in 2003 (following her motorcycle accident). And yes, Dave is correct: it was a hot, humid day and we were all concerned about her. But across the finish line she came, bringing smiles to all of us.

I have asked Dave's permission to officially name that corner in Tracy's honor for future races, and hope he will perform his musical tribute on race day.

We are still shocked and saddened by Tracy's passing, and hope this will help ease some of the pain.

- Ann Fisk
Montague Center

Thanks for Veterans Fund Drive

At the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial meeting on December 6th, I asked the trustees to vote in a vice chair to assist me as chairman. Vietnam veteran Al Cummings was duly nominated and voted in as vice chair. Also at that meeting, the trustees expressed their thanks to all the people who donated to the renovation of the veterans memorial on Avenue A, including the veterans, residents of

Montague and surrounding communities, the Greenfield Savings Bank, and other businesses, fraternal societies, and the town of Montague. Even though the fund drive is nearing completion, donations are still needed for a spring groundbreaking, and may be sent to: Soldiers Memorial 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

- Art Gilmore
Millers Falls

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

American Dead in Iraq as of 12/20/06



Give the gift of community!

\$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 _____

We Have a Winner!

This summer, we set a goal of reaching 600 subscribers by New Years Day. We have reached that goal. The 600th subscriber will receive a \$60 gift certificate to the Montague Reporter advertiser of her choice. Stay tuned after we take a week's vacation, and find out who the winner is.

Now, 700 subscribers before 2007 ends? Anything's possible.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Where is the Capital Improvement Committee Coming From?

BY JEFF SINGLETON

I applaud the decision of the Gill-Montague Regional School District regarding their elementary schools. Their plan responds to the public demand to consolidate the schools and save money while at the same time implementing a positive reform that will attract families to the elementary schools.

I was quite taken aback, however, by the letter from the Montague capital improvements committee (CIC) that was

read aloud at the meeting Tuesday night. The letter appeared to say the CIC would not support renovations to school buildings and had no interest in building space vacated by the schools to satisfy town needs. This really was "out of the blue" and clearly contradicts what the CIC has said in the past.

First of all, it contradicts what CIC members said a year ago when they came to the finance committee to report on

school renovation capital requests. At that time they urged the school committee not to come forward with more capital requests until they had resolved which elementary buildings they were going to keep. The CIC's stand played an important role in pushing the elementary process forward. But it also clearly assumed there would be future capital projects on school buildings. The letter last night suggested the CIC would approve no more renovations.

This is really absurd. Since I have been on the finance committee there have been periodic capital requests for school buildings. This is pretty much the norm. To suggest that school building improvements will suddenly stop now defies common sense.

Secondly, this is the first time since I have been around town government (admittedly not that long) that the CIC has preemptively taken a position on a particular capital issue before a request is even made. I thought the role of the CIC is to consider capital requests brought by the selectboard, the school district, the WPCF, etc. Why the sudden change?

As a matter of fact, when I went before the CIC to ask them to at least communicate with the schools about the fact that a town building might become available, I was told the elementary building decision was none of the CIC's business. Last night the CIC seemed to be

directly intervening in the school committee's process.

To most citizens, perhaps, this is all typical town politics. But it may well involve considerable sums of money. The CIC letter creates the impression there is resistance to even considering the use of the Hillcrest building to satisfy town needs (for example, as a centrally located, handicapped-accessible home for the parks and recreation office and the senior center, with plenty of parking).

This, in turn, creates the impression the CIC would prefer we build an expensive new multi-service community center, while at the same time complaining about relatively small, predictable school capital projects. I hope I am wrong about all this.

Jeff Singleton is the chair of the Montague finance committee. The opinions he expresses are his own, and do not represent the view of anyone else on the finance committee.

Congratulations, Paul and Carol!

KATHLEEN LITCHFIELD TURNERS FALLS - After Paul Campbell finished four years of Navy duty, he returned home and asked his sister's best friend to accompany him to the movies. In April of 1959, he married her.

Forty-eight years later, Paul and Carol Campbell still love each other's company, display their wedding cake topper next to their coffee pot, and treasure every day they spend with their three children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The Campbells, of O Street, are the lucky 575th subscribers to the *Montague Reporter*, and they will enjoy spending their prize -- a \$57.50 gift certificate -- at Foster's Market in their native Greenfield.

"We moved here (almost) three years ago and we absolutely love it," said Carol Campbell, speaking of Turners. "I've always loved the architecture on Avenue A. We love the area and we love the people."

"And it's quiet," added Paul, a distinct change from their former home on the corner of Davis and Silver streets in Greenfield.

When the Campbells first moved to Turners, their neighbors came over to introduce themselves, offered to drive Paul to the hospital in Springfield, and became fast friends. In summer, the neighborhood children come over



Paul and Carol Campbell in their home.

to play with the Campbell's grandchildren, splashing in the pool and spawning impromptu picnics.

"It's like an old-fashioned neighborhood here," said Carol Campbell, who enjoys taking her nine-year-old grandchild to the Carnegie Library and hiking at Barton Cove.

Paul Campbell, who retired as deputy fire chief of the Greenfield Fire

Department after 31 years of service, still works part-time at Sandri's service department in Greenfield. He enjoys long walks at the Silvio Conte wildlife refuge along the Connecticut River and in the woods with his 5-year-old granddaughter, who picks up oak leaves and saves them in plastic bags. Escorting the grandkids to the Shady Glen is also a big treat, he said, after playing on the swings in Unity Park.

Paul and Carol, who enthused about the Montague Community Band concerts in Peskeomskut Park last summer, said they love reading the *Montague Reporter* for its wealth of local news and interesting

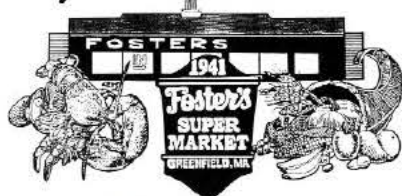
feature stories. "It helps us to know people, like on the school committee," said Carol Campbell. "So when it comes time to vote, we can put faces to the names, which is helpful."

Paul Campbell most enjoys Joe Parzych's stories: "He is an excellent writer, and my sister-in-law, Marie Campbell of Greenfield, is Joe's niece! That was a good book he wrote, *Jep's Place*."



DENIS BORDEAUX CARTOON

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

Wanted:
Antique Clocks of all kinds.

One clock or entire collection

Also wanted:
Antique pocketwatches and tools

Will pay cash. Will travel.

Bob Pacy 781-438-8489
88 Washington Street, Stoneham, MA 02180 cell: 508-633-2552

PLOW FRAU
BOW WOW

SITALANG
(413) 834-7569

CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING & Snow plowing!

We help you sort through or haul away unwanted stuff in your attic, basement, garage, barn, yard, or entire estate. Removal of just about anything! **FREE estimates.**

Reusable goods are donated to those in need.

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

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

Foreign and Domestic Rte. 2, Gill
Cooling System 863-4049 1-800-439-4049
Specialist 8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

BOOKS & MORE

A wide selection of new books in all categories!

Cards & Handmade Local Crafts & Jewelry
COMING SOON: USED BOOKS!



Teachers: 15% off educational materials
10% off all other books

Hours: Tues - Sat 10 - 5 863-9417

74 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

BAKER
Office Supply

10% Percent Fridays • 5-8 p.m.

Take an additional 10% off your entire purchase!

www.bakerofficesupply.com

310 Main Street • Greenfield

774-2345

Call Bonnie today!

DROP OUT

continued from pg 1

dramatic. Of the increase from one year to the next, she said, "We're talking about one or two kids."

In 2004-05, 41 students dropped out, from a Turners Falls high population of 394, she said.

The numbers do not come as a surprise, principal Jeffrey Kenney said, but they are still a call to action.

"When we looked at the number of kids that had dropped out, it was alarming," he said.

"We're in the process of analyzing (the causes) in depth," Gee said, "and we're layering on various interventions."

For example, she said, a new math program started last week, aimed at the addressing the problem.

On a larger scale, in January, the district will begin a new project called "Reconnecting Youth." The program was developed in the Seattle area and has been tested in places like California and Colorado, in suburban and urban settings with minority and non-minority communities, according to the official website. Due to the program's apparent success, it has received extensive funding from various federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

"Reconnecting Youth' is a model curriculum, pioneered locally by former Brick House director Nancy Emond, as part of the Brick House's larger 'Transitioning to Success' program. This program also includes (a component of) specific job skills training, career exploration, employability training and a community service project," said Jeff Aho, the Brick House's new executive director, who said his agency has received community development grant funding to work with TFHS to address the drop-out problem.

"The idea really is to tie kids

to their communities so they have a desire to stay, and the skills to productively enter and become a fully-fledged member of the community," said Aho. "Certainly you can't argue that Turners Falls' dropout rates are among the highest in the state, but we should keep in mind that some of these kids are dropping out to go to college or to further their education in other ways.

Many factors play a part in youths dropping out of school, Aho said, including grade retention (being held back), poor academic performance, moves during high school, high absenteeism, misbehavior and students' feeling neglected.

One of the major goals of the project is to reduce drug abuse among students at risk of dropping out, an area where the program nationally has been most effective, according to website statistics.

One local school dropout, Luke Eaton, 17, said drugs are not a big issue with Turners' typical dropout.

Other official indicators, such as low self-esteem and poor academic performance, may be part of the problem in

Turners, however.

National statistics for the Reconnecting Youth program suggest the program's success in decreasing drug abuse is stronger (with a 54 percent decrease reported compared to youth not in the program). Academic achievement measured by grades increased only by 18 percent, however.

The program operates with a partnership among parents, school staff and student peers. Students identified as at-risk enroll in a one-semester for-credit class in which they work together on confidence building projects, communication skills, community service projects and other tasks aimed at improving their connection to the school and the community.

Program goals, according to the psychology-dominated website, aim to decrease compulsiveness and poor decision-making, uncontrolled emotions, learned helplessness, low self-worth and deviant self-images.

Asked if students will feel branded as 'losers' by being placed in the class, Kenney said he does not think so, because

many of the students are already so separated from the school community.

Eaton disagrees, however, saying the dropped-out former students he knows hated being in special remedial classes for improving their Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores.

"They resent being in those courses, because it makes them feel inferior," he said.

Speaking for himself, Eaton said he excelled academically until his junior year, when he stopped making any effort out of what he called "boredom". A guitarist of aspiring professional quality, Eaton said he wanted to study music at a level not offered at the school. While he chose to drop out, Eaton said his brother chose instead to transfer to Four Rivers Charter School in Greenfield, where he was able to participate in the hiring of a new music teacher.


Kenney thinks students at risk for dropping out start having trouble in their freshman year, or ninth grade. Gee thinks the trouble begins as early as sixth grade. The school administration in general

believes some students are having difficulty making the transition from middle school to high school, which begins in ninth grade in Gill-Montague.

To that end, Gee said, ninth grade teachers next year will be forming teams, as they do in the middle school. Teams of four teachers in math, science, social studies and language arts will meet regularly to discuss their students' academic and social progress. The students will also be grouped in teams, called the Freshman Academy, Gee said.

Asked about the Reconnecting Youth project, Eaton was skeptical, but said he thought it was worth a try. Its approach would not have convinced him to stay in school, he believes, but it might help others.

Eaton is impressed by one aspect of the Reconnecting Youth program, that it will be run by the Brick House, which runs the local Teen Center at 24 Third Street.

"These guys are great," he said while sitting in the Brick House office one afternoon. "I come here all the time." 

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Assault and Battery

Thursday 12-14

1:20 p.m. Report of a larceny from a Turners Falls Road address. Caller states some cash was missing. Report taken.

Friday 12-15

2:23 a.m. Report of an assault at an 11th Street address. Found to be a domestic disturbance between two intoxicated men. Both were placed in protective custody.

2:30 a.m. Report of a one car accident with property damage on Greenfield Road. Driver transported to FMC. Summons issued for leaving the scene of a property damage accident, operating with a

suspended license, and a marked lanes violation.

6:27 p.m. Caller requests an officer in the 5th Street alley.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or over, assault with a dangerous weapon, and possession of a class D drug.

Saturday 12-16

2:28 a.m. Walk-in to station reported he was assaulted at Jake's Tavern on Avenue A. Subject spoke with officer, but left before officer completed interview. Report taken.

2:31 a.m. Several 911 calls reported a fight at a Davis Street address. Reports were

unclear as to how many people or if any weapons were involved. Officers were unable to locate.

3:41 p.m. Report of drug violations at Unity Park. Caller states several youths were consuming marijuana in the park. One juvenile male was arrested and charged with possession of a class D drug. Three others were summonsed for possession of a class D drug.

9:33 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A by Food City, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license and a lights violation.

Monday 12-18

7:31 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Turners Falls Road address. Caller states a relative took some items out of his house. Under investigation.

Wednesday 12-20

5:46 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Federal Street at Leverett Road, [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license and failure to register as a sex offender.

8:25 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with failure to register as a sex offender.

Specializing in unique hair designs

Bella

THE SALON

312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003

Stylists seeking booth space encouraged to call!

REYNOLDS PROPERTIES

256 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Lynn Reynolds
ABR GRI CRS

"Aiming for
Astonishing Service"

413-367-2425

lynnreynolds@verizon.net



Dillon
CHEVROLET
54 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

BILL WALENDY
Sales & Lease Consultant
(413) 773-3678
FAX (413) 774-5746

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

Chinatown
CHINESE RESTAURANT

FREE DELIVERY!

(Min. \$15.00)



中城

863-8988 • 51 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS

"Your #1 Source For Subaru!"

Serving the community since 1978



"One of the Largest Selections of
Pre-Loved Subaru's
in New England"

• 1995's up to 2006's
• On-Site Financing Available

www.flintsgaragesales.com

990 South Main Street • Athol, MA
978-249-9038

G-M Students Spread Holiday Cheer

BY ALI URBAN - The Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School student councils have fostered a spirit of generosity that will make this holiday season more festive for people in need.

At the high school, students worked in association with the Adopt-a-Family program recently to collect gifts, food and toiletries for local families.

"It makes me feel amazing to help give families a Christmas they may not have had otherwise," said Katelyn Mailloux, the project's student

council coordinator.

"I really love this project, and having a new (student council) advisor this year, I felt I could take charge and get the job done," she said. "My mom has worked on this project before, so I had some experience."

The student council has participated in Adopt-a-Family for more than nine years. This year the students adopted two families, a total of nine individuals.



Most classrooms were assigned either a person to collect for or a category, such as toiletries or non-perishable food items.

Popular requests for gift items included clothing, art supplies, dolls and tools. Donations were then collected, sorted and wrapped. Each family received two packages per person and enough food for a holiday dinner.

Student council advisor and government teacher Heather Batchelor talked about the importance of encouraging students to get involved in a project like this. "It's the key to help kids think about people beyond themselves, to remember they are part of a community," she said.

"Society doesn't

always get the job done," Batchelor added. She said youth need to get involved now in community work, and carry on their service as adults. "It's important to remain involved and realize the needs of others."

Sam Johnson, a junior, donated to the program. He got involved in the Adopt-a-Family drive, "to share the holiday cheer," he said. "It made me feel like I was doing something meaningful and could make someone else's life just that much more special."

Great Falls Middle School also worked to collect items for the holiday season. As a community service, students held a food and can drive to benefit the local survival center's food bank. The students topped their goal, collecting more than 1,000 items. GFMS student council members planned to deliver the items during the week before Christmas.

This is the third year for the food and can drive. The first two years GFMS competed with Greenfield Middle School. In the friendly contest, the 'losing' school had to make a trophy for the school that collected the most items, and the principal had to bake a pie. The first year Greenfield Middle School won the trophy and pie, and last year Great Falls collected the most items. This year, the competition was called off due to the timing of the drive.

Also, TFHS National Honor Society members traveled to the Franklin Medical Center, Gill Elementary School and local nursing homes and care facilities to sing Christmas carols for patients and residents on Monday, December 18th. Santa made an appearance and gave out cards and student-made ornaments. The students' version of "Twelve Days of Christmas," was a hit.



Student Council advisor Heather Batchelor (left) and Adopt-a-Family coordinator Katelyn Mailloux sort and package donated items.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Drive Offs at Gill Mobil

Wednesday 12-13

5:55 a.m. Reported gas drive off at the Gill Mobil. Report taken. Matter under investigation.

6:45 p.m. Report of a hit and run at the Main Road - Route 2 intersection. No personal injury. Report taken.

7:20 p.m. Montague police found the vehicle from the above hit and run. Officer spoke with the party and took information needed.

Thursday 12-14

12:01 a.m. Report of medical assistance needed at a Main Road residence. Officer assisted.

5:45 p.m. Duty officer assisted Erving police with a check of the welfare of an individual at the French King Bowling Alley.

7:30 p.m. Report of a vehicle off the road near Kuzmeskus on Main Road. Officer located the vehicle and had it towed. No injuries.

Friday 12-15

6:00 p.m. Mutual aid assistance to Montague for a reported large fight. Officer assisted in arrests.

Saturday 12-16

8:05 a.m. Report of a loose cow on Main Road. Officer combed the area and found nothing.

10:20 p.m. Report of a loud explosion in the River Road area. Officer sent to the area, and found a party of people. Individuals spoken to by the officer.

Monday 12-18

9:05 a.m. Report of a suspicious motor vehicle in the Mountain Road area. Officer given little description of the vehicle. Officer combed the area, and found nothing that matched the description.

2:49 p.m. Reported gas drive off at the Gill Mobil. A plate number was obtained. Matter is still under investigation.

4:20 p.m. Request for officer assistance by a Mountain Road resident who locked themselves out of their vehicle.

Tuesday 12-19

6:35 a.m. Reported road rage incident on Route 2. Officer checked the area. No vehicles matching the description given were found in the area.

'Tis the Season for a Variety of John Deere Toys!

FUELED BY IMAGINATION!

A WIDE VARIETY OF JOHN DEERE TOYS

This Holiday Season get to Sirum Equipment for all your gift giving needs. Tons of options sure to make this your best holiday season yet!

JOHN DEERE
Nothing Runs Like A Deere

GREAT GIFTS FOR THE KIDS!

For a memorable holiday season, make your child smile with a John Deere toy!

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

PERFECT FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

The choice is clear. Go with a John Deere toy this year! Hurry in and beat the rush.

BEAT THE RUSH!

VISIT YOUR GOLD STAR CERTIFIED JOHN DEERE DEALER TODAY!

SIRUM EQUIPMENT
Route 63, Montague

413-367-2481

Mary Lou Emond
CRS, GRI, CBR

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

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

COUNTRY OIL
SINCE 1986
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

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

Annual Heating System Cleaning
Plumbing Repairs
LICENSED TECHNICIANS
#M10588 (MA)

UPPER HAND
HOME DEFENSE OPTIONS

Specializing in
• Civilian Firearms
• Training for Home Defense

Tel: 775-3264
Fax: 863-0095

Lee Laster • Alan Lambert
Certified Instructors

www.upperhandonline.com

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Deliberations on New Town Attorney Continue; Déjà Brew Parking Lot Discussed

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - At its December 13th meeting, the Wendell selectboard appointed Sarah Martell of Locke Hill Road as selectboard clerk. Martell's appointment will free town coordinator Nancy Aldrich from the responsibility of keeping minutes at selectboard meetings. Aldrich has been keeping selectboard minutes for months, whether or not she has had to make presentations to the board at the same time, which can get confusing. The selectboard also interviewed representatives from two law firms as potential replacements for town counsel John Gates, who plans to retire soon.

The meeting opened with the board speaking with attorneys David Doneski and Leonard Kopelman, representing the law firm Kopelman and Paige of Northampton. Kopelman and Paige represented Wendell as special counsel through the process of getting the new town library and office building under construction.

The two men spoke in turn,

emphasizing the size and diversity of Kopelman and Paige, which allows the firm to have experts in various fields, so that many questions can be answered by simply transferring a telephone call from the town's primary attorney to another of the 56 attorneys in the firm, which can eliminate the need for costly research. They said Wendell may encounter problems other client towns have had to deal with earlier, and the solutions and conclusions reached for other towns can be referenced quickly within the Kopelman and Paige office. The firm represents towns from one end of the Commonwealth to the other. They offer legal seminars at no charge, so new town officials can learn their responsibilities and rights.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said he was concerned about the precision of legal language, and the fact that a town official may have to refer to legal advice months or years after it was first given. He asked about getting written responses to questions. Kopelman said the firm generally will give verbal advice over the telephone, that the time required to produce a written response can cost unnecessary money. He usually asks what the town's ultimate goal in a given matter may be, and proceeds accordingly; if a written response is required, it will be provided.

Doneski said lawyers and department heads across the state are familiar with Kopelman and Paige, and that familiarity can result in less litigation. As a firm, they seek to do no more than is necessary for the town.

Selectboard member Dan Keller asked about a possible approach to the auction of town properties several years ago, at which the town first accepted a bid that was not the highest bid, hoping to keep the land on the

tax rolls. Subsequently, the town was forced to accept the higher bid from a non-profit, and lost the land as a taxable asset. Kopelman said that in addition to offering the sale as a Request for Proposal (RFP) the town could also consider the taxes the town would collect in future years as part of the bid process. It depends on "where you want to be at the end of the day, and how you want to get there."

The two men left the selectboard office without actually noting the firm's hourly rate, but from a recent timed bill for telephone advice, Keller computed the rate at \$155 an hour.

Next, Luke Goodridge, an associate attorney with John Gates of Greenfield, and starting in January a full partner, met the board. He said he wanted his firm to continue as Wendell's counsel to maintain a continuity of service. He emphasized his firm is local and very available, offering the benefit of a broad-based practice. The firm has four attorneys, and if the one who normally deals with Wendell is busy, another of the four will cover.

Selectboard member Christine Heard asked about educating town board members, and Goodrich said the firm would certainly work on that as issues come up. Some issues come up again and again, and prior opinion letters in the office files can often save consulting time and money. He said he personally created a huge map of the tax code; the map is now saving research time. He emphasized availability and said his firm is the largest local municipal law firm, offering the best of both local service and size.

Keller asked the same question about the auction of town property. Goodrich answered there were two basic approaches available to sell town property: accepting the highest bid or

seeking an RFP, and said he would have to check further to find other options. His firm charges \$130 an hour for an attorney, \$95 an hour for a paralegal, both in court and in research, and \$55 an hour for secretarial work.

The board accepted with regret the resignation of Mary McBride, who has served on the board of assessors for seven years. The board will send a letter thanking her for her service.

Heard said that her daughter, Johanna Fitzgerald, was considering accepting the position of Field Driver, but was concerned because she has no trailer to transport stray animals. Keller said Bill Facey has a trailer he might make available for such a purpose, and Chris Wings and Marty Arsenault also have trailers which they might let the town use.

Patti Scutari met the selectboard to ask for a change in the terms of the permit for her Déjà Brew pub. Her pub is now permitted to be open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. This year, New Years eve falls on a Sunday, so Scutari asked if the 1:00 a.m. closing could be Friday, Saturday and holidays. The selectboard approved her request.

The discussion then shifted to the situation with the parking lot in front of the pub and Country Store.

Scutari said she met earlier that day with highway commissioner Harry Williston. She said a recent car collision in front of the store happened at 9:00 a.m. and had nothing to do with the pub, but that she had been trying for years to get the speed limit in front of the store reduced from 40 mph. The barrels the road crew put in front of the lot to create an island were so unpopular that someone even wrote a

song about them, and they have since been removed. Road boss Dan Bacigalupo agreed to put up "pedestrian," or "trucks entering" signs on both sides of the store, but has not done so yet. The approach from both sides, but the south especially, is wooded, so a driver unfamiliar with the town center comes upon the store by surprise, just after the speed limit rises to 40 mph.

Scutari said she will meet with a line painting company to see if they can organize the parking lot for smoother traffic flow, and safer right angle entry into and out of the lot without interfering with the ability of truck drivers to back in and out for the store and the adjoining post office.

Heard said, "It isn't that we think that accident could have been prevented." Instead the board asked for the process (of trying to systemize traffic flow) to continue. Scutari said she hoped Williston would push for signs to slow traffic in front of the store.

Keller brought up the annual fee for the special permit, and after some discussion, to keep the fee in line with other special permits in town, it was set at \$50.

After Scutari left, Heard asked the other selectboard members to begin a discussion of the firms under consideration for town counsel. Keller said he had been impressed with the building work he has done with Kopelman and Paige, and the biggest factor is the depth of the firm. Lewis said that when the town hired John Gates as counsel "you couldn't find a municipal attorney," and he thought, being an associate, Luke Goodridge had been a little tentative in his answers. The selectboard still has paperwork to look at before making a decision.

Great gift idea!
NY's Eve Comedy
Shea Theater

www.sheacomedy.com

World Eye Bookshop,
Books & More

Feel Like a Brand New Person!



With a Haircut at Ed's Barber Shop

115 Avenue A • 863-2085

Ed, Denise & KarriAnn

"51 Years on the Ave"

HOME BUYERS WANTED

You Can Buy a House with **no money down!**
Call Tim for your free Pre-Application analysis.

Call 1-413-773-8984
Tim Prevost Loan Officer

NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE



Only homeowners are eligible. All loans are subject to credit approval & property review. Programs subject to change without notice.

REAL ESTATE
BENCHMARK & PRATT

YETTER BUSINESS CENTER
525 Bernardston Road
Greenfield, MA 01301

(413) 774-1200 X121 **Bernie Monkiewicz**
Realtor
bernie@benchmark-pratt.com



AJ's CYCLE



MOTO GUZZI
now available
BREVA 1100
GRISO 1100

274 Rt. 2, Gill

(413) 863-8543

Allan • David • Melanie

AJCYC@CROCKER.COM ... WWW.AJCYCLE.COM



Great Holiday Gifts!

- Stocking Stuffers
- Clothing
- Books & Accessories

413-256-6217

fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

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

RISTORANTE
Di Paolo

RISTORANTE
Di Paolo

FINE ITALIAN DINING

Denise DiPaolo, Owner
Hilton Dottin, Chef

TEL 413-863-4441
FAX 413-863-4421

Open 5-9 Sun - Thurs
5 - 10 Fri and Sat
Closed Tues

Reservations Accepted

166 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

WWW.RISTORANTEDIPAULO.COM

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

\$4 Million Phase II Sewer Project to Go Forward

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Monday, December 18th, the selectboard approved a revised scope of work for the Combined Sewer Overflow remediation project, with a price tag of approximately \$5,241,375, including the \$1.3 million already spent on the first phase of sewer work on 7th Street and Avenue A. Work on the first phase is scheduled to wrap up this week, according to Paul Gilbert, project engineer for Camp Dresser McKee (CDM), who told the board on Monday night, "There are four pieces of pipe left to go." The warm weather has helped the Avenue A phase of the project overcome the delay caused by drilling through tough ledge, but Gilbert said the paving plant Ludlow Construction has been using finally shut down for the season last week, so completing the Avenue A part of the project this year will be "nip and tuck."

Representing CDM, the town's engineering firm for the sewer upgrade project, Gilbert said his company had reduced \$184,000 in engineering fees for Phase 2 of the CSO work, "because we reduced the scope of work." But he also warned that late additions to Phase 2 may entail some increased engineering costs, which he will detail in time for the board's next meeting, January 8th.

The overall reduction in scope for the CSO work was necessitated when cost projections on the project ballooned from the \$5.7 million approved by Montague town meeting in June of 2005. Montague voters approved a debt exclusion override in August of 2005 to pay 40% of the project's cost from taxation, leaving sewer users to shoulder 60% of the cost. Less than a year later, the price tag for CSO and treatment plant upgrades had risen by more than 80% to \$10.3 million. The selectboard cried foul in May of 2006, and ordered CDM back to the drawing board to reduce the scope of the project and make it fit within the \$5.7 million price ceiling.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has worked with the town to remediate the problem of combined sewer overflow to the Connecticut River, and to bring Montague into compliance with the federal 1972 Clean Water

Act. Until now, the coupling of storm water sewers and the design of Montague's sewer system has allowed untreated sewage to flow into the river at two points, one in the vicinity of Avenue A and 7th Street and one near the confluence of the Deerfield River, in the vicinity of the wastewater treatment plant in Montague City. On average, 3.56 million gallons of untreated human waste has flowed into the river following rainstorms. Storms leading to combined sewer overflow typically have occurred 31 times a year. The initial plan presented to the town by CDM and approved by town meeting would have reduced the incidence of sewage overflow to the river by 92%, to .29 million gallons a year.

After consulting engineers from the firm of Brown and Caldwell completed a peer review study of CDM's plans for the project this fall, CDM hunkered down with state environmental regulators and worked out a compromise to reduce the flow of untreated sewage by 86% from current levels, to around .5 million gallons a year. In order to assure that target is met, DEP officials have asked the town of Montague to install flow monitors at both locations, and have offered to help locate sources of grant funding for the needed equipment. Wastewater treatment plant director Bob Trombley estimates the flow monitoring equipment will cost approximately \$10,000.

In reducing the scope of the project, a number of upgrades at the town's aging treatment plant will be deferred or eliminated,



PHOTO BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Allied breaker jackhammering ledge after being softened up by drilling 4 inch holes 18 ft deep, two feet apart.

including electrical, heating, and air conditioning upgrades, and the installation of a rotary dewatering press (to eliminate water from sludge before shipping it to a landfill). Also eliminated, for now, are a new septage handling facility, as well as a parallel screening and grit removal system, to allow for ease of maintenance of the influent line.

A rotary dewatering press could save the town about \$170,000 a year.

Another item removed from the to-do list, and one for which the DEP has expressed the most concern for eventual correction, is an adjustment of the grade of the influent line from the Greenfield Road CSO to the

treatment plant headworks, installed in the 80s at a slight uphill grade.

"It should be flowing downhill," noted Trombley. He has the law of gravity to back him up on that one.

Trombley said the influent pipe functions despite the 10 degree uphill slope, due to the volume of flow. "How to clean it out is the problem," he said. "It's 30 - 50% clogged with grit and gravel." Trombley said the influent pipe has to be cleaned out - somehow - before the new CSO pipes, with their vastly increased flow levels, are hooked up to the system. The volume of influent that will occur at that point would sweep the accumulated

years of debris into the treatment plant, causing "all kinds of problems."

A determination has yet to be made on how the influent pipe will be cleaned out, but a call for volunteers is unlikely to yield many candidates.

The town is seeking additional sources of funding for some of the deferred treatment plant upgrades, and Congressman Olver's office has been contacted for help. From the town's point of view, items like the new septage handling facility or the rotary dewatering press that are likely to result in cost savings for sewer users are high on the wish list for adding back onto the project. Trombley said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio is exploring the possibility of leasing to own a Fournier rotary press, after the company that manufactures the item stopped by with a sample press for demonstration purposes for three days in October. Based on the manufacturer's back-of-the envelope calculations, a rotary dewatering press could save the town about

\$170,000 a year.

After receiving the selectboard's go-ahead on the revised scope of work for Phase 2, Gilbert said, "Bid awards should go out in July of 2007, and construction should begin in August. We should be done within two years."

In other news, the selectboard granted RiverCulture coordinator Lisa Davol a temporary license to serve beer and wine at the Shea Theater on New Year's Eve, in connection with a fundraising "Comedy at the Shea" show, part of an ongoing series organized by Boston-area comic Dave Rattigan. Sale of beer and wine will benefit the RiverCulture project.

Asked by board member Allen Ross how November's fundraising sales went, Davol said RiverCulture took in more than \$400, and "the comedians liked it because the audience was not as critical."

The board retroactively approved a permit from the Montague Firemen's Association to put up a crèche display on the Montague Center common, from December 16th to New Year's Day. The group has included a disclaimer sign with the crèche saying, "This display is strictly from a private group; it in no way represents an official view of the town of Montague nor is it endorsed by the town."

The board approved a permit for the 17th Annual Saw Mill River Run, to take place on Monday, January 1st, with registration beginning at 9 a.m. and the 10 kilometer, 6.2 mile race beginning at 10 a.m. Proceeds from registrations go toward college scholarships for Turners Falls High School students, courtesy of the Montague Center Volunteer Firefighters, and to the Montague Grange. Pre-registration costs \$15, and can be accomplished by picking up a form at the Montague Mini Mart, the YMCA, Clarks Sport Shop and other area locations, or by downloading a form at cool-runnings.com. Same day registration for the run, which has a variety of categories for different age groups, costs \$20.



Ross said the Sawmill River Run was a great way to start the new year. "It encourages people to be reasonably intact on New Year's morning."

Quality products to heat your home: wood or gas...
 stoves, fireplaces & inserts


 REGENCY HAMPTON
 EXCALIBUR
 SCSC
Shanahan Construction Supply Co.
 COMPLETE MASONRY SUPPLIES
 Masonry Supplies
 Brick / Block / Pavers
 Wall Stone
 298 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA
 Culvert / Sewer Pipe
 Precast Concrete
 Retaining Wall Block
 Phone: 413-863-4322


 Unlocking the door to your dream of home ownership!

Mariaelena Garcia
 REALTOR®
 200 Triangle Street
 Amherst, MA 01002-2193
 (413) 549-3700 Ext 144
 mgarcia@jones-tc.com
 Member National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals



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

Member Run Press Publishes Local Poets

BY JANEL NOCKELBY
TURNERS FALLS - A poetry reading at Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on December 4th featured poems by area poets Jim Bell of Bernardston, Susie Patlove of Charlemont, and Candace Curran of Orange, and also a brief description of

Slate Roof: a Publishing Collective. Now in its third year, "Slate Roof is a member-run press committed to publishing Franklin County poets."

Several attentive listeners (including a Carnegie Library top floor regular, a stuffed

mountain goat head resting comfortably on a metal folding chair), heard an exploration of relationships, family, addiction, war, and pole vaulting, refracted through the prism of poetry.

Yes, of course, pole vaulting. Bell teaches track and field at Pioneer Valley Regional School and has used his experiences vaulting through the air and teaching others how to vault to bring lift to his poems, as youth recedes. "If I come / to you / toothless / tired / bald / knees / knotted / will you / still / pick up / my pole," Bell asks the reader in the poem "The Oldest Pole Vault."

With so few words in each line in Bell's poem, the shape that forms on the page skillfully echoes the content: a long pole.

Bell's chapbook, *Crossing the Bar*, was published by the collective in 2005. The term chapbook may have come from "cheapbook," explained Patlove. Peddlers centuries ago began selling these small books. The cover art for the Slate Roof poetry chapbooks are all by local artists, and the

design and letterpress are by collective member by Ed Rayher of Northfield.

The Slate Roof collective reads manuscripts twice a year to bring in new members, similar to the Alice James Books Cooperative affiliated with the University of Maine. The project is supported by grants from local cultural councils, including councils from Gill, Montague, and Wendell, which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Both Bell and Patlove also read poems from their fellow Slate Roof collective members Art Stein ("Blonde Red Mustang") and Trish Crapo ("Walk Through Paradise Backwards") before reading from their own works.

Patlove will have her own chapbook published very soon by the collective. Her poem "Mirror" explores the mixed feelings of the empty nest by reflecting on the birth of a new lamb before her. "And in the sweetness of that face / all living wore new meaning - my son / who burst out of his upbringing / to scatter me like sunlight from a mirror," she

read.

Patlove won the Greenfield Library Poet's Seat Prize in 2000 while guest poet Curran, who lives in Orange, has won the Poet's Seat Prize twice.

The poems Curran read tackle the trickiness of love and relationships and reflect on local history such as the last Fireman's Ball in Enfield, before it was flooded to slake Boston's thirst when the Quabbin Reservoir was formed in the 1930s.

In poems such as "I'd Like to Plant Peaches Because" Curran reminds the reader of the trials of starting relationships with lines like, "I'm not going to woo you with my / fast talkin' three merlots and / new boldness." Her book of poems *Bone Cages* was published in 1996 by Haley Press in Athol, MA.

Recently, Curran helped to organize a word and image art show and reading at the 1794 Meeting House in New Salem, a perfect setting for bringing art and nature together in the North Quabbin.

Learn more about the Slate Roof publishing collective at www.slateroofpress.com.

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: December 22nd through December 28th

Friday, December 22

8:00 am Peskeomskut Park Renovations
 9:00 am Montague Selectboard 12/18
 11:00 am Historical Society Annual Meeting
 12:00 pm Brick House TV #5
 12:30 pm 215th Mass Army Band
 6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #23
 6:30 pm TFHS Weekly Review
 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting 12/19

12:30 pm The Cost of Freedom
 5:00 pm Over the Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
 6:00 pm Montague Update: David Lovelace
 7:00 pm The Well Being: The Aging Eye
 8:00 pm This is Montague: Family Dance 2004
 9:30 pm The Cost of Freedom

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 am Over the Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
 8:30 am Montague Update: David Lovelace
 9:00 am The Well Being: The Aging Eye
 10:00am This is Montague: Family Dance 2004
 12:00 pm The Cost of Freedom
 6:00 pm Windchanger 6/6 #1
 6:30 pm TFHS Weekly Review
 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting 12/19

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 am Windchanger 6/6 #1
 8:30 am TFHS Weekly Review
 9:00 am GMRSD Meeting 12/19
 6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #23
 6:30 pm GED Connection #21
 7:00 pm On the Ridge: Wives of Hunters
 7:30 pm Montague Update: Art Gillmore
 8:30 pm Thanksgiving Day Football Montague vs. Greenfield

Thursday, December 28

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #23
 8:30 am GED Connection #21
 9:00am On the Ridge Wives of Hunters
 9:30 am Montague Update: Art Gillmore
 10:30 am Thanksgiving Day Football Montague vs. Greenfield
 6:00 pm Montague Update: Gina McNeely
 7:00 pm Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee
 9:00 pm Windchanger 6/6 #2
 9:30 pm NASA: The Case of the Phenomenal Weather
 10:30 pm Sawmill River Run 2005

Saturday, December 23

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #23
 8:30 am TFHS Weekly Review
 9:00 am GMRSD Meeting 12/19
 5:00 pm Over the Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
 6:00 pm Montague Update: David Lovelace
 7:00 pm The Well Being: The Aging Eye
 8:00 pm This is Montague: Family Dance 2004
 9:30 pm The Cost of Freedom

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am Over the Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
 9:00 am Montague Update: David Lovelace
 10:00 am The Well Being: The Aging Eye
 11:00am This is Montague: Family Dance 2004
 12:30 pm The Cost of Freedom
 5:00 pm Over the Falls: Robert Strong Woodward
 6:00 pm Montague Update: David Lovelace
 7:00 pm The Well Being: The Aging Eye
 8:00 pm This is Montague: Family Dance 2004
 9:30 pm The Cost of Freedom

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

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

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236
 10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

SQUASH

PRODUCE • CHEESE
 BUTTER • EGGS
 TRUCKING • OLIVES

"We Make Chefs Happy"

1315 Federal Street
 Belchertown, MA 01007
 (413) 256-8929

Next Day Delivery is a Phone Call Away!

The Smokin' Hippo
 A Family Restaurant and Barbecue

20 French King Highway
 Erving, Ma 01344-4444
 Phone: (413) 423-3220

Barbecue and Full Traditional Menu
 Full Liquor License

Hours: Tue/Wed/Thu: 11am-9pm Fri/Sat: 11am-10pm Sun: Noon-8pm
 Local Photographs and Hippo Paintings also available

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.

New Hours, Wireless Internet

M-F 6-2
 Sat. 7-2
 Sun. 8-2

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

Patrick Smith
 HIC #134741
 Insured

Turners Falls, MA
 Patrick@Mtdata.com

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
 Specializing in Cellulose Insulation
 Infrared Quality Assurance Guaranteed

Toll Free 866-262-5361 413-863-9409
 FAX 413-863-3530

LIEBENOW AUTO BODY

"WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB"

- Insurance Collision Repairs
- We Accept All Insurance Companies
- Auto Glass Replacements
- Shop Rental Car
- Frame & Unibody Straightening

LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY

Mass Repair Shop #1839
 774-4420
 163 WELLS STREET GREENFIELD

Quality Work on All Makes & Models
 Towing & Rental Cars Arranged

the poetry page

It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno & Chris Janke

design by Boysen Hodgson

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

Brünhilde

Not a trace of mean
A trust as wide as the skies—
The look in her eyes

--Joe Conolly
Amherst



BRUNEHILDE

...Before you fly over,
to the Land of Ladybugs,
I know too, how your body was in fire,
fighting on all sides!
Your eyes did tell...

So fly away, wherever that may be,
lightened of gravity!
Catch and play with squirrels,
chipmunks.
Dig all the holes available!
These tunnels that lead
to the heart of brooks and singing voices.

--Flore
Montague Center



The Oldest Pole Vaulter

if i come to you toothless tired bald

knees knotted

will you still pick up my pole

late afternoon with all crossbars down

my spare muscular words on solid ground

carry me on my pole out the back end of the runway

on walter whitman's shoulders

--Jim Bell
Bernardston

Mirror

when the lamb stood up after birth his legs shivering with the world's weight something exploded inside me some memory of how love translates into bodies and new life enters the space between sky and land to begin walking undeniably toward death he with his tiny hooves black against the white curl of his wool and in the sweetness of that face all living wore new meaning—my son who burst out of his upbringing to scatter me like sunlight from a mirror until I found part of myself inside the lambing pen opening the small reluctant mouth onto a teat and another part on a rocking chair in our bedroom of eighteen years ago nursing a future I couldn't see as autumn settled its amber on maples outside the window and his tiny fist cast out invisible guidelines toward manhood

--Susie Patlove
Charlemont

For Brunhilde

Wherever she may be

Much loved one – a wise old soul
Your departure a grievous toll
Master teacher of all that is
How gently you fulfilled that role.

The pursuit of joy, you taught us well
The joy of pursuit, it's easy to tell
That it's only the fun that drove you on—
The squirrels loved the game as well.

You loved to be held on high
Face to face and eye to eye
A clear, unwavering gaze of love
A warmth that set our hearts to fly.

A social life beyond compare
A link, a tie with so many you share
Friends with animal and human alike
Famously welcomed most everywhere.

Dearest Bruny—how we miss you
Without your presence to guide us through
To show us the way to live life real
To understand what is good and true.

--Karen Hakala
Amherst

Quatrains

English

Our language is profound.
With worldwide tongues we mix
Up to the zillionth sound
From only twenty-six.

In our Own Yard

October's color potpourri
Lured us to brilliance on far hills.
Then home our front yard maple tree
Still showed the best of Nature's skills.



'Til Next Year

Lackluster twigs on empty trees
Hold promises which man perceives.
But now a face is what Dad sees
Atop his pile of raked up leaves.

Extremities

When all but air to breathe is gone
Values are learned from gifts and deeds.
We find how frivolous are wants
Compared to other things called needs.

--Kathryn Flagg
Millers Falls & Allendale, NJ

I'd Like to Plant Peaches Because

I hear you below moaning like bear like central heating noises of discontent and misfirings but don't worry I'm not going to woo you with my fast talkin' three merlots and new boldness fact remains that you want me and You don't want me just a foot up and some kinda relief I can't offer because you won't take any solace and springtime but what a tease is springtime, huh?

Your gathered sadness bigger than the moon is heavy can't be masked with sunglasses can't be beat with this black and blue I'm blaring sanding the floorboards smooth as scotch. Oh sweet man and full moon combo I smell the memory of you soft as peach but... I can't root that stone.

--Candace R. Curran
Orange

Joe Conolly is the director of the education workplace program at UMass.

Karen Hakala is the director of volunteerism for the Pioneer Valley United Way.

Both Joe and Karen are long-time friends of the late Brünhilde. They live in Amherst with their two children.

Flore, a regular contributor to The Montague Reporter lives

in Montague Center. "Wet nose, floppy ears" is the way she refers to Brunie whom she describes as a "distinctive character." A book on Brunehilde is in the making, about "A dog that purred"...

Jim Bell teaches track and field at Pioneer Valley Regional School. Bell's chapbook, Crossing The Bar was published by the Slate Roof Collective in 2005.

Susie Patlove, winner of the

Greenfield Library Poet's Seat Prize in 2000 will have her own chapbook published very soon by the collective.

Kathryn Flagg, a 60-year resident of Millers Falls, now resides with her son and fam-

ily in Allendale, New Jersey.

Candace Curran has won the Poet's Seat Prize twice. Her book of poems, Bone Cages, was published in 1996 by Haley Press in Athol, MA.

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:



159 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA
01376

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

Stephan Smith
Agent/Broker

863-4373

Renaissance Excavating

COMPLETE SITE WORK



• SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM
MAIN ROAD, GILL

DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA



MOVIES, SLIDES, VIDEOS & MORE!
CONVERTED TO DVD, VHS & OTHER FORMATS!

Bill & Kathy White

413-773-7747

Turners Congregation Calls New Minister

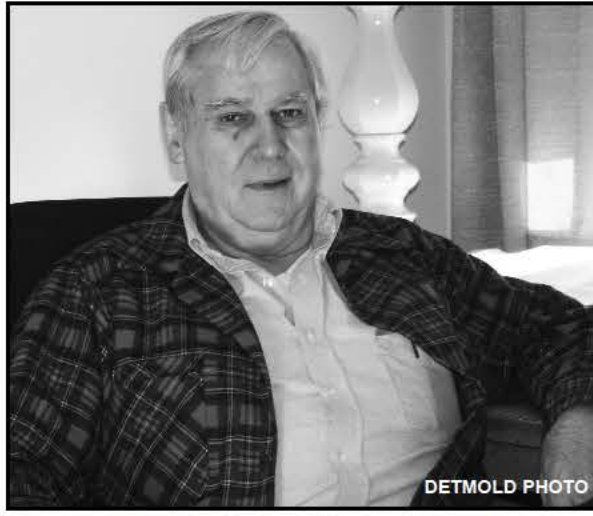
BY JOHN HANOLD - His voice has the resonant, full tones one associates with a singer or an orator, and the person behind the voice has a strong claim to both. The Reverend Dr. Dennis Roth, permanent part-time minister at Turners Falls' First Congregational Church since September 2006, has been active in parish ministry for nearly 30 years, and has sung informally with his family. A former church member dubbed them "the Roth Family Singers." Roth's interest in inspiring with both words and song was conveyed in an early statement to the Congregational Church's search committee: "I cannot promise to grow this church, but I will promise you lively, inspirational services."

The First Congregational ministry is the latest of several church engagements in New England for Roth, and follows nine years each in Bernardston and West Brattleboro VT, separated by a shorter period in Princeton, MA. This extensive service does not totally sum up his familiarity with our region - Roth also taught at Northfield Mount Hermon School for ten

years after finishing his first theology degree in New York City's Union Theological Seminary, to which he has since added a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling from UMass Amherst and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Bangor Theological Seminary in Bangor, ME. While he fills the Turners position, he and his wife Jill will continue to live in their current Brattleboro home.

His stay in the Connecticut Valley includes a chain of interesting connections. For example, to get his resumé to one church search committee in 1980, he left it with Hook Lobster Co. in Boston's seafood district, where it could be picked up by Bud Foster of the well-known Greenfield market during one of his twice-weekly trips for fresh seafood. A long-time friendship with the family of Helen Stotz has come full-circle, for she is now chair of the Turners church's Board of Trustees.

A New England-centered



Rev. Dr. Dennis Roth, of Turners Falls First Congregational Church

career was not a sure thing, because Roth was born and raised in a strongly German area of rural Iowa, where he graduated from Parsons College. As a child during World War II he recalls some older neighbors were concerned about the prospect of military service, saying "Isn't it awful our boys will have to go to war and shoot at their cousins?"

Although a career in the ministry was in the back of his mind from his teen years, Roth did not

feel ready at college graduation, so he took a job as a traveling field supervisor for his social fraternity, *Tau Kappa Epsilon*. This enabled him to travel extensively in the eastern half of the country and save money for the next phase of his career. Roth is quick to distinguish the "Tekes" from some of the old-line fraternities, noting they never excluded Jewish or Black candidates from membership, and lived up to their motto "Not for Wealth, Rank or Honor, but for Personal Worth and Character."

This motto inspired his professional life, in a denomination where congregations are free to choose their ministers rather than simply accepting those assigned by a higher body. Roth retired from the Brattleboro church in 2005, but after a short interim stint at First Baptist in Greenfield he accepted the First Congregational

offer of a part-time position, because he still felt the "Lord's call" recognized by many ministers. The three days-a-week opportunity seemed right for him, for, "The parish ministry is the one place where you are involved from the cradle to the grave ... and beyond."

With several months of settling-in behind him, Roth characterizes his congregation as "small in number but large in heart and spirit." He sees its challenge as the same for churches everywhere, "To offer an effective ministry to the town and greater society, doing its work as part of the Family of Christ." His personal commitment is to be out in the community visiting with people, and he encourages church members to do the same. He closed our conversation with a quotation from D. T. Niles of Sri Lanka, defining the core meaning of the often-misunderstood term Evangelism: "It is one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

In Turners Falls, the resonant voice at Seventh and L is the newest guide to spiritual food.

MSCM continued from pg 1

with the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium. Inspired by the pioneering work of Susan Salasin, the project endeavors to help victims of trauma rebuild the framework of their lives in order to develop healthy relationships and protect their personal safety. To that end, the MSCM has worked to provide a kind of wraparound service that supports those in need rather than sending them to a multitude of different agencies for splintered services. Recognizing their resources are finite, the MSCM works collaboratively with several agencies,

but sees their role perhaps as the glue that holds the pieces together.

The Family Support Program headed by Lorena Norwood currently serves 18 families, with openings for about eight more. Families may be referred by the DSS (with accompanying state financial support) or be eligible through grant funding provided by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. Qualified families must have at least one child under five and meet certain income guidelines (please call Lorena at 413-863-4804, ext. 2 for more information).

Lorena and her staff know that different families have dif-

ferent needs - understandably, most immediate are the critical needs of food, housing, fuel and safety. Once these needs are addressed, other essential needs can be investigated. Perhaps most important to the program's success is the respect accorded visitors to MSCM. Staff members hold a core tenet that listening and being emotionally available are the keys to building trust and a supportive relationship. Without trust, the programs would not be successful. It is through regular home visits that MSCM workers help parents to consider their present, grapple with their past, and envision a positive future. They encourage

struggling parents to establish long range goals and create their own map that allows them to access the dreams they've perhaps forgotten.

The more immediate goals tend toward childcare needs, positive discipline, early literacy, employment, education and self-sufficiency. Families tend to stay with the program nine months to a year, though Lorena encourages them to stay connected after they leave. Program graduates know they can still call for support to intercept a potential crisis rather than wait for disaster to happen. MSCM acknowledges our changing society has diminished the traditionally supportive

roles of extended family in a close-knit community, and they are managing to foster a new kind of family support network.

To that end MSCM provides many services - from the Women's Resource Center in Turners Falls to the new center opening in February, 2007 in Greenfield; from the Family Support Program to the Family Literacy Program; from the Kids' Place to the Turners Falls Playgroup; from the Gill-Montague Family Center to the Salasin Project. For more information contact the MSCM Main Office at 413-863-4805 or the Women's Resource Center at 413-863-2455.

SCHOOLS continued from pg 1

Montague Center were to expand to a K-5 or K-6 and remain open. Based only on the replies of the 38 parents he interviewed, Castro-Santos offered an estimate of the amount of state aid the district would retain by keeping Montague Center open by keeping their children in district schools: \$223,000 annually. He said the sample he interviewed was not exhaustive, but likely to be representative of a set of parents in Montague Center for whom the geographic convenience of school choice would become a larger factor if their neighborhood school were closed.

Superintendent Sue Gee offered a revised estimate of what the school district would save by closing half of Hillcrest School, even if a tenant were not found immediately to sublet the closed portion of the school. She said the district would save \$93,110 the first year, and

\$148,102 in the second and succeeding years, by closing half of Hillcrest school.

A letter from the Montague capital improvements committee was read aloud, saying, "none of Montague's capital projects on the horizon would fit into (any of) the school buildings," and strongly urging the school committee to minimize capital requests for school building projects in the future. After the letter was read, Montague finance committee chair Jeff Singleton stalked out of the room, exclaiming, "I need to cool off!"

Montague selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt rose to address the committee on the subject of the town's capital needs, and how they might fit in with the possible closing or partial closing of a school building in town. "What that (letter from the capital improvements committee) was trying to address is immediate use by September. Anything that might be done needs a long range plan. We're not there yet."

Gee said, "That isn't to say

we wouldn't seek another renter to rent the other half of the building."

Kociela said, "We've also talked about a staff development center in the other half of the building."

The school committee would be responsible for heating, maintaining, and insuring the 'closed' portion of Hillcrest, if a sublet is not arranged. Presently, 45 preschoolers are schooled at Hillcrest, and there is a waiting list of 7 or 8 children for each of the three pre-school classes there, according to pre-K teacher Amy Socquet. The committee discussed the possibility of raising revenues associated with the pre-school program by seeking additional sources of grant funding or increasing tuition for the program.

Later in the meeting, Langknecht raised the possibility of moving the Gill Montague Regional School District administrative offices from the old section of Sheffield School over to the portion of Hillcrest that

would be vacant. He said the old side of Sheffield was the most expensive school building for the district to maintain.

Gee said there would be one-time costs associated with moving the schools' computer server out of Sheffield. She also said the Old Mill special education program would have to relocate to Hillcrest, if the old wing of Sheffield were closed.

Later, Kociela recognized Montague Center parent Sue Dresser to speak to the capital improvement needs at Montague Center School. She said, "I pledge to use all my energy and efforts to organize fund raising and grant seeking to fund a ramp and elevator for Montague Center Elementary." She pledged to form a committee of interested residents to work together with town boards to come up with an action plan for ADA improvements at the school within six months. "This plan will include committee involvement from parents and community members and will work hand in hand with

other town staff members to bring energy and excitement to a project that will ensure a great school is accessible to all community members."

Despite the financial arguments Castro-Santos and others on the committee advanced, it seemed from the course of debate the main reason the motion to expand Montague Center and reduce Hillcrest to an early childhood education center carried was due to expediency. By the end of the day, three committee members - Langknecht, Colton, and Castro-Santos - expressed strong opposition to closing Montague Center School, and three - Smith, Boyle, and Lapachinski - expressed equally firm opposition to closing Hillcrest.

Among the reasons the latter cited were the fact that Hillcrest is an ADA compliant school with large classrooms, Montague Center, an aging building with many capital needs, aging utility and heating systems, has small classrooms and is not ADA com-

Retired Woodworker Crafts Crèche for New Parish

BY CORI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - For more than a hundred years, mothers and fathers cradled their babies in their arms as they sat in the pews during services at St. Anne Church on K Street. "Those pews cradled many a Christian, many a Catholic over the years," said Father Stanley J. Aksamit, who served as pastor of the church before it closed earlier this year.

But now a native son of St. Anne's is transforming some of those pews into a crèche to be used at Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls, a parish created after the closing of St. Anne's and St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Turners Falls and Sacred Heart Church in Greenfield.

"It's appropriate that now we use (the pews) for a place where the Christ Child was cradled as we celebrate our first Christmas," as Our Lady of Peace Parish, Aksamit said.

Parishioner Maurice Fugere, who was a member of St. Anne's for 80 years before it closed, began the crèche project in October, working about eight hours a day, six days a week in his workshop at his home on Millers Falls Road in Turners Falls.

A retired woodworker for Western Massachusetts Electric, Fugere, now a parishioner of Our Lady of Peace Church, used six of the 8-foot hickory pews for the project. "I've been working with wood for more than 50 years, and hickory is the hardest," he said. "I have a pneumatic nailer that I had to turn up in order to penetrate the wood."

St. Anne Church was the only one of the three closed churches that still had original pews, and

they were made of 13/16-inch pieces of wood. The first thing Fugere did was "resaw it in half" - in effect, slicing it - to get two pieces about 3/8-inch thick. He then joined the pieces to make them flat and planed them to make them 1/4-inch thick. The next step was wire brushing and steel wooling the wood to get rid of the soft fibers and give it an aged look. Finally, he painted the pieces of wood silver and then black to give it a flat black wash coat.

Fugere pieced the wood together in such a way that it looks like he used larger, heavier pieces, but he said using the thin pieces makes the collapsible crèche lighter and easier to move and store. "Otherwise you'd need a forklift to move it," he said with a smile. "I tried to make it as simple to assemble and disassemble as possible."

Fugere got a crèche picture from the internet and is modifying it to suit the parish's needs. When complete, it will stand 55 inches high, 60 inches wide and 34 1/2 inches deep. The nativity set from St. Anne's will be used in and around the new crèche.

"It's supposed to be a barn," Fugere said, looking over his work. "But without the Christ Child, it is just another barn." He hopes that once the crèche is set up, people will notice it and wonder what it is. "It will attract their attention, and then they will come and see the Christ Child."

Fugere, who with his wife

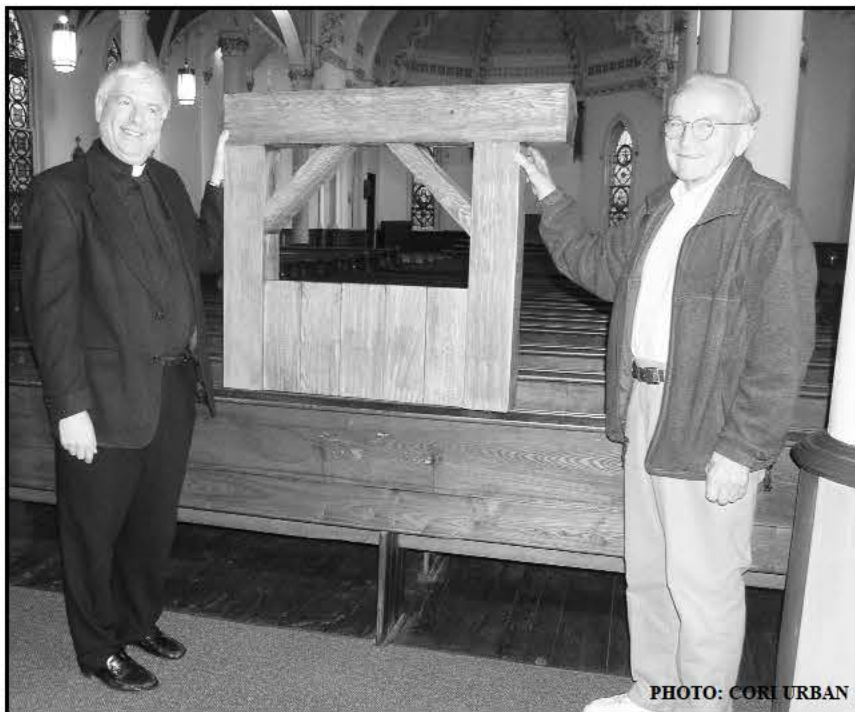


PHOTO: CORI URBAN

Father Aksamit and parishioner Maurice Fugere with a piece of Our Lady of Peace's new crèche, made from church pews from St. Anne's, now closed.

Ceil has three daughters, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren, was an altar boy at St. Anne's and attended its parochial school, graduating in 1939. He remembers sitting in the section of pews he used for the crèche when he was a schoolboy and the Sisters of St. Anne took the children to confession once a month. "These pews used to get a lot of use" from the nearby confessional, he recalled. "The bottom of these pews had a lot of gum stuck to them!"

He was pleased to use the wood for the crèche, saying that instead of discarding it, the lumber will be used for the benefit of the church. "You treat the wood with respect when you know where it is coming from."

Fugere said, "I thought a lot about how proud the parishioners must have been to buy these (pews) to begin with. And

here the St. Anne's pews are going to be used for a manger for Our Lady of Peace, so to me it's like an organ transplant."

Fugere said some of the best boards were taken from the kneelers because "the grain was beautiful."

Father Aksamit called Fugere's "labor of love" in making the crèche "astounding."

"This will be our first Christmas (as Our Lady of Peace Parish)," Father Aksamit said. "So we are trying to make it very special, similar to 'Baby's First Christmas.'"

The parish is developing new traditions while incorporating some of the old traditions from the former St. Anne, St. Mary of the Assumption and Sacred Heart parishes. The crèche will be a special part of the celebration of the new Our Lady of Peace Parish's first Christmas.

The parish also has gotten

some limited edition pewter medallions of the Madonna and Child with the word "peace" on the front and the words "Our Lady of Peace first Christmas, December 25th, 2006" on the back. These are for sale.

The crèche is not the first project Fugere has undertaken with pews from St. Anne's. He has also made an ambry for the holy oils and a cabinet for a statue of St. Peregrine, both for Our Lady of Peace Church.

This story originally appeared in the Catholic Observer/Catholic Communications, Springfield; reprinted with permission.

Gift Certificates
make great stocking stuffers!

Carol's Beauty Nook
29 G Street • Turners Falls
863-2888
Open Tue/Thurs/Fri

In Store For You!

Lecture Series
with Dr. Emily Maiella,
a naturopathic doctor

Jan. 3rd:
Weight Management

**Jan. 17th: Food Allergies/
Elimination Diet**

Free!
6:30-7:30 p.m.
For Information: 413-230-4462
drmaiella@gmail.com

GREEN FIELDS
A Natural Foods Cooperative
MARKET

Mon-Fri 8-8, Saturday 9-6,
Sunday 10-5
144 Main Street, Greenfield
773-9567

Proud of our roots on Avenue A!
(Formerly the Montague Food Coop)
25 Years and Growing

SCHOOLS from previous page pliant. They spoke in favor of unifying the town by bringing all elementary students together on one campus.

When a first round of voting reached Kociela with a five to three split against expanding Montague Center and reducing Hillcrest to a pre-K center, she voted with the minority to keep Montague Center open, a change from her position of November 28th. She explained her shift this way.

"The truth is I am hoping to get us to a decision tonight. I would vote 'Yes' on any one of these options. I spent the whole week thinking, 'What's worse,' (and I feel) 'No Decision' is worse. I do feel we have a building with ADA compliance, and where are we going to get the money..." to bring Montague Center into compliance with ADA requirements?" But Kociela also said, "When I think of the possibility of having a K-5 school at Montague Center, I get really excited. I've been wanting that for years."

After Kociela led the way,

Henry called for reconsideration and switched her vote to support the expansion of Montague Center School.

After the meeting, Bourbeau, who abstained on the final vote, said, "In my heart of hearts, I know this district needs Montague Center to grow. It's going to require a lot of money to keep it functioning the way we want it to. (With this decision) I hope we keep the people we have now, I hope we get back the people we lost, and I hope we get so many school choice kids from Greenfield and Mohawk we have to use the rest of Hillcrest for the overflow."

Gee said, "I am really relieved. Finally we have a decision. We have a lot of work to do, on our curriculum, our programs and on our planning for the budget."

Selectboard member Pat Allen, a member of the Montague capital improvements committee said, "It's going to be an incredibly tough budget year. We're looking at a budget deficit estimated at \$900,000, coupled with whatever capital needs the

schools have. The school committee has their work cut out for them."

Amy Salls, a parent of a Montague Center 2nd grader and a Sheffield 4th grader said, "I'm elated by the decision. Montague Center is a fantastic school. It's a phenomenal environment for the kids. It benefits the town all around." She said her children are getting an equally good education at Sheffield and Montague Center.

Selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt said, "The school committee deliberated long and hard. I thought they grappled with it and did the right thing, by their standards. They worked very hard."

Superintendent Gee said she will seek to have town meetings in both Gill and Montague address the issue of intra-district choice "very soon." She estimated there are openings for 36 students in Gill.

Montague Center, at present, can hold a maximum of 140 students. Sheffield principal Chip Wood reminded the committee several times during the course of the evening to pay attention to

the disparity in school population, student mix, and classroom size that may result from moving the majority of Hillcrest K-2 graders to Sheffield, which could drive the population at Sheffield as high as 350 students. Despite all the talk of the potential of school choice students coming into the district, Wood said, "There's no room in Montague Center. They're going to have to choose into Sheffield."

Michelle Rubin, a 'school choice in' parent from Greenfield with a child in Hillcrest, said after the meeting, "One of the reasons I came to this district was because of a K-2 school, not a K-6 school. My child won't be back next year."

Gee also said she will call on the committee to make an early decision about sending Montague sixth graders, at least, to the Great Falls Middle School, a recently renovated building with modern facilities and technology. Four classrooms at the middle school are empty.

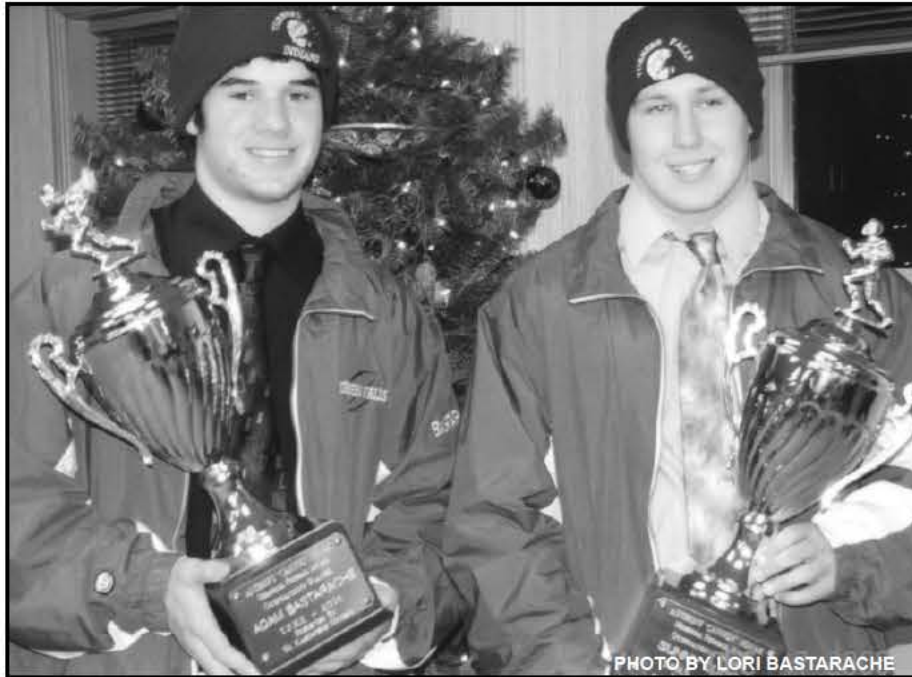
Football Award for TFHS Gridders

BY DENIS BORDEAUX

TURNERS FALLS - After a tough season, with a fantastic finish, TFHS football players attended award ceremonies at Saint Kazimierz on Friday, December 8th. As usual, the most coveted award was the annual Anthony "Cannon" Novak Award given by the Novak family in honor of their relative, who played four sports before dying young of leukemia.

The award is not only emblematic of the good year a recipient has had, but is also a reflection of an entire high school career of dedication to his team and to his school. Having said that, this year's recipients, Sunny Lucas and Adam Bastarache, fill the bill. Both have played for the Blue and White since seventh grade, and both started seeing varsity action as juniors.

Other seniors who logged many miles with much sweat and toil for the Indians in practices and games are Greg



Anthony "Canon" Novak Award recipients Adam Bastarache and Sunny Lucas

Dorman, Mike Bartos, Scot Rau, Mitch Guerin, Adam Davies, Steve Foster, and Evan Pollard.

Besides co-winning the "Cannon," Adam Bastarache was presented the Post 471 Harrington Award as MVP in

this year's Turkey Day Classic. The trophy, adorned with metal-flake blue columns, with a quarterback on top throwing while being hit by a tackler, is a real beaut. The presenter of the "Harrington" and former prize-winner ('64) Billy Phelps said,

although Sean Boyle of Greenfield (232 yards rushing) had a great game, Adam really stood out all over the field. Billy, along with his son Kyle (another former winner, '89) and the media inside the press box voted Adam a consensus winner. Billy said, "It looked like three number 8's were on the field."

Also, four players received all intercounty league honors. They are seniors Greg Dorman, Sunny Lucas, Adam Bastarache, and junior Tom Field. Not bad for a 2-8 team.

The Parents Fund, with many contributors, gave the nine seniors lined windbreaker-style

jackets with name and number on the sleeve and "Indians" with a football emblazoned on the back. Sweet.

Now, the next two items, while not official awards, are just great gestures from individuals who care about this team. Senior Greg Dorman's parents, Sally and Frank, gathered nine game balls throughout the season and had them mounted on a wooden base, set on a golden tee inside an acrylic cube, and gave one to each senior. What a keepsake to have through the years. Way to go, guys!

Secondly, Coach Patula gave his departing leaders double-knit toboggan hats with their number, Indian helmet, and logo embroidered on them. Toasty. High five, Putts!

It was a proud night for coaches, parents, and players, and hopefully provided inspiration for all underclassmen.

We will miss you, seniors. Thanks again for Turkey Day.

The Seven Walls of Erving

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

I stopped on the new Route 2 bypass in Erving, where I saw some men working on the shoulder of the highway where the old Route 2 once curved around the Erving Paper Mill.

Superintendent Dino Pallos, whom I had met a couple of years ago, greeted me and introduced me to a short muscular man in a blue work shirt.

"This is the guy who built the majority of these walls," Pallos said. The "guy" Pallos referred to, is expert stonemason Fernando Dos Santos. They are both long time employees of E.T. & L. Corp. of Stowe, MA.

What's Happening?

Pallos and Dos Santos are presently involved in doing some minor work, building up the shoulder that now blocks access to the paper

mill from the west. They will loam and seed it, when done.

"We will only be here for a couple more weeks," Pallos said. "We still have to finish blacktopping the section connecting the bypass to the old Route 2. That will have to wait until spring."

Stone Walls Stand Straight & Level

I inspected the walls to see if any had cracked or showed signs of moving or settling. They stand as straight as the day they were built.

"We used a rich mix of regular Portland cement, in a ratio of 2 sand to one cement by volume," Pallos said.

Granular compacted fill, behind the walls, drains water through four-inch weep holes. One-inch expansion board set vertically, at intervals, takes care of expansion and

contraction. Foundations three feet thick and fifteen feet wide, weighted down with granular fill, keep the walls from settling or tipping.

Eastern Tree & Landscaping

E.T. & L. Corp is not new to stone work and landscaping. The contraction, E.T. & L. is derived from the company's earlier name, Eastern Tree and Landscaping. Their stone mason, Dos Santos, takes



Superintendent Dino Pallos stands next to his expert stone mason, Fernando Dos Santos who built the majority of the seven walls of the Rte2 Paper Mill bypass.

pride in his work, and rightly so.

Gravel, Anyone?

What's going to happen to

the huge piles of excess processed gravel? "We'll use it on other jobs," Pallos said. Maybe they will find a buyer before then.

*Wishing you a happy, healthy
& prosperous New Year.*

GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK

Ranked number one lender in Franklin County

Member FDIC Member DIF

413-774-3191 or 413-549-3660 ■ www.greenfieldsavings.com

THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOXICOLOGIST

Radon Test Kits Make Great Holiday Gifts

- DON'T IGNORE THE SILENT INTRUDER IN YOUR HOME -

BY EMILY MONOSSON
MONTAGUE CENTER - Many of us worry about Vermont Yankee. We ask the dentist, "Do the kids really need another x-ray?" and we balance the benefits of mammograms with the risks of radiation. Yet we ignore the radiation that in many homes seeps through basements, through the floorboards and the heating ducts, and into the rooms where our children sleep. We ignore the silent intruder: radon.

We ignore it - yet radon is estimated to provide many of us with over one half of our annual average radiation dose. It is an undisputed human carcinogen. It is an undisputed cause of lung cancer, considered by many health agencies second only to cigarettes. It is also one of the easier contaminants (unlike lead in old paint, formaldehyde in building materials or even mold) to rid from our homes.

At the urging of our lawyer, my husband Ben and I tested our future home just before signing the purchase and sale agreement. Friends and family were skeptical. "Oh radon," said a family member, "it's just another one of those scams, someone must be making money off it." A friend suggested radon is one of those "don't know, can't tell," issues when homes exchange hands. "Why bother to find out? Then you'll be responsible," they said.

Sure enough, when we tested our soon-to-be home, it was just a bit above the Environmental Protection Agency action level. This, when the current owners had "inadvertently" opened the window near our radon test can. We requested they allow us to run another - though I can just imagine those doors and windows accidentally flapping open now and again during that test period. In the end, the radon was high enough to ask the sellers to chip in for remediation -- yet low enough for me to rationalize my inattention to it several years later.

As a toxicologist, I know that there is a lot of science - toxicology studies, epidemiological studies, and risk analysis - that go into each and every EPA guideline, standard and action level. Very often politics and economics are mixed in as well.

I know when information on

human exposure is unavailable for a chemical, as it often is, that animal models are used to help scientists develop standards, and when this happens, the EPA employs what are called "safety factors," basically reducing the estimated "safe" dose often by up to as much as 100 times or more. Sometimes that is enough, and sometimes not.

But this is not the case with radon. There are unfortunately plenty of data on human exposure. Five hundred years ago early toxicologists and physicians described a disease of the lungs in mine workers who wasted away and died young. That disease is now known as lung cancer, and the primary suspect is radon. A recent study by the National Cancer Institute found that the rate of lung cancer deaths in underground miners is five times that of the general population.

Radon occurs naturally. It is produced when uranium present in most rocks (but more prevalent in some like granites and shale) breaks down. As a radioactive compound, uranium disintegrates or decays releasing progeny (or daughter) products such as radium, along with energy in the form of radiation. Very often the progeny are also radioactive. In this case, radium decays into radon gas. And so it goes, with radon decaying into polonium and other radioactive products, each releasing radiation as they decay or disintegrate.

Upon disintegration, in the case of radon and its progeny, the radiation released is primarily in the form of an alpha particle - or two protons and two neutrons - that has the potential to cause lung cancer. If a speck of dust containing a speck of disintegrating polonium landed on your hand, it is unlikely it would do you much harm. Unlike x-rays or gamma rays, alpha particles cannot penetrate your skin. However, should you inhale that speck of polonium-containing dust, or air containing radon gas, or any of the radon decay products, and they further decay in your lungs, then that alpha particle can penetrate the delicate membranes surrounding your lung cells and damage genetic material.

Radon for indoor air is meas-

ured in pico-Curies (pCi). In the ambient or outdoor air of the United States, the EPA estimates that concentrations of radon generally range from 0.2 to 0.7 pCi/Liter of air, with some locations in places like Iowa reaching 1.4 pCi/Liter year round. However, it is virtually impossible to predict concentrations in the home based on ambient concentrations, or the type of rocks and soil beneath a home. Some homes have very low levels of radon, near ambient concentrations, while others have whooping high concentrations, reflecting a combination of the subsurface geology, and specific characteristics of a home, including foundation type, and number of floors.

In the United States there was little public awareness of radon until the day in 1984 when Stanley Watras set off radiation alarms at the Pennsylvania nuclear plant where he worked. Turns out, his exposure was not from the plant but from his home, which measured upwards of 2,700 pCi/Liters in the basement.

In response, the EPA quickly initiated a public awareness program and set 4 pCi/L as a "non-enforceable" or voluntary action level, at which EPA advises mitigation. The level was based in part on guidelines developed a decade earlier to protect Colorado citizens' homes that had been built on uranium mine tailings. But, according to Dr. R. William Field, an associate professor of Occupational and Environmental Health and Epidemiology at the University of Iowa, College of Public Health, who led one of the largest studies on residential exposure to radon gas and lung cancer in the United States, the "Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study," the EPA level of 4 pCi/L is "...not a health based guideline. The Iowa Study and both the North American and European Pooled Radon Studies noted an increased lung cancer risk for prolonged exposures at and below the US EPA's action level."

In other words, though the EPA would prefer we reduce concentrations in our home to ambient levels, at the time the action levels were set, 4 pCi/L was considered an achievable

goal. But, according to William Bell, coordinator of the Massachusetts State Radon Control Program, "EPA believes that most homes in the US can be fixed to below 4 pCi/L cost effectively. The action guide, the point where you take action and the mitigation goal, the point at which you deem the repairs successful, are in our view, not the same."

In our case the fix was relatively simple and standard. A thick layer of plastic over our dirt-floor crawl space, a few PVC pipes tucked into the concrete basement floor and an outside fan. Though the most likely time for radon exposure was winter --when the warm air rises up and out of our homes, causing more air and any co-occurring radon to be literally sucked out of the ground and into our home -- much to the dismay of my husband Ben, we were instructed to run the fan year round. "It sucks up electricity," he grumbled. "I hate hearing the hum of that fan." I've since been informed by Dr. Field that a fan should draw no more than a 60-watt bulb and that only poorly installed fans make much noise.

Still, after five years of sucking our radon away, one construction project which required dismantling of the external pipe and removal of the fan, and a peace-making decision to turn the thing off each spring when we opened our doors and windows for good, the fan rebelled, refusing to budge when we flipped it on for the fall season. From the surly technicians, to put it kindly, who represented the company that installed it, I learned that replacing the fan would cost a few hundred dollars. Not wanting to spend the money and not wanting to deal with that particular company - at the time one of the few choices locally - the rationalizations began. I rationalized the radon away, blissfully unaware that the action level was technology, rather than health based. I practiced my own kind of "don't know, can't hurt" toxicology, instead of reading the bountiful literature on the contaminant in my home, I concentrated on industrial contaminants in other people's homes. Though I did occasionally crack open the windows in winter, whenever my

thoughts returned to radon.

Until now. This past summer after using a roll of duct tape and my vacuum cleaner to unsuccessfully battle an army of sex-starved winged creatures who had invaded my son's room, we were informed that the large beam upon which our living room rested for over a hundred years also served as a feeding ground for generations of termites. While replacing the beam, we discovered the "fresh air return" was not so fresh, coming primarily from the dreaded basement, rather than the first floor vents. Thoughts of basement air blowing throughout the house awakened my concern about the air quality in my own home.

This article is the result of that new respect for that invisible intruder. Radon is one of the few chemicals where there is little disagreement among scientists as to its danger. It is one of the few chemicals to which we are exposed that is not in some way associated with industry. And it is a chemical we can, if not rid from our homes, at least reduce without too much expense and effort.

After five years our radon fan is up and running and I have just received two radon test kits to retest the concentrations. This winter the windows in my office will remain closed, and I won't worry so much about what's blowing through that heat duct in my children's room.

Contact Emily Monosson at: theneighborhoodtoxicologist.blogspot.com. For radon information in Massachusetts:

According to William Bell, in Massachusetts, a radon test kit costs about \$20, and makes a great gift. Kits can be purchased through the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/radon/rnx-lines.html> or <http://www.nsc.org/issues/radon/radonkitcoupons.pdf> or at local hardware stores. There is only one certified site in the state of MA, which is AccuStarLabs, http://www.accustarlabs.com/shop_homeowner.php. Should your home need remediation, according to Bell, quality remediation should run between \$1500-2000. For further information about testing and mitigation contact the MA DPH Radon Hot Line; 1-800-723-6695.



Gift Certificates Available

Happy Holidays!

Acupressure Massage by
Janet Masucci

413-863-8694

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

THE COUNTRY JEWELER

- ◆ Traditional and Contemporary Jewelry
- ◆ Diamonds
- ◆ Watches
- ◆ Anniversary Bands

Custom repair
work done on premises

Old-fashioned service!

Call Larry:
772-0859

Mon. - Sat.
9:30 - 5:30

Corner of Main &
Chapman Streets, Greenfield

www.countryjeweler.com

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Prescription Antibiotic Safety

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - *Q. I had a bad cold so I asked my doctor for an antibiotic. He seemed reluctant, but I insisted and he gave me the prescription. I was supposed to take it for 10 days, but I stopped after 7 because I felt better and I...*

Stop! Next you'll tell me you prefer not to cover your mouth when you cough.

Taking antibiotics unnecessarily and not completing your prescription are the leading causes of "superbugs," bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. These superbugs are one of the most serious threats to global public health.

The first thing you should know is that antibiotics are used to combat bacteria, not viruses. So, these potent drugs should be used for infections of

the ear, sinuses, urinary tract and skin. They're also used to treat strep throat. They should not be used for viruses that cause most sore throats, coughs, colds and flu.

However, doctors in the USA write about 50 million antibiotic prescriptions for viral illnesses anyway. Patient pressure is a major cause for these prescriptions.

When you don't finish your prescription, your antibiotic doesn't kill all the targeted bacteria. The germs that survive build up resistance to the drug you're taking. Doctors are then forced to prescribe a stronger antibiotic. The bacteria learn to fight the stronger medication. Superbugs are smart, too; they can share information with other bacteria.

The antibiotic vancomycin

was, for years, a reliable last defense against some severe infections. But, recently, some superbugs have figured out how to resist even vancomycin.

More than 70 percent of the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to at least one of the antibiotics most commonly used to treat them. About 100,000 peo-



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

ple die each year from infections they contract in the hospital, often because the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to antibiotics.

Here's what you can do about this problem:

- * Protect yourself by washing your hands often, handling and preparing food safely, and keeping up-to-date on immunizations.

- * Take antibiotics exactly as prescribed. If you cut your treatment short, you kill the vulnerable bacteria, but allow the resistant bacteria to live.

- * Never take leftover antibiotics from your medicine cabinet or from a friend. The antibiotic might not be the right one to use. And, if it is, you probably won't have enough pills to kill the germs in your system.

This can lead to more resistant bacteria.

- * Don't pressure your doctor for antibiotics if you have a viral illness.

Penicillin, which was introduced six decades ago, was the first antibiotic. It was derived from mold. We now have more than 150 of these drugs. Antibiotics are a class of antimicrobials, a group that includes anti-viral, anti-fungal, and anti-parasitic drugs.

Previous treatments for infections included poisons such as strychnine and arsenic. When antibiotics arrived, they were called "magic bullets," because they targeted disease without harming the host.

If you have a question, please write to redcicetti@gmail.com.

FINDING BALANCE

The Story Continues

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CENTER - I received a letter from my father in response to my article several weeks ago about stories and identities. He and I have had a strained relationship for most of my life, with years of no contact at all, which began to change this last summer. Now I send him my articles, appreciate his comments, and welcome the depth of interaction that we are creating.

My father has spent much of his life surrounded by stories from literature, opera, theology, and philosophy: stories, as he put it, "that make a difference in our own daily, personal lives." He wrote, "I realize, of course, that the brunt of your take on 'stories' is that they tend to, or grow to, limit us; that we would do well to let go of them sometimes, in order to

envision other, probably more valid, facets of ourselves, or to see things in another [person] which our routine understanding simply misses."

While that is true, I should also admit that, for all my caution to not get caught up in the surface levels of who we think we, or others, are, I love stories. My parents read to me from early on, and at age six I used to read under the covers with a flashlight when I was supposed to be sleeping. Books line the walls and pile on surfaces of every house in our family. I once took a rental apartment because the living room had three walls of built-in bookshelves. One of my favorite pastimes is curling up with a book, absorbed in someone else's life, mine expanding because of theirs.

Other peoples' stories help



us get perspective on those we claim as our own. As my father wrote, "the function and purpose of stories [helps us] see what we do in our lives, how we put things together to create a semblance of coherence." Stories are a way to make sense of who we are, where and what we came from.

When enough time has gone by from the original impetus of our stories (which may be months or, for events from childhood or which had a particularly devastating impact, years), when there is enough distance, we can choose to step back from them. A change in

viewpoint and approach allows us to look at them anew, to uncover and make sense of consistent themes. With the advantage of hindsight to recognize the significance of people and events, we can pull the past into a pattern, giving it a shape and meaning it did not have when it was the present. We then have the option of reframing the pattern, and creating a new story.

Thomas Moore writes, in *Care of the Soul*, "The twisting of a familiar theme into a new shape is sometimes more revealing and ultimately more significant than acquiring new knowledge and a new set of principles." Rather than be overly attached to a particular version of a story, if we question our assumptions, question what feels right simply because it's familiar, we might find richer, more complex and fulfilling

truths underneath.

At my father's request, we've planned a holiday visit with my younger brother in Leverett, and our half-sister who is sixteen and whom I haven't seen in seven years - now there's a story for you; feelings set aside so that my father could try again with a new daughter, my hurt heart shut out an innocent child . . . Yes, indeed, our lives are made of stories, and let us pray they don't confine us to a wasteland, but rather lend depth, power, sweetness, and redemption to these short lives of ours.

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com.

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Office Hours By Appointment

DANIEL COHEN, D.M.D.

4 Dell St.
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Telephone: (413) 863-9656

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

REGAL

Real Estate & Modular Homes
BUYING • BUILDING • SELLING

A complete line of modular homes from planning and permits to the finished project, they handle the entire job.

Kyle Scott and Donald Y. Bowman
863-9555 • 131 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Growth & Transformation Through Healing

Joanne O'Neil, M.A.

Psychotherapist & Herbalist * Moonrise Medicinals Herbal Teas

P.O. Box 73, Montague, MA 01351 • 413.367.9514
Joanne@moonrisemedicinals.com

Ann Forslund
REALTOR*

Business: 413-863-9736 ext. 12
E-mail: AnnForslund@gjar.com
Our Website: www.gjar.com/OurListings

Now Accepting New Clients!

66 French King Highway
Gill, MA 01376

I can devote my experience and time to new buyers and sellers.

FOUR DIRECTIONS HEALING ARTS

Acupuncture
Massage, Reiki
Flower Essence Therapy

112 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-8033 • karen@4directionshealingarts.com

Jep's Place: Hope, Faith and Other Disasters Part XV

Johnny and the CCC

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - Johnny couldn't find work after quitting high school. There wasn't a job to be had, anywhere. On October 12th, 1934, Johnny joined the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The enlistment age was 18. He was only 17, but they enrolled him anyway. The CCC furnished room and board, a uniform, related clothing and \$5 a month. In addition, the government sent a \$25 monthly allotment check to each family. It was tough going during those lean years and the CCC check helped us get by.

The CCC was a make-work project to keep young men occupied, where they learned useful occupations, to give them hope and to keep them

out of trouble. The CCC was one of the first of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's many projects to get the economy going during the Great Depression. They wore WWI Army uniforms and got off to a quick start using Army officers to organize the project. It was a huge success. The enlistees built camp housing and furniture, cut hiking trails, built dams and small bridges, cleaned forests of underbrush, helped fight fires, cleaned farmers' barns and dug water holes for fire protection. The CCC sent these young men, who had seldom traveled outside of their community, to other parts of the country. It gave them a better self-image and broadened their horizons.

The CCC certainly changed Johnny. He had never traveled



far from home. Going to Camp Lewiston in Maine with the CCC was a turning point in his life. He saw some of the country, received some education, gained self-confidence, and got away from the stress of living with his stepfather - Pa.

John hitchhiked home with gifts he'd made in the camp craft shop. He arrived in Greenfield at his sister Mary's house in the dead of night. The neighbor's dog raised such a ruckus it woke up the neighborhood. Lights went on in other houses. The man who lived in the downstairs apartment yelled at Johnny, "Get the Hell out of here before I call the cops." Mary

explained that Johnny was her brother and got the man calmed down.

The next day, Johnny came to the farm and gave me a coin bank made from a section of poplar tree with an Indian figurehead burned into the side. We saw a lot more of Johnny than we did of Stanley and Walter after they ran away from home.

Stanley and Walter were Pa's kids, and were close. Stanley had been the first to run away, in the dead of winter at about age 14. He knew he was in trouble because he went to work for a neighbor to help saw wood, instead of giving me a bath in the washtub.

"It snowed a foot of snow during the night," Stanley later said. "The Old Man didn't come home because the road wasn't plowed out. Your mother said I was going to get a good licking when Pa got home, so I threw a few things in a burlap bag and headed out in that foot of snow. I didn't know where I was going, or what I was going to do, or where I was going to stay. I

just didn't want to stick around for another whipping."

Walter waited to leave until spring, when the snow was gone. As he was going out the door, Ma warned him not to try sleeping in the barn, telling him Pa would jab a pitchfork into the hay to find him when he got home from work. Walter went to stay in the empty tobacco barn across the field from our house. He waited there, hoping someone would come to ask him to return home. But they never did.

"It was cold and damp on the dirt floor, and I was hungry," Walter later said, shaking his head. "Johnny knew I was there. He could have brought me something to eat. Bugs crawling over my face kept me awake at night. It was awful. After a few days, I went looking for Stanley."

I was often reminded of Johnny, Stanley and Walter when I used the outhouse and looked through the Sears Roebuck catalogues the boys loved to study.

... to be continued

Christmas is Coming!

Jep's Place

by Joseph A. Parzych

This is one gift you can give that can be opened again and again

On sale now at Books n' More, Baker's, Great Falls Discovery Center, the Montague Bookmill and the Gill Store.

A Memoir
By Joseph A. Parzych

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050

20 words for \$6. 15 cents each extra word. 3rd week free.

<p>CARPENTRY</p> <p>NO JOB TOO SMALL - General Carpentry and Home Repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, 863-9296.</p> <p>SERVICES</p> <p>PLOW FRAU & BOW WOW: Sita Lang, (413) 834-7569. Hauling your used goods to people and places in need, and not necessarily to the landfill. Free Estimates.</p>	<p>LAND WANTED</p> <p>Seeking buildable land near Montague Center. Please call Douglas or Ginny, 617.623.23833. No agents pls.</p> <p>TUTOR AVAILABLE</p> <p>Emphasis on reading, writing and verbal skills. Steady clients only. Must be motivated. 413-863-5149.</p>
--	--

Great gift idea!

NY's Eve Comedy

Shea Theater

www.sheacomedy.com

World Eye Bookshop,

Books & More

ERVING

CORRESPONDENT

SOUGHT

- Cover local news
- Get involved in your community!

Call 863-8666

Montague Reporter

Now Hiring

Homeless in Turners Falls

PHOTO BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Jeff Regish, right and Chris Edwards, left, both 19, say they are living by the river and occasionally staying at friends' houses. They're both unemployed, carrying camping gear, and one was carrying a pet rat in a cage, said Parzych.

HK | **Power Town Apartments**

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

professionally managed by:

HallKeen Management, Inc.

rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

CARSENSE

AUTOMOTIVE

Your Automotive Answer

TELE: (413) 772-8862
CELL: (413) 512-0413

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, Incorporated

Insurance

25 Millers Falls Road, P.O. Box 312
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Tel. (413) 863-4331 (413) 773-5673
www.pzinc.com

No hormones or antibiotics

Ground - \$5.00 lb.

Steaks - \$10.00 lb.

Songline Emu Farm
66 French King Hwy, Gill

Delicious Heart Healthy Emu

Thurs. Fri. Sat.
12n - 6pm
413 863-2700

www.allaboutemu.com

DON SKOLE
PRESIDENT

Skole Insurance Agency

AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL • MOTOR CLUB
LIFE AND HEALTH PLANS

91 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
(413) 773-7349
FAX 774-6938

(508) 544-5431

Simply Computing

computer set-up
training
QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
774-5451

Your Pace at Your Place

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, Holiday House Party with *Love Bomb!* 9:30 p.m. Come to dance!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Free Radicals*, rock and roll! 9:30 p.m. Come to dance!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, open mic hosted by Peter Kim with guest guitarist. All welcome to play, 8:30 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *John Sullivan Band* with members of *Motorplant*. 9:30 p.m. Come to dance!

SATURDAY DEC 30TH
Psychic Fair sponsored by The National Spiritual Alliance at Thompson Temple across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. Mediums use a number of methods to obtain information for those who consult them. Readings are \$20 for 20 minutes, as are healing services. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Turn It Loose*, their only area show! Rockers come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
Montague Grange Family Dance



Bob Seibel, (above) one of New England's most popular headliners for 25 years, and in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

Ellen Moschetto (right) One of Boston's rising stars, a regular at top clubs like the Comedy Studio in Harvard Square, Cambridge.

Bob and Ellen along with Mike Donovan, and Tony Moschetto ring in the new year at The Shea. Theatre on December 31st, 8 p.m. See listing for more info.

and some singing games too. Great for 3-11 yr olds, and their parents. Chase the Winter Blues away with Laughing Folk Music and a Fun Caller. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

"New Year's Eve Comedy at the Shea," with professional standup comedians Bob Seibel, Mike Donovan, Tony Moschetto and Ellen Moschetto at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Some proceeds benefit Turners Falls RiverCulture Project. Material appropriate for 17 and older. Showtime 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets \$18 in advance (\$21 at the door), available on-line at www.sheacomedy.com, at the

Simple dances with easy instruction geared for little feet. Lots of fun, humor

World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield; and Books & More, Turners Falls. Beer & Wine will be served before the show. For more information, call the Shea at 863-2281.

Ready or Not Here it comes Happy New Year's Dinner Presented by Our Lady of Peace Church. Ring in the New Year



with a lovely meal (prime rib) prepared by Chef Tom Mimitz. Also includes entertainment (the Fabulous Maurices), door prizes and raffles. Held in St. Kaz Hall located at corner of Avenue A & Seventh Street in Turners Falls. 5:30 p.m. Reservations: 863-2585

Annual Starry, Starry Night An evening extravaganza-musicians and performers of all kinds, in various venues around Orange Center, plus special events that change from year to year and fireworks along the Millers River. Come welcome the New Year!

Rock with *Gangly Heart* at Deja Brew, 10 p.m. - 1 p.m. \$5 cover. 978-544-BREW.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD
Free Lecture Series by Dr. Maiella, Naturopathic Doctor. Held at Green Fields Market, Greenfield. January 3rd topic: Weight management. 6:30 p.m. For more infor-

mation call (413) 230-4462 or www.valleynaturopathicfamilymedicine.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH
Full Moon Follies at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Town Hall. Shows Start at 7:30 p.m. with Open Mic; and the Main Act Around 8 p.m. Sliding Scale Donation \$6 - \$12 at the door. Decadent delicious dessert-orama.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH
The Montague Bookmill presents The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen. First in the series is *The 400 Blows*, director Francois Truffaut. Shown at 7 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls. Celebrate the First Year Anniversary with *Face to Face: Portraits from Fifty Years*, photographs by Douglas Kirkland. 1- 7 p.m. reception, exhibition, live music and hors d'oeuvres. 7:15 - 8:45 p.m. artist's talk & refreshments.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH
Scandinavian Dancing at the Montague Grange. Hambo, polska, schottis, waltz, and the delights of the hardanger fiddle! Dancers with all levels of experience are welcome. No partner necessary. \$8.00. For info contact andrea: fiddlerlarson@aol.com or Alice at 774-7771. 3 to 6 p.m.

Auditions:
The Country Players needs *A Few Good Men*. Open casting call **January 8 and 10**, 7 to 8 p.m. at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls Directed by Richard J. Martin. *A Few Good Men* by Aaron Sorkin is a drama about trial of two Marines for complicity in the death of a fellow Marine at Guantanamo Bay. Production Date: April 13, 13, 20 and 21, 2007. Telephone (413) 498-2736.

Shea Young Stage Company will hold auditions for Alice in Wonderland in **January '07** at the Shea. www.theshea.org

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3-6 p.m.
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.
THURS - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.
Info: Jared at 863-9559.
Hot Spot Teen Center is in **The Brick House**
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376.



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

www.gardencinemas.net

Showtimes for
Fri, Dec. 22nd-Thurs., Dec. 28th
Closed Dec. 24th
Open Dec. 25th for evening shows only

Holiday Gift Books Only \$25 On Sale Now!

1. CHARLOTTE'S WEB G DAILY 7:00 9:10 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 2:15 4:30
2. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG DAILY 7:00 9:10 DTS sound MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 2:15 4:30
3. THE GOOD SHEPHERD R DAILY 7:00 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:30
4. THE HOLIDAY PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. ROCKY BALBOA DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG13 DTS sound MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:30 2:30 4:30
7. EROGON PG DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:00 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN, 12:30 2:30 4:30



Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food

Open Wed-Sun at 4 p.m.
FRIDAY 12/22 9-11 p.m.
Steve Crow & Peter Kim
SATURDAY 12/23 9-11 p.m.
Usquabae Jazz Ensemble
FRIDAY 12/29 9-11 p.m.
Dave Robinson & Dave Boatwright
SATURDAY 12/30 9-11 p.m.
Richard Chase Group
No Cover Either Night!

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store

MABEL ZOBEL
BY
Sandra Facto

WE HOPE YOU'RE AS FULL OF THE NEW YEARS SPIRIT AS WE ARE... PARTY ON!!!

Upcoming at the Discovery Center

Open Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Groups by Special Arrangement, Tuesday-Thursday

THROUGH DECEMBER 23RD
Junior Duck Stamp artwork from Massachusetts students grades K - 12. The first place design from the national contest is used to create a Junior Duck Stamp for the following year. Proceeds from the sale of Junior Duck Stamp support conservation education, awards and scholarships.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
Bird ID Walk along Power Canal. Join Refuge staff for a walk along the power canal and learn to identify our wintering local birds. Free. 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH
Friends Coffeehouse Series: Montague Community Band. Doors open at 6:30p.m., concert begins at 7 p.m. Celebrate the sounds of the season and the New Year! Favorite band classics played by this 25 piece band, comprised of trombones, trumpets, clarinets, tubas, sax and more! Coffee & refreshments for sale. \$5 - \$10 donation at the door.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH - 29TH
Nature Programming 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Nature Programming for Families. Journey through the Connecticut River Watershed and discover special features of the region. Each program includes hands on activities for young visitors, their friends and family. Four Programs. Free.

ON DISPLAY JANUARY 2ND - 31ST
Daniel Goettel - Landscape Photographs. Human and natural landscapes in a captivating black and white photography. You can view a sampling of his work at www.danielgoettel.com. Reception **January 5th**, 4 - 7 p.m., Historic Great Hall. Refreshments.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH
Curious about Creatures. Join refuge staff for a program about the mysteries of wildlife survival in harsh New England winters. We will cover topics such as the different homes animals build and the adaptations they have developed to survive until spring. Geared towards adults, all are welcome. 1 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863.3221 www.greatfallsma.org

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

A Custom Touch
Interior/ Exterior Painting & Home Repairs
Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

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

THE TEXTILE CO. INC.
Retail Fabric Store
• Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material
• Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions
CASH & CHECKS ONLY
Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Fri. til 8:20 • Closed Mon. - June, July, August
Power Square
Greenfield (413) 773-7516

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Bon Appetit!

BY FLORE

Have you noticed how things, of their own accord, work out, given the chance?

Someone mentions a special place, not to be missed!

You find yourself writing it down methodically to seek out later, nailing it down so as not to forget.

Perhaps, like mine, your agenda is filled to the brim and pinned on a door!

Quaint idea. This way, I won't forget.

Time passes and bang, you finally got there!

What's this week's special find?

A culinary program set within a technical vocational school, right in our own backyard in Turners Falls!

Plus, would you believe, it offers appreciative visitors a chance to eat at their, "Apprentice Restaurant."

On the menu, before selecting your meal, you will read what the team wrote:

"An apprentice is a young person learning a trade, taken from the French verb: appren-

dre..."

It confers on students all the advantages of being trained in the presentation of fine meals, and how to provide their customers with the best service!

Let me explain. The Franklin County Technical School alternates their students' four years' of study between academic classes and shop, where they learn vocational basics in a hands-on way. Advanced students are already working internships at local restaurants, hospitals, hotels, food chains, and bakeries, working toward their chosen careers. Franklin County Technical School has been educating students in academics and the trades for three decades on Industrial Boulevard.



PHOTO BY FLORE

Culinary arts staff baker instructor Matt West, with a student, at Franklin County Technical School.

The current principal is Paul Cohen, assisting superintendent Dr. Steven N. Johnson in his third year. He worked as a teacher at the school for 23 years, and is thoroughly aware

of its constantly changing goals.

Currently, 537 students are enrolled in the Tech School, from 9th grade to 12th. These students come from 19 surrounding towns: "Yes, some of

us ride the bus for an hour and 45 minutes each way..."

That's a great amount of determination, on all sides.

A suggestion, if you have not been there yet. Tack this to your door, or tape it to your icebox.

Wait until the holidays are over to sample the food, then take a break from family cooking! After January 3rd, head straight over, between 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. You will be served a delicious meal under the "savoir faire" (the service's supervision) of Helen Woznakewicz. She been the muse of this friendly dining room, for the past 13 years of devoted, inspired teaching...

Check, if they are serving that day by calling: 413-863-9561

Here's to the New Year, and wishing you and your guests: **BON APPETIT!**

Session II Swimming Lessons

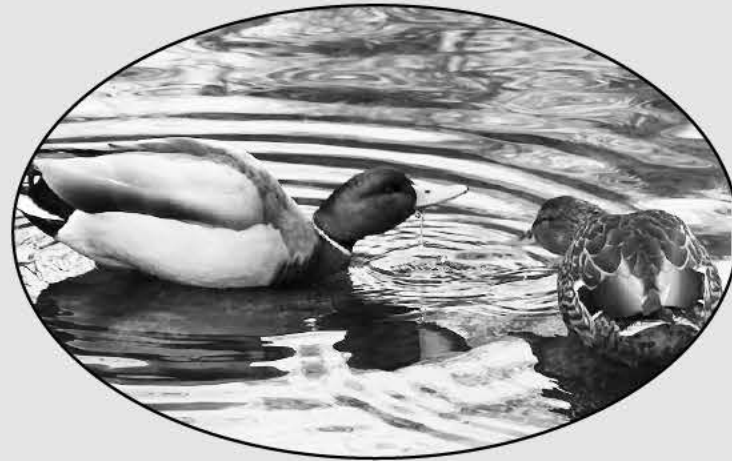
at Montague Parks & Recreation Department

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department would like to announce that they are accepting registrations for Session II Swimming Lessons, which are held at Turners Falls High School Indoor Pool. Session II will begin on Saturday, January 6. Sessions 30-minute classes for seven-weeks. Program fees: Montague Residents = \$40/child, Non-residents = \$45/child. For more information, and to register please call the Parks and Recreation Office at 863-3216.

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Breakfast Club offered me an early Christmas present this year that would be difficult to duplicate. One sunny morning the ponds were sparkling. It was an extra warm day for December, and apparently the setting looked inviting to a flock of six black ducks who sailed in to eat and frolic. They were not the two resident black ducks that hang out with a few mallards and behave in a conventional manner. Our regular ducks know they are dabblers. They frequent the far side of the pond where the milfoil is near the surface, and duck their heads, tip up, and paddle frantically with their red feet, dark rumps high, while they reach for delicacies.

Our visitors had landed in a



deeper part of the pond. They were lively and making a splash. They were diving! Big handsome black ducks, delighted with the glorious day, they must have found the grasses too deep for dabbling. So, one after another, they dove in, submerged and popped up nearby with goodies.

One must have been their

leader, for when he flapped his wings as if pleased with his dinner, a couple of companions repeated his actions with enthusiasm. One of the ducks strayed off on her own and stayed submerged for several feet, almost like a merganser.

The flock stayed around for most of the morning, feeding, sailing in line, taking time out

on 'beaver' trees that gave them purchase in the water, apparently having a happy time. But when a car stopped to watch them, they rose as one, their underwings white in the sun, and took off to the river.

The regulars at the Breakfast Club were active and taking advantage of the fabulous day: the titmice and chickadees, woodpeckers and cardinal, the tree sparrow and juncos at the feeder, the resident ducks on the pond. But the gorgeous great blue heron who soared in to the South Pond in the afternoon, and the talented flock of visiting black ducks who must have felt that good things are worth the extra effort and dove for their dinner, made this early Christmas present one to remember.

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

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

CopyCat PRINT SHOP

Custom calendar with your photos

Only \$22.95

180 Main Street, Greenfield 774-3500

TOGNARELLI HEATING & COOLING

- Specializing in Repairing & Installation
- Gas & Oil Systems • Radiant Heat, Gas Piping
- The Gas Experts

bryant Heating & Cooling Systems

SPACEPAK Central Air - Anywhere

413-863-2295

123 Avenue A, Turners Falls

About-Face Computer Solutions

Veronica Phaneuf
(413) 367-0025
about-face@verizon.net

- ✓ PC Sales & Service
- ✓ MAC Software Support
- ✓ Network Support and Installation
- ✓ Quickbooks Training and Support

Northfield Barber Shop

Mon: Noon-5, Tue - Fri: 8-5, Sat 8-Noon

74C Main Street • Northfield

413-498-5166

Renaissance Builders

Stephen Greenwald

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